



Election News



From the desk of
Lori Edwards . . .

Since our last edition of Election News in February, your Election Team has been hard at work. Even though we are in an “off year” for countywide elections, we’ve hosted several *New Election Worker Orientations*, as well as our *Election Worker Appreciation Day* event, assisted 10 municipalities in conducting their elections on *Municipal Election Day* in April, conducted voter registration drives at all 20 Polk County high schools during “*Government Week*,” hosted an *information-sharing meeting* with election officials from 17 counties across the state, *visited officials* in four other counties to learn more about their operations, assisted with the *Mulberry Special Election*, and have begun planning for the *Winter Haven, Auburndale, Fort Meade, and Lakeland municipal elections* this fall. Additionally, I worked with other Supervisors of Elections *asking our state lawmakers* to provide more flexibility for early voting sites to accommodate the increased demand. And in the middle of it all, the entire staff at Election Headquarters went “green” on April 22nd, carpooling, biking or walking to work in honor of *Earth Day*. All together, your elections team saved over 225 miles of travel. Wow! Did I say this was our “off” year?!

We’d also like to extend a warm “*Welcome*” to the more than 100 Polk County voters who joined our team of Election Workers since our last edition, and a very special “*Thanks!*” to all of you who have supported our activities and events.

Lori Edwards

Election Worker Appreciation Day

By order of proclamation of the Polk County Board of County Commissioners, March 10, 2009 was officially Election Worker Appreciation Day in Polk County. Municipalities and representatives from across the county also joined in to designate the day. Here at Election Headquarters, it was truly a day of celebration with a community fair, entertainment, tours, gifts, prizes, and refreshments. The day-long event was sponsored by 60 area businesses and organizations, and more than a dozen offered services, gifts, and information on site. The nearly 500 election workers in attendance enjoyed a presentation of the flag by the Polk County Sheriff’s Department, music from the Bartow Middle School Chorus and local teen rock group “Caution,” as well as a K-9 demonstration from the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, and the amazing stilt-walking antics of “Caught in the Act.” Participants received buttons, giveaways, valuable discount coupons from over 50 businesses from across the county, and a chance at over 50 door prizes. All-in-all, it was a fun-filled day, and we hope everyone who attended felt truly appreciated and enjoyed spending time with your elections family.



LORI EDWARDS

Polk County Supervisor of Elections

P.O. Box 1460

Bartow, Florida 33831-1460



ELECTION WORKER APPRECIATION DAY SPONSORS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 97 Country WPCV | First Baptist Church of Eagle Lake | Pizza Hut—Bartow |
| AlphaGraphics | Florida Blood Services | Polk Arts Alliance |
| Associated Reformed | Fred’s Southern Kitchen | Polk County Elderly Services |
| Presbyterian Church | Gary’s Oyster Bar & Seafood House | Polk County Human Services |
| Caution | Governor Charlie Crist | Polk County Property Appraiser |
| Badcock & more | Great American Cookies | Polk County Sheriff’s Office |
| Bartow First Assembly of God | R.L. Hammette & Associates | Polk County Social Services |
| Bartow Middle School Chorus | Hello Gorgeous! Salon | Polk County Tax Collector |
| Bartow High School Photography | Huntington Hills Golf & Country Club | Publix Super Markets, Inc. |
| Bartow Police Department | Lowe’s of Auburndale | Sam’s Club |
| Beef O’Brady’s—South Lakeland | Lowe’s of Haines City | Secretary of State Kurt Browning |
| Board of County Commissioners | Lowe’s of Lake Wales | Senator J.D. Alexander |
| Browning Moving and Storage | Martin Smith “Caught in the Act” | Senator Paula Dockery |
| City of Auburndale | Mid-Florida Federal Credit Union | SPCA |
| City of Bartow Golf Course | Nurse On Call | Sonny’s Real Pit Bar-B-Q |
| City of Eagle Lake | Olde Cypress Community Bank | Southern Dunes Golf & Country Club |
| City of Lakeland Commission | Palace Pizza | T-Bones Seafood, Steaks, Pasta |
| City of Lake Wales Commission | Palm Shores Mobile Village, Inc. | The Shake Shoppe |
| City of Winter Haven | Peebles Bar-B-Que | Tom’s Chicken Shack |
| Davenport Café | Perkins Restaurant & Bakery—Bartow | Waco’s Gun Shop |
| Disney | | Walmart—Bartow |

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Recruitment Meetings Planned

Have neighbors, friends, or family interested in serving at the polls? Invite them to attend our next New Election Worker orientation:

Thursday, September 17th, 10 am
Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S Floral Avenue



Save the Date If you live in one of the following cities, mark your calendar for their fall elections. You’ll be contacted if work opportunities are available in your area:

Winter Haven—September 8th
Auburndale/Ft Meade/Lakeland—November 3rd

High School Government Week Sets Record

Between April 27th and May 1st, the Polk County Supervisor of Elections team covered the county to conduct voter registration drives at each of Polk County’s 20 high schools. By week’s end, 1,588 students had registered or pre-registered to vote—the highest number ever recorded during Government Week. A little friendly competition ensued as schools began to advertise the event and rally support to register the most students in the county. Lakeland’s newest high school, Tenoroc, took top honors with the most new registrations, and Bartow’s Gause Academy ran away with the highest percentage of eligible students registered. Congratulations to all schools and to Polk County’s newest voters!

