



# BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

*Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!*



## June 2026

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

June marks the official start of hurricane season and living on the beachside in Daytona Beach since I was 5 years old has given me plenty of experience with these fierce storms. Over the years, we have had our share of losses, but thankfully nothing more than we could handle. My prayer is that we have a mild season this year and that all of you, my friends and neighbors, stay safe and free from damage.

We still have not made it to the beach yet, but we have been enjoying plenty of time by the pool. For us “seniors,” it is just a little easier to keep up with the “littles” in the backyard than it is to load up and haul everything needed for a full beach day.

Our annual fundraiser is still going strong, with a goal of raising \$7,000. Thanks to your generosity, we are now just under \$6,000. I truly appreciate every donation, because this fundraiser helps us continue our efforts in “Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority” and supports our monthly newsletters and meetings at Schnebly Rec Center.

I am especially looking forward to our June guest, Stacy Cantu, City Commissioner for Zone 4, who will be joining us to talk about the city audit and share what is happening in the city right now.

I hope you will join us for our June meeting. Come share a meal with a neighbor, make a new friend, and hear more about the issues that affect all of us here in our city. I truly believe it will be well worth your time.

Thanks for the journey,  
Nancy Koenig

### **Our Elected Officials.....3**

**Mayor Henry:** July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebrations

**Sheriff Chitwood:** Get Prepared for Hurricane Season

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*Join us at the  
Schnebly Center  
1101 N Atlantic Ave  
Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>*

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

#### **This Month's Dinner**

**Chicken Marsala  
Rice  
Mixed Veggies  
Amaretto Cake  
Beverages**

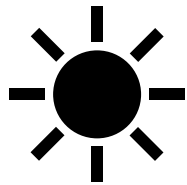
**\$5 Donation**

**Bellaire Community Group**

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Paul Zimmerman

*In memoriam in aeternum*  
*Steve Koenig*

**Vol 20, Issue 6: June 2026**

**AGENDA**

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Kim Gernert
4. City Code Enforcement Update Mariah Quinn
5. Stacy Cantu, City Commissioner Zone 4 – City Audit and Issues
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!

**Get Involved!**




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**How You Can Help.**  
**Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGS)**

- Do you own a Dock or Know someone who does?
- 1 Oyster can Filter up to 50 gallons of Water a Day!
- Hanging strings of cleaned oysters (VOGS) off your dock attracts babies that grow and can create a habitat for fish AND clean the water. \*these oysters filter toxins they are NOT for eating.
- VOGS take no permitting on private docks.
- It took 20+ years to make the river dirty, it will be over time, not overnight. We are a grassroots group.



**Which country is both a country and an entire continent?**

*Answer on page 3*

## OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



*Mayor Derrick Henry*

As June arrives and summer traditions begin to return, the Daytona Beach Police Department remains committed to keeping our community safe while helping make this season enjoyable for everyone. Summer in Daytona Beach means more time outdoors, more community events, and more opportunities to connect with neighbors, family, and friends. As activity throughout our city increases, our officers will continue proactive patrols, community engagement efforts, and public safety initiatives to help ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for all.

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appearances across our community to help create positive interactions and cool treats all summer long.

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June is also Gun Safety Awareness Month, serving as an important reminder to practice responsible firearm ownership. Secure firearms in a locked location, store ammunition separately, ensure children cannot access firearms, and take time to review safe handling and storage practices with members of your household. Responsible ownership helps protect families and strengthens community safety.

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**Trivia answer:**

**Australia**

**Did you know?**



*Mike Chitwood*  
*Volusia County Sheriff*

Hurricane season is upon us and with that comes a reminder about the importance of preparing. I'm not here to fear monger. Instead, I want you to understand that preparing now – and not until a storm forms and becomes a threat – is crucial.

At the Volusia Sheriff's Office, our preparation plans are already underway. After all, the role of law enforcement during hurricane situations is essential before, during and after the storm. In recent years, we saw that response during Hurricane Milton in 2024, and we can't forget the devastation caused by Hurricane Ian and Nicole in the fall of 2022.

Recently, our crews gathered at Daytona Stadium to check and test equipment and review response plans. We don't want to be left scrambling when the need arises and you shouldn't either. Below are some important reminders I ask you to take into consideration.

**Prepare a kit:** Include disaster supplies such as food, water, batteries, charger, radio, and cash. Remember, you'll need supplies that can last you both during the storm and possibly a lengthy aftermath.

