



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



March 2026

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Happy Spring Friends and Neighbors,

As we welcome the warmer weather and all that Spring brings, we're reminded that this season represents renewal and new beginnings, especially after the unusually cold winter we've all endured. With Spring comes fresh energy, and we're excited for what lies ahead for our community.

This month, we are excited to kick off our **17th Annual Fundraising Event**. Each year, we reach our goal through the generosity of our longtime supporters and the enthusiasm of new donors. Last year, your contributions totaled **just over \$6,200**, a milestone that truly reflects the strong community spirit that defines the Bellaire Community Group.

Bellaire Community Group remains committed to **Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority**. We do this by keeping our community informed about important political, social, and justice-related issues affecting our area. Information is the backbone of a thriving community, and we strive to provide our members with the knowledge they need to stay engaged and make informed decisions.

We host the largest political forums in the area during election season, creating space for meaningful democratic discussion and civic engagement. Additionally, many of our members serve on city advisory boards, contributing their expertise and dedication to the betterment of our city.

Your support makes a difference and supporting the Bellaire Community Group supports **all of us**. Your contributions sustain our events and initiatives while empowering our community to remain informed and involved. Beginning next month, we will publish a list of contributors in our newsletter as a small but sincere way to express our gratitude and recognize those who make our work possible.

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

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

This Month's Dinner

**Shepherd's Pie
(Veggie Option too!)
Irish Soda Bread
Irish Tea Cake
Beverages**

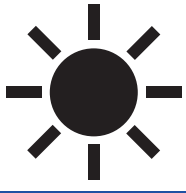
\$5 Donation

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Derrick Henry
Nancy Koenig
Weegie Kuendig
Jakari Young
Paul Zimmerman

In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

We are pleased to welcome back **Jeff Brower, Volusia County Council Chairman**, as our guest speaker at the **March meeting**. Chairman Brower will share updates on current county issues, offering valuable context and insight into matters impacting our community.

Come join us, meet a neighbor, and make a new friend! Building connections within our community is one of the core objectives of the Bellaire Community Group. The relationships we foster strengthen our collective resolve and enhance our ability to address the challenges we face. I promise—it's worth it!

The path we've walked together has been paved with shared goals, mutual support, and a steadfast commitment to improving our community. Your involvement, whether through donations, participation in events, or service on advisory boards has been instrumental in our success.

As we look ahead, let's embrace the new beginnings Spring brings with renewed enthusiasm and dedication to our shared cause. Together, we can continue to make a difference and uphold the quality of life we all cherish.

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: Jeff Brower, Volusia County Council Chairman
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

I am always pleased to share opportunities that bring our community together, and our community yard sales are a wonderful way to do just that. These events invite residents to spend time with neighbors, explore unique finds and perhaps discover a few hidden treasures along the way.

Community yard sales will be from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 11, May 9, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 12 at Schnebly Recreation Center, 1101 N. Atlantic Ave. Whether you are searching for household goods, collectibles, décor or other special items, these sales offer a fun and affordable shopping experience while also supporting local sellers.

Vendor spaces are available for those who would like to sell gently used household items, clothing, toys, books, décor and other secondhand goods. Outdoor vendor spaces are \$10, while indoor spaces are \$15. Tables are provided for indoor vendors only, with a maximum of two tables per space. Vendor registration closes at 4 p.m. on the Friday before each sale. Those interested in participating in the upcoming April yard sale can register online at DaytonaBeach.gov/Activities, then select the "Events" tab.

I hope you will join us for these exciting community events, whether as a shopper, a seller or simply to enjoy the atmosphere and connect with others.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

On Monday, March 2, one of my deputies was shot in the line of duty. Two days later, he was released from the hospital and got to go home to his family.

As Sheriff, I know these situations can end very differently. This is the update I hope and pray I get to share with the community. Deputy Rivera is on the road to recovery and has even expressed how excited he is to get back to work.

The support since Monday's incident has meant more to my agency than I can put into words. No one could anticipate an assault/battery/car vandalism investigation would turn into a suspect opening fire on Deputy Rivera, striking him in the leg and the shoulder after a round ricocheted off his chest-mounted body-worn camera.

I fully believe there was an Angel standing over my deputy Monday night. From the moment Deputy Rivera's signs of distress came through the radio, VSO deputies and law enforcement partners from all over the county came to help in any way they could.

That help continued into Deputy Rivera's big welcome home Wednesday when he was released from the hospital. His fellow deputies and other agencies like the Daytona Beach Police Department lined up to greet him as he boarded Air One. He boarded the same aircraft that flew him to the hospital after he was shot, but this time it was a ride to Deltona, his hometown. At Dewey Boster Sports Complex, he was greeted by VSO personnel, both sworn and civilian, and by the public.

All watched in amazement and in tears as he walked off Air One and hugged the deputies on his shift. Just a few days ago, those same deputies jumped into action, fighting to stop the bleeding from his wounds, applying tourniquets and rushing him to the hospital.

Prayers and well wishes have come in from across the nation, and I'm grateful for them all.

Above everything else, I thank the Man above for watching over my deputy.

