



# Week in Review

Nov. 26 – Dec. 9, 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!



## Walker Sworn in as Chief of Police

Stephen Walker was sworn in as Bartow Chief of Police at a ceremony in the Commission Chambers at City Hall last Friday. Chief Walker took the oath before a crowd that included City elected officials, leadership and staff, members of the Bartow Police Department and officers from surrounding jurisdictions and his family and friends.



Chief Walker joined the Bartow Police Department in 2022, after spending most of his career with the Lakeland Police Department. He was promoted to Bartow Deputy Chief just about a year ago and had served as acting chief since Andy Ray's retirement this past spring.

Chief Walker holds a master's degree in criminal justice, and a bachelor's degree in criminology. He is a graduate of the Police Executive Research Forum Senior Management Institute for Police, the University of Louisville Southern Police Institute Administrative Officers Course and has earned the designation of Certified Public Manager.



## Mural Proclaims "My Heart Belongs to Bartow"

Have you seen Bartow's newest mural? A project sponsored by the Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the artwork is located on Wilson just off of Main St. Gillian Fazio of Gillian Fazio Art is the artist who created the design. She was busy adding some of the final touches on a beautiful afternoon last week.

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## It's a Sign to Stop

Public Works has installed new four-way stop signs at the intersection of S. Kissengen Ave and E Georgia St (currently a two-way stop).

The four-way stop went into effect this morning. Use caution when travelling in the area as drivers become accustomed to the change.





## Santa Entertains Wish Lists at Bartow Library Program

The Bartow Public Library hosted its annual Cookies with Santa event this past Saturday. More than 180(!) of Santa's best elves came out for a treat and the chance to tell St. Nick what they hope to see under the tree.

## Lock it or Lose it!

The Bartow Police Department reminds holiday shoppers to lock up their treasures while out and about. Don't let the Grinch steal your Christmas!



## Let's Have a Parade

Celebrate the holiday season this Friday the 13th at the Magical Illumination Parade through downtown Bartow beginning at 6pm. Hosted by Main Street Bartow, this annual tradition transforms the city into a dazzling winter wonderland, filled with sparkling lights, festive floats, and holiday spirit.

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