



# BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority



July 2023

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This month, Paul is taking a much-needed break, and in the absence of Paul and myself, Nancy will step up and run the meeting. I again share with you the recaps from Jeff Boyle, Nancy Koenig, and Paul Zimmerman from last month.



**Jeff Boyle** --- *A large crowd braved severe weather warnings to attend the June 15th meeting of the Bellaire Community Group. The \$5 dinner served by Nancy and friends featured the sweetest pulled pork sandwich on the planet, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, and homemade peach cobbler. A perfect meal to celebrate the official start of summer.*

*Daytona Beach City Manager Deric Feacher was informative and refreshingly candid in answering every question posed by Paul Zimmerman and audience members. The job is enormous, but Mr. Feacher has embraced it while remaining positive and humble. He made it clear he loves Daytona Beach and its residents. Several group members praised positive changes occurring in the city.*

*Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 20. Bring a friend, and enjoy great food, an educational presentation, and wonderful people.*

**Nancy Koenig** --- *Sue and Jan did a fabulous job preparing the tasty pulled pork, sides, and homemade peach cobbler, and also went the extra mile and decorated our tables with festive décor for the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday. Thank you, ladies!*

*This month I look forward to preparing another one of my favorites, Beef and Cabbage Casserole. It is similar to stuffed cabbage, but unstuffed. Dessert is one my Nana made a lot when we were little: Caramel Rice Pudding.*

*As Steve continues to recover at home and Paul will be traveling, I will be hosting the July meeting. I am looking forward to meeting new neighbors and seeing my old friends too! Come join us at the monthly BCG meeting and see what you have been missing. I promise you it will be worth it.*

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

\$5 donation suggested

Dinner:  
Beef and Cabbage Casserole  
Served over Rice  
Corn Bread  
Caramel Rice Pudding  
Beverages

## Bellaire Community Group

**2000 N. Halifax  
Daytona Beach, FL 32118**

### **2023 Officers**

#### **Chair**

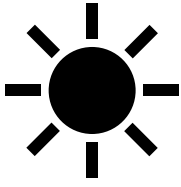
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### **Contributors**

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

## AGEIDA

1. 6 p.m. dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guest: Chad Macfie, Marine Science Center Manager
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

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(con't from first page)

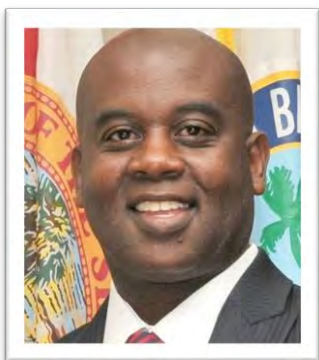
**Paul Zimmerman** --- *Last month I had the privilege and enjoyable opportunity to interview Daytona Beach City Manager, Mr. Deric Feacher. We discussed several topics including the road construction on Halifax Ave., the Proto Group (the Russian Project) abandoned north tower's future, mid-town flooding, the development of Avalon, and the difficult agreement between the cities of Daytona Beach and Ormond Beach regarding water and traffic. Mr. Feacher offered detailed information on these topics. He also agreed to provide an article for our future newsletters to help keep members of BCG informed on the workings of our city. Mr. Feacher fielded questions from the audience in several freewheeling exchanges with BCG members.*

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

We look forward to welcoming Chad Macfie from the Marine Science Center for our July meeting. Chad has been a guest in the past and has been well received by our group. I think everyone will enjoy his new presentation about Volusia County's Artificial Reef Program history, reef building, science, and implication to fisheries management.

Thanks for being a part of this journey.  
Steve and Nancy Koenig

# OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



*Derrick Henry*  
*Mayor of Daytona Beach*

Wastewater and stormwater infrastructure plays a vital role in maintaining public health, protecting the environment, and ensuring the wellbeing of coastal communities like Daytona Beach. Following the unprecedented back-to-back storms of Ian and Nicole, the state created an emergency grant program for eligible governments to accelerate restoration and address sustained damages to critical wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. Utilities staff submitted seven eligible projects, and I'm proud to say, the city was awarded \$3.9 million, which was the full funding request with no matching funding required. The projects include repairs, replacements and upgrades to pump stations, lift stations and generators.

For a list of the individual projects, please visit [www.codb.us](http://www.codb.us).



*Mike Chitwood*  
*Volusia County Sheriff*

I'd like to share a progress report on one of the best new programs we launched last year, the Volusia Family Resource Center.

