

## Bellaire Community Group

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority



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Join us at the Schnebly Center 1101 N Atlantic Ave Thursday, June 15th! Meal at 600 p.m. Meeting at 630 p.m.

\$5 donation suggested

Dinner: Pulled Pork on a Bun Potato Salad and Cole Slaw Homemade Peach Cobbler with Ice Cream Beverages I am so grateful to Paul for stepping up and chairing the meetings in my absence. This month I again share with you the recaps from Jeff Boyle, Nancy Koenig, and Paul Zimmerman.



### Jeff Boyle --- The May 18th Bellaire

Community Group meeting was another great night to write home about. Nancy Koenig and company served a delicious (\$5 optional) dinner, Gnocchi with spinach and chicken sausage, garlic bread, tasty dessert, and beverage. Word has gotten out. Three lovely ladies joined me at my table, two attending for the first time.

Sheriff Chitwood was sensational, giving Paul Zimmerman's thoughtful questions 45 minutes of spellbinding answers on local law enforcement and personal internet threats. Most importantly, Mike Chitwood made it clear he loves his job, Volusia County, and the terrific people who live here. A group of attendees lined up at the end of the meeting to get their picture taken with our gracious (and sometimes feisty) sheriff. He serves us well. Join us and bring a friend or two to our next meeting: Thursday, June 15th, 6:30, optional dinner served at 6 p.m.

**Nancy Koenig** ---One of my favorite entrées at Mario's Italian Restaurant is Gnocchi with Sausage. This inspired my meal for May. I found this version in one of my Taste of Home magazines (my new source of meal ideas for BCG). Connie and Ellen arrived early at Schnebly to set up for the evening while I finished up the Gnocchi dish at home with Steve. Reba joined as well to help serve the meal. June's meal will be prepared by BCG members Sue and Jan. A BIG thank you to these ladies for stepping up and providing Connie, Ellen and Reba a well-deserved break.

I look forward to seeing my BCG family again this month. I miss those of you who have not been able to attend the meetings and pray all are well. I am excited to meet new neighbors at the meeting too! So come join us and experience the spirit of friendship and community that I love!

#### **Bellaire Community Group**

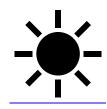
2000 N. Halifax Daytona Beach, FL 32118

> 2023 Officers Chair

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### **Contributors**

Derrick Henry Mike Chitwood Ken Strickland Paul Zimmerman Weegie Keundig Jakari Young Steve Koenig

### AGENDA

- 1. 6 p.m. dinner
- 2. Call to Order and Pledge
- 3. Crime and safety report-Captain Jeremy Nikolow
- 4. Featured guest: Deric Feacher, CODB City Manager
- 5. Adjourn
- 6. Put tables and chairs away and
- 7. Go home with a smile!

### (con't from first page)

**Paul Zimmerman**—At last month's meeting it was my pleasure to interview Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood. Sheriff Chitwood is a long-time friend of BCG and he was warmly welcomed. We covered three main topics: 1) the new State of Florida's constitutional carry firearm law, 2) the recent anti-Semitic group which threatened to kill Sheriff Chitwood, and of course (3) the new State law giving him law enforcement jurisdiction over Volusia County's beaches. Sheriff Chitwood is a clear communicator and explained in his direct way his thoughts and feelings on all three subjects. He further explained the legal aspects of the new gun law and the parameters of his office's responsibilities and parameters concerning our beach. It is always fun to have Mike come back and visit what he called "his home," our Bellaire Community Group. This month we welcome Daytona Beach City Manager, Deric Feacher as our guest.

I hope you enjoyed the feedback from Jeff, Nancy, and Paul again this month.

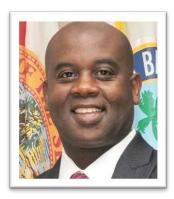
You may recall from last month that we announced setting our fundraising goal at \$6,000. We decided to continue fundraising efforts and increased our goal to \$6,500. It is with great pleasure we can announce we not only reached our goal, but far exceeded it raising \$7,215! Thank you to all who donated, no matter what amount, EVERY DOLLAR COUNTS!

Thanks for being a part of this journey,

Steve and Nancy Koenig



## OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry Mayor of Daytona Beach

The Oceanfront Bandshell is the place to be every Friday and Saturday night for this summer's free concert series. Concerts begin at 7:15 p.m. and feature the best tribute bands covering all genres of music including country, rock n' roll, disco, funk, Motown and R&B. Saturday night concerts are followed by fireworks display at about 9:45 p.m. The City of Daytona Beach is once again a proud sponsor of these popular concerts. For a complete list of acts through the end of September, please visit <u>www.daytonabandshell.com</u>.

