



Week in Review

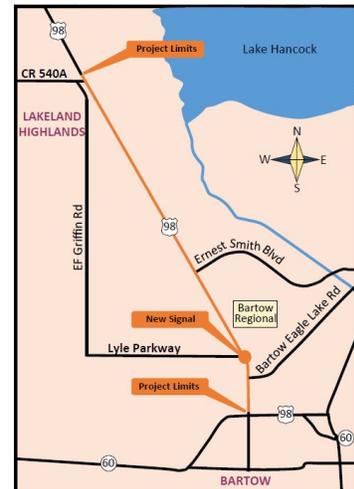
Oct. 8 - 13, 2025

The *Week in Review* is prepared and published by Laurie Hayes, Director of Communications, for the staff and residents of the City of Bartow, 680 E Main St., Bartow, Florida 33830

FDOT Announces Improvements to US 98

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) began a resurfacing project along US 98 from SR 60 to CR 540A today. The project will relieve the rough ride for motorists traveling this roadway. In addition to resurfacing, the project includes completely opening the median at Lyle Parkway and adding a signal at the intersections.

The resurfacing portion of the project will begin almost immediately following the installation of construction signs and erosion control devices to protect the adjacent properties. Construction is anticipated to continue through early 2027. Motorists should expect nighttime land closures.



Improvements from SR 60 to CR 540A

- Removing the old asphalt and replacing it with new asphalt
- Repaving the side street entrances
- Installing new signal sensors at the signalized intersection

Lyle Parkway Intersection

- Installing a new traffic signal at Lyle Parkway
- Improving drainage at Lyle Parkway
- Widening the turn radius at the northwest and southeast corners of Lyle Parkway
- Adding a raised concrete pad on the northwest corner for pedestrian protection
- Adding intersection lighting
- Striping high visibility crosswalks and adding pedestrian signals

Library Hosts Mad Science

Polk County Public Schools were off today, but a packed crowd of young students came out to the

Bartow Public Library for a fun science lesson, courtesy of Mad Science of Tampa.

The kids and their parents were treated to some spooky fog, gooey eyeballs and shrinking eggs, among other scientific spectacles.



Connecting with Residents through City “Speed Dating”

In celebration of Florida City Week, the City of Bartow will host a “City Speed Dating” event on Tuesday, Oct. 21 from 6 to 7:30 pm at Front Page Brewery, 190 S. Florida Ave. Rather than romance, the purpose of the gathering is to connect residents with information and build relationships between City leadership and the community in an informal setting.

In addition to City Manager Mike Herr, directors and managers from various departments will be on-hand to answer questions and share information one-on-one with attendees. Among the services represented will be Sanitation / Recycling, Water / Wastewater, Building and Planning, Code Enforcement, Electric, Parks & Recreation, the Bartow Golf Course, the Bartow Public Library, the Community Redevelopment Agency, Public Works, Customer Service, Police, Fire and Human Resources.

Attendees will receive a raffle ticket for each city representative with whom they interact. Prizes include gift certificates and merchandise from local businesses, including two tickets to the Chamber Golf Tournament, coffee and treats from Unfiltered, and meals at Hacienda Mexico and Havana Delights, among others. Participants do not need to be present to win. City departments also will offer small giveaways. *Thanks to the City's CRA and Front Page Brewing for their support of this event, as well as the local businesses who have generously donated.*

Note that a love of sunsets, long walks in the park and puppies is not required for City Speed Dating. But certainly suggested for life...

October Beautification Award Presented

Fred and Cindy Rhoden, 1110 S Floral Ave., were the recipients of the October Beautification Awards. Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Kyle

Lasek presented the award certificate at the last Commission meeting.



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Breast Cancer Awareness Month, observed each October, is an opportunity to unite all citizens in our community to prevent breast cancer deaths through increased education and by encouraging regular screening.

People of every country, race, ethnic group, and income level are affected by this disease, which kills more than 40,000 women each year.

While considerable progress has been made in the fight against breast cancer, it remains the most diagnosed cancer. American women have a one in eight chance of developing the disease, which is the second leading cause of death among this population.

This month, the City Commission recognizes breast cancer survivors, those battling the disease as well as their families and friends who are a tireless source of love and encouragement. We also applaud the efforts of our medical professionals and researchers working to find a cure for breast cancer.

The proclamation was accepted by Ashley Lloyd, Director, Breast Cancer Foundation of Central Florida.