First, a quick reminder of what it's all about. The FRC is a one-stop shop we created to connect juveniles and their families with all the agencies and service providers they need following an encounter with law enforcement.

In some cases, these are kids who have been arrested for thefts, burglaries, car breaks and gun crimes. In other cases, they haven't committed any crime at all – they ran away from home, missed school, or were victims of abuse or neglect.

Whatever the case may be, when we get these kids into the FRC, we can process them, give them a comprehensive screening and get them started in the right programs from our criminal justice and social service partners who are right there on site.

Since opening the FRC's doors in November, we have seen more than 1,000 kids come through the doors. That includes about 500 Sheriff's Office cases and more than 500 from all our area police departments, plus the Flagler, Putnam and St. Johns Sheriff's Offices, in addition to the Florida Highway Patrol and Department of Juvenile Justice.

It truly is a collaborative, regional effort that benefits everyone. In addition to DJJ, our partners include the Children's Home Society, Halifax Behavioral Services, and Hope Florida, a Department of

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Children and Families program that provides “navigators” to guide families toward better opportunities.

Besides helping to steer our youth in a more positive direction, the FRC is also proving to be a valuable crime prevention asset. During the screening process, we’re able to collect information, intelligence, and data that’s helpful in both current and future investigations. We’re also running an ankle monitor program for the entire county out of the FRC. For those young offenders who do decide to reoffend, today we are better able to quickly identify them, find them and intervene.

We all know that juvenile crime has been an issue in our community. With the Family Resource Center finally up and running, I believe we are making progress. No program can replace effective parenting, positive role models, good education and a variety of extracurricular and after-school activities. But when all else fails, the Family Resource Center is there to provide the right combination of accountability, consequences, resources, and services delivered to the kids and families who need them most.

You can find the FRC at [3747 W. International Speedway Blvd., Daytona Beach](#), by calling 386-254-1512, or emailing [family@volusiasheriff.gov](mailto:family@volusiasheriff.gov).

-Sheriff Mike Chitwood



*Ken Strickland  
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

Some of you were present for the Grand Reopening of Colin’s Park. It was a great event. The park is one of the nicest parks in the city. Our public works department did a wonderful job with the dog park and amenities that accompany it. Parks and Recreation provided hotdogs, drinks, and ice cream for everyone. The City Manager was there as well as several department heads. Thank you to all Departments and staff for your hard work on this project. The park also has new equipment and security cameras will be installed soon. If you haven’t been there lately go by and check it out.

Effective September 1<sup>st</sup>, Zone 2 on the beachside will now be bordered on the north by Ormond Beach extending south to the north side of East ISB. New maps of the zones will be available soon from the Supervisor of Elections office. New Voter Registration Cards will be mailed out as well.

Paving will continue and make our neighborhoods more attractive. Although paving creates some inconvenience, it’s well worth it in the end. University was paved this week and is nice and smooth to drive on.

Until next month.

Ken Strickland  
Zone 2 Commissioner  
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# A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman*

*Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

I recently bought a little 17 foot travel trailer. A cute little thing with a refrigerator, microwave, gas stove, bathroom, and, most importantly, cold AC. I'm planning a trip out west to Montana down through Wyoming, onto the Grand Canyon, and back to Florida. So I won't be around for about a month. It'll be just me and my copilot and best friend, CC, my red heeler dog.

I took the trailer out for a shakedown cruise a couple weeks ago to Salt Springs in the Ocala National Forest. I have been to Juniper, Alexander, DeLeon, and Silver Glenn Springs before, but I was looking for a place that offered nice camping sites with full hook ups, and Salt Springs filled the bill. Salt Springs, like Juniper, Alexander, and Silver Glenn, has crystal clear aqua-colored boils and runs that empty into Lake George, which is part of the beautiful St. John's River. They are all unique in some way. Silver Glenn is closest to Lake George and its run is pretty short and you can bring a boat up near the boil. Juniper run, my favorite, is one that every Floridian should experience at least once. Kayaking or canoeing the narrow Juniper is like a trip through a part on undisturbed Florida; any attempt to describe its beauty is well beyond my capabilities. You should check it out if you can.

