



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



May 2026

Our Elected Officials.....3

Mayor Henry:

Sheriff Chitwood: Watch out for Scams!

A Native Remembers5

Take A Deep Breath.....6

Neighborhood Activist

Weegie Kuendig.....7

From the Chief of

Police.....8

Fundraiser Info.....9

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

With summer approaching, those warm days on “The World’s Most Famous Beach” are calling my name. I’m really looking forward to spending time on the beach.

For us, that usually means packing up the Suburban with beach toys, floats, snacks, drinks, and the beach cabana—and spending the day with our littles, my sister, and me. We play games, build sandcastles, float in the ocean, and just *BE* together.

We’re truly blessed that our family is close. My sister, her husband, my nephew, and great-niece live next door to me—and my niece, her husband, and my two great-nephews are just 12 minutes away over the bridge.

My family is my world! And not just my blood family, but my Bellaire Community family, my Our Lady of Lourdes church family, my real estate work family, and my Schnebly Rec Center family. I truly can’t do any of this without all of you. It takes a village...right?

I’m excited to share that we have raised over \$5,000 so far this year for our BCG to continue our efforts in “Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority.” Please keep those donations coming—this is for us, ALL of us: our Bellaire Community Group and our beloved beachside neighborhood.

This month we’re sharing a new column, “Take A Deep Breath.” The author is a friend, and I hope you enjoy it.

Paul is doing well and recovering from his back surgery. Please join me in prayers for his continued recovery. He misses being at meetings and seeing everyone.

At our May meeting, I am pleased to welcome Detective Riddell and Magen Geary, Public Information Officer, from the Daytona Beach Police Department. We look forward to DBPD continuing to educate

Continued on page 2

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, May 21st!*

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

This Month’s Dinner

**Black Forest Ham and Swiss
Sandwiches
Potato Salad
Pineapple Upside Down Cake
Beverages**

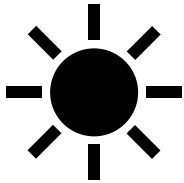
\$5 Donation

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2026 Officers
Chair & Founder
Paul Zimmerman
386.316.6259
ptzimm@bellsouth.net

Editor and
Marketing Manager
Nancy Koenig
386.679.3363
nancy@koenigrealty.com



Contributors
Mike Chitwood
Derrick Henry
Nancy Koenig
Weegie Kuendig
Jakari Young
Paul Zimmerman

In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 20, Issue 5: May 2026

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Trisha Jones
4. City Code Enforcement Update: Mariah Quinn
5. Featured Guests: Detective Riddell and Officer Magen Geary
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!

Continued from page 1

our community on how we can better protect ourselves from becoming victims of crime.

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting. Come meet a neighbor and make a new friend—I promise it is well worth your time.

Thanks for the journey,
Nancy Koenig

AMERICA



**Only one crop is grown in all 50 states.
Do you know which one it is?**

Answer on page 7

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

Mayor Henry is taking a well-deserved break this month. His column will return in June.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

As I travel all over Volusia County every day, I see the best side of our community: the generosity, the care you show for your neighbors, and your love for your families.

Unfortunately, criminals see those same virtues as vulnerabilities. We are continuing to see scammers take advantage of people to the tune of thousands of dollars. For us, these aren't just faceless stories in the news. They're real people getting ripped off.

To protect yourself and your family, I want to highlight a few recent cases that illustrate just how low these scammers will go.

A recent case really stands out. We had a resident whose dog ran away from home. When she posted the dog's photo and her phone number all over social media trying to get him back home, scammers jumped on it. Yes, scammers are using A.I. to target families searching for missing pets. When a resident posts a flyer about a lost dog or cat, scammers use AI image generators to create a "proof of life" photo that looks exactly like the missing animal. They then demand reward money via digital payment apps before they'll "return" the pet.

In this case, they sent an A.I.-generated photo of the dog "Archer" lying on a veterinarian's operating table undergoing emergency surgery after being hit by a vehicle. They were demanding funds for the vet bill. Thankfully, this pet owner recognized the image as fake and never sent a dime. But imagine the frantic state many pet owners find themselves in when a beloved animal is missing. It's easy to see how one might fall for this cruel trick.

Never send reward money or vet bill payments until you have your pet in your sight or have contacted the actual vet - not just someone on the other end of an unknown phone number.

In another recent case, a resident was scammed out of "bail money." She received a call from a man claiming to be a bondsman, stating her son was in jail and needed immediate bail money sent via CashApp. Desperate to help her child, she sent the funds. When she called the jail to check on his release, she discovered he was never there. When she tried to call the "bondsman" back, they hung up and blocked her.