The city will be celebrating our local veterans and first responders during our annual Fourth of July parade on Main Street. Starting at 10 a.m. on **Tuesday**, **July 4**, the parade will run from east to west along Main Street and feature combat veterans, military organizations and public safety groups. I hope to see you there!





Mike Chitwood Volusia County Sheriff

With another Memorial Day weekend behind us, I hope everyone got a chance to pause, honor our fallen service men and women and celebrate the freedoms they fought and died to protect.

I also hope your summer has gotten off to a smooth start. From a public safety standpoint, the Sheriff's Office and our law enforcement partners in your area have been putting in a lot of hard work to make it a safe one.

As you probably know, we put Florida's "special event zone" legislation to work again over the Memorial Day weekend. With social media full of posts about an "Orlando Invades Daytona" party on the beach, our staff worked hard to identify the promoters who were actively advertising an event that was not permitted or sanctioned.

Once they were identified, I was able to send certified letters to two separate promoters, warning them that their unsanctioned events would be met with strict enforcement of all laws and codes, with fines doubled and violators towed.

It was a pleasant surprise to hear back quickly from both promoters, each stating they'd stop advertising the event and attempt to go through the proper permitting process in the future.

Of course that didn't stop some big crowds of people from coming to the beach. After all, we're a destination town and common sense tells you a holiday weekend is going to draw a crowd. But we avoided the out-of-control masses of people that caused major disruptions and public safety concerns in other tourism cities as recently as a few weeks ago. (Just look up Tybee Island Orange Crush for one example.)

We knew the Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekend crowds would be big tests for us following the Governor's signing of HB 1595, which required us to take over law enforcement authority on the beach. Like any brand-new challenge, there will be lessons you can only learn through experience. But based on the feedback I heard from the public over the weekend and in the days following, I know VSO passed the test. Our beach deputies along with all the units pitching in from other zones did a fantastic job safeguarding our beachgoers and keeping our roads and waterways safe.

One of the next big tests will be the July 4 weekend, and my expectation is that our system will be running even better by then. We need all Beach Safety personnel to fully embrace the change, and focus on handling all lifeguard, EMS and beach management duties. When they fully take on those tasks, it allows our deputies to focus on preventing crime up and down the beach and across the beachside.

Speaking of Beach Safety, I also want to share another reminder about swimming in front of a lifeguard. With rip currents and heavy surf persisting over the past several days, unfortunately we have seen swimmers lose their lives, or come close to it. While I know you all understand this already, I think we have a duty to remind our visitors that Volusia County has lifeguards for a reason. Rip currents and rough surf conditions are dangerous no matter where you are. My advice is if you're not an experienced swimmer, don't go out into a situation you may not be able to handle.

Thank you again for all your support of our deputies and staff. Not everyone is lucky to have the kind of appreciation you show us each and every day. The least we can do is work hard to live up to it!

Stay safe, Sheriff Chitwood



Ken Strickland City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

I wish to thank everyone for the prayers, love, kindness, cards, emails, texts, phone calls, and support during this difficult time of loss with the passing of my wife Deborah Ann Jarnagin.

At the last Commission Meeting we discussed upgrading lighting on Seabreeze. Additionally, there will be more cameras added. The cameras will be capable of being monitored by the DBPD from the laptops each Officer has in their vehicle. Initially this will help to resolve problems in that area quickly. I think once word of this reaches the street, it will be a deterrent to crime in the future.

The large turnout at the last Planning Board Meeting caused the developer to settle for a continuance for 60 days. Just more proof that more participants in meetings as projects move through the process is what it takes for residents to be heard and taken seriously.

> Ken Strickland Zone 2 Commissioner <u>Stricklandken@codb.us</u> 386-307-4253

## A NATIVE REMEMBERS

### Paul Zimmerman Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Recently, the Florida State Legislature passed a bill that gives the Volusia County Sheriff the responsibility as the law enforcement authority on our beach, while prior to this law's passing, the Beach Patrol provided law enforcement on the beach. Leading up to the legislative action, there were some contentious exchanges between the Beach Patrol and the Sheriff's department. Clearly, the Beach Patrol wanted to hang on to the law enforcement component and attempted to make their case in the news and social media. These attempts fell on deaf ears and the bill was passed and signed by Governor DeSantis.

