



Week in Review

Oct. 28 - Nov. 11, 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!



CITY OF BARTOW POLICE CHIEF CANDIDATE

Public Meet & Greet

The City of Bartow has narrowed its search for a new Chief of Police from nearly 50 applicants to four highly qualified candidates. Those individuals will participate in an onsite interview process this week, which will include one one one meetings with the City Commissioners and three panel interviews with representatives from the community, external partners, members of the Bartow Police Department and City leadership. The

finalists also will have an opportunity to interact with the public at a Community Meet & Greet from 6-7pm Wednesday, Nov. 13 at Mulligans Bar & Grill, 190 S. Herbert Dixon Blvd.

The City was assisted by SGR, an executive recruitment firm based in Texas, in conducting the search, which produced a strong field of candidates comprised of 49 law enforcement professionals from 17 states.

I am proud to say that the Bartow Police Department is made up of men and women who exude professionalism, strive for greatness and pursue justice for all, said City Manager Mike Herr.

We believe in this team and are proud of them. As we turn the page, we are excited to introduce a new Chief of Police and trust that it will be the best chapter in the history of the Bartow Police Department ever written.

The finalists:

Greg Goreck

Greg Goreck has served in Florida law enforcement for more than 30 years, most recently as Chief of Police for Haines City, FL.

Javaro Sims

Javaro Sims has served in numerous capacities with the City of Delray Beach Police Department where he has worked since 1992, including as Police Chief from 2019 to 2022.

Steve Walker

Steve Walker is currently serves as Deputy Chief of Police for the Bartow Police Department, as well as Captain of the Law Enforcement Division.

Theresa Odum

Theresa Odum has served in various jurisdictions in Illinois for 33 years. Currently the Chief of Police for the Forest Preserve of Cook County (Illinois) Police Department, she has also served there as the Chief of Executive Protection.

Signs of Weekend Fun Remain



This past weekend, the City was abuzz with activity with the 33rd Annual Honeybee Craft Fair, Antiques Market, Car Show, Farmer's Market and Bartow Chalk Walk all taking place on Saturday. The Chalk Walk continued on Sunday and remnants of the artists' work still can be seen in Fort Blount Park. Congrats to all involved for making each of these events such a success.

Parks & Rec Hosts Veterans Day Camp

Bartow's Parks & Recreation staff are hosting a Veterans Day Camp today. Attendees, including these two cuties, are exploring the origins of the holiday as well as completing activities with a patriotic spin.

Next up is their Turkey Camp on Nov. 25 – 27 from 7:30am - 5:30pm. The cost is \$30 per camper. Campers will participate in crafts, STEM activities and creative expression. More info at Bartowrec.recdesk.com.



City Celebrates Veterans Day

Earlier today, Bartow once again honored all local heroes who have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Space Force and Coast Guard at the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce's annual Hometown Heroes

Celebration, a luncheon held at the Bartow Civic Center. Sponsor funds paid for Veterans and their guests.

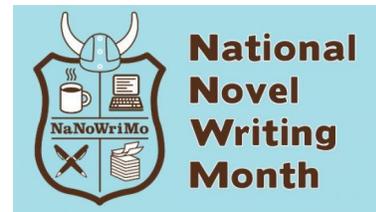
At last week's Commission meeting, the City's elected officials encouraged all Bartowans to recognize the fortitude and sacrifice of our veterans through public ceremonies and private thoughts and prayers. A proclamation was

issued to Lloyd Harris, Chair, Hometown Heroes Committee, along with Michelle Helms, Finance/Membership Director of the Chamber and Marie Wilmot, VP – Leadership & Professional Development with the Chamber.



Local Authors Fair at the Library

The Bartow Public Library is continuing their National Novel Month celebration by hosting more local wordsmiths at the library this Saturday, Nov. 16, for a Local Authors Fair. Come to the Library, 2150 S Broadway Ave., at 2pm and meet some of Bartow area's authors promoting their works, reading excerpts, and discussing their craft! Participating authors include Dorothy Lemmey, Chris O'Byrne, Cody Ridenour, Ann Sargent, Jo Scott, and Margaret Swanson.



Mayor Attends Roundtable

The City was proud to have Mayor Trish Pfeiffer participate in Polk Vision's 14th Annual Mayors Roundtable with Polk County Board of County Commissioners Chair Bill Braswell and 12 other mayors from across Polk County. The City leaders discussed storm recovery, growth management, arts, culture and recreation and more.

HR, CRA, Communications and Purchasing do the City Shuffle

Note that Human Resources, Communications and the CRA have moved to the City Hall Annex, located at 680 E Main St. CRA Director Howard Smith and Business and Community Engagement Coordinator Cheryl Baksh occupy the first floor of the building, while HR Director Cherie Kercher and HR Specialist Mary Dimitroff (and soon to come - Lenyx Palacios, HR Coordinator) are on the second floor along with Communications Director Laurie Hayes.

Purchasing also has moved from the Polk Street Community Center to City Hall.



2nd Annual Vet Fest this Saturday in Lakeland

Congressman Scott Franklin (FL-18) will host the second annual Vet Fest Saturday, November 16 from 10am – 2pm at Publix Field At Joker Marchant Stadium, 2301 Lakeland Hills Blvd. in Lakeland. Vet Fest is a community event to inform veterans of available resources and provide on-site support from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other veterans service organizations. The event will include toxic exposure screenings, women's health services and mental health support. Veteran attendees can also receive assistance with healthcare enrollment, employment assistance, housing, counseling and transportation services.

Hurricane Recovery Town Hall this Thursday

Residents still dealing with damage from Hurricane Milton can learn about available hurricane recovery resources from the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) on Thursday, Nov. 14 from 6-8pm at UF/IFAS Polk County - WH Stuart Center, 1710 US 17S in Bartow. Receive support in applying for assistance and get questions answered about the recovery process. This is a free event for residents of Polk County hosted by FDEM.

Last, but not least....

Welcomes and congratulations are in order for the following staff:

- **Dan Francouer** has been promoted to Assistant IT Director
- **Christian Stribula** is our new IT Network Administrator
- **Ratheesh Raju** is our new IT Systems Administrator
- **Sherie Parago**, formerly at the Bartow Library, is our new Finance Accountant
- **Lenyx Palacios**, formerly in the City Manager's Office, is our new Human Resources Coordinator
- **Cheryl Baksh** is the CRA's new Business and Community Engagement Coordinator



[NEWS](#)

[SIGNUP](#)

[DEPARTMENTS](#)

[BUSINESS](#)



450 N. Wilson Ave., Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-0100

[CONTACT
US](#)



City of Bartow | 450 N Wilson Ave | BARTOW, FL 33830 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!