



# Week in Review

Dec. 16 – 23, 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

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.





Employee Appreciation  
Breakfast Includes

# Recognition of Service Milestones

On Friday morning, the City hosted its annual Employee Recognition Breakfast for all City staff. The event included addresses by Assistant City Manager Tracy Miller, City Manager Mike Herr, Commissioner Leo Longworth, Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and Deputy City Manager David Wright.



Former employees who passed away in in the last year were remembered and recent retirees were recognized. Current City staff who achieved service milestones in 2024 - anywhere from five to 35 years of service - were congratulated, and those who have served the City for 20 years or more received certificates and awards. In all, these 40 individuals have given the City a collective 580 years of service!

Those recognized for 20 years with the City were Justin Jones, Fire Department; Robert Rushing, Public Works, and John Zorn, Police Department. Employees celebrating 25 years with the City included Cynthia King, Building Department; Kathryn Murphy, Library; Deborah King, Purchasing; Eugene Carter, Solid Waste, Jeffrey Barr, Public Works, and Dwight Bilbrey, Toni Strickland and Michelle Jordan, all of the Police Department. Thirty year employees were Jeffrey Parrish, Electric; John Pepper, Public Works, and Frank Smith, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts. And Tony McDuffie and Eddie Watson, both with the Electric Department achieved 35 year milestones in 2024.

The City's Employee "A Team" arranged for a variety of raffle prizes, which were dispersed by Mayor Pfeiffer, Vice Mayor Tanya Tucker and Commissioner Laura Simpson, with "help" from a very animated Grinch.



## CRA, Project Lifesavers Bring Community Together

Last Thursday, the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) partnered with Project Lifesavers to present "Nurturing the Bartow Community" at Polk Street Community Center. The purpose of the program was to bring residents and community stakeholders together with



City of Bartow leadership including City Manager Mike Herr, Finance Director Peter Lear, Code Enforcement Manager Tray Towles and CRA Director Howard Smith to learn about City services and resources. Also in attendance from the City were Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and Commissioner

Leo Longworth, as well as representatives from City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, the Bartow Golf Course, and the Police and Fire Departments.

## Bartow EDC Announces New Website, Guide

The Bartow Economic Development Council is excited to unveil their brand-new website and the "Accessing Capital Guide"! These dynamic resources are packed with valuable insights for anyone looking to establish a business or make a home in Bartow. Dive into the wealth of information and discover why Bartow is the perfect place for your next venture. Visit [www.bartowedc.com](http://www.bartowedc.com) or reach out to the BEDC at [elle@bartowedc.com](mailto:elle@bartowedc.com) for more information. Explore the possibilities today!



## Leadership Program Explores City's Economic Development

The Bartow Leadership program recently enjoyed an exciting day focused on economic development, coordinated by Elle Whithall, Executive Director of the BEDC.

Hosted by Mayor Trish Pfeiffer and with the help of Shannon Medley, the day featured property tours, insightful presentations by Main Street's Linda Holcomb and CRA Director Howard Smith, and a dynamic panel discussion. Panelists included City Manager Mike Herr, Winter Haven EDC President Bruce Lyon, CFDC's Alex Price, and Clint Wallace from Sage Development Company.

For more information on economic development happenings in Bartow, contact the BEDC at [elle@bartowedc.com](mailto:elle@bartowedc.com).

## Shop with a Cop

The Bartow Police Department recently held its annual Shop with a Cop initiative to ensure that some local children have presents this holiday season. The Department sponsored 23 kids, each of whom were able to select \$125 worth of toys, electronics or clothing, or other items. Walmart also provides bags of food and sodas to the families.





## Fire Department Brings Holiday Joy to 5 Families

The Bartow Fire Department delivered holiday magic to five local families on Saturday, including a meet and greet with Santa at the Peace River Center for Domestic Violence Services. The children who benefitted from this generosity ranged from 1 to 12.

Gifts were donated either at the Bartow Walmart Event last month or brought directly to the Bartow Fire Station. Extra presents will be donated to the Bartow Church Service Center. Santa's helpers included firefighters and their families as well as the deputy chiefs and their families.



## Happy Holidays!

Note that City offices and facilities including the Bartow Library will be closed on December 24 and 25. The solid waste pick-up schedule remains as usual. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday!

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