



Bellaire Community Group

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



April 2023

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Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, April 20th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.

\$5 donation suggested

Dinner:
Baked ziti and meatballs
Salad and garlic bread
Desserts and beverages

Our annual fundraiser is underway, and so far, we have received donations totaling \$3,390. (Our goal this year is \$6,000). Our costs of food, supplies, and printing go up over time, so this will help us continue to offer a quality dinner and pay for our 2,000 newsletters hand delivered by our street captains monthly in our community. On page 8, you will see a list of our donors by category. As I am still unable to attend our monthly meetings, this month I again share with you the recaps from Jeff Boyle, Nancy Koenig, and Paul Zimmerman.



Jeff Boyle --- *The March meeting at the Schnebly Center celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an optional hot meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and decorated cupcakes, a bargain at five dollars, lovingly prepared by Nancy Koenig and friends. Food line opens promptly at 6 PM, meeting comes to order at 6:30, guest speaker presentations, end time-certain at 7:30. Recent meetings have featured local authors, Sheriff Chitwood, the Volusia County tax collector and the County property appraiser, election candidates, marine biologists, and other experts. Attendance is high again, and last month's 50/50 drawing paid \$50. Come join the fun and share our group's warm camaraderie, people meeting old friends and making new friends.*

Nancy Koenig --- *I found it was going to be easier to prepare the St. Patrick's Day meal for the BCG meeting at home instead of at Schnebly. This allowed me to focus on other things while the corned beef simmered for over 3 hours. I shredded cabbage and cut potatoes and boiled them along with baby carrots. Adding some salt, pepper and lots of butter finished things off. Lastly, to cut the corned beef. I was never a fan and always dreaded that job. My experience was that I wound up shredding the beef...ugh! But this year I vowed to tackle this task like a winner. I found the sharpest knife we owned and sharpened it again. Cutting against the grain carefully resulted in beautiful even slices. Connie met me at Schnebly later in the afternoon. We kept the food trays warming in the oven while we prepared the beverages and plated the desserts. Ellen and Reba joined soon after to*

Bellaire Community Group

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Daytona Beach, FL 32118**

2023 Officers

Chair

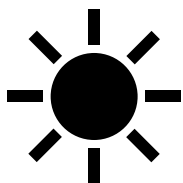
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Contributors

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Mike Chitwood
Ken Strickland
Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Keundig
Steve Koenig

AGEIDA

1. 6 p.m. dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guests: John Mann Ed.D., Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

help serve the crowd. Another successful BCG meal with the help of my girls.

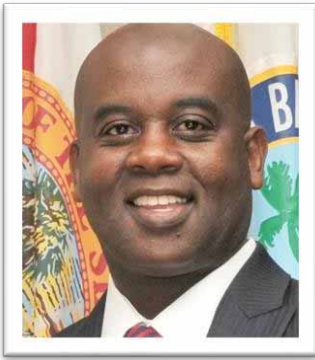
Paul Zimmerman --- *At last month's meeting after we heard our crime report from DBPD Capt. Nikolow, we had the pleasure of hearing from Sharon Harlow of the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Board (CVB). Sharon described the CVB's strategies for increasing the number of tourists we have coming to visit our area. Sharon's presentation included video clips, from the Zimmerman Group (no relation), a national advertising agency, that are being broadcast across the country selling our area. There was one video clip that seemed to be the crowd favorite, of young girl trying to learn how to surf with a tag line that although she will forget a lot of things, "she will never forget her first wave." Sharon finished up her visit by answering questions for BCG members.*



This month our guest speaker will be John Mann Ed. D, from the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse and Museum. John's presentation is entitled "The Spirit of 45: " The Greatest Generation". John will be focusing on the challenges that faced the greatest generation and the poise in which they met those challenges.

I hope you enjoyed the feedback from Jeff, Nancy, and Paul again this month. Donation slips and envelopes are provided in the newsletter again this month. Your help in enabling us to reach our goal of \$6,000 is greatly appreciated.

Thanks for the journey,
Steve and Nancy Koenig



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

I want to invite all Daytona Beach residents to join me in wearing BLUE and GOLD for a parade celebrating Mainland High School's successful sports program at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 20. Starting on Beach Street, near Brown & Brown Insurance (fun fact: Hyatt Brown is a graduate of Mainland), the parade will travel south to Jackie Robinson Parkway. Immediately following the parade, there will be a ceremony at Jackie Robinson Ballpark. As a community, we will celebrate the State Champion girls' basketball team, the boys' runner-up basketball and football teams, their families and coaches and other student-athletes who attend Mainland.

