



# Week in Review

Sept. 30 - Oct. 20, 2024

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

City of  
Bartow

Welcome to the new *Week in Review* via Constant Contact. We hope you like this new version, which will enable us to better keep track of subscriptions. Remember - it's a work in progress!



## Hurricane Milton Packs a Wallop

Hurricane Milton made landfall near Siesta Key on Oct. 9, but its impact was felt throughout the Tampa Bay region, including in Bartow. Milton was the 2nd-most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded over the Gulf of Mexico and the 4th major storm of the 2024 season. Nearly two weeks later, the recovery and clean-up effort continues. Many thanks to all the City staff who worked tirelessly to keep the City as safe as possible before, during and after the storm.



## Bartow Sports Complex is Back – and Better Than Ever



A ribbon cutting for the new and improved Bartow Sports Complex was held on Oct. 4. Congrats to Jason Hargrove, Director, City of City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, and his team for overseeing this project, and to Polk County Government Florida and Visit Central Florida Sports for partnering with the City to create this premiere sports venue.

The ceremony included remarks from City of Bartow Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and County Commissioner Rick Wilson. John Helms, President, Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, and Chamber Finance/Membership Director Michelle Helms orchestrated the ribbon-cutting. Ceremonial first pitches were thrown by Bartow City Manager Mike Herr, Mayor Pfeiffer, Commissioner Wilson and Jason Hargrove.

The first tournament on the new fields began that afternoon - with up to 32 teams from around the state and beyond. Time to play ball!

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## National Fire Prevention Week Recognized

While we were hurricaning, the nation celebrated Fire Prevention Week, which officially was observed Oct. 6-12. Fire Chief Jay Robinson, who also serves as Bartow's emergency manager and is responsible for coordinating the city's resources and leadership team in response to emergencies like hurricanes, accepted a proclamation to that effect with other members of the department at the Oct. 7 Commission meeting.

Chief Robinson and his team serve this City heroically each and every day, but were unparalleled in their response to Hurricane Milton, which already had begun by the meeting.

The 2024 Fire Prevention Month theme is "Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!" In honor of Chief Robinson and the Department, take time to test your smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button, recognizing that they serve as the first line of defense in a home fire.

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## Public Power Week Observed in the Face of the Hurricane

October 6-12 also fittingly was Public Power Week, recognizing the City of Bartow and other municipalities that operate a community-owned, locally controlled, not-for-profit electric utility.

In the wake of Hurricane Milton, there is no question that Bartow Electric is a valuable community asset that contributes substantially to the well-being of our residents. We applaud our Electric Department staff and crews, as well as those mutual aid linemen from around the country, for getting the power back on quickly in the City after the storm had passed.

During the presentation, it was noted that Bartow Electric will continue to work to bring lower-cost, safe, reliable electricity to community homes and businesses just as it has since 1903, the year when the utility was created.

Michael Poucher, Director of Electric Utility, accepted the proclamation from Mayor Pfeiffer.

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## Griselda Sanchez Joins BPD as Newest Officer

The Bartow Police Department added a new officer to their ranks last week. Officer Griselda Sanchez is the City's newest addition to the BPD. Officer Sanchez was joined by colleagues, friends and family for her swearing in ceremony. Welcome!



## German Exchange Students Visit First Responders

As part of the Bartow High School German American Partnership Program, a cultural exchange program that began in 2003, the Bartow Police and Fire Departments hosted students from Märkische Schule during their 3 week exchange in the City.

Traditionally, the Wattenscheid students arrive in Bartow in October and Bartow students travel to Germany the following June.

## Happy Florida City Government Week!

Florida City Government Week, spearheaded by the Florida League of Cities, is being observed from today through Oct. 27. Held annually in October, is a time for cities across the state to celebrate, showcase and engage citizens in the work of municipal government.



Municipal government is the government closest to the people and generally receives higher approval ratings than other levels of government. Yet, many residents are unaware of how city services impact their lives.

The City of Bartow will host Government students from Bartow High School this Wednesday to introduce them to the workings of their local government. The morning will include an introduction by Mayor Trish Pfeiffer, a history of the city by Myrtice Young from the Polk County History Center, and a voter education session by Randy Barnes, Polk County Voters League as well as the opportunity to take part in a mock Commission meeting and a meet and greet with staff from the various City departments.

# October recognized as Let's Talk Month

The Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties believes that parents are the first and most influential source of sexual education for children and adolescents.



Let's Talk Month is a National Campaign designated in October that encourages a strong and healthy partnership between the family and the community in helping adolescents develop responsible and uplifting attitudes toward sexuality. In addition to parents, community agencies and religious organizations are leaders in this effort by providing educational programs, resources and information to children.

The observance was recognized during the first Commission meeting in October. The proclamation was accepted by Yadiris Romero, Provider Liaison, Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties.

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## Safe Sleep Awareness Month Protects Babies from SUIDS

SUIDS Recognized Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is one of the leading causes of death in infants (0-364 days) and is often associated with preventable unsafe infant sleep practices and environments. It can happen in any family regardless of income, education, or community.

To protect against SUID, babies should always be put to sleep on their backs, alone in their own crib or bassinet; with no bumpers, pillows, quilts, comforters, or other soft surfaces in the crib. Moms and dads should not share beds with their babies and anyone under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or smoking should not be resting with the baby.

Safe Sleep Awareness Month was recognized during the first Commission meeting in October. That proclamation also was accepted by Yadiris Romero, Provider Liaison, Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties.

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## Bartow Recognizes Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed in October, is an opportunity to unite all citizens in our community to prevent breast cancer deaths through increased education and encouraging regular screening. Each year more than 220,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with breast cancer and more than 40,000 will pass away

because of the disease.

While considerable progress has been made in the fight against breast cancer, it remains the most diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of death among women in the United States.

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month the City of Bartow reaffirms its commitment to support

breast cancer research and to educate citizens about its risk factors, detection, and treatment. The City also recognizes breast cancer survivors, those battling the disease, their families and friends who are a tireless source of love and encouragement, and applauds the efforts of our medical professionals and researchers working to find a cure for this deadly disease.

A proclamation to this effect was presented to Ashley Lloyd, Director, Breast Cancer Foundation of Central Florida.

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*Last, but not least...*



**Trunk or Treat last Thursday**

## Halloween Parade this Thursday



Trunk or Treat was held last Thursday at the Bartow Executive Airport. This annual family friendly event allows children to trick or treat in a safe environment while learning about different services and industries in our community.

This year's event was attended by the Police, Fire, Electric, Parks & Recreation, Water and HR departments. HR reports giving candy to more than 1000 kids while Parks & Rec had a great time handing out candy and more than 200 packets filled with a craft from the library and calendars from City Recreation and library programming.

Don't forget - the the 80th Bartow Community Halloween Parade & Carnival kicks off at 4pm this Thursday The parade line-up starts on First Avenue, right next to the Chicken Shack, promising a spooky display of floats, costumes, and community gathering. The parade route winds its way through town, concluding at Mosaic Park, the site of the carnival.

### ***Parade Route:***

The parade starts at Main St and First Ave (in front of the Chicken Shack), heads west on Main St, and then turns south on Broadway Ave, finishing near the Bartow Civic Center at Mosaic Park. See you there!

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