

The City of Belleview

Belleview, FL



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Belleview Partners with SouthState Bank - Belleview for 2025 Season of Storytime with the Mayor

Belleview, FL –The City of Belleview is pleased to announce a partnership with SouthState Bank for the 2025 season of Storytime with Mayor. Starting in January, this family-centered event will take place on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 PM at the Belleview Community Center and offer a special opportunity for children and their families to gather for an evening of fun, reading, and community-building.

This exciting collaboration allows families to enjoy a light dinner together while enjoying a reading of a children's book by Mayor Christine Dobkowski. Each month, the evening will feature themed activities and games inspired by the book's message and characters, creating an interactive experience for all ages. The events will also include surprise visits from beloved storybook characters and more. Courtesy of Goodwill BookWorks, each child will take home a free book, further promoting the importance of literacy and a lifelong love of reading.

Mayor Christine Dobkowski expressed her excitement about continuing the beloved tradition. "Storytime with the Mayor is something I look forward to every year because it's such a joy to engage with our community's children and families," said Dobkowski. "This year, with the support of SouthState Bank, we're able to offer even more to the families who join us—fun activities, special guests, and a welcoming environment where kids can fall in love with books. I'm thrilled to see this program grow and become an even more meaningful part of our community's calendar."

In addition to promoting literacy, the event encourages family bonding and community involvement. Robert Vass, Events and Promotions Manager for the City of Belleview, is eager to kick off the 2025 season. "Storytime with the Mayor is all about bringing our community together," Vass said. "We're creating a space where families can spend quality time, enjoy a good meal, and engage in educational and entertaining activities. Thanks to our partners, SouthState Bank and Goodwill BookWorks, we're able to enhance this experience and provide children with books they can cherish."

SouthState Bank is excited to be a part of this initiative and is committed to fostering family-friendly, educational opportunities. "At SouthState, our goal is to create a night where families can come together, share a meal, and enjoy an enriching experience through the book readings and activities," said Charlene Black, Assistant Branch Manager at SouthState Bank.

Gina Behlen, Branch Manager at SouthState Bank, expanded, "We believe in the power of community and education, and partnering with the City of Belleview for Storytime with the Mayor is a perfect way to support both. We're proud to help create an environment where children can learn, have fun, and connect with their families."

For more information about the 2025 season of Storytime with the Mayor, visit the City of Belleview's website at www.belleviewfl.org or follow us on social media for the latest updates.