I grew up here and worked on the beach in the 1960s when the number of tourists on our beach dwarfed the numbers we have today. Back then, driving on the beach was free, 24 hours, 7 days a week. Literally, there were days when 100,000 people mixed with cars on our beach--and there was little police presence, because there was little need for them. On the rare occasion that law enforcement was needed, it was handled by the local police departments. The lifeguards sat in red towers and focused ALL their attention on swimmers. A drowning was extremely rare. Those red towers stretched the length of our beach, no more than a couple hundred vards apart. Vigilance, safety, and friendliness permeated the beach using this model. Somehow, through the management of Volusia County, we abandoned that highly effective, friendly, and relatively cost-efficient system. Today, red towers with guards are as scarce as hen's teeth.

I was hopeful that the state-mandated change in authorities and jurisdictions would result in the return of the red towers being staffed with lifeguards, along with return of a minimal presence of law enforcement on what should be a playground. But I am beginning to believe that if there is a way to improve the management of our beach, the bureaucrats in Deland will find a way to sabotage it. Instead of letting Sheriff Chitwood, who



has a remarkable record of management, take over the beach safety operations, the wizards in Deland decided to cut the baby in half. The lines between the Sheriff's law enforcement authority and the Beach Patrol's authority are as clear as mud. On top of that, despite no longer having any law enforcement responsibilities, lifeguards remain in red trucks, rather than sit in a red tower. We have signs posted at every beach approach instructing visitors to swim in front of a lifeguard. Volusia County management has those lifeguards drive up and down the beach in those red trucks. Swimming in front of a guard in this model requires our visitors to be excellent swimmers. I am not going to say this model is stupid, but this has to be the most inefficient way to provide safety for swimmers ever conceived.

As most of you know, since tropical storms Ian and Nicole, our beach sand has eroded significantly. That erosion along with rising sea levels has left multiple days when the tide is at the turtle poles and in some areas up to the seawalls. There is simply not enough room to drive the lifeguard trucks. This "guards in trucks rather than guards in towers" model leaves the great majority of our beach often without any lifeguard presence at all. How do Volusia County and the Beach Patrol justify the lack of lifeguard protection during these more and more frequent days? ....especially when many of these higher tides come along with large surf? The word "dereliction" comes to mind. Let's learn from the past. Put lifeguards in red towers, not in red trucks. 'til next time,

Paul

## SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Weegie Keundig Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

The very spirited Planning Board meeting last week concerning the Silver Beach Development PD request has me thinking about words that begin with "P": Planning, Process and Priorities.

I'll start with Priorities. Each year our Commission meets to establish goals that become priorities. They are generally fairly broad. This year's priorities include solutions to affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, and increased leisure activities. Worthwhile, but I feel like we are missing something huge. Namely, enforcing stricter oceanfront standards (which were codified and developed years ago but have since been waived or summarily dismissed) and developing an environmental roadmap for the safety and quality of life for residents on the Beachside. Waiting for the County to do something, when the city can do something, seems to me like passing the buck. Just take a look at our own Hartford approach.

The city can use its own Planning Department to enforce our Land Development Code rules. Namely, and in part CODB LDC 6.15.2: "To safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare, and to minimize public and private losses due to flooding through regulation of development in flood hazard areas." The development of the Silver Beach project virtually ignores this and other necessary and good Beachside Planning Principles-- things like minimum setbacks, maximum heights and density, transition areas, adequate landscaping, shading of the beach and neighboring properties, wider sidewalks, impervious surfaces, continued beach access for residents, etc.

Now to the Process for dealing with this and other wildly inappropriate development requests coming forward from developers: The Beachside Redevelopment Board passed the Silver



Beach request onto the Planning Board. It is difficult for me to fathom why, considering the state of our beach environment. In my opinion, this was a dangerously irresponsible vote with heavy consequences for residents. Our residents, including the SOB's, BNW, and BCG, took exception to this and showed up in force to speak passionately against this project. Public input is a required step in the approval process. Just when residents thought the Planning Board would deny this project, the attorney for the developer snatched a small victory at the last minute by asking for a rehearing in two months, which was granted. But make no mistake, residents were victorious as well - and we get the same opportunity to use those extra two months to regroup.

I urge you to stay informed, get involved, write emails, make phone calls, and especially speak up and plan to attend the next Planning Board meeting (probably July 27) where this project will be discussed and likely voted on. It will determine when, if, and how this development as proposed moves forward. Please go to Facebook Pages like Sons of the Beach and Free Daytona Beach; please go to BNW meetings and your own BCG meetings. These are great ways to find out what the next steps are in the process for residents will be.

