



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority



August 2023

Our Elected Officials.....3

Mayor Derrick: "A Chance for Redemption"

Sheriff Chitwood: Keeping kids safe from predators

A Native Remembers5

Save Our Neighborhoods: SON Update6

From the Chief of Police.....7

This month, Paul continues his much-needed break and is enjoying his vacation (please see Paul's A Native Remembers article on page 5). So, in the absence of Paul and myself, Nancy will once again step up and run the meeting. Following are the recaps from Jeff Boyle and Nancy Koenig from last month.



Jeff Boyle --- *Attendees at the July 20th meeting were treated to another great \$5 optional dinner prepared by Nancy Koenig and friends, a delicious hot meal of beef and cabbage casserole served over rice, with corn bread and caramel rice pudding.*

Featured guest Chad Macfie, Marine Science Center Manager, dazzled with a rapid-fire power point presentation on Volusia County's Artificial Reef Program. In a previous presentation to the Bellaire group, Chad had educated us on the complex marine life relationships critical to the health of the Indian River Lagoon. This lesson was about the importance of offshore artificial reefs in balancing marine species and boosting the local fishing industry.

To create the reefs, steel-hulled vessels, concrete blocks, demolition material, and even tires have been sunk in the ocean. Within three miles, the state of Florida has jurisdiction. Beyond three miles, the federal government must grant permission for the creation of submerged underwater castles in the ocean aquarium.

Twenty-five miles out, natural coral grows on both natural and artificial reefs. Complete with underwater sound effects, Chad's presentation took us on a deep dive 80 feet below the surface to see how a sunken ship had become the adopted home of huge grouper and smaller schools of fish. Members of the audience asked thoughtful questions and we all went home with new understandings of the Atlantic Ocean and its marine inhabitants.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again on August 17th. Bring a friend, enjoy great food, our featured guest, and wonderful neighbors.

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, August 17th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.*

\$5 donation suggested

*Dinner:
Chicken Marsala
Angelhair Pasta
Broccoli
Chocolate Raspberry Cake
Beverages*

Bellaire Community Group

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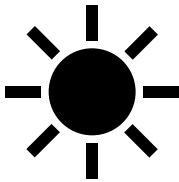
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AGEIDA

1. 6 p.m. dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guest: Mel Stack, Estate Planning and Wills
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

Iancy Koenig --- *Last month, with a number of our regular meeting volunteers not able to attend, many others stepped up, including our featured guest, Chad Macfie, to help set up for the meal and meeting. It really does take a village to run our beloved BCG organization.*

This month I look forward to preparing a dish I learned from my daughter in law many years ago when Steve and I were visiting her and our younger son, Luke, in Arlington VA. Chicken Marsala is a dish I do not make often, but another of our favorites. Steve chose the dessert for August...Chocolate Raspberry Cake.

As Steve continues to recover at home and Paul is traveling, I will host the meeting again this month. I am looking forward to a sit down conversation with Mel Stack. I am sure our members will have lots of questions for Mel. He specializes in Estate Planning and Wills...something we may put off discussing, but something very necessary.

I miss seeing our regulars who have not been able to join us but look 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.

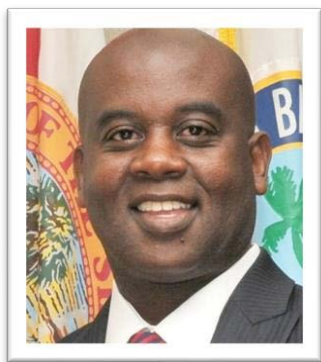
I hope you enjoyed the feedback from Jeff and Nancy again this month.

We look forward to hosting Attorney Mel Stack to discuss Estate Planning and much more. The questions that will surely come up will include, Does Everyone Need a Will? What if There is No Will? What Does It Mean when an Estate goes into Probate? How Expensive is it to have a Will Drawn by an Attorney? This is just a small sampling of what Mel will share with us.

Thanks for being a part of this journey.

Steve and Nancy Koenig

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

Three people with direct ties to Daytona Beach have written, produced and directed an entertaining and thought-provoking play titled “A Chance for Redemption.” Premiering Saturday, Aug. 26, at the Gillespy Theatre in the News-Journal Center on Beach Street, the theatrical production takes place in a Black-owned barber shop in 1977, within Midtown in Daytona Beach’s core. There will only be three showings over a two-day period. Tickets are \$10 each and available by calling (386) 226-1888. Following each performance, there will be a talkback session with audience members to discuss ideas for redevelopment of the Midtown area.

Produced by Sheila Kay Davis, written by Lynn Thompson and directed by Tai Thompson, “A Chance for Redemption” delves into the lives and struggles of residents during that period in history, highlighting their resilience, community spirit and pursuit of redemption. It explores themes

of hope, love and the power of second chances, resonating with audiences of diverse backgrounds.

The New Professional Theatre (NPT) company, founded by Ms. Davis, is the only African American theatre company located in the Broadway theatre district. Mr. Thompson, the former Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics at Bethune-Cookman University who retired in 2021 after 30 years with the institution, is a professional writer/producer. Tai Thompson, a graduate of Mainland High School and Florida State University, is a multi-disciplinary artist with a diverse background. In 2020, she was awarded the AUDELCO Award as Best Director of a Musical in Sharon Fallon Productions’ “The Dark Start from Harlem: The Spectacular Rise of Josephine Baker.”



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

As you may have heard, a few weeks ago we arrested a 29-year-old man from Cocoa Beach who drove to Deltona and had sex with a 12-year-old girl.