Law enforcement and legitimate bondsmen will never demand payment via CashApp, Venmo, or gift cards. If you get a call like this, hang up and call the jail directly using an official number.

Another case saw a victim swindled out of \$15,000. A scammer posing as a Chase Bank

representative contacted her, claiming her accounts were flagged for drug-related activity. To "prove" she wasn't a drug dealer, they told her she needed to withdraw her cash and hand it over to a "courier" for verification. Sadly, she did so, and the money is gone. This same victim was also targeted by a "Romance Scam," losing another \$11,500 to a suspect pretending to be in Ukraine and needing money to reach the U.S.

No bank will ever ask you to hand cash to a stranger on the street or a courier. Furthermore, be extremely wary of anyone you meet online who asks for money for travel or emergencies—especially if you have never met them in person.

If you experience any of the following, STOP and don't send money:

High Pressure: They tell you that you must act right now or something terrible will happen (arrest, loss of money, etc.).

Secrecy: They tell you not to hang up the phone or tell any family members.

Unusual Payment: They ask for CashApp, Zelle, wire transfers, cryptocurrency, or gift cards.

The "Courier": Anyone asking to come to your house or meet you in a parking lot to "collect" money for a business or government agency.

There's no shame in being targeted or falling for what later seems like an obvious scam. These scammers are professional manipulators. If you have been a victim, or if you receive a call that just doesn't feel right, please call our non-emergency line at 386-248-1777. We would much rather spend five minutes talking you through a suspicious call than five weeks or more investigating a life-changing financial loss.

Stay safe, stay informed, and look out for one another.

Sheriff Mike Chitwood

Here's what's going on in our community at Schnebly Recreation Center...

Senior Fitness:

9 am Tuesday and Thursday 55+
Exercise and stay in shape **FREE**

Zumba Class:

9:30 am Tuesday
A fun dance fitness program
\$5 per class

Yoga by Lisa:

9:30 am Mondays and Fridays
Gentle Yoga and Relaxation
\$10

Line Dancing:

Wednesdays 5:15 pm to 7:45 pm
Enjoy Dancing with exercise and fun!
\$10

Tai Chi Class with Instructor Marlon Pilossoff

11:15 am Tuesdays and Thursdays
\$5

Mahjong Game:

Mondays Noon to 3 pm **FREE**

Spring Senior Oasis Social and Luncheon

Tuesday, May 19th, 11 am to 1 pm
RSVP Required 386-671-3560

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint from May 2021

Time is revealing and sometimes ironic. The passage of time is something that is totally out of our control and can be a cruel teacher. The only thing predictable about time is that it relentlessly moves forward into the future. All living creatures are at its mercy and all have an expiration date on this plane. One of God's greatest gifts to us is that we somehow live out our lives in complete denial of this reality. Sure, we can talk about that expiration date as if it were some abstract concept that applies to others but not to us. Imagine if we were born knowing what our expiration date was. Would we be terrified and say what's the point, and live a reckless life of eat, drink, and be merry? Or would we live our lives carefully in a manner to protect what we have and leave those left behind in time a better world? I think we all vacillate between these two extremes: living sometimes selfishly and sometimes altruistically.

Humans spend much of their existence trying to tame the unpredictability of time. There is a whole industry built on predicting the future. Making a bet is an attempt to predict the outcome of future events. Las Vegas is the center of the universe for those who wager that they "know" the future. We have terms like favorites, underdogs, and upset winner as part of a vocabulary to describe our opinions of what the future will hold. Las Vegas style betting is often strictly on a short term time basis.

Old photos of the 1970s and clothing styles that were in vogue at that time compared to today's standards illustrates how collective opinion can be dramatically manipulated. What made us



think leisure suits with white shoes and belts were OK? Yikes! But there was a majority of men in our population who thought they were cool. Madison Ave spent billions manipulating the majority of men into thinking that they needed a leisure suit. It is like looking back in time the truth of something is somehow hidden or denied. I am on the record; I never owned or wore a leisure suit. Fads or collective opinions can shape the decision making of entire cultures or local communities and sometimes the majority of folks buy into things that are as hideous as leisure suits. When communities make a bet on the future, outcomes can take years or decades to find out if it was a winner or a loser.

I lived a truth in time here in our community, a time when our beachside thrived. Most of you know my story of working on the pool deck of the original Castaway Beach Motel and how Daytona Beach was indeed the World's Most Famous Beach. Looking back in time, approximately 35 years our community was sold an idea. We should be something else. The passage of time through those 35 years has left evidence.

Today the salesmen of those "something else" ideas are frantically trying to impose or manipulate us into a collective denial of that evidence and convince us that we are actually better off. Why? Is it that they truly believe continuing to limit access to our beach and kowtowing to developers will show positive results...eventually? Is it that egos will not let them

admit that the passage of time has judged their ideas as a horrible mistake? Either way, time has made a judgment and the community was reaped its effects.

