



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



February 2026

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Hello Friends and Neighbors,

The past several months we devoted time to conversations about future “Leadership” of our beloved Bellaire Community Group. We would like to thank you all for your input regarding our group. What we realize is that we have an amazing community from which many happily embrace the opportunity to serve.

The Bellaire Community Group is a simple community group with a simple and flexible structure. This simplicity and flexibility have served us well. BCG has a positive relationship with both the city and the county staff and representatives. We cultivated those relationships and as a result we are proud and grateful that city and county officials, along with other community leaders and civic organizations, gladly attend our meetings.

We are especially appreciative of the ongoing support, enthusiasm, and active participation each of you brings to our gatherings. Your willingness to collaborate and share ideas strengthens the foundation of our group and ensures that our initiatives reflect the diverse voices of our community.

BCG will continue as it has for the previous 20+ years as simply a community group relying on our neighbors and volunteers to lead the group forward. Paul and I will continue to organize BCG community efforts along with the help of many of you that step-up month after month. Paul and Steve began our community group with the desire of “Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority” in our unique beachside community. Together, we all will keep it going.

This month, I’m excited to welcome back our guest speaker, Jim Purdy, who will take us on a journey through the history of St. Augustine during the Spanish Colonial Period. I hope you’ll join us for what promises to be an engaging and enlightening presentation.

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, February 19th!*

*Meal at 6 p.m
Meeting at 6:30 p.m..*

This Month’s Dinner

**Baked Pasta
Italian Sausage with Peppers
and Onions
Garlic Toast
Orange Honey Cake
Beverages**

Bellaire Community Group

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*In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig*

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If you have not been to a meeting or it has been a while, please come, meet a neighbor and make a new friend. I promise it will be worth your time.

Thank you for being part of the Bellaire Community Group. I'm looking forward to another meaningful gathering.

Thanks for the journey,

Nancy Koenig

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Trisha Jones
4. City Code Enforcement Update
5. Featured Guest: Jim Purdy – History of St. Augustine during the Spanish Colonial Period
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!



OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

I'm pleased to invite residents to register for the next DB University: Citizens Academy class. This free, 10-week program provides a behind-the-scenes look at how the city delivers services every day and plans for the future. The academy begins Thursday, March 19, and features hands-on, interactive sessions held Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

Throughout the program, you'll hear directly from our senior leadership team and subject-matter experts across key departments, including Police, Fire, Public Works, Utilities, Parks and Recreation, Growth Management and the City Manager's Office. Participants will gain practical insight into city operations, learn how decisions are made and come away with a stronger understanding of the resources available to our community.

There is no cost to attend—it's simply a commitment of your time and interest in learning more about how Daytona Beach serves residents and businesses. If you're ready to get involved and learn more about the work happening every day to keep Daytona Beach moving forward, I encourage you to apply now. The online application is available at DaytonaBeach.gov/CitizensAcademy.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

We're off and running into 2026 with a strong wind in our sails. Before we get too far into this year, I want to look back on the year we just finished.

VSO made 10,717 arrests countywide in 2025 with an overall 80 percent case clearance rate, far exceeding national averages in every category. Any Sheriff in America would be proud to claim numbers as excellent as ours.

Those arrests included almost 250 arrests by narcotics detectives, who recovered enough fentanyl for about 1.2 million doses last year alone.

Our Air One helicopters performed almost 1,000 flights last year, including 96 medical calls and 113 assists on law enforcement apprehensions. Our highly trained pilots, medics, flight officers and maintenance crew provide an essential service to every resident of Volusia County. I personally know of cases where lives and limbs have been saved thanks to a quick transport on Air One to a trauma center.

We operate the countywide police, fire and EMS dispatch service, which accounted for about 325,000 911 calls and texts last year, plus another 280,000 non-emergency calls. That's an average of 890 emergency 911s and 767 non-emergencies per day.

To help free up more personnel to answer the most urgent 911 calls, we have deployed a cutting edge A.I. system to help route non-emergency calls to the right department. It handled 121,604 of those calls from August to December, and the results were excellent.

Let me tell you: I'm the first to get frustrated with an automated customer service menu on the phone, but this new A.I. system is nothing like that. So many callers dial our non-emergency line because they just don't know who else to contact about an issue. This does a great job handling that call volume. Even if someone calls the non-emergency line with an emergency, this system can detect certain keywords and even a tone of panic in the caller's voice and route the call to a 911 dispatcher instead.

We have incredible investigative tools and technology available to all of our partner agencies if the need arises.