**Develop an evacuation plan:** Make decisions now on what the best evacuation plan is for you and your family. For example, which relative would you stay with?

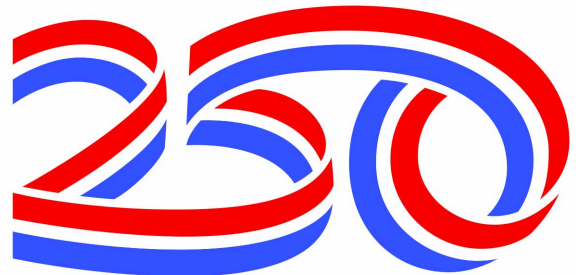
**Strengthen your home:** Take advantage of hurricane season downtime to make your home

stronger against hurricanes. Trim trees, install storm shutters, inspect the most vulnerable parts of your home, and ensure they can withstand hurricane-force winds.

It's tempting to wait for these kinds of preparations, but having a kit and plan in place will give you a sense of calm should the 2026 season bring a threatening storm.

Sheriff Mike Chitwood


# AMERICA




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# A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman*

*Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

*Reprint from June 2021*

Summer is my favorite time of year. Summer means the wetsuit season is behind us and warm weather seems to loosen up my muscles and joints.

Back when Daytona Beach was the family tourist destination for a good part of the Southeastern United States, summer was the time to make hay and some of us did. Of course, there was driving on the beach back then. The lifeguards would drag the 10 MPH sign along with their towers back and forth with the tide to give drivers a reference point. Cars parked wherever there was a spot, either side of the traffic lane, and sometimes 2 or 3 deep. The lifeguards, who were mostly well trained teenage kids, provided the safety. An occasional city cop would drop down onto the beach from A1A, but there was no real police presence. People seemed to be able to handle self-regulation back then...probably still could.

Most of my friends back then had jobs on the beach or the pool decks of the motels that lined every inch of land east of A1A. There were jobs sitting lifeguard towers that lined the beach about 100 yards apart. There were jobs working in the hot dog wagons providing food, snacks and something cold to drink for the tourists who packed the beach. There was one job that was the plum job. It was a pool deck lifeguard. That is what I did on the pool deck of the original Castaways Beach Motel (the original has been torn down and a smaller one sits on part of the original site). Being a pool guard back then was both envied and demeaned. The guys lifeguarding down on the beach were real lifeguards. Rescuing someone out of the ocean is serious business and very difficult.



Being a pool guard was embarrassingly easy by comparison. Typical pool rescues involved reaching out and pulling someone maybe 5 feet to the side of pool. Most pool “guards” provided their services to the motel management for free. The pool guards agreed to keep the tourists from drowning in the pool and keep the pool decks clean and organized, and in exchange the management allowed us to set up our little stands to sell our suntan lotions, shark teeth necklaces, give surf lessons, and rent our floats to their guests. We made a lot more money than the “real” lifeguards on the beach did. So, on that level they envied us. It was a good job.

Think about working in an environment where everybody was happy to be there. The tourists back then were in awe of Daytona Beach. They were tickled pink (sunburned too). For most of them, this was their annual family vacation. I worked with a friend named Jerry who had been working at the Castaways for years and continued working there for years after I left. Jerry literally saw families and their kids grow up on the Castaway pool deck. Parents felt comfortable allowing the kids to grow up here. You really had to be here to experience what it was like back then. I can't capture the residents' pride and the tourists' envy in words, but it was tangible. I know I am glad as I can be to have experienced that period of the history of Daytona Beach.

'til next time,  
Paul

# THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING TIME

One of life's greatest blessings is the privilege of sharing time with another person, especially someone who has wisdom to offer or a heart that simply needs to be heard. Whether it is friends, family, or the fortuitous folks we encounter along the way, every person carries something meaningful that can enrich another life. And every soul, at some point, longs for the gift of being truly listened to.

My friend is my favorite person to spend time with, because our conversations are filled with familiarity, joy, and shared understanding. We listen to one another with ease because our hearts often beat to the same rhythm. In that kind of connection, there is comfort, strength, and a reminder of how beautiful it is to be known.

Family, too, offers us a sacred opportunity to share our time. Because we are bound by closeness and constant connection, we are often given countless chances to encourage one another, to show compassion, and to witness growth in the people we love most. There is something deeply powerful about offering empathy within our families and receiving it in return.