Today as a community we are making “bets” via public policy that will affect the folks that will be living in the future time, our progeny. Are we going to be guided by those selfish short-sighted tendencies that seem to be the path we are on now, or will we listen to the quieter, kinder tendencies to protect this piece of paradise we have been given for those who will come in the future? Regardless of what we decide, time will continue on its relentless march into the future, and we will have left our mark on it.

‘til next time,

Paul

TAKE A DEEP BREATH

One of the most difficult challenges I too often ignore is simply slowing down. It’s a lesson I’m taught over and over whenever I overlook the beauty of my family, friends, and community. Somehow, I let the issues that contribute heavily to my lifestyle—my job and commitments—take up the lion’s share of my time and energy, creating stress.

The best way for me to reconcile that stress into peace is simple: *take a deep breath*.

I try to meditate on the obvious things we Daytona Beach residents too often take for granted.

If I’m honest, too often—maybe even subconsciously—I forget the good things going on in my life and focus on the problems that still need work. And yes, that goes against the advice of just about every reputable therapist trying to help us get (and stay) on track. Still, it can feel as natural as laughter at a good joke.

WINDOWS

GEORGE WATKINS

- Lanai/Patio Enclosures
- Window Replacements
- Acrylic Windows

☎ 352-205-2631

☎ 386-871-4907

CRC #1330701

CALL TO SCHEDULE A FREE ESTIMATE





Bill Kooy

Licensed & Insured

Commercial & Residential

PRESSURE CLEANING

386-405-5641

Prompt • Reliable • Friendly Service



My best friends are my family, and my favorite people are my friends and community. We share beautiful sunshine, the beach, and the Intracoastal Waterway—gifts that seem to radiate in our faces when we see each other around town, as if we’re all in on the best-kept secret in Florida.

As a Daytona Beach citizen and member of the Bellaire Community, let me be the latest to say: *we’ve got it good*. Our Creator has bestowed on us a heavenly place to reside.

Sure, life will always challenge us in new ways. And that’s our cue to take a page from the Apostle Paul:

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

How? You say: *take a deep breath*.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

To start off, I am going to use some of the Mayor's words. "I am heartbroken." He was referring to the presentation at the last Commission meeting by the Army Corp of Engineers. It is indeed sad but was very predictable. This has been a terrible problem for residents for many decades. I remember that long ago there was a utility director in the city who suggested the water be piped out to the west. It was an overwhelming expense back then, but also back then there might have been wetlands to accept the overflow. That's obviously no longer the case. So, in my opinion, the least worst option is to try and buy- out the affected properties.

And another quote by the Mayor: "I haven't found anything that leads me to believe that it's time to pull out the sledgehammer. If we don't renew his contract, we send a message the city is unstable." Well, to me and many other residents that is exactly what it looks like - an unstable city. The city is no longer in charge of what is going on; the state auditors are. I think it was made worse by two Commissioners who rated the CM performance near perfect. But rather than help the city manager it looked like they were circling the wagons politically and may have hurt them more than they understand. I have always maintained that early on there was time for complete transparency and a public reckoning which should have included the ways the issues were being addressed. Instead, there was silence and the public didn't appreciate that. So, here we are - in

some kind of LaLa land - playing the waiting game. Ugh.



On another topic, the bad deal to buy the Cruisin' Cafe is permanently off the table. Too much money for certain and I don't think the city needs to be in the real estate business. If extra parking is need there are available lots nearby that the city and county already own. And now the city seems to be blaming the people who wanted to buy the Corbin building to renovate and turn into a restaurant, marketplace, music venue and craft brewery for perhaps the demise of that idea. These people have taken their money elsewhere (Charleston) and may not be back This concept was proposed years ago by them only to be put off. I have always found that when the city drags its feet on a project, there is a reason and it's not because government works slowly. It is because they are saving it for a favor to someone else.

That's probably enough for this month!
Again, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions. as always.

Sincerely,

Weegie Kuendig

dkuendig@aol.com

**Trivia answer:
Corn. The United States grows more
corn than any other country.
Did you know?**

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Jakari Young, Chief of Police of Daytona Beach

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



As we move through the month of May, the Daytona Beach Police Department would like to thank our community and our dedicated professionals for their continued support and commitment to keeping Daytona Beach safe. This month, we want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate all mothers throughout our department and community. Your strength, sacrifice, compassion, and dedication do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do each and every day.

