

# Bellevue Place ‘Fits Like a Glove’

“There was no second choice.” — Philadelphia Phillies club ambassador Chris Wheeler about his decision to purchase a home in Bellevue Place.

(BELLEAIR, FL)

Not a man to make snap decisions, Chris Wheeler says he nevertheless knew immediately that the new community of Bellevue Place was right for him.

“I am the ultimate guy of thinking things through – to the point I may miss out on opportunities,” he said. “So when this one came up, I thought, ‘I’ll think it through, but not procrastinate.’ I’ve known others who could have gotten in on the ground floor of various opportunities, but waited too long. I thought, ‘That’s not going to be me!’”

Still, the decision was far from hasty. The affable former broadcaster and current ambassador for the Philadelphia Phillies baseball club has been traveling to Clearwater with the team every year since 1972. Over time the spring training camp has become a second home.

“When you’ve gone to a place for 46 years, there’re no mysteries,” he said, explaining how his familiarity with the area cemented his decision. “I love the area. I have a tremendous comfort level there.

“And I always thought if I’m lucky enough to be able to, I’m not going to be cold,” he added from his home in Blue Bell, Penn. “When this opportunity came along, that sold it. It all fits like a glove.”

Wheeler has been a seasonal member of Belleair Country Club during the Phillies’ spring training, and is looking forward to permanent membership in 2018. The club is just across the street from the 132-home community that sits on the site of the iconic former Bellevue Biltmore Hotel.

That proximity is how he first learned of plans for the condominium and carriage homes and the transformation of a section of the historic hotel into a boutique hotel, the Bellevue Inn.

He said when he heard it was going to be developed by JMC Communities, “I thought, ‘OK, that’s good. I know JMC. When they build something they’re going to build it, and build it right.’”

JMC has created 24 award-winning communities and hotels, including Sandpearl Resort & Residences on Clearwater Beach, Ovation in downtown St. Petersburg and the Bellamy in Tampa.

Wheeler purchased a two-bedroom/two-bath residence with den in the first mid-rise building at Bellevue Place, now under construction and expected to be completed by mid-2018.

“It overlooks the second green of the west course and looks right up Clearwater Bay. In some places, you get one or the other; here, I’m getting both. That’s a heck of a deal. I know the golf course so well, I can just picture the views,” he said. “Being up on the bluff helps, too.”

“And that’s another thing – that high up on the bluff means there’s no flood insurance. If it gets flooded you got big problems – but that’s not going to happen there.”

“I really love the idea of the underbuilding private garage, too” he added. “You’re out of the elements, and you can store golf gear and other things there.”

Wheeler said he never considered or looked at another community, “I’d been thinking about moving to Clearwater for years. So when I saw who the builder was and where it was, I said the time has come. I ran all my options and I haven’t looked back. I’m very confident it’s a worthwhile decision.”

---

*Belleview Place, condominium and carriage homes from mid-\$600s to \$1.7 million; 275 Belleview Blvd., Belleair, FL 33756; BelleviewPlace.com; 727-469-7070.*