



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



ATTENTION ATTENTION!!

JANUARY 15 2026

**PLEASE ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING FOR
THE REORGANIZATION OF
THE BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP!**

December 2025

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Mayor Henry: Mayor's Fitness
Challenge

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Neighborhood Activist

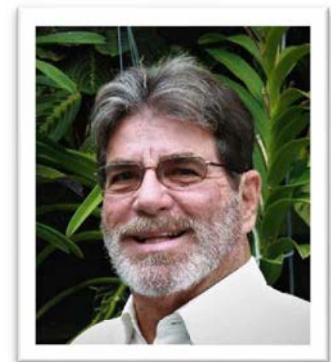
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Greetings, friends and neighbors, I hope your Holiday Season finds you surrounded by loved ones.

Because the present leadership team is stepping down at the end of 2025, our November meeting took on a different process. As was advertised, instead of our usual guest speaker format, the well-attended meeting had BCG members engage in an open discussion regarding the future of the Bellaire Community Group.



First off, Nancy and I expressed our gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers and incredible joy that the last 20+ years have given us. I spoke of our past Chairman Steve, when in our discussions we decided that the critical part of BCG was that it was to be a community group, not a neighborhood watch group. We did not want the group to pit neighbor against neighbor. We also decided that BCG would not endorse any political candidates for the same reason. Instead, we decided to have political forums inviting all candidates, disseminating their platform, and have confidence in our membership to think for themselves and make their own decisions. Looking back at the last 20 successful years of BCG, I think these decisions have proven to be wise.

I am happy to report that the meeting was well attended: there was a lively discussion, and one thing that was made clear is that the members want BCG to continue. Discussion topics included whether to form a 501 corporation, the costs of the monthly newsletter (most were surprised that the costs are less than 650 dollars a month), and the costs and need for the continuation of preparing and serving meals each month. What became very clear is that over the 20 years, BCG has developed into an organization with many moving parts...most of which has been managed by Nancy. Nancy, thank you for your incredible service to our neighborhood.

The results of the meeting were that further discussion was needed. A committee of volunteers was established. Larry McDermott stepped forward with an outline of a plan and agreed to schedule further meetings to determine how BCG would move into the future. Thank you, Larry.

Our December meeting will be our Annual Christmas Party. See you all then, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and Happy Holidays.

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, December 18th!*

HOLIDAY PARTY 6 p.m..

**Annual Holiday Potluck
Dinner**

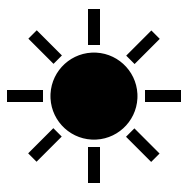
**Bring your favorite dish to
share (and bring your own
utensils please!).**

Bellaire Community Group

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In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 19, Issue 12: December 2025

AGENDA

1. Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner (Bring your favorite dish to share—and your utensils, please!)
2. Put tables and chairs away
3. Go home with a smile!



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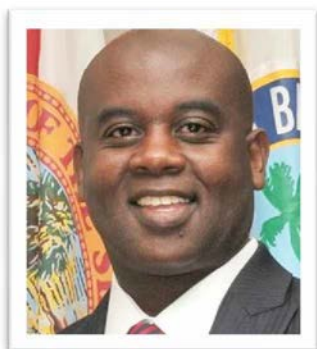
CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE



**Which U.S. president made Christmas
a federal holiday?**

Answer on page 5

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

Happy Holidays!

It's that time of year when we tend to think about ways to get healthier in the new year. I'm happy to announce another Mayor's Fitness Challenge will kick off next month. Will you join me? The 10-week journey toward better health will be from Jan. 8 to March 12, with classes every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. featuring line dancing, strength training, walk/run sessions, yoga and more.

There will be a weigh-in at the beginning of the program and again at the end to track results. Prizes will be awarded to those who lose the highest percentage of weight. The cost is \$20 per person for the entire program.

Thanks to our 2026 sponsors: gold sponsors AdventHealth Daytona Beach and Florida Health Care Plans, and silver sponsors Brown & Brown, Halifax Health and Oxygen Yoga & Fitness Downtown Daytona. All event details can be found at DaytonaBeach.gov/FitnessChallenge.

Every day, our deputies are out there meeting people on some of their toughest days.

Nobody knows their community better than the deputy or police officer assigned to patrol and protect it. They see families struggling to get by, single parents doing their best to keep up, grandparents raising grandkids.

That's why I think it's so important that we use that knowledge to identify families that need some help during the holiday season.

Once again this December, we'll have deputies out delivering thousands of toys and bikes to homes, or going shopping with families that they've identified and nominated to benefit from one of our holiday programs.

The donations themselves come from generous people all over Volusia County. Through donation drives by organizations like Jeep Beach, Adams Cameron & Co., the Margarita Society, and Margaritaville in Daytona Beach, the Volusia Sheriff's Youth Foundation has gathered enough donations for our deputies to help hundreds of Volusia County families.

Part of the mission is to make sure the kids have gifts to unwrap from the "Deputies' Toy Shop," so they can experience a little bit of joy and surprise. In addition to that, through "Shop With a Deputy," we're also able to take families to Walmart to buy exactly what they want or need.