Still, some of the most meaningful moments come from the fortuitous folks we meet in everyday life, those we may not know well, yet who cross our paths for a reason. A kind pause, a listening ear, or a moment of genuine attention in the workplace, at the post office, grocery store, church, beach, or even with a neighbor can transform an ordinary day into something extraordinary. These are the moments that remind us of our shared humanity.

We **get** to listen. We get to offer one of the most generous gifts we have, our time. And because time is so precious, perhaps we

sometimes hold it too tightly. Too often, I have missed the blessing of simply being present, of giving someone the space to speak and the comfort of knowing they matter.

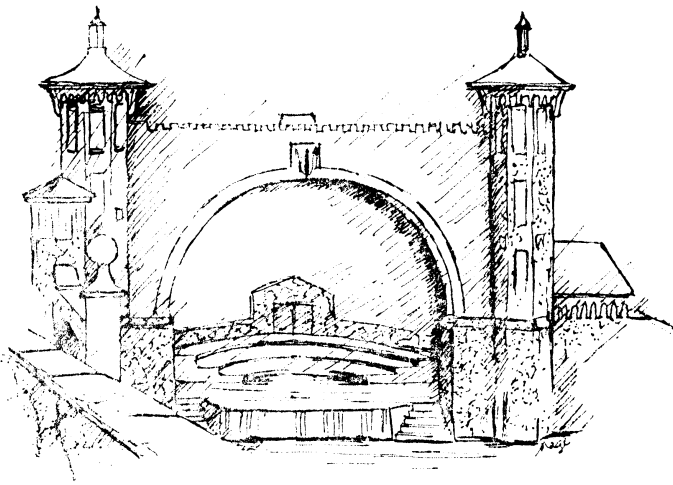
As the Bellaire Community Group welcomes another magnificent summer, it is my heartfelt prayer that we embrace this beautiful calling: to share our time with one another in love, patience, and appreciation. May we never underestimate how powerful it is to listen, to care, and to be present. In doing so, we strengthen our community, uplift each other, and make room for grace to flourish among us.

Only the very best wishes to BCG.

## NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Weegie Kuendig is taking a well-deserved break this month. Her column will return in July.





**The Daytona Beach Oceanfront Bandshell's summer concert series runs weekly through September 26, 2026.**

Featuring free general admission and oceanfront fireworks. Two main series are taking place at the venue, both culminating in firework displays over the Atlantic: **Friday Nights** (Sounds of Summer): Presented by the City of Daytona Beach, these shows begin at 7:15 PM and run through August 28.

**Saturday Nights** (Star Spangled Summer): Presented by Boardwalk Merchants and Friends of the Bandshell, these concerts kick off at 7:15 PM, followed by the Kona Big Wave fireworks at 9:45 PM.

**Upcoming Tips & Information Seating:**

General admission is free, with attendees encouraged to bring personal lawn chairs. VIP Options: Reserved seating is available. Parking: The Ocean Center garage offers convenient parking nearby.

For the complete schedule and ticket information, please check the official Peabody Auditorium website [www.peabodyauditorium.org](http://www.peabodyauditorium.org).

## The Origin of Spaghetti and Meatballs

Both spaghetti and meatballs are commonly eaten throughout Italy, but the combination is an American invention. If you happen to find a place serving spaghetti and meatballs during your trip to Rome or Florence, they're almost certainly catering specifically to U.S. tourists.

True Italian spaghetti rarely, if ever, features meatballs or even meat sauce. In Italy, spaghetti is typically served as a smaller dish prior to the main course. It's often topped with garlic and olive oil, a fresh tomato sauce, or even clams.

As for meatballs (or polpette, as they're called in Italy), Italians commonly eat them as a small appetizer or side, or they may be cooked into a soup. Pairing them with pasta is a rarity.

The spaghetti and meatball combo was created by Italian American immigrants around the turn of the 20th century — more out of necessity than tradition. In that time, many poor immigrants had to rely on whatever affordable foods were available. This often included canned tomatoes, packaged spaghetti, and ground beef, all of which were thrown together into a filling, budget-friendly meal.

By 1950, spaghetti and meatballs had become an American staple. In his 1950 memoir, Sicilian restaurateur Niccoló Quattrociocchi wrote about his experience dining at an Italian restaurant in the U.S., saying he was introduced to “traditional American specialties called ‘spaghetti with meatballs.’”

# FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young, Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

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

 A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal bar with red, white, and blue stripes, topped with a row of white stars, similar to the American flag.



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# **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 Tumminello

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!*