



Week in Review

June 23 - 30, 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

Community Meeting Held in Wind Meadows

A Community Engagement meeting was held on June 25 at Spessard Holland Elementary School, hosted by the City of Bartow for the residents of Wind Meadows and Wind Meadows South.

For the first hour, the City leadership team showcased services, programs and amenities provided to residents by the City and answered questions. Many departments offered hand-outs in English and Spanish containing contacts and other useful information for future reference.



City Manager Mike Herr and Mayor Tanya

Tucker then offered opening remarks followed by presentations from Police, Fire, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts, Public Works and Planning. The meeting was then open for public comments and questions. The gathering was part of an ongoing effort to better engage with our citizens and ensure that their needs are being met by City government.

Bartow's Cleaner, Safer Neighborhoods Program Highlighted by NLC During Small Cities Month

June is Small Cities Month, spearheaded by the **National League of Cities**.

Bartow residents are among the 80 million citizens reside in small communities of 50,000 people or fewer, accounting for three-quarters of all municipal governments in the United States.

This year's theme is "Small Cities, Big Impact – Celebrating Community and Leadership." The City of Bartow was proud to be among the eight cities recognized by the League on their website and social media as having a positive impact on the lives of our citizens, especially with our Cleaner, Safer Neighborhoods initiative.



NLC featured the program, noting the following: "The City of Bartow, FL is transforming its approach to code enforcement, focusing on creating cleaner, safer neighborhoods — a major initiative championed by City Manager Mike Herr.

This new strategy involves moving the former Code Enforcement Section from the Bartow Police Department into a dedicated Office of Code Compliance and Neighborhood Services. Under Director Tray Towles' leadership, the vision for this new department is clear: to foster a vibrant Bartow where every neighborhood is safe, well-kept and deeply connected, achieved through strong partnerships and proactive code compliance.

A cornerstone of this new mission is the [Cleaner, Safer Neighborhoods program](#), which mobilizes resources from all City departments to improve community living conditions. In less than a year, this program has successfully brought hundreds of properties up to code and eradicated numerous 'drug houses,' benefiting not only the neighbors of these dwellings but also the Bartow Police Department.

By building community ties and collaborating with residents and businesses to find fair, lasting solutions to violations, Bartow is ensuring a more enjoyable experience for citizens and visitors in Polk County's Capital City."

Stepping into Wellness

The City's "A" Team is hosting a four-week walking challenge for City staff that began on June 2 and ended on Sunday.

There are three Exercise Group Levels, which include:

- BEGINNER: Minimum steps to participate – 10,000 steps a week
- INTERMEDIATE: Minimum steps to participate – 25,000 steps a week
- ADVANCED: Minimum steps to participate – 50,000 steps a week

Walkers are competing for prizes like a Walking Pad, a 6 – in – 1 Ninja indoor grill, a Massage chair and an Apple/Android watch.

Throughout the challenge, a participant in each group with the most steps each week receive a Travel Trophy. In Week 3, the recipients were Symphonee Swartz, Library Assistant, with 60,918 steps (beginner); Tyler Douglas, Library Assistant, with 164,622 steps (intermediate), and Johnny Purvis, GIS Analyst, with 160,547 steps (advanced).



Friday Fun in Azalea Gardens



Last Friday, the residents of Azalea Gardens were treated to a community event hosted by the **Bartow Police Department** and the City's Code Compliance & Neighborhood Services Department. Spearheaded by Officer Duane Paul, the gathering featured games, food and health and wellness resources.

Summer Fun (and Learning) at the Bartow Library!

Summer Reading is in full swing at the Bartow Library. But the music in the air isn't just from all the programs and events. Ukuleles are now available for checkout at the Bartow Public Library! Ask about them at the desk -- all ukulele kits include a soprano ukulele, a quick start guide, a tuner, and access to an app with video lessons and more.



Next up in their Super Summer Show lineup is Gigi the Clown at 10am on July 9 at the Bartow Civic Center. Gigi and her puppet dog Zelda celebrate their love of comedy, sing-alongs, and circus in a performance packed with fun for all. This show includes magic, comedy, dance, juggling, sing-along, and bubbles! Get ready to color YOUR world happy!

Don't miss out on any of the fun - [Check out their special Summer schedule](#). See ya at the Library this summer!

Local Kids are Having a Bash this Summer

Bartow Summer Camp is in full swing and the past few weeks have been packed with fun, creativity, and new adventures! Our campers stay active and engaged all week long with a variety of hands-on activities that spark imagination and built teamwork.

Week #3 was all about Goal Getters! The kids practiced teamwork, stayed active, and had a blast while learning valuable skills on (and off) the field.



July 4 Schedule for Sanitation / City Services

Note the sanitation schedule for this week... Monday and Tuesday collection remains



the same. Residents who normally have pick-up on Thursday will have sanitation services on Wednesday. Those who normally have service on Fridays will have their refuse collected on Thursday. Please plan ahead - and share with your neighbors.

City offices and the Bartow Public Library also will be closed on Friday.

Why? Because Friday is the 4th of July! Come celebrate with the City at An Independence Day Celebration in Mosaic Park. See story below for more details.

City to Host July 4 Celebration featuring Eli Mosely - and fireworks!

At their meeting last Monday, the Commission reviewed plans for **An Independence Day Celebration** slated for July 4 from **City of Bartow Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts** Director Jason Hargrove and Intern Noelia Velasquez. The Commission officially recognized the event with a proclamation. Want to know more? You can get all the details here:

www.cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration



Hosted by the City of Bartow for the first year, the Independence Day Celebration will take place in Mosaic Park on Friday, July 4, from 2:30 - 10pm.

Attendees are invited to bring blankets and lawn chairs and settle in for an afternoon and evening celebrating our nation's independence.

Pack a picnic of snacks and non-alcoholic beverages or take advantage of a variety of food options available for sale. The event will stay true to the traditional celebration and feature live music, food trucks, children's activities, family games and, of course, FIREWORKS!

The Opening Ceremony will start at 2:30pm with local dignitaries including Mayor Tanya Tucker. Bartow Idol winner Natalie Suarez will then set the patriotic mood with her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. An afternoon of family fun will include a moon bounce and inflatable games, a rock wall, a balloon artist, face painting and a roving magician.

There will be live music all day ending with headliner Eli Mosley presented by Thunder Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram who will lead in to the Fireworks Extravaganza at 9:10pm.

Get all the details on the City website at cityofbartow.net/529/July-4-Celebration Vendor and sponsorship opportunities still are available. For more information, email nvelasquez@cityofbartow.net or call 863.534.0120.



Last but not least...

Golf Course Parking Lot Improvements Complete

We are pleased to announce that the parking lot improvements at the **Bartow Golf Course** and Mulligans Bar & Grill are now complete.



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US



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