It's a Murder Mystery

It's an after hours murder mystery at the Bartow Public Library - and you're invited to help crack the case! Gumshoes ages 16 and older can participate in this whodunit set at a 1985 high school prom from 6 - 8pm on Oct. 17.

Not even shoulder pads and permanent waves could ward off this dance disaster. Costumes encouraged. Registration, like totally! Call 863.534.0131.



SUID Risk to Infants Can be Prevented

Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID) is one of the leading causes of death in infants and is often associated with preventable unsafe infant sleep practices and environments. The heartbreaking



loss can happen in any family regardless of income, education or community.

To safeguard babies, they should always be put to sleep on their backs, alone in their own crib or bassinet with no bumpers, pillows, quilts, comforters, or other soft surfaces. Parents should not share beds with their babies and anyone under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or smoking should not be resting with the baby.

Recognizing that infant unsafe sleeping is a public health issue across the county, the Commission seeks to help by ensuring any person caring for a baby is using safe sleep by declaring Safe Sleep

Month in the City and supporting local and national agencies such as the Polk Safe Sleep Task Force, Children's Home Society, Florida Department of Health in Polk County, Healthy Start Coalition, Safe Kids Suncoast Coalition, and their partnering agencies.

The proclamation was accepted by Yadris Romero, Provider Liaison, and Tyiesha Ghent, Community Engagement Specialist and Sleep Safe Task Force Members of Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.

Trunk-or-Treat? at Bartow Executive Airport

Bring the whole family out for a fun activity on the airside at Bartow Executive Airport this evening from 5 - 7:30pm! Don't miss the candy, decorated trunks, face painting, food trucks, and a chance to see aircraft up close! Costumes encouraged. Free admission! Look for City departments and be sure to say hi!



Let's Talk Month Encourages Discussion of Tough Topics

The Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands, and Polk Counties believes that parents are the first and most influential source of sexual education for children and adolescents. This conviction is

highlighted during Let's Talk Month, a national campaign observed in October that encourages family education and open communication about sexuality and family values through a series of special events sponsored by individuals, community organizations and institutions.

Let's Talk Month recognizes how important a strong and healthy partnership between the family and the community is in helping adolescents develop responsible and uplifting attitudes toward sexuality. Community agencies and religious organizations are leaders in this effort by providing educational programs, resources and information to children, as well as parents.

The proclamation celebrating Let's Talk Month in Bartow was accepted by Yadris Romero, Provider Liaison, and Eleese Davis, Teen Pregnancy Prevention Alliance (TPPA) Coordinator of Healthy Start Coalition of Hardee, Highlands & Polk Counties, Inc.

Free Hazardous Waste, Electronics and Tire Collection Day Set

The City's Solid Waste division is teaming up with **Polk County Government Florida** to help residents dispose of household hazardous waste and electronics.



From 8am until noon on Saturday, Oct. 25, you can bring chemicals like automotive fluids, paints, solvents and more to Bartow Senior High School for safe disposal. (Enter from E Georgia St.) Up to five electronics per household - TVs, stereos, printers, etc. - also will be accepted.

Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to:

- Auto and Boat Batteries
- Household Batteries
- Fuel and Gas Cylinders
- Filters, Used Oil and Antifreeze
- Pesticides
- Mercury and Fluorescent Lights
- Flares
- Paint
- Used Cooking Oil

After you drop off your hazardous household waste, get rid of those old tires that have been cluttering your space at C Wilson Equipment Co., 2301 US Highway 17S - also from 81am until noon. With thanks to our friends at Keep Polk Beautiful!



CRA Issues Call for Artists

The City of Bartow Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) invites qualified artists to submit proposals for the design and installation of murals on two public restroom exterior walls, as part of the CRA's ongoing efforts to promote public art and strengthen our community identity.

Artists may submit proposals for one or both projects, which will transform two ordinary spaces into vibrant landmarks for the City of Bartow and CRA

Distract. Themes should reflect a diverse community, honoring the history and vibrancy of our City.

The project is open to all professional artists (individuals or teams) with a minimum of five years of experience from Polk, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Osceola and Orange Counties. [More information on the projects and how to apply is available here.](#) The deadline for applications is Oct. 31.

Planning & Zoning Meeting on Oct. 27

The Planning & Zoning Commission will hold its next meeting at 5:30pm on Oct. 27 at the Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S Floral Ave.

Among the topics to be discussed and voted upon will be the annexation and rezoning requests in regards to projects known as Emilie East and West.





450 N. Wilson Ave., Bartow, FL 33830
(863) 534-0100

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US



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