As you may know, I'm a big supporter of youth sports. Participation in sports isn't just a physical or social activity. There's also a mental aspect. Youth sports foster a solid work ethic and build self-confidence. There are lessons of discipline, dedication, humility and learning the importance of teamwork. There's learning to win and learning to lose. These are critical skills needed throughout life. Mainland's athletes have worked hard during this school year and the parade is a chance for our community to recognize them for proudly representing our city. I hope to see you at the parade!



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

It's been said that the one constant in life is change.

That's mostly true, but I can think of another constant, especially here in Volusia County: Resistance to change.

No doubt by now you've heard rumblings about the Volusia Sheriff's Office taking over law enforcement services on the beach from Volusia County Beach Safety. This change is coming due to proposed state legislation widely expected to pass and become law this summer.

Depending on who you listen to, it's an idea that's either long overdue, or the most devastating catastrophe to ever happen to Volusia County.

The important thing to keep in mind is that change can be scary for those who experience it – and that's why you may be hearing some scare tactics from those who are invested in the status quo. They want you to be scared of change, too.

It's the same type of fear-driven resistance we saw from opponents of Amendment 10. They tried to tell you Volusia County would slide into the ocean if the Sheriff's Office broke free from the direct control of county government.

They were wrong then, and they're wrong today.

This legislation wasn't a Sheriff Chitwood idea or a Sheriff's Office idea. It has to do with establishing uniformity of authority of sheriffs and other constitutional officers across the state of Florida. That said, we are ready, willing and more than capable of handling law enforcement on the beach.

The truth is that we can provide enhanced law enforcement service on the beach AND an increased presence for our beachside residents and businesses while freeing up Beach Safety personnel to focus on saving lives in the water.

While we are still working out the details with county government, I know that we can make this transition as smooth and successful as the one we just implemented under Amendment 10.

One of the questions I have today is: Where is Beach Safety even deriving its authority to perform law enforcement functions? That authority was abolished with Amendment 10, and never re-established. It's not something the county can just create out of thin air. This is a serious question that the State Attorney's Office, FDLE and our Legislature are going to have to take a closer look at.

Instead of answering these uncomfortable questions, a few obstructionists who can't accept change will lie, distort and exaggerate just to preserve the status quo on the beach.

At the end of the day, I believe even the skeptics will realize this change is going to be a positive one for public safety and for all of Volusia County. Let Beach Safety keep their eyes on the water while deputies focus on law enforcement.

I know I'll be visiting with many of you about this in the coming weeks and months, and I look forward to working together to reach new heights in our level of service.

Stay safe and thank you for your constant support,

Sheriff Chitwood



Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

I will try to update a few things today concerning our whole Zone. There's going to be an upgrade made to the Seabreeze corridor security. We will be having a meeting concerning (hopefully) finalizing the number of cameras and locations. This should be done in time to be on the next City Commission Agenda. Also, cameras will be placed in Colin's Park to improve safety there. An area has also been fenced off in Colin's Park for a dog park. It has a few things left to be completed: a watering station, add a short section of walkway, a waste bag dispenser, and a waste disposal receptacle.

Should have word on swing set for older kids at Schnebly Center soon.

Zone 2 on the mainland will have lights installed around North Street Park. Waiting on a timeline from FPL.

A few other projects are in the works for Zone 2. I will update once there is more information made available that I can share.

Ken Strickland
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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

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*Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

This past weekend I went on a fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico. The boat was leaving from John's Pass in St Petersburg, which meant a tortuous drive on I-4. Every bad thing you have ever heard about driving on I-4 is true...maybe even worse. The fishing trip is one of those 12 hour trips that starts at 7 PM and ends at 7 AM. That may make you question the sanity of anyone signing up for such a trip. You might even think I had it coming and I deserved the 4 and half hour ride alternating from terrorizing to boring, from 85 miles per hour bumper to bumper, followed by crawling for miles at an inch at a time. I kept asking myself how, and why, do people live like this? Of course, about that time I realized that I had voluntarily subjected myself to this abuse. Oh well, so much for self reflection.