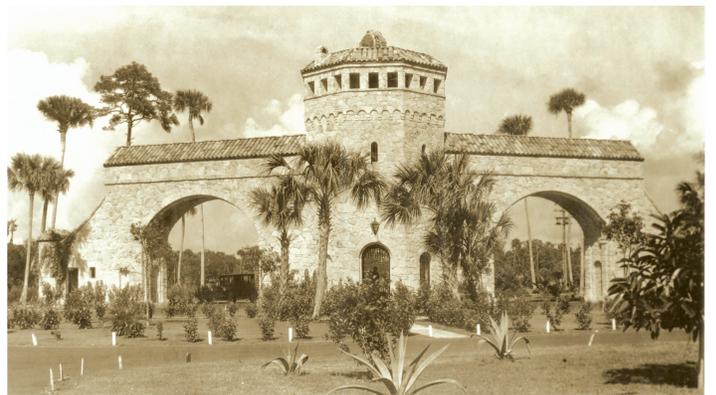
Our new in-house ballistics lab tied to the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network has slashed the time it takes to process and match shell casings and guns. It's available to every agency in our circuit.

With advanced training from experts in the field, our Financial Crimes Unit recovered about \$1.2 million for scam victims in 2025. Think about how pervasive scams have become in our society - being able to claw back some of that money is a huge win for the good guys.

And finally, in November the state of Florida announced Volusia County was chosen as one of only 3 test sites for Campus Guardian Angel, a new system deploying non-lethal drones that can respond to an active shooter on a school campus. These remotely operated drones (piloted from Texas) provide real-time video to law enforcement and can use deterrents such as sirens, flashing lights, and pepper spray pellets to disorient an attacker.

This state-funded pilot program is set to begin testing in the next few weeks at Deltona High School. The results of our tests will help determine the future of this technology and whether it could help protect students across our county, state and nation.

As you can see, Volusia County is a proving ground for excellence and innovation in law enforcement. Our number one goal is to keep up the momentum, never get complacent and keep pushing so we accomplish even more in the year ahead!



Triv?da

Which President of the United States was born on the 12th of February?

Answer on page 6

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint

Who is it who can't remember their first dance, that first girl or guy that we held close?

I know I can. Music is one of the ways in which our subconscious marks significant events in our lives. Like tabs on a file, we hear a song or melody and the brain sorts through the storage bins of our lives and transports us back to a certain time or place. Sometimes we can experience the sensations of something that happened years ago so strongly, it is almost as if we are there again. Nostalgia... what a great emotion.

Sixth grade it was, 1961, Sister Anne Francis's class at St Paul's School. It was an end of the year and Sister had surprised by allowing us to bring in a record player, push the desks aside, and have a DANCE. Now, most of us guys acted like we were cool with the idea, but I think most of them were like me: clueless about what to do or how to act. The girls were cool with it, for real. They had been dancing together, like girls do, while most of us guys were building forts in the woods, fishing, or playing ball. The girls were confident and us guys were awkward. Very awkward. Now, Sister Anne Francis was a huge woman who seemed to float across the ground, her robes and habit like a gigantic tent that seemed to remain motionless as she moved. Sister was nobody's fool and she could be the kindest or the meanest human ever, depending on your behavior. So her watchful eyes added to the stick-like stiffness of me and the rest of the guys, who kind of milled around, waiting for something to happen to relieve us of our painful gawkiness. Elvis Presley came to the rescue with a slow song: "I Can't Help Falling in Love with You." The ice was broken and we paired up and shuffled across the terrazzo floor. We went on to rock to Del Shannon's "Runaway" and Dion's "Runaround Sue." Music (and girls) had now become an important part of life, a rite of passage into a new



era, leaving behind the things that had seemed so important just the day before.

From rocking out to 'Abe and the House Rockers' at City Island Rec. later during the 60's, to rocking at our own Schnebly Rec. (back when it was still called the Seabreeze Rec.), to the Night Crawlers playing their hit single, "Little Black Egg," music has always been important to me.

Daytona Beach's most famous contribution to the music world would have to be the Allman Brothers Band. Duane and Greg attended Seabreeze High, kind of. They had absorbed the soul and blues sound from the locals who played in the black clubs located on what back then was called Campbell Street, now Martin Luther King Blvd. They were local guys who were obviously pretty darn good and that drew our attention.

The Allmans played in many venues in Daytona Beach: The Pier, The Martinique, Peabody Auditorium and other clubs. I was at their concert at the Peabody, in I think it was 1970; it was one of the best performances I have ever experienced. The place that was probably the most unusual for The Allmans to play in the Daytona Beach was the Father Lopez High School Gym, at a post-game sock hop in 1968.

