



CATS Monthly Newsletter-

AUGUST 2025

Dear CATS-

**Happy August!**

As temperatures continue to increase this summer, we are starting to look into creative ways to beat the heat- like indulging in **literary adventures**.

We hope to see you at our **Back to School Bash** on August 2nd!

The **Polk County History Center** is REOPEN after renovations!

Avelo is flying **seasonal flights** at Lakeland Linder International Airport this fall.

Scroll down to sign up for our **FREE passes**: Adventure on Tap: Central Florida Craft Beer Pass; Sunshine Savings Pass; and the Fire & Flavor BBQ Trail Pass. As a knowledgeable local, you can take full advantage of all the offers.



## **Books & Back to School**

Did you know Polk County has independent bookstores? Get ready this school year with a new (or new to you) book from one of our awesome book stores. Browsing for a book is a great indoor activity to beat the heat this August. Plus, it is a great way to support local businesses.



PS. Happy Book Lovers Day! (August 9th)

### **Bartow Christian Books & Gifts**

Address: 326 E Main St, Bartow, FL  
33830

### **Inklings Book Shoppe**

Address: 737 S Missouri Ave,  
Lakeland, FL 33815

### **Book Lovers Store**

Address: SUNSHINE FLEA MARKET,  
24200 US-27, Lake Wales, FL  
33859

### **Inklings Book Shoppe (Bartow)**

Address: UNFILTERED BARTOW  
160 S Broadway Ave, Bartow, FL  
33830

### **The Book Shelter**

Address: 5999 Dundee Rd #550,  
Winter Haven, FL 33884

### **Kathryn's Christian Books - Gifts Coffee Ice Cream & More**

Address: 205 E Park Ave, Lake  
Wales, FL 33853

### **BookaReaderville**

Address: 2120 S Combee Rd,  
Lakeland, FL 33801

### **Little Bus Books**

**Bookends Used Books**

Address: 5100 US Hwy 98 N #4,  
Lakeland, FL 33809

**Crash Bookshop**

Address: 3125 US-98 Suite 1,  
Lakeland, FL 33803

**Friends of the Winter Haven  
Public Library**

Address: 325 Avenue A NW,  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

Address: 1047 E Main St,  
Lakeland, FL 33801

**Pressed LKLD**

Address: 213 E Bay St, Lakeland,  
FL 33801

**The Unbound Bookery**

Address: 1026 Florida Ave S,  
Lakeland, FL 33803



## Have you taken the new CATS Online Course?

This new course will be shorter and easier to complete. Everyone who has been certified will remain certified; however, we encourage EVERYONE to take the new online course.



[Sign up to take the New CATS Online Course!](#)



Last Month...





### **Last month CATS toured the Florida Air Museum!**

Florida Air Museum, Florida's official aviation museum and education center, features a dynamic display of unique designs, classics, ultra-lights, antiques, and warbirds. This Lakeland museum is more than a collection of airplanes, it stands as a tribute to the history and joy of flight. Exhibits educate about pioneers like Howard Hughes, early air racers, and Floridians and others who have influenced the world of aviation.

The CATS started the tour in their lab space where students and visitors can learn and build. We then moved into their NOAA Science on a Sphere room, where we saw maps, weather, flight patterns (and even the death star) projected on an 8ft globe. We saw great exhibits featuring homebuilt planes to Howard Hughes' map. We ended the tour by flying a plane... on simulators.

The Florida Air Museum is open year round and admission is \$15. However the museum offers a plethora of free family activities like their Story Time on selected Tuesdays.

Coming Up...



**AUGUST**

**Safari Wilderness**

**SEPTEMBER**

**TBA**



**OCTOBER**

**Se7en Wetlands**

**NOVEMBER**

**Homeland Heritage Park**



If you would like to come on one of our CATS Exclusive Tours,  
you must be a Certified Ambassador of Tourism and Sports.  
To become an ambassador, you must complete the CATS Online Course.  
Our new online class is up and running! Please sign up!

CATS Exclusive Tour Invitations will be emailed to all Certified Ambassadors of  
Tourism and Sports.

### **CATS Shirts are in!**

Certified Ambassadors of Tourism & Sports can  
pick up their CATS Shirts at the Welcome  
Center starting **March 4th!**

#### How to pick up your CATS Shirt?

- First, you must be a Certified Ambassador of Tourism and Sports.
- Second, inform the front desk you are here to pick up your CATS Shirt.
- Third, show our staff your CATS Certificate!

\*Shirts are limited sized, and are first come,  
first serve.