When we're shopping, we'll see many of these families use their gift card funds not just on toys, but on necessities like food, clothing and other basic needs. With costs on the rise, a lot of families can't pass up the chance to cover those expenses.

Beyond making ends meet for the holidays, my hope is that the whole experience stays with the kids, and the deputies, for a long time.

For kids whose only experience with law enforcement was on a terrible day, it's a chance to get to know them in a positive light.

For the deputies who see so much negativity on a daily basis, it's a reminder of the good we can do for others by investing our time, care and attention.

We're only able to do this through the donations of our community. I want to sincerely thank all of you who have donated to our effort, or for that matter, to any of the great causes doing similar work here in Volusia County.

We get the privilege of seeing the excited kids and smiling faces, but it's our donors who make it possible for all these families to see that someone cares.

NANCY'S NOTES

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

I can hardly contain my excitement for our annual December gathering—a time when our Bellaire family comes together not for a meeting, but for a celebration. There's something truly special about this tradition. It's festive, it's filled with laughter, and it's a chance for



all of us to relax, share good food, and enjoy music from our very own DJ Sean Doyle. Who knows, maybe we'll even find ourselves dancing before the night is through!

One of my favorite parts of this gathering is the “pot luck.” There is a unique warmth and coziness that comes with everyone sharing their favorite dishes. I am always eager to see what you'll bring and maybe you'll even outdo me this year! Please, don't hold back—bring your best, share your culinary secrets, and let's make this a feast to remember. I can't wait to taste your favorite recipes and celebrate the season together.

I want to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas filled with love, peace, joy, and hope. My prayer is for a New Year that brings safety, prosperity, and new visions to all of us.

This year holds a bittersweet note for me. For more than 20 years, Steve, Paul, Megan, and I have had the privilege of serving you—our wonderful community and friends. This group has been a part of my life, and I know it has touched many of yours as well. The thought of this chapter ending fills me with emotion, but I am reassured by your enthusiasm for keeping the Bellaire Community Group alive. I look forward to discussing ways we can ensure its future together.

Remember, I am here for you, and so are Paul and Megan. Thank you for the trust and opportunity you have given us over the years. Our commitment to “Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority” on the beachside in Bellaire remains as strong as ever.

I am deeply grateful for the friendships that have blossomed from this journey. Each of you has contributed in your own way—whether as contributors to our monthly newsletter, advertisers, street captains, speakers, shoppers, kitchen staff, newsletter editor, chairman, 50/50 and greeter, meal ticket volunteers, or countless other roles. It truly takes a village to build and sustain a thriving community group, and you have all made this possible.

Thank you for your dedication, your love, and your spirit of teamwork. I pray for our group, for new leadership to rise, and for our continued unity as neighbors supporting one another.

As we celebrate this special season, let us remember the strength we find in community. Let's keep the warmth alive, cherish our friendships, and look ahead to a future filled with promise. I love each and every one of you, and I am truly blessed to be part of this group.

Let's make this gathering a memorable one—and may the spirit of Bellaire continue to shine bright in the years ahead.

With love and gratitude...and as Steve always said,

Thanks for the journey,
Nancy Koenig

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Well, it has been more than 20 years since I have been writing about my memories about living here for more than 75 years. These screeds have for the most part been a joy to write. They have allowed me to dig deep into my brain to recall many happy times in my life. Thank you to those who have enjoyed reading them, and have taken the time to write, call, or tell me in person that you have enjoyed reading them ...that was the point. I wanted to share my recollections of what was like to grow up here.

Daytona Beach was very different in the 1950s. Much of my childhood memories are very much a Norman Rockwell painting. I grew up on a dirt road, with woods, orange groves, and cattle ranches, and the Halifax River was still some place you could swim. That area is all developed suburban neighborhoods now. Central Florida's climate is a magnet for what seems to be an unstoppable migration-- and a population explosion that makes these memories more precious.

My more recent memories include running for both Daytona Beach City Commission Zone 2 back in 2004. That loss actually led to me founding the Bellaire Community Group. I spent 10 years as President of Sons Of the Beach advocating for the continuation of beach driving; one of the most enjoyable memories of my life was being able to drive down the beach 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Those 10 years with the Sons Of the Beach were great fun, including suing the county for violating their own county charter and meeting some of the most dedicated citizens in Volusia County. I ran for County Council in 2021 and had to drop out for health reasons, a heart stent.

Being part of the leadership of the Bellaire Community Group has been a constant in my life for over 20 years. The leadership team included Steve Koenig, Nancy Koenig, and Megan O'Neill. Megan is the



unsung hero and editor of our monthly newsletter. Megan always makes us smarter. For 20 years, the 4 of us collaborated happily with one another. I don't remember one disagreement. What a privilege it has been. There are many great memories with these folks through the years. One of the best is the 10 years that Steve, Weegie Kuendig, and I would make our monthly appearance on former Volusia County Chairman Big John's radio show.

