



Week in Review

Feb. 17 - 23, 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.

Fluoride Workshop Attracts Statewide Attention

The Bartow City Commission held a Public Workshop regarding the pros and cons of adding fluoride to the City's water supply last Tuesday at the Bartow Civic Center.



Panelists included Florida Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo and Dr. Johnny Johnson, Jr., DMD, MS, a Pediatric Dentist, Diplomate American Board of Pediatric Dentistry, Life Member of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry and President of the American Fluoridation Society.

Dr. Ladapo was joined by Ashley Malin, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, College of Public Health and Health Professions & College of Medicine, University of Florida and Dr. Griffin Cole, DDS, a member of The International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology.

Dr. Johnson was accompanied by Dr. Steve Slott, DDS, a General Dentist and American Fluoridation Society Communications Officer.

The nearly three-hour Workshop was attended by approximately 150 people, including many members of an advocacy group opposed to fluoride from across the state, several local dentists and some residents of Bartow as well as from Lakeland, which also is debating fluoride. The meeting was covered by all local news networks and print media as well as the *Wall Street Journal*.

Following presentations on both sides of the issue, there was an opportunity for questions and public comments. Based on the information and feedback gleaned from the meeting, the Commission will vote at their regular March 17 meeting to determine on whether to continue to add fluoride to City water.



Memories Made at the Daddy - Daughter Dinner Dance

Memories that will last a lifetime were made last Friday at the Daddy-Daughter Dinner Dance at the Bartow Civic Center.

The City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts staff pulled out all the stops to make it a magical night for everyone in attendance. There was a red carpet, candy

station, delicious dinner, photo booths, a DJ (thank you SLS Entertainment), contests, prizes, balloons and flowers, lots of pink, and, of course, dancing! Hooray for all the dads, father figures and young ladies who came dressed to impress and have a grand time.

Jones Achieves Career Milestone

Congratulations to Bartow Police Department's Accreditation Manager, Kathryn Jones, on earning the designation of Certified Accreditation Professional through the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition (FLA-PAC).



The Certified Accreditation Professional Program (CAP) was established in 2009. Accreditation practitioners who are recognized as Certified Accreditation Professionals have reached one of the highest levels of achievement and recognition in the accreditation field.

Candidates must be employed by a member agency of FLA-PAC or must be an associate/retired member of the FLA-PAC.

Points are earned in each of four categories: Experience, Education and Training, Leadership and Services, and Awards and Recognition. To date, only 54 individuals have earned this certification.

Please joins us in saying "Congratulations!" to Kathryn!



Commission Celebrates Black History Month

Continuing the celebration of Black History Month in the City, two special guests attended the Commission meeting on Monday, at the invitation of Commissioner Leo Longworth.

Lyannah Taylor, 12 years-old and in the 6th grade, gave a powerful recitation of “Hey Black Child,” a poem by Countee Cullen. Arianna Hargrove, age 9 and in the 4th

grade, gave a similarly stirring rendition of “Harriet Tubman,” a poem by Eloise Greenfield.

The two girls, along with eight other youth from St James AME Church of Bartow recently attended a Black Heritage Conference in Jacksonville where they each took first place with their dramatic readings of poetry. Congrats to both of these talented young ladies!

Mariposa Ave. No Longer a Drain on Road System

Hooray for the City's Stormwater and Transportation teams for their work on a project that will improve conditions on Mariposa Ave.

A French drain that wasn't doing the job was replaced with a new pipeline that ties the drain into an existing Stormwater system.

Before this project, the roadway would flood during even moderate rain events. The work will improve motorist safety in the area well as the quality of our transportation network.



Playground Improvements Coming to City Parks

Pardon our Progress... The Playgrounds at Mary Holland Park will be closed starting on Tuesday, Feb. 25. Work on the Pirate Ship playground is scheduled to finish by Feb. 28. The Tot Lot should reopen by March 7. We will post updates throughout the project.

The Pirate Ship is having old wood mulch removed and new rubber mulch installed. Wood mulch on the Tot Lot will also be replaced with rubber mulch. In addition, the swing set will have a new rubber surface and new swings.