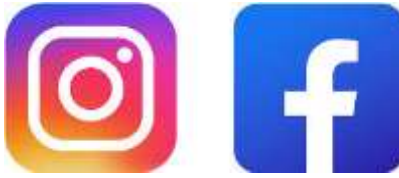




### **Back to School Bash at the Welcome Center**

August 2 | 9AM-12PM

The first 500 students will receive a FREE backpack (child must be present to receive backpack – while supplies last). Vendors will be on site giving away additional school supplies as well as other kid friendly items (while supplies last). Games; Kid-Friendly crafts; Free Caricature Artist Drawings



**Visit Central Florida's Visitor Experience Team and the Welcome Center is excited to announce the launch of its official Instagram and Facebook pages!**

Now, visitors and locals alike can stay connected and up-to-date with the latest events, attractions, travel tips, and exciting happenings throughout the county. By following these social media platforms, you'll get insider information, special offers, and a closer look at everything Central Florida and the Visitor Experience Team has to offer. Be sure to follow them today to explore the best of Central Florida and make the most of your visit!

[Follow Visit Central Florida's Visitor Experience Team on Instagram](#)

[Follow Visit Central Florida's Visitor Experience Team on Facebook](#)

PS. CATS have an entire highlight on our **@WelcomeCentralFL** Instagram page!



**Thank you, Julia!**

Julia joined the Visitor Experience team as an intern for the summer to work on our social media accounts. She has done a great job creating and collecting content! We will miss her, but we are so excited for her to finish her Communication Degree. Julia will be a

Junior at the University of Florida. Go Gators!

Show her some support! Like, comment and share anything from our Visit Central Florida's Visitor Experience Facebook page and our WelcomeCentralFL Instagram Page.





**After months of ongoing restoration and preservation work, the Polk County History Center reopened July 15th!**

What was once the Polk County Courthouse, built in 1908, now serves as the History Center and houses a historical museum and library.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Address: 100 E Main Street, Bartow, FL 33830

[Check out our Visit Central Florida Event Page for more fun!](#)

[Download the 'What's Happening in Polk County' Flyer here.](#)



[View digital guides from Visit Central Florida](#)

August 6

**Cypress Gardens Water  
Ski Team Show**

Location: Martin Luther  
King Jr Park- 275 S. Lake  
Silver Dr. Winter Haven,  
33881

Time: 4:30PM

August 22

**Classic Albums Live:  
Bob Marley @ the RP  
Funding Center**

Location: Youkey  
Theatre- 701 W Lime St,  
Lakeland, FL 33815

Time: 6:30PM

August 28

**Wawa Summer Free  
Days @ Bok Tower  
Gardens**

Location: 1151 Tower  
Blvd, Lake Wales, FL  
33853

Time: 8AM - 5PM



**Avelo Airlines & Lakeland International Airport**

Routes include:

- Grand Rapids, MI
- Nashville, TN
- New Haven, CT
- New York/ Long Island, NY
- Philadelphia/ Wilmington, DE
- Rochester, NY
- San Juan, PR

[Learn more about flying out of LAL here.](#)

## Passes

### Adventure on Tap: Central Florida Craft Beer Pass

What's better than a cold beer on a hot Florida day? Nothing! Simply sign up and we'll text and email you the free pass. From there, just stop into any of the listed vendors and check-in on the pass to be qualified for prizes. Check-in at 1 participating business and receive a custom Koozie. Check-in at 3 breweries and receive a custom pint glass.



Check-in at ALL locations and be entered to win a quarterly drawing for a \$100 gas card!

[Get Your Central Florida Beer Pass Here](#)



### Sunshine Savings Pass

The Sunshine Savings Pass will provide a unique opportunity to stay longer, play harder, eat more, and shop till you drop while in Polk County, FL. The pass showcases exclusive discounts and special offers for local restaurants, shops, and more. Get your Sunshine Savings Pass today and experience why Central Florida's Polk County is truly Florida's Sweetest Spot.

[Get Your Savings Pass Here](#)

### **Fire & Flavor BBQ Trail Pass**

From mouthwatering specialties crafted by acclaimed pitmasters to an amazing assortment of signature sauces and sides, your taste of The Real Florida Magic is here in Florida's BBQ Capital. And now you can enjoy it all – and earn prizes – with your free Fire & Flavor BBQ Trail Pass! Simply sign up and we'll text and email you the pass. From there, just stop into any of the listed restaurants and check in on the pass to earn prizes.



[Get the BBQ Trail Pass Here](#)

Mural Magic Pass arriving soon!

ANY QUESTIONS?

[Email our Education Coordinator](#)

Thank you, CATS!

Visit Central Florida | 101 Adventure Court | Davenport, FL 33837 US

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