I have not made that many trips over to that area, especially not on a Friday afternoon. I did go to Busch Gardens back in the 70s and then to Clearwater in the 80s...I think I remember that much of the country between Orlando and Tampa was rolling hills covered with Orange Groves. Nary a tree did I see on this trip. No groves, a lot of strip malls, theme parks, furniture stores, and lots of state of the art traffic engineered off and on ramps. What Orange Groves?

The boat was a 65 footer. There were about 30 anglers. These guys are hard core. The sister ship in this fleet does 39 and 44 hour trips, too. There are two items on the ship's agenda, fish and snack, that's it. I'm almost embarrassed to say I went on the 44 hour trip a few months ago and maybe slept for 6 or 8 hours the whole time. On the 12 hour trip, it takes about 2 ½ hours to get to the first spot. For the next 6 or 7 hours, you fish. The boat will move about 6 or 7 times, depending on how productive the catch is at each spot. This trip wasn't all that productive. The electronics showed lots of fish, but for whatever reason, the big ones weren't biting. I caught a lot of red eye snappers, lane snappers, and porgies. Some of the other guys caught some 6-8 lb Mangroves and some nice gag grouper (out of season), but I must not have been holding my mouth right. Now on the 44 hour trip, I did much better: a nice gag and quite a few mangroves.



We got back to the dock at 7 AM as promised and I was thinking well, early Saturday morning, a non work day, I'll be back in Daytona Beach in no time...WRONG. Where did all these people come from and where did they learn to drive? The 85 MPH terror train escalated...it was still bumper to bumper but a group of lunatics in BMWs, Porsches, and I think it was a Lamborghini, were weaving through the 85 MPH parade like mad men. The Porsche and the Lamborghini weaved past, and just as the BMW blew by me, a FHP heading in the opposite direction had seen enough. He cut across the median and in front of us, blue lights flashing...up ahead he had the BMW pulled over, and all at once, there was a FHP about every mile or so. Traffic slowed to a tolerable 75 or 80 (felt like 35). Traffic was thick till I got to Deltona and thought to myself I will never complain about being stuck on Granada or Dunlawton again.

The drive over to St. Petersburg really brought into focus what lies ahead for Volusia County. The gap of wilderness and Orange Groves that used to exist between Orlando and Tampa is no more; it is all developed or paved. The traffic now extends into the western part of Volusia County and it is coming this way,... and we are expanding to meet it. I couldn't help but look at the mass of people on their personal water craft and 32 foot Black Fin Boats with 4 250 Horsepower outboards racing across the water at John's Pass....is this our future? Sadly, I am afraid it is...but thankfully, consolation exists in knowing we got the best of it.

'til next time,
Paul

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Weegie Keundig

Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

This month I have a few topics to discuss.

I am calling it This, That, and the Other.

This: I have been thinking very hard about our redistricting in Daytona Beach. Every 10 years we must do this. It is based on the results of the 2020 Census. Two things are clear: our Zones must be based on the even distribution of population and they must be compact. We hired a consulting firm from Orlando to do some of the needed work. It is up to the Commission to eventually decide. At the last Commission meeting, the Mayor and Commissioners Strickland and Paris voted to just be presented a map that would detail what our districts would look like if communities of interest were the basis of drawing new lines. I would like to see that as well. It would show what the lines would look like if the Beachside, Midtown, Downtown, etc., each had one representative. But they were voted down. I struggle with supporting this option even though I'd like to see what it would look like. Is it better to have 3 commissioners to represent citizens and that we could hold accountable as we have now (Beachside Midtown,) or just one for each community of interest? I struggle with having just one as I think it could be divisive and more votes could be six to one. I always want all the information available even if it costs a few dollars more.

That: It is not too early to start watching to see who will be running in the 2024 elections or to make certain your registration is up to date and to request vote by mail if you so choose. Elections have huge consequences as we have seen. You can also look up how elected officials have voted on issues in the past and also find out from whom their election money is coming. In my opinion development interests are highly over-



represented. This effects our quality of life and the ability to govern ourselves locally (Home Rule). Please start now.