Work also is ongoing at Richland Manor Park with work on their playground expected to finish by the end of this week.

Achievers on

Display

Join the Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency and Bartow's Banner Pole Steering Committee for an evening honoring some of legendary Bartow residents whose names and face adorn the banners posted on light poles in various parts of the city.



Hosted by Commissioner Leo Longworth, the event is scheduled for Friday, Feb. 28 from 6-8pm at Carver Recreation Center, and will feature Folk Artist James "Lonestar" Camp, Educator Geraldine Watson, Civic Leader Charles Luster, Civic & Community Leader Robert Austin, Civic Leader Sheila Keith, Trailblazer Garth Washington and Business Owner Richard Sams.

The CRA created the Achievers on Display Banner Pole Project to celebrate African Americans who lived, worked, or were educated in the City of Bartow and have made significant achievements at the city, state, national, or global level. Fifty-nine of the banners are located on Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd. Thirty-eight more are on Polk Street and 46 more will be installed on L.B. Brown Avenue

The free event is open to the public and will include opportunities for interaction and engagement with these and other community leaders. as well as refreshments. All ages are welcome to attend. For more information, call 863.534.0100, ext. 2771.

The Mayor and City Commission recognized the event with a proclamation at their last meeting, presented to some of the organizers of the project.

Bloomin' Arts Festival Takes Place this Weekend

Each spring for the past 54 years, Bartow has been the site of the Annual Bloomin' Arts Festival, presented this year by Moody Law, P.A., the City, Bartow Art Guild, the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce and Main Street Bartow.



The Festival, slated for March 1 and 2 on and around Main St., will feature Fine Arts & Crafts, a Student Art Show, a Car Show, a Quilt Show, a Plein Air Competition, a Bike Ride, Children's activities, free entertainment and food.

At their last meeting, the Mayor and Commissioners, by proclamation, urged all residents and visitors to participate in the featured events and enter into the spirit of the occasion as a creative artist or imaginative observer.

These Power Outages are for the Birds

The Electric Department reports that they have had a couple circuit lockouts in the past two weeks due to Osprey nests contacting the line on Highway 17.

According to Director Michael Poucher, it's an annual event and, while staff tries to stay ahead of the birds by knocking the nest down before it's established, once there are eggs, the nests must be left alone.



Nestless poles have had deterrents put in place to keep them that way and crews continue to patrol in an attempt to dissuade the birds from setting up housekeeping.

State of the City Address Slated for Feb. 27

Bartow City Manager Mike Herr will provide an update on City accomplishments across the various departments as well as present his vision for Polk's Capital City in 2025 and beyond at a State of the City breakfast presented by the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce. The event will be held at 8 am on Thursday, Feb. 27 at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave.

Herr, a long-time public servant and former president of Econ Engineering, was hired as Bartow's City Manager in January 2023. He previously served as City Manager in Winter Haven and Plant City as well as Polk County Manager, among other high level municipal positions. Herr also is a member of the Florida League of Cities Advocacy Committee, the National League of Cities Small Cities Advisory Council, and the National League of Cities Transportation Infrastructure Committee. He received a Career Excellence Award from the Florida City County Manager Association in 2009. Under Herr's leadership, the City of Bartow has seen considerable investment in infrastructure as well as City amenities, services and personnel.

Tickets are \$25 per person and include a buffet breakfast. To register or for more information, go to bartowchamber.com or call 863.533.7125.



Bright Ideas Innovation Sessions Planned

Last year, the City launched a Bright Ideas Innovation Program. Spearheaded by City Manager Mike Herr, the program creates a framework for every member of the City staff to develop and submit ideas for review, feedback and adoption.

The City will host three Bright Ideas Innovation Sessions for City staff to share more about the program and offer assistance in submitting an idea either in writing or online. The sessions will be held on February 27 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the Commission Chambers at City Hall; on March 19 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the Gause Room at the Carver Recreation Center and on March 28 from 9 - 11am or 2 - 4pm in the PRCA Conference Room at the Civic Center.



13th Annual Blarney Duathlon to be held 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.



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!