I had graduated from Lopez in 1967, but I still followed the teams. The Psychedelic era had arrived in Daytona Beach, so it was hard for me to believe that this was going to happen at the Catholic high school in town. The nuns were there in their habits and I could tell they were disconcerted as the non-students began entering their gym with their bellbottoms, tie dye shirts and leather fringed jackets. When Duane cranked up his guitar, the Allman Brothers Band electrified my high school gym like it never had been before-- or

Sweet Thoughts for February

likely since. I have to hand it to Sister Bernadetta, our principal; she handled it with a sort of resignation. Not pleased, she weathered the storm of what must have been a very bizarre and almost other worldly experience for her and the rest of the faculty who were present. At eleven o'clock, the music stopped as it always had at our sock hops, and just like so many other places in our country at that time, nothing was the same again.

In 1971, Duane Allman died in a motorcycle accident in Macon, Ga. at the age of 24. He was acclaimed by many as one of the best slide guitar players to ever play. Greg and the Allman Brothers Band still are playing their music today. Check them out; they are still worth a listen.

I hope you hear a tune that triggers a memory taking you to a time or place in your life that has an especially pleasant meaning. For me, The Allman Brothers Band's 'In Memory of Elizabeth Reed' will always trigger a smile and place me in row 4 with Danny, Patty, and Linda at the Peabody Auditorium in 1970 as we sat in awe of the sound a couple of local brothers were producing. These are some of the memories I have of our town, memories that are forever attached to a song etched in my mind. I am glad I could share them with you.

Until next time ...

Paul

**Trivia answer:
Abraham Lincoln.
Did you know?**

Short & Sweet

Though February is quite small,
It's the sweetest month of all.
With candy hearts and snowy scenes,
And extra days for winter dreams!

The Tiny Month

February, quick and fast,
Makes the winter cold not last.
Twenty-eight (or nine!) fine days,
To dream of spring in sunny ways.

The Hungry Month

Oh, February, cold and deep,
Where cats on faces love to sleep.
I eat the fries and watch the snow,
And wait for warm March winds to blow!

Love in February

Cupid comes with bows and arrows,
Chasing away the winter sparrows.
Funny cards and sugary treats,
Make February hard to beat!



NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I am keeping my fingers crossed that this extreme cold weather is finished. Lucky for me that I have an old fashioned workhorse gas furnace because heat pumps weren't really made for freezing weather! I think the police and others did a credible job of getting our homeless population off the streets at night. I also hope everyone had electric service. I know there were quite a few outages. I am adding the loss of electric service to the miseries of our climate extremes whether hot or cold or hurricanes or flooding.

Did you know that FPL was incorporated in 1925? You read that right. More than 125 years ago. Duke Energy is not far behind and they are not exactly separate entities. That's an awful lot of time to not get much right when you exist in a climate that has extremes and getting more extreme by the season. One thing I believe they do well is get rate increase approvals. Real questions exist in my mind about the lack of maintenance on their own infrastructure or upgrades and new ideas to their own infrastructure. I know I told you what I overheard linemen from out of state say during our last hurricane: they were amazed that our coastal county had so much infrastructure that needed work- especially in our older neighborhoods. A lot of misery could have been avoided by doing things (like burying lines) all along instead of putting it on our cities and counties. I am very tired of acronyms in Floriduh that begin with "F" or have an "F" in them (you already know what I think of FDOT). Hopefully they will step up their game.

Another subject: our city government. We are now nearing a 4/3 vote on issues that really matter. Consensus seems to be getting tossed out the window. I have been so disheartened to see governing by "gotcha", or just throwing issues out to see if something sticks (as the Mayor said), and I, I, I; me, me, me, instead of real representation. I believe residents have the most

to lose with this approach. I am getting weary of Tallahassee pols telling us what we can and cannot do. Home Rule is almost totally gone. The county isn't much help either.



There were some bright spots at the last Commission meeting. I am grateful to our DBPD department and others for cleaning up a dangerous neighborhood mess on Beachside. Way to go Chief. It has been ugly in that area for quite some time. Using the State Abatement Board was necessary, but I would like to see our own Nuisance Laws that don't fall under State rules get reviewed and strengthened (like fining for calls for service). We can do that as well. Happy to see that a letter will be sent to the County to insure Volusia Forever remains in perpetuity. Seems some, however, don't even know the meaning of the word. Also glad to see that Daytona Beach will support a County Charter Amendment to disallow toilet-to tap and even instructed our attorney to look into a Daytona Beach Charter Amendment - since the County amendment doesn't include cities. Glad to see the Commission is talking about real issues.