The stay at Salt Springs was enjoyable. Salt Springs run is more like a river--wide and runs for 2 miles before emptying into Lake George. The boil at Salt Springs is a little different than the others, in that at Salt there are large outcroppings of rocks around the mouth of the boil where you can stand. The water around the boils of the other springs is too deep to stand. The spring water temperature is all the same, around 70 degrees...which feels like 50 when it is 95 out. It is like they say, it ain't bad once you get in. In fact, it feels great. Salt Springs has a hiking trail that goes through high ground with huge oaks and long needle pines. Parts of the trail cross low swampy areas with elevated



wooden walkways. In this area, there are large cypress trees that have found refuge from the sawmill's blade. These springs are a treasure and their beauty is something we should enjoy and protect.

As a child back in the 50s, a trip to the springs was an adventure that is still in my memory banks. Our neighbor, Mrs. Heffner, would load up her station wagon with her three beautiful daughters, my brother, and me, and she would take us most often to Deleon Springs. I have pictures of my dad and his family at Deleon Springs back in the 1930s. There was a high dive at Deleon into the boil back then. Occasionally, Mrs. Heffner would take the longer drive to Sanlando Springs. Sanlando had a huge slide that, to me, was one hundred feet tall. In my mind's eye, I can still see the slippery wooden ladder that led to the platform, and the shiny steel-covered slide, glistening in the sun, that shot you into the boil. Sanlando is now private, and no longer accessible to the public.

Like so much of what makes Florida special, these springs, and all the springs in Florida, are suffering from the increase in our population and from the strain on the water supply that comes with that increase. As I get older and look around, the more grateful I am to have experienced what I call "the best of it." The "best of it," in my opinion, is relative to what remains closest to undisturbed Florida. What remains undisturbed today will be looked at as "the best of it" in the future. Find some of it, and enjoy it while you can.

'til next time,

Paul

# SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

*Weegie Kuendig*  
*Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods*

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

We are experiencing some of the worst heat ever. Hope everyone is coping. At the last Commission Meeting, there was a lot of conversation about looking for some shade and hoping a bench was underneath it - whether in parks, on sidewalks, in parking lots, on celebratory parade routes, or at events. I think most of us love to be outdoors in Florida. I believe we are not powerless when it comes alleviating and not acerbating this heat.

Here are a few ideas:

Stop allowing clearcutting. Increase our LDC requirements for developers' landscaping rules. Replacing oak and other native hardwood trees with a few palms and non-native shrubs shouldn't be satisfactory. Every clearcut tree should be counted when bulldozed. We are allowing developers to say that they are leaving a certain percentage of land undisturbed. The percentage is never enough for me and the negative environmental repercussions to the undisturbed land can't be overstated.

Stop allowing palm trees to be scalped in the name of trimming. FPL does it regularly and with impunity and so do all the other utility entities. The cities and counties shouldn't do this either on any of their properties. It weakens the palms or outright kills them. Our native palms are capable of providing shade. If they are trimming more than the dead fronds, the 9AM to 3 PM model should be the rule.

HOAs need to scale back their demands of what can and cannot be planted. Their intolerance can have devastating environmental effects on huge swathes of land. To those living in an HOA: please consider participating on those boards and get those rules changed.

As individual property owners, whether commercial or residential, listen to this wisdom: "The best time to plant a tree is



twenty years ago. The second best time is today." So let's do just that. If everyone planted one or two native trees or large shrubs today on all properties, it would have a substantial effect on temperatures in the future. There are some really large shrubs and small trees that can provide shade and are fast growers as well. There is a lot of information on the internet that provides guidance on what grows best in what area. There are also some wonderful landscaping companies and nurseries that focus on native and beneficial varieties.

Please pledge to do this. Until then all we can do is hope the electric systems can keep up with demand.

As always, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Weegie Kuendig  
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 386-451-6470

# LEAVING LOCKDOWN

Last month I wrote about the wildlife that's encroaching on my lawn.

Let's be clear: I loathe having a lawn. I especially loathe St Augustine grass, which—although attractive and all that—is practically designed to be the most expensive to maintain. Various fungal diseases crop up. You have to water it all the time. It needs to be treated with pesticide, herbicide, and fungicide. (That's because it attracts and supports pests, grubs, invasive grasses, and develops all kind of fungus-based diseases.) This is not a good grass. And lawns hold heat and that's a problem. I hate grass and I refuse to plant it. Still, I can't rip it up unless I have something "attractive" to replace it with. I want native shrubs and trees that create lots of shade. I have never understood why a lush, flowery, shrubby front yard isn't considered the ideal—isn't it **more** beautiful than blank stretches of short green grass? Don't we **want** our pollinators to have something to live on? Don't we **want** to have birds and insects creating a vibrant ecosystem? Why on earth is it considered a code violation in some places to have a vegetable garden in the front yard?