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CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE



Triv?da

**Who is the month of March
named after?**

Answer on page 6

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!



The Strongest Muscle in Your Body Is...
Your Strongest Muscle Is the Masseter.

People often say the tongue is the strongest muscle in the human body, but that's actually incorrect in more ways than one. First off, the tongue isn't one muscle but a collection of eight muscles, each with an important role for talking, eating, and anchoring to the skeleton. And while it's true a healthy tongue rarely shows signs of fatigue, its strength by volume is dwarfed by that of the masseter, known more commonly as the jaw muscle.

Working in coordination with other muscles located in the jaw, the masseter can deliver up to 200 pounds of force on the molars. While the gluteus maximus (aka your butt) is the largest muscle and the heart is by far the hardest working, no muscle singlehandedly delivers as much power as the masseter.

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint

What makes a community a community? Is it the fact that a group of people live in the same area? Is it geographic boundaries? Is it the location of homes and businesses that house and employ people? If you are like me and many BCGers, we know that while these things are certainly part of what makes up a community, they aren't the most important aspects.

What are those intangibles that define community? One of those intangibles, I think, is something called identity. **Identity** I'll define as the sense that residents have about the most important characteristics of their community and how those characteristics are seen by outsiders. A resulting sense of pride or shame emanates from that knowledge. Identity is a very important aspect of community, indeed.

During the boom of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many Northeasterners who had visited here fell in love with the beach and warm weather and settled here. That is how my family ended up here, around 1915 or so. Most of these folks were educated, professional types of people with a taste for opera and theatre (read the Davidsons). Many had multiple homes--they had their homes up north and some had two homes here, one on the mainland (the old Daytona neighborhood) and a cottage on the beach (Wilbur by the Sea). In the early days, our beach was very wide, and racing pioneers from America and Europe came to set world records here. We were known as the "World's Most Famous Beach" and it wasn't just a slogan.

Daytona Beach High School (now Mainland High) won the state basketball championship in 1939 (my dad played on that team). We had great sportsmen and baseball players like Stan "The



Man" Musial (he lived here and worked at a 5 & 10 on Beach Street), and Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier here. The Cleveland Indians trained out by the airport at Indianville. During and after World War II, Daytona Beach contributed to the effort with The Women's Army Corp, the Army Air Corp training facility, and the Welch Convalescent Center. Later in the 1960's, General Electric had a presence here and provided good jobs for many of our residents. The tourist business boomed in the 50's, 60's and 70's. Hotel and motel rooms were full of families with children, nurturing the next generation of visitors.

These are just a few of the events and a timeline that made up the fabric of Daytona Beach's identity, events that resulted in a sense of pride. Pride was an internal awareness of the citizens who lived here that they lived in a place of value. Hundreds of thousands of people came here year after year, decade after decade, to validate that feeling. We welcomed those visitors, and we as a community had a sense of pride because of how they esteemed our town. You could see it in their excitement at just being here. If you think about it, you only take your children to a place where they will be safe, a place that has a degree of goodness to impart to them.

Daytona Beach was a wholesome place back then. You know what bothers me about that statement? It is the tense of the verb. Did you notice it? Can we say Daytona Beach is a wholesome place now? Or is wholesome too corny a word to use anymore? Our Mayor Ritchey often spoke of his concern about our community's sense of self-esteem. He is worried that we suffer from

low self-esteem. I agree with him, but we haven't always been that way. I have memories, and I know he does too, of when we were a town with a sense of self-assurance and pride, an identity that was buoyed by the presence of those wide-eyed visitors who brought their children with them to enjoy our weather and the beauty of our beach. We have always had events. Despite the revisionists, who didn't live here and are creating a self-serving myth, the truth is that special events never made up the backbone of our town's economy during the best days of our history. The Bike Event lasted for a weekend and was confined to Main Street. Spring Break lasted a little longer but was mostly at the former Mayor's Safari Beach Motel. It wasn't until the 1980's that special events became a weeklong and longer, high intensity spectacles that affect the entire community, just about the time the number of families coming to our beach began declining. And it wasn't long after that people started voicing concerns about our self-esteem.... I wonder if it is just a coincidence.

Until next time ...

Paul



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Trivia answer:
The Roman god of war, Mars.
Did you know?

Hummingbirds are the only birds that can hover.

Hummingbirds sometimes seem otherworldly compared to other feathered friends. They see more colors than the human eye does and can even enter a deathlike state to survive frigid winter nights. But their most remarkable ability has to do with their incredibly fast-moving wings, with the fastest flapping upwards of 70 times per second. Thanks to those incredible appendages, hummingbirds can hover — and they're the only species of bird that can do so on their own for a sustained period of time. Hummingbirds can also move up, down, left, right, forward, and yes, even backward (another unique ability), reaching speeds of 75 miles per hour. According to Audubon, the hummingbird also has really sensitive “brakes” and can switch from flying 25 miles per hour to coming to a dead stop within the length of a human index finger.

