



Week in Review

April 7 - 13, 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

Celebrating our Public Safety Telecommunicators

Incidents that require police, fire or emergency medical services can occur at any time. The safety of both our residents and our first responders is dependent upon the quality and accuracy of information obtained by the City's Public Safety Telecommunicators.

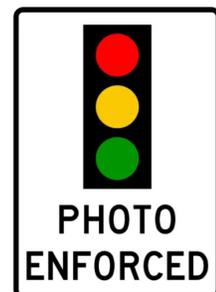


With their skilled fielding of emergency calls, these men and women have contributed substantially to the apprehension of criminals, suppression of fires and treatment of patients.

Recognizing this, the City Commission, at the April 7 meeting, proclaimed this week as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week. The proclamation was accepted by the staff of the City's emergency communications center.

Red Light Camera Program Launches April 21

The City of Bartow and the **Bartow Police Department** are working to improve community safety by installing red-light safety cameras at 8 high-risk intersections. The program will be live on April 21. For the first 30 days, violators will receive warnings. Beginning May 21, violations will incur fines.



The cameras, which will be operational 24/7, are installed at the following intersections (which are marked with signs noting that cameras are in use):

- Wilson Ave. at Van Fleet Dr. / SR 60
- W. Main St. / SR 60 at Crown Ave.
- Holland Pkwy. / US 17 / US98 at Van Fleet Ave. / US 98
- Broadway Ave. / US 98 / at E. Van Fleet Dr. / SR 60
- Holland Pkwy. / US 17 at Main St.
- S. Holland Pkwy. US 17 at W. Wabash St.
- Holland Pkwy. / US 17 at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
- S. Holland Pkwy. / US 17 at E. Georgia St.

Red Light cameras have proven effective in reducing crashes, serious injuries, and fatalities. Similar red-light safety programs across the U.S. gathered 4.6 million red-light citations in 2023, with a recidivism rate of 16%, indicating most violators do not repeat their illegal behavior.

The fine amount for a red-light safety camera violation, governed by Florida Statute § 316.0083, is \$158 for each offense. Of that amount, \$70 is remitted to the Florida Department of Revenue for deposit into the General Revenue Fund, \$10 goes to the Florida Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Trust Fund, \$3 to the Florida Department of Revenue for deposit into the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Trust Fund, and \$75 is retained by the City of Bartow.

Red Light Camera citations are not considered "moving violations." As such, no points are assessed and a citation will not affect your insurance rates. **More information about the program can be found here.**

CFRPC to Hold Meeting on City's Comp Plan this Thursday

There will be a Community Workshop regarding Bartow's Comprehensive Plan Update on April 17 from 5:30-7:30pm at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave. Join in the discussion about the future of Bartow.



The **Central Florida Regional Planning Council** is working with The City of Bartow, community partners, and stakeholders to update Bartow's Comprehensive Plan through the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR), a State-mandated review of the Comprehensive Plan.

In order to be effective, the Plan must continue to be updated to adapt to changing conditions and needs. The EAR provides the opportunity to take a holistic look at how well the Plan is working, and how it might be refined to address community-specific issues and challenges.

Following the submittal of the EAR, the City will revise the current Comprehensive Plan by adopting the appropriate amendments. The City of Bartow Comprehensive Plan is blueprint for current and future development. The Plan's goals, objectives and policies reflect the City's vision for its future, and for how it will meet the needs of existing and future residents, visitors and businesses.

Learn more and take a survey here: www.cfrpc.org/bartow-comp-plan



Bartow Bash Registration Open

Registration for 2025 Bartow Bash Summer Camp is now open. The Camp, for kids in K through 5th grades, runs from Monday through Friday from June 2 - July 25.

Doors open daily at 7:30am and camp pick-up is at 5:30pm. Pay \$65 a week for each child and **CHOOSE** your location - either Polk Street Community Center or Carver Recreation Center. The price includes food, field trips, and new friends!

Application Period for Organization Funding Now Open

The City of Bartow is accepting Organization Funding requests for Fiscal Year 2025 - '26 from nonprofits, tax exempt entities and community-based organizations.

Applicants must offer a service that augments one provided by the City or provide a necessary service that the City does not currently offer. To be considered for funding, both Nonprofit Organizations and Community Partners must submit an application.



A training session will be held at 10am on Tuesday, May 13 at City Hall, 450 N Wilson Ave., to answer any questions related to the application process and provide guidance on the presentation process.

Completed applications and supporting documentation MUST be submitted by June 16. Note that submission of applications does not guarantee funding.

More information and a link to the application are available here.



A Warm and Fuzzy Thank You

The Bartow Police Department was the recipient of a donation of stuffed animals from the the ladies from Bartow High School's Agriculture program. Their support and generosity is much appreciated!

April is Water Conservation Month

The State of Florida, Water Management Districts and Bartow are working together to increase awareness about the importance of water conservation, especially during the month of April, which is Florida's Water Conservation Month.

Decisions made today about water supplies will have far reaching impacts upon the future and the City's ability to provide safe drinking water.



Not only the City, but every business, industry, school, and citizen can make a difference when it comes to conserving water and thus promote a healthy economy and community.

To remind residents of the importance of being responsible stewards of this valuable resource, the City Commission proclaimed this month as Water Conservation Month at their last meeting. The proclamation was accepted by Cindy Rodriguez, Sr. Government Affairs Regional Manager for the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

CRA Hosting Monthly Community Meeting

The Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) invites Bartow residents to attend the next session of their Community Engagement series from 10 - 11am on Tuesday, April 29, at Liberty Link Foundation 360 (The Williams Building), 1150 Martin Luther King Junior Blvd.



Held the last Tuesday of every month, the series provides information about CRA initiatives, including Community Clean-Up program as well as Home Repair and Commercial Façade grants. The April event also will feature guest speakers from the United Way of Central Florida who will discuss resources for free vision, dental and health care, food pantries and assistance for children.

Questions? Call Cheryl Baksh, CRA Coordinator, at 863-534-0100 ext. 2771

Best in the Biz?

Can we do it again? Help the Bartow Golf Course retain the title of "Best Golf Course," by once again nominating our hometown course in *The Ledger's* Central Florida Community Choice Awards. **Cast your vote here.**



Help Keep Bartow Beautiful at the Great American Clean-Up Event

Join Bartow's Solid Waste Department and Keep Polk County Beautiful for their annual Great American Clean-Up Event on April 26 from 8am - noon.



Volunteers who pre-register will receive a t-shirt and a ticket to Bok Tower Gardens. Youth needing community service hours for graduation can earn four hours by helping to organize the event. Lunch will be provided at Mary Holland Park after the Clean-Up.

Community and civic associations, school and youth groups, families and friends, businesses, sports teams and others are encouraged to organize their members and participate. To sign up, request a packet via email at solidwaste@cityofbartow.net or pick up a packet at 2060 E. Highway 60. Questions? Call 863.534.0181.

Reminder: City offices will be closed on Friday, April 18. There will be no

change in solid waste services. Enjoy the holiday!

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