



# Week in Review

Jan. 13 - 20, 2025

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.

## Bartow Electric Recognized by FMEA

It was announced today that Bartow Electric has been recognized by the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) with a 2024 "Restoring Communities Award."

The annual awards are given to public power utilities for their exemplary power restoration efforts in their own communities or for their mutual aid efforts outside of their home communities following hurricanes, other severe weather events and non-weather-related emergencies.

These awards follow an incredibly active and destructive 2024 hurricane season for Florida, with August's Hurricane Debby, a Category 1 storm, and back-to-back major Hurricanes Helene and Milton, which caused widespread power outages within weeks of one another. In addition to providing mutual aid within the state, Florida's public power utilities, including Bartow, were also recognized for providing mutual aid assistance to Louisiana following Hurricane Francine and to public power utilities in South Carolina and neighboring Florida electric cooperative utilities following Hurricane Helene, as well as for providing mutual aid assistance to fellow utilities on major infrastructure improvement and reliability enhancement projects.

"Thanks to the yearlong work they do to prepare and make their systems more resilient, like hardening their electrical systems and upgrading equipment, Florida's public power utilities, along with the help of mutual aid crews from all over the country, were able to quickly get the power flowing again following three hurricanes, including two major storms. We appreciate everything our 'Restoring Communities Award' recipients did to power our communities forward after this brutal hurricane season," said Amy Zubaly, FMEA Executive Director.



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## Fluoride Workshop Scheduled

The Bartow City Commission will hold a public Workshop regarding the pros and cons of adding fluoride to the City's water supply on Tuesday, February 18 from 6 -8pm at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 Floral Ave. Panelists will include Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Lapado and American Fluoridation Society President Dr. Johnny Johnson. More information will be forthcoming.

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## Storyteller Helps Celebrate Black History Month at the Library

This February, in celebration of Black History Month, a special guest is coming to the Bartow Public Library, 2150 S. Broadway Ave. Storyteller Tamara Green will share touching stories from Africa, her family and Florida beginning at 6pm on Thursday, Feb. 13.

Born in Memphis, TN, the Home of the Blues, she holds an MFA in Performing Arts and a Bachelor of Science degree in English education and has served as the Youthful Voices Director for the Florida Storytelling Association. Her love of stories comes from her father, and Library staff is excited for her to share them with the community! All ages welcome.

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## *New program alert:* Dungeons and Dragons at the Library



The first meeting of Dungeons and Dragons will be Thursday, Jan. 23, from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Library staff and attendees will create the first group of characters to play the game, answer any questions about future programs, and choose between two options for the group's first official adventure. Played before? Perfect! Haven't ever played? Not a problem!

Meetings will occur regularly every second and fourth Thursday. Supplies will be made available at every game session, but participants also can bring their own materials.

There will be a session run by the Library's resident Dungeon Master at each meeting, however attendees can play their home games as well if they are in the middle of an adventure and need space to play.

For ages 18+. Call 863.534.0131 to register.

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## Initiative Wraps Up

The second cohort of the Youth & Police Initiative was completed last week. The youngsters and officers learned so much about one another during the session. They also increased social skills and their awareness of implicit biases and built better relationships with their friends and community.

The next cohort will be Feb 3-7. Register your 13 to 18 year old students at [Bartowrec.recdesk.com](http://Bartowrec.recdesk.com) Dinner is provided every night, as well as an incentive upon graduation! They won't want to

miss it!

## Community Development Block Grant Information Session Scheduled



The community is invited to Carver Recreation Center, 520 Herbert Dixon Blvd., from 6 - 7pm on Thursday, Jan. 30 to learn about grant opportunities and to share ideas and suggestions about the type of commercial and economic development you want.

This is your chance to make a difference in your community and help shape its future.



## 13th Annual Blarney Duathlon slated for March 15

City of Bartow Parks & Recreation once again will host the Annual Blarney Duathlon / 5K on Saturday, March 15. Now in its 13th year, the duathlon consists of a 1 mile run, an 11 mile Bike ride and a 3 mile run. A 5K race will be held at the same time.

Discounted entry fees are available on a sliding scale through March 9. Register at [tinyurl.com/bartow0blarney](http://tinyurl.com/bartow0blarney).

## Registration Open for Father - Daughter Dance



Dads, granddads and other father figures: Make plans now to attend the City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Father-Daughter Dance on Feb. 21 from 6-8 pm at the Bartow Civic Center.

You and your girl(s), ages 5-18, should dress to impress and come prepared to dance the evening away. Dinner included! \$30 for an adult and child (\$15 per additional child) Register at [Bartowrec.recdesk.com](http://Bartowrec.recdesk.com).



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