Anyway...sorry...

About the wildlife. In the last few weeks, we've been getting some visitors around here. I welcome the deer and the armadillos and the occasional possum or snake. I love that they show up because it means I have an attractive ecosystem for them to browse around in. But I wasn't expecting the guests I've recently started getting.

## Wild pigs.

In the last few weeks, they've started moving around in my area and man, do they make a MESS. My neighbor's back yard was completely destroyed two weeks ago (note that she has only grass, St Augustine grass at that, huh, do you think the pigs are looking for the grubs?) and the damage was so awful that her mowing service told her they

couldn't do their work! I didn't think it would be that bad at my place. Hah! Joke's on me!

It started three weeks ago when I realized that under some overhanging trees were *snout marks*. The little buggers had dug up some very old compost I'd put out there months and months ago. (Yes, I know, I'm not doing that any more!) Then they dug up some plants I didn't want anyhow, and I laughed when I realized I'd gotten the best of that deal. Then I came out of the house one morning to enjoy the early sunshine and saw a big old mess under my magnolia tree. Sure enough, the piggies had come tromping through, rooting for grubs and whatever else they eat and fortunately not leaving any smelly stuff behind them. But still, UGH. And when I saw the most recent snout marks alongside where the cars park, rooting up the grasses and basically creating a trip hazard for my trip-prone Dad, I'd had it. Feral pigs are all well and good when you can point at the babies along the verge and say how cute they are (while feeling grateful they aren't 300 pounds of testosterone and aggression taking out the hood of your car as they charge across the road in front of you). They're entirely different when they're literally tearing up the yard and endangering my Dad. Or maybe it isn't. I don't know, this whole thing is conflict between values.

So, much to my dismay, I am finding myself using two methods to deter them: nasty smelling granules in the grass AND (my husband's favorite) an infrared alarm that blares "go away" in a very specific frequency so the pigs hear it and nobody else is scared. OK, fine, say it works. You know as well as I do that the problem isn't that the pigs are coming into my space. The problem is that humans are driving them out of THEIR space. I have some things to say about overdevelopment, but that's probably next month.

Stay safe, friends!







# FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,  
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

The Daytona Beach Police Department Command Staff participated in the City of Daytona Beach 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on Main Street. The Daytona Beach Police Department Honor Guard presented the Colors at the event. Former Reserve Lieutenant Larry Buck was honored for his service in the Marines at the Veterans Ceremony. Larry was a Vietnam Veteran. Throughout his 31 years with the Daytona Beach Police Department, he was a Reserve Officer, Reserve Sergeant and was promoted to Reserve Lieutenant in 2017. Larry retired in 2018.

Daytona Beach Police Department 2023 Accreditation: For the second time in a row, I am pleased to announce that the Daytona Beach Police Department not only passed but received the “Excelsior Agency” rating by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation for 2023! This is the CFA’s highest possible rating. Accreditation ensures that every aspect of the department is in accord with professional standards. It also gives residents and visitors confidence in the policies and practices of an agency. This honor is rare and only shared by around a dozen out of the 165+ law enforcement agencies in the State of Florida.

Deputy Chief Jennifer Whittet attended the CFA Panel Review on June 29, 2023, in Orlando. This Executive Workshop was for agencies that had no compliance issues. During this panel, D. C. Whittet was given our official Certificate of Accreditation. This will be displayed proudly in the lobby of Valor.



Help keep Daytona Beach safe:

The Police Department has made it easy for residents to report suspicious activities and share critical details, leading to more effective crime prevention and resolution. Examples of information that will help law enforcement includes:

- Unsolved crimes
- Vandalism
- Theft
- Drug activity
- Crimes being planned in the community or at a school

Ways to anonymously provide information:

24 hours a day via computer, tablet, or smartphone through your favorite browser. Report crime anonymously at Northeast Florida Crimestoppers or City Protect.

Prefer texting? Smartphone users can also submit information via text. Text DBTIPS plus tip information to CRIMES (274637).

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12



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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  
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Waverly: Margaret Fathi and Jules Lemos  
Woodland: Don Hietala and Kim Medina  
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*Special thanks to all our volunteers!*