The Other: I always have loved watching the college kids Cheer Competitions held at the Ocean Center. I drive by just to catch a glimpse of some of the 9000 students performing and practicing outside. There has been some criticism that our city isn't doing enough for them, that we don't have enough rooms, etc. and that we are going to lose the event. There is another side. This competition is run by Varsity Spirit. It is a highly organized, private entity that wields a lot of power. It is not an NCAA event (although the group represents Division 1A colleges). As such they make many demands on our hotels, the parents, spectators and the athletes, including where they must stay, what bus companies they must use, on and on. I don't believe it's necessarily the fault of the city or the hospitality industry that we lost some of our room availability due to tropical storms last fall. Negotiations are going to be tough. I hope Varsity Spirit will be understanding after 25 years and make certain they give us an opportunity to recover.

Happy Springtime. Still hoping for some rain.

As always, thanks for the opportunity to chime in.

Weegie Kuendig
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 386-451-6470

LEAVING LOCKDOWN

We're back for another exciting edition of...*Leaving Lockdown!* (sounds of canned applause and laughter) In this month's column, we catch up on the adventures and misadventures of my ongoing transition to living with Dad (90), who has spent the last 30 years in rural Vermont. Hashtag #convowithdad

Act 1: This New Place Called Home

[camera zooms in on Dad and the dog, who are coming back from a chilly December walk around the block.]

Dog: I am not done yet. It's cold here. And I miss my sofa.

Dad: Come on, come on, sweetheart. Come on inside.

Dog, pulling hard on the leash: I am not happy with the situation.

Dad, reaching down to fondle his ears: Come on, dear. This is home now.

Act II: The Florida Experience

[Camera zooms in on a quiet living room, where we are watching TV]

Dad: Here's another attorney advertisement.

Me: [cringing] yes, ha ha! We get ads for car dealers, prescription drugs, and lawyers.

Dad: Well, I'm not interested in prescription drugs.

[A pause, while the local news anchor goes on about what's happening in Volusia County.]

Dad: It's very violent here.

Act III: Someone's In The Kitchen

[camera zooms in on the kitchen, where I am putting away clean dishes. I stoop down to put away reusable plastics.]

Me: Oh, it's so hard to find any ROOM for these things...random lids, things that don't have other things to fit into...

Dad: That drawer does seem full.

Me: I know! I know, I know, I have to organize it so it will all fit together. Then there's enough room.

Dad: Do you need to throw some of these out?

Act IV: In Which We Discuss Entertainment Options

[Camera zooms in on Dad and Husband watching YouTube in the living room. Husband has gotten Dad hooked on videos of young attractive women building bamboo homes using minimal tools. They are both riveted.]

Dad: So you have this on DVD?

Husband: No, this is on YouTube.

Dad: Does that mean I can find it on YouTube?

Husband: Yep!

Dad: So I can find it on my own TV in the bedroom?

Husband: Yep!

Dad: Amazing!

Act V: The Problem with Cars

[camera zooms in on Husband and I arriving to help Dad, who has a problem.]

Dad: The damn car won't shift gears.

Husband: Here, let me try. *[Turns out Dad has just forgotten that he has to press the brake pedal before he can shift into reverse.]*

Me: Are you okay?

Dad: That was a little humiliating.

Me: This is why you live with family now, so we can come rescue you.

Dad: Well, this won't happen again.

Me: Even if it does, we'll still come rescue you.

Dad: I need a nap. I'm a little freaked out.

Act VI: Getting to Know You

[camera zooms in on the living room, where we are, once again, watching the news]

Dad: I hate these ads for lawyers.

Me: I know.

Dad: Look, it's our friend, Dan Newlin!

Me: You're settling right in, aren't you?

Dad: I suppose I am.

If you can help, thank you!

Lisa Gall

Bo Nickell

Larry & Jane Weiner

Tom & Betsy Russell

Paul & Trudie Skinner

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Boylston (east end): Frank Stein

Boylston (west end): Marc Reside

Brookline: Donna Hiatt

Chaffee Place: Sherry & Bill Phillips

Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness

Columbus: Nancy Koenig & Nikolai Hargreaves

Euclid: Janice & Mike Felisko

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Flushing and Manhattan: Ed Labonville

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Woodland: Don Hietala and Kim Medina

Zelda: Elly & Rachael Petersen

*Special thanks to our other volunteers: Frank Stein and Reba Peters.
A special thanks to Hannah King for her clerical expertise!*