Until then, as always, thanks for the opportunity.

Weegie Kuendig <u>dkuendig@aol.com</u> 386-451- 6470

## LEAVING LOCKDOWN

Normally, June is my time for slowing down, taking time to visit the beach, go swimming, take naps, go out for lunch...this year, all my activities are changed by the presence of my beloved Dad, who has moved in with us and is experiencing the disorientation that always happens when someone from way up north moves way down south. I'm seeing all of this in a brand-new way, through his eyes...and also, since we're in a new, bigger house somewhat north of Daytona Beach, seeing it through my own new eyes. The biggest change? The resident wildlife.

We—me, my husband, and my dad (and our cat and his dog)--are living in a forested area. For me this is a big change from living beachside. Not just the change in traffic conditions or weather patterns, not just the size of the house, but the change in the sounds I hear every day.

Living beachside, I heard almost the same things every day. Mockingbirds shouting the morning welcome, doves cooing hello, bluejays harassing the bird feeders and occasionally being targeted by irritated mockingbirds who assume (rightly) that bluejays are predators of nests and baby birds. A mockingbird flock mobbing a bluejay or occasional hawk is a seismic event, soundwise. It's as intense as the bikers roaring down the street during the event season!

Here in the forest, my daily soundscape is much different. I don't hear any mockingbirds. I don't hear mourning doves or the ring-neck doves who talk all day long in the back yard at the beach house. Instead, I hear the morning yelling of the crows, the piercing call of woodpeckers in mating season, and the afternoon carol of the cardinals. Something that's probably a Carolina wren sings a loud song, over and over. The crows—whom I have every intention of courting with peanuts—wake up every morning to jump onto my roof and stomp around. It always seems like they're taunting us! (And maybe they are.) One thing is different from any experience I had during over 20 years on the beachside. Deer. This forested area connects to the Tomoka forest, and deer are everywhere! And I mean everywhere. A crew of about 15 to 20 deer cruises through here, almost every day. Most are does, shepherding young ones in various stages of fawn-hood (and some in the very earliest stages of their white spots!). A few young bucks, baby horns just starting to sprout, sometimes show up and stare at us, watching the dog, occasionally stomping their front feet to show how unthreatened they are.

Last week, I was in the back yard when a very, very young fawn—still damp and showing the lick marks of birthing from her mama-came stumbling out from the underbrush, making a tiny "beep beep" bleating noise. I froze solid, hoping Mom was somewhere nearby. She was. She came stalking out of the woods, making comfortable grunting noises, and the fawn made her awkward way over, butting immediately for milk. Mama looked at me. I looked back. Mama turned and walked away, and her baby, unable to follow, collapsed into a tangle of legs. I was horrified that just my presence could result in Mom walking away and I left immediately. Five minutes later, when I peeked out the back door, both of them were safely gone. I've never once seen deer beachside, and having them nearby-and familiar enough to let their babies hide silently in the woods so close to my back door-is a gift beyond measure.

Recent additional animal evidence: wild pigs have started to dig up promising areas of the surrounding woods, encroaching onto the lawn. More interesting: a pile of coyote scat, clearly identified by my animal biology colleagues, sitting defiantly under the fig tree. What's next, **bears**? Please, not bears!

Next month, I may talk about the direct impact of development around here. Pigs and coyotes in my back yard? Just how much of their native land is being destroyed?

Stay safe, everyone.

## **ANNUAL FUND RAISER UPDATE**

### Thank you! So far, as of June 4, you've given us \$7,215.00 We know what the donation means: you support our efforts and our goals.

Our goal was \$6,000. Your donations mean the world to us, and this year's contributions are unprecented. Thank you

### Residents (\$1 and up)

Anonymous (4) David Brown Ron Cammarata

### Neighbors (\$25 and up)

Anonymous (8) K. & C. Carey Pat & Larry Carrico Laurie & Jim Clark Pat Crowley Jim & Beth Fox

### Friends (\$50 and up)

Anonymous (2) Lee Apperson Will Arsenault Jeff Boyle Mark & Glenda Buttry Ron & Otilia Donovan John & Debbie Druzbick Christine Franczek Judy "Mac"

### Patrons (\$100 and up)

Anonymous (4) The Alfords Beach Buns—Russ and Cyndee Klauss Clint and Mary Brooks Random & Deborah Burnett Rose Marie Candler

### Sponsors (\$200 and up)

Anonymous (1) Chris & Julie Brown Don Kane & Associates Don & Hannah King Steve & Nancy Koenig Nancy & Bodhi Lewandowskyj for your support!