Making these BCG memories has been some work, but great fun. It has been the volunteers that have made BCG work. Our street captains who deliver the Newsletter, our monthly newsletter contributors, our volunteer kitchen staff, and the Schnebly Rec Center staff,,,thank you is just not enough. A special thank you to charter member Frank Stein, our 50/50 raffle man and greeter.

It is my hope that BCG will continue as the four of us have intended it to be: a neighborhood group that provides information from our community leaders and is a welcoming group to all who live in our area. As Steve would say, THANK YOU FOR THE JOURNEY.

My best to all,

Paul

Trivia answer: Ulysses S. Grant

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

I don't know whether I will be able to write an opinion column for your neighborhood after this month. I am hoping someone will want to step up and take over the leadership duties for BCG. I have had the privilege of writing for the newsletter for almost as long as it has existed.

It all started way back when with Save Our Neighborhoods. For those of you who might not know, that was a group formed to represent all the neighborhoods in Daytona Beach. At our high point, we identified and had representatives from 17 neighborhoods. We met once a month to discuss issues in our individual neighborhoods. Often these issues aligned in more than one neighborhood. The best part was that we supported each other. An issue for one neighborhood was an issue for all of us, even if it didn't affect us. We stood behind each other and presented a united front to the Commission. We respected the differences of each small neighborhood.

And like other civic -minded organizations, I guess it ran its course and times have changed. We now have a few very neighborhood groups - more like zones - and still a couple of small ones hanging on. I realize that with these larger groups there can be power in numbers, but I think preserving the individuality, recognizing the needs and the issues of each neighborhood remains important. So, I am so hoping for you that you still want to stick together.



I suppose we will know in January. I can't thank all of you enough for the privilege. It has been an honor. A huge thanks to the leaders (and supporters) of BCG for the many years of the effort and devotion you have put in. The framework is there to continue if people are willing to make it happen.

Again, I wish you all Peace and Light this season and that struggles may be overcome, whatever they are.

Sincerely,

Weegie Kuendig

dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

As we welcome the holiday season, the Daytona Beach Police Department extends our warmest appreciation to the residents, businesses, and visitors who make our city the thriving community it is. This time of year offers a meaningful reminder of the power of connection, compassion, and community support. Whether we're working large-scale events, assisting families in need, or simply waving to neighbors from a patrol car, our officers are proud to serve a city where partnership and unity shine so brightly. We are grateful for the trust you place in us daily and remain committed to providing the highest level of service, safety, and care throughout the season and into the new year.

Earlier this month, officers supported the annual triathlon held at the iconic Daytona International Speedway. This event attracts athletes, spectators, and visitors from across the country and requires significant coordination to ensure public safety. Our team worked throughout the day to manage increased pedestrian movement, regulate traffic around event routes, and assist participants as they navigated through various parts of our city. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of our residents as we facilitated this major event and are proud to have played a part in its continued success.

The Daytona Beach Police Department will proudly participate in the City of Daytona Beach Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 13 at 6 p.m. The parade will begin on Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard and continue south along Beach Street, concluding at Jackie Robinson Stadium. This event is a beloved community tradition that brings families together to celebrate the holidays with music, lights, and festive displays. We encourage everyone to come to enjoy the parade



and share the holiday excitement alongside fellow residents and city partners.

One of our most cherished traditions, Shop with a Cop, is scheduled for Sunday, December 14. During this event, Daytona Beach officers are paired with local children to help them pick out Christmas gifts, offering families joy, relief, and a meaningful sense of holiday magic. This program reflects what community policing is all about: building genuine relationships, creating positive memories, and supporting the children who represent the future of our city. We look forward to another unforgettable year of smiles, excitement, and shared holiday spirit. Later this month, officers will visit Halifax Hospital to deliver Christmas gifts to children receiving medical care. This annual outreach is deeply meaningful to our department, as it allows us to bring warmth, comfort, and encouragement to families experiencing challenges during the holidays.

From our Daytona Beach Police Department family to you, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a joyous, healthy, and prosperous New Year. Thank you for your continued support, cooperation, and partnership. We look forward to serving you in the year ahead and remain honored to protect and support this incredible community we call home.

*****SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE*****

A graphic consisting of a horizontal line with a series of small stars in the center, flanked by red and white stripes, resembling a stylized American flag.

Attention! Attention!

For more than two decades, the Bellaire Community Group has been dedicated to supporting our neighborhood by sharing valuable information and connecting residents with local city and county officials during our monthly gatherings.

**We invite you to join us for a special
reorganization meeting at the
Schnebly Recreation Center, located at
1101 N. Atlantic Ave., Daytona Beach, scheduled
for January 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m**

As our community continues to grow, now is the time to make your voice heard regarding the impact of this growth on your quality of life.

Your participation in this meeting is important—don't miss out on the opportunity to help shape our future!



Happy Hanukkah

*Merry
Christmas*



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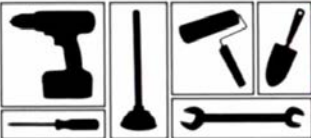
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a Peaceful
Christmas
and a
Happy New Year*



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Special thanks to all our volunteers!