How are hummingbirds such aerial acers? Well, most birds achieve lift only when flapping their wings down, but hummingbirds swish their wings in a side-to-side, figure-eight pattern, which is more characteristic of an insect than a bird. (The feat has earned them the excellent nickname “hummingbugs.”) Although hummingbirds have evolved to use their wing muscles efficiently, their tiny bodies have an incredibly high metabolism, which means the creatures must constantly hunt for food to survive. Remarkably, hummingbirds can drain up to 10 drops of nectar from a flower in 15 milliseconds (or one-hundredth of a second).

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Our friend Weegie is taking a well-deserved break this month. Her column will resume next month.

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com



2026 Annual Fundrai\$er

Supporting the Bellaire Community Group

Supporting the Bellaire Community Group—now in its 20th year!—helps maintain an informed community with regular access to political, social, and justice issues in our area.

*Our members serve on city **advisory boards**.*

*We offer the largest **political forums** in the area at election time.*

*Our wonderful advertisers are **local businesses**.*

*Supporting the Bellaire Community Group supports **all of us!***

BCG Investment Levels

- **Residents:** \$1 and up
- **Neighbors:** \$25 and up
- **Friends:** \$50 and up
- **Patrons:** \$100 and up
- **Sponsors:** \$200 and up
- **Angels:** \$500 and up

Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your investment, with checks made payable to

Bellaire Community Group (or BCG)

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

March was an active and productive month for the Daytona Beach Police Department as officers continued working diligently to keep our community safe while welcoming a significant number of visitors to the city. With the arrival of spring and an increase in travel, events, and outdoor activity, the department maintained a strong focus on proactive patrol operations, traffic safety, and rapid response to calls for service. Officers remained highly visible throughout the city's busiest areas to deter crime, reduce traffic hazards, and ensure both residents and visitors could safely enjoy all that Daytona Beach has to offer.

The successful conclusion of the 85th Annual Bike Week marked one of the most significant public safety operations of the year. This internationally recognized event brought hundreds of thousands of motorcycle enthusiasts and spectators to the Daytona Beach area, resulting in heavily traveled roadways and increased pedestrian activity. Throughout the event, the Daytona Beach Police Department implemented comprehensive safety and traffic management plans designed to reduce congestion, prevent crashes, and promote responsible riding and driving behaviors. Officers conducted high-visibility patrols, enforced impaired driving laws, and worked to ensure compliance with traffic regulations, all while prioritizing education and voluntary compliance.

Coordination played a critical role in the event's success. The department worked closely with regional law enforcement partners, fire rescue personnel, transportation officials, and event organizers to ensure

a unified and efficient public safety response. This collaborative approach allowed first responders to quickly address incidents, maintain orderly traffic flow, and provide assistance whenever needed. The department also appreciates the patience and cooperation shown by residents during periods of increased traffic and extended travel times in high-activity areas.

As Bike Week concludes, officers will continue to focus on maintaining safe roadways and supporting the return to normal traffic patterns throughout the city. Post-event patrols emphasized traffic enforcement, crash prevention, and monitoring of high-visibility corridors to ensure continued public safety.

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. As always, we encourage residents to report any suspicious activity. Following our social media or attending your local neighborhood watch meetings are great ways to stay informed about the safety within the community. The Daytona Beach Police Department encourages all residents to review local ordinances and visit the city's official website for information on regulations, safety tips, and event guidelines. 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 bar with a red top section, a white middle section containing a row of small black stars, and a red bottom section.



Volunteers Needed to Build 500 Oyster Gardens

Hands-on community workshop to restore water quality in the Halifax River

Saturday, April 18, 2026 | 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. | 331 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach

DAYTONA BEACH, FL — Volunteers are needed to help build 500 Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGs) at a free community workshop on Saturday, April 18. The event will be held across the street from the Halifax River Yacht Club, next to the pickleball courts. No experience is necessary.

A single adult oyster can filter up to 50 gallons of water per day. The workshop is part of a grassroots effort led by Oysters For My Neighborhood, which has already installed more than 1,200 VOGs in the Halifax River to combat declining water clarity, with a goal of 3,000-plus.

“This is a hands-on way for our community to support oyster restoration and improve the health of the Halifax River for future generations,” said Sara Chrisman, owner of Daytona MedSpa and one of the event’s organizers.

To volunteer or learn more, contact Sara Chrisman at Sara@DaytonaMedSpa.com or Chuck Gleichmann at info@oystersformyneighborhood.com. Dock owners interested in hosting a VOG are also welcome.

Scan Here to Bring a
VOG Home!



Scan to Be a Volunteer!



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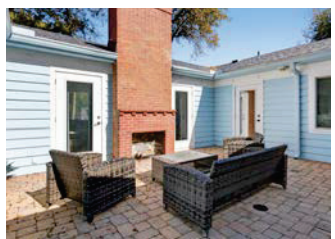
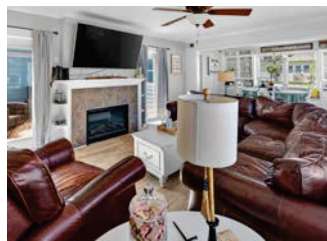



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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

The following streets do 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, Bellaire and

Driftwood: 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!