On May 5th, we proudly celebrated the graduation of Daytona Beach Police Department Academy Class #7. These graduates have worked tirelessly to reach this milestone, and we look forward to the positive impact they will make while serving the City of Daytona Beach. We are also excited to begin Academy Class #8 on May 18th as we continue investing in the future of our agency and the next generation of law enforcement professionals.

Rockville 2026 brought thousands of visitors and eventgoers to Daytona Beach, and thanks to the collaboration between law enforcement, public safety agencies, city staff, and community partners, the event was conducted safely and successfully. We appreciate the hard work of everyone involved in ensuring residents and visitors had a safe experience throughout the event weekend.

As graduation season begins, the Ocean Center will host numerous high school and college ceremonies

during the month of May. Residents and visitors should expect increased traffic throughout the area and are encouraged to plan ahead and allow extra travel time during scheduled events.

On May 19th, the Daytona Beach Police Department will participate in a multi-agency emergency management training exercise at the Ocean Center. Community members may notice an increased public safety presence in the area during the exercise. This is only a training scenario, and there is no threat to public safety.

As Memorial Day weekend approaches, we encourage everyone to celebrate responsibly, remain aware on our roadways, and help us keep our community safe. We also honor and remember the brave service members who gave their lives in service to our nation.

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.




- Divorce
- Family Law
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Wills, Trusts & Probate

www.RiceLawFlorida.com
 222 Seabreeze Boulevard ■ 386.257.1222

JON HALL • RITCHEY

automotive group

Automotive Sales • Leasing • Service and Parts



551 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-4444
JonHall.com



932 N. Nova Rd. • 386-236-5000
RitcheyCadillac.com



614 N. Nova Rd. and 998 N. Nova Rd.
386-236-5159 386-236-5156
RitcheyAutos.com



650 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-2252 • SubaruOfDaytona.com



901 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-9374 • DaytonaHyundai.com

122469

Blue Skies Fine Cuts LLC
 Full Service Lawn Service
 & Landscaping

Shane Hillyard

386-795-1101
 blueskiesfinecuts@gmail.com

Don and Hannah King
Amway Products
Amway Business Opportunity

386-248-3095 8023kin@bellsouth.net
 www.amway.com/king

BILL MURPHY

QUALITY HOME IMPROVEMENTS

ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
 LICENSED & INSURED
386-747-5358

libmurphy@yahoo.com

Printed in Daytona Beach at

Wright Printery, Inc.
 Since 1927
 DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA

735 N. Ridgewood Avenue
Daytona Beach
(386) 252-6571

KOENIG REALTY

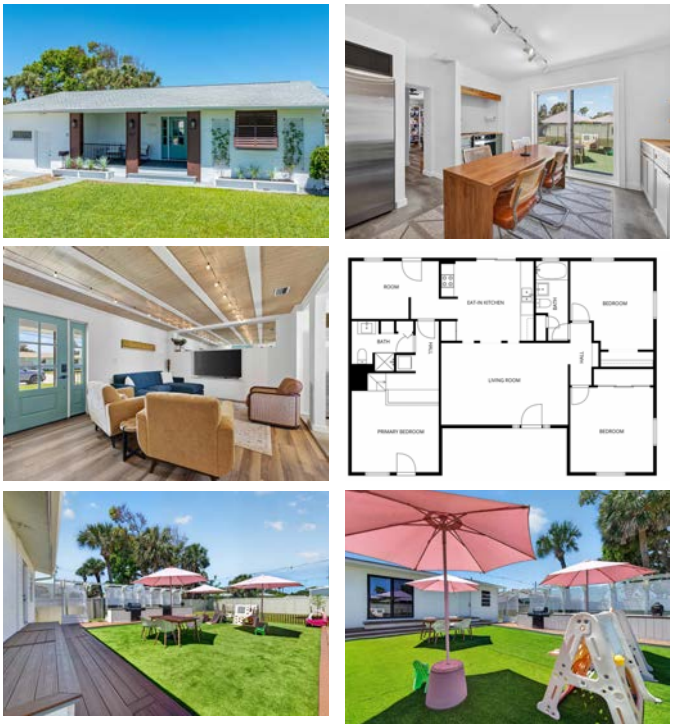


Nancy Koenig, Broker

386-257-6700
KoenigRealty.com
Your Local Full Service Real Estate Company
 Your Beachside Specialists

JUST LISTED!

307 Williams Avenue
 Beautifully Updated
 3 bedroom 2 bath
 Offered at \$415,000



Call Us Today – 386-257-6700

YOUR REFERRALS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Contact us for a FREE 10 minute onsite price consultation on your property.
 Call 386-257-6700

THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

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

Woodland

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: Terre Tuminello
Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness
Euclid: Janice and Mike Felisko
Flagstone: Ellen Gerard
Flushing and N Peninsula: Shree Gobin
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!