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### Angels (\$500 and up)

Anonymous (1)

### FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Jakari Young, Chief of Police of Daytona Beach

The Daytona Beach Police Department held their annual awards ceremony on June 1<sup>st</sup> at the Mori Hosseini Center. This is the one evening each year where I am able to put the spotlight on some of our best and brightest sworn and civilian employees. They are truly professional public servants. I'm pleased to announce just a few of the outstanding men and women who received high honors during this year's ceremony.

Our "Detective of the Year" for 2022 is Collin Howell. Detective Howell is an asset to the Criminal Investigations Division. Detective Howell played a major role in the capture of Jean Macean, the subject who committed the heinous murders of Brenda and Terry Aultman. Detective Howell committed 105 hours to solving this case. He has a pleasant demeanor and is a "go to" detective for anyone needing assistance.

Jason Dungan is the Civilian of the Year. The department was faced with challenges in recruiting new officers. After efforts were revised, Jason went to work. He processed over 160 applications and interviews in an effort to hire new recruits. Jason played an integral role in the DBPD-DSC cohort Academy.

Every year, we present a Lifetime Achievement Award. This year was Detective Wayne Dorman. Detective Dorman had a full career with Daytona Beach Police Department, a full career with Port Orange Police Department and returned to Daytona PD in 2015. His career spans 50 years. Detective Dorman has served in various capacities to include, patrol, K9, Field Training Officer, narcotic unit sergeant, patrol sergeant and detective sergeant. He is well respected by his peers and the community he serves.

Our "Officer of the Year" for 2022 is Keme Okoya. Officer Okoya is a well-respected member of our agency. He goes above and beyond on a regular basis. Officer Okoya is always willing to assist with any needs that may arise. He is a self-starter and utilizes the beginning of his shift to look for prowlers and detect unreported crimes. He volunteers for community events including Shop with a Cop. Officer Okoya is diligent with traffic enforcement, educating drivers on safety rules and statutes to increase their awareness.



This year we had our first ever "Rookie of the Year." This award was presented to Officer Andrea Heredia. Officer Heredia began her career with the Daytona Beach Police Department in July 2021. She works well with her fellow officers and supervisors. She has a positive attitude and is always willing to assist residents and visitors of our community. Officer Heredia conducts thorough investigations and her reports are excellent. She is the epitome of Rookie of the Year.

There was one Medal of Honor winner this year: Officer Toure Randolph. Officer Randolph was dispatched to an attempted burglary in December 2022. Upon arrival, a VSO Sergeant was speaking with the individual who was previously trespassed from the location. Officer Randolph began to take the subject into custody when the subject produced a knife. The subject began to ambush Officer Randolph and the VSO Sergeant. Officer Randolph was stabbed in the jaw by the subject, centimeters away from his jugular vein. After being nearly mortally wounded, Officer Randolph discharged his firearm, stopping the threat of the felony offender. Officer Randolph was hospitalized for treatment of his injuries and was released soon thereafter. His bravery in the face of self-peril was above the call of duty.

I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Daytona Beach Police Department and already looking forward to honoring next year's award recipients for the great work they are doing in 2023.

I am proud to be their Chief.

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### <u>Thanks for the Journey!</u>



A1A Condos: Steve and Nancy Koenig Bel Aire & Driftwood: Jamie Love & David Hermann Boylston (east end): Frank Stein Boylston (west end): Marc Reside Brookline: Donna Hiatt Chaffee Place: Sherry & Bill Phillips Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness Columbus: Terre Tumminello Euclid: Janice & Mike Felisko Flagstone: Ellen Gerard Flushing and Manhattan: Ed Labonbille Golf: Lisa Gall N. Grandview: Connie Lambert Hartford: Kassi Mercy Jacaranda, Chipeway: George Burden Morningside: Ted & Cindy Beers N. Oleander, Auburn, Cornell, Bucknell: Dan Stockman

Pelican: MaryAnn and Danny LangtonN. Halifax: Nancy Koenig & Nikolai HargreavesN. Peninsula (North end): Judy SchroederN. Peninsula (South end): Lawrie DavidsonNautilus: Susan McDonaldPlaza: Stacy PrestwoodSeabreeze High School Area: Paul ZimmermanSeaview: Suzy LamoureuxStanford: Netta WeinerWilliams: Megan O'Neill and Rachel OwensWaverly: Margaret Fathi and Jules LemosWoodland: Don Hietala and Kim MedinaZelda: Elly & Rachael Petersen

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