Once again, I am grateful for the opportunity to be allowed to express my opinion.

Hoping for a smooth transition for your neighborhood leadership. I still think we need strong individual neighborhoods for our city to thrive.

Sincerely,

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

As we welcome the start of a new year, the February marks the beginning of one of the busiest and most event-filled times of the year for the Daytona Beach Police Department. As our community welcomes visitors from across the country, the Daytona Beach Police Department remains committed to ensuring public safety, maintaining traffic flow, and minimizing disruptions for residents.

Earlier this month, the city successfully hosted the Daytona Beach Half Marathon, an event that brought hundreds of runners and spectators into our community. The race began at the Daytona International Speedway and traveled through several major roadways, including International Speedway Boulevard, Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard, and other key corridors. This event required extensive planning, road closures, and traffic redirection, as well as a significant law enforcement presence to ensure the safety of runners, volunteers, and motorists. Thanks to the coordination between city departments, event organizers, and the cooperation of our residents, the half marathon concluded safely and successfully.

Looking ahead, Speedweeks officially begin on Tuesday, February 10, bringing an influx of racing fans to Daytona Beach for the Daytona 500 and other related events. To address the challenges that come with this major event, the Daytona Beach Police

Department has increased staffing levels throughout the city, particularly in and around the Daytona International Speedway and major travel routes. Our goal is to keep traffic flowing as smoothly as possible while ensuring the safety of residents, visitors, and motorists during this high-volume period.

Following Speedweeks, the department will have a short window to prepare for another major event that draws national attention to our city, Bike Week. Residents can expect increased traffic beginning Thursday, February 26, continuing through March 8.

Throughout February and into early March, Daytona Beach Police Department officers will be out in full force to accommodate the influx of pedestrian and vehicle traffic associated with these events. Our officers will be strategically deployed to manage congestion, assist motorists, and maintain public safety across the city.

We respectfully ask our residents for patience and understanding during this busy season. When possible, residents are encouraged to use alternate routes away from major event venues to help reduce delays.

The Daytona Beach Police Department is proud to serve this community and remains dedicated to keeping our city safe while supporting the events that make Daytona Beach a world-class destination. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support as we navigate a busy and exciting month ahead. Our officers are proud to serve the residents of Daytona Beach, and we thank you for being a vital part of our community.

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

 A graphic consisting of a horizontal line of white stars on a dark blue background, flanked by red and white stripes, positioned below the "SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE" text.



Thursday, Feb 12:

America 250 Florida Duel at Daytona

Friday, Feb 13:

**Fresh from Florida 250 (NASCAR
Craftsman Truck Series)**

Saturday, Feb 14:

**United Rentals 300 (Xfinity Series) &
General Tire 200 (ARCA)
Doubleheader.**

**Sunday, Feb 15: 68th Annual DAYTONA
500 (Cup Series) - 2:30 p.m. ET**

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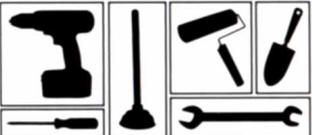
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CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE

THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

The following street does not have someone assigned to deliver newsletters to:

Flushing, Nautilus

We also need people who can fill-in when our regular volunteers are not available.

You can deliver to a street other than the street on which you live.

If you could help deliver newsletters once a month please contact Nancy at 386-257-6700 or Nancy@KoenigRealty.com

The time investment is less than 1 hour monthly.
Please volunteer to help our community group.
Many hands make light work!

Thank You!

Boylston (east end): Frank Stein

Boylston (west end): Patty Interto

Brookline: Donna Hiatt

Chaffee Place: Sherry Phillips

Columbus and N Peninsula: Shree Gobin

Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness

Euclid: Janice and Mike Felisko

Flagstone: Ellen Gerard

Golf: Lisa Gall

N. Grandview: Connie Lambert

Hartford: Kassi Mercy

Manhattan, Jacaranda, and Chipeway:

Robert Sabol and Angela Asemota

Morningside: Ted and Cindy Beers

N. Oleander, Auburn, Cornell, Bucknell:

Dan Stockman

N. Halifax: Nancy Koenig and Nikolai Hargreaves

Pelican: MaryAnn and Danny Langton

Plaza: Stacy Prestwood

Seabreeze High School Area: Paul Zimmerman

Seaview: Suzy Lamoureux

Stanford: Netta Weiner

Williams: James "Mac" McConnell

Waverly: Margaret Fathi and Jules Lemos

Woodland: Don Hietala

Zelda: Elly and Rachael Petersen

Special thanks to all our volunteers!