Brandon Donato met his victim online, first on an app called “Wink,” where he told her he was 17. They moved their conversation to Instagram after that, and eventually made plans to meet in person.



This is one of every parent's or grandparent's worst nightmares. While I'm extremely proud that our deputies and detectives were able to make an arrest in this case, the sad truth is there are many more predators out there waiting for an opportunity.

That's why we are working on educating the community about the dangers and realities of the Internet and the apps our kids are using every day.

In conjunction with DCF, we've been hosting a series of youth safety forums where parents, grandparents and guardians can learn how to protect their kids from what's out there.

We talk about the risks, the warning signs, the constantly changing world of apps and social media, and the strategies you can use to keep your child from becoming a victim.

We also discuss the realities of human trafficking with an expert from DCF who has experience dealing with these cases.

Predators can be smart, but when you and your child know what to watch out for, their tactics and deceptions are a lot easier to detect and avoid.

We have two more forums later this month (Aug. 28 and 29) in DeBary and Pierson, but we're also putting together an online version you can check out anytime you want. Stay tuned to our social media and website for that.

In the meantime, we have several safety guides available at volusia.sheriff.gov/resources, including sexual abuse prevention information intended to prevent molestation, sexual assault, online luring, harassment, sexting, bullying/cyberbullying, self-harm and more.

Two other resources I want to point out are:

Protect Young Eyes:

<https://protectyouneyes.com/apps/> - This provides a list of some of the most popular social media and networking apps used by kids

Digital Futures Initiative:

<https://www.dfinow.org/> - The info on this site includes a guide to parental control apps and tools you can use to block certain content. Just keep in

mind that for every prevention tool, there's usually a hack or a workaround that kids can find out there.

Thanks for reading and taking an interest in protecting the next generation. It's easier than ever for strangers to reach our kids, so it's going to take some effort and vigilance from all of us to keep them at bay.

-Sheriff Mike Chitwood

Printed in Daytona Beach at



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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group

I am writing this article from my camper trailer, in a place called Paradise Valley Montana...aptly named I will add. The scenery here is breathtaking. I am on a dual-purpose trip. One is to travel across America while I still can get out and do some sightseeing and hiking. The other is to spread the ashes of one of my best and lifelong friends near a lake in the Wind River Mountain Range of Wyoming. Duke and I backpacked and fished that area together 30 years ago. We would travel to Lander, Wyoming, and meet up with Danny, another childhood friend, who left Daytona Beach in the 1980s. I am the last of the three of us that still resides on this mortal coil so the beauty of this area of the country is mixed with memories of two buddies that I will only see again on another plane.

My trip has taken me, along with Duke's ashes, up through the heart of America: Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, and now Montana. I will be heading down to Lander tomorrow to meet up with Duke's daughters and their spouses, to hike up to Cathedral Lake, to follow through with one of Duke's final wishes. Duke wanted his final resting place to be in the mountains, near the lake that brought him much joy in his life. I will be honored to be part of carrying out my friend's wishes.



After the trip to Cathedral Lake, I will head down through Colorado, Utah, and Arizona to the Grand Canyon, with stops along the way at Brice Canyon and



places not yet planned. I then will return along the Southern route to Florida.

My love and fascination with the wilderness and its beauty, with which we all have been blessed, comes no doubt from my childhood experiences. I grew up in South Daytona during the 1950s, and back then that area would be considered country by today's standards. The neighborhood kids and I camped out all the time in the woods that made up the area between Big Tree and Reed Canal roads. Our days were spent wandering in those woods, building forts, on windy days swaying in the pine and gum trees, catching snakes in sulfur well feed canals, and swimming and fishing in the river. Back then our parents told us to go outside and play, and they meant it...it was a different time...it was almost as if they were saying "get lost, and get out from underfoot." There weren't any helicopter parents back then...no, our parents would have needed a telescope or satellite imagery to find us. Like I said, it was a different time.

I am traveling with man's best friend, my cattle dog, CiCi. She is having a blast hanging her head out the window watching and smelling the cattle, horses, antelope, and deer whiz by. We will soon be in bear, bison, and other animal country. She is smart enough to know that there is the possibility of danger in these woods, and when we hike, she stays close by my side. I should be back in Florida in another 2 or 3 weeks. Retirement is good thing,

'til next time,
 Paul

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Weegie Keundig
Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

Safety in our own community is one of the most important components of our quality of life. It is also very important to tourism and economic development. Recent events across our city have put a spotlight on this issue. Gun violence and other types of violence and bad behavior have sadly affected the lives of too many in our city. We are now a city with a population approaching 80K people. I think that still qualifies us as a small city. We are not Miami or even Orlando. I think that is a good thing. We can still personally know the people who represent us and are ultimately responsible for our safety (besides ourselves). I think that will go a long way in solving our safety issues. Another factor in solving this issue is that because we are still a small city, we have the opportunity to get to know our neighbors - not just the people next door, but in neighborhoods across the city. There are some very strong neighborhood groups, like Bellaire, that meet regularly to discuss issues close to their hearts and provide information. Most of them are open to all. Many people attend neighborhood and civic meetings, other than their own, regularly. Many neighborhood groups have Facebook pages. There are other FB pages for all local issues as well. We get to understand what we all have in common.

Nothing, probably, is more important to our Police Chief, Jakari Young, than the safety of our residents and visitors. He takes the responsibility very personally (I know this because we still are a small city and I can talk directly to him). It has been too easy to put the blame at his feet but he does not operate in a vacuum. So I was very glad to see that the Commission and the management of our city were finally making Seabreeze and other areas a Stated Priority. It has been a long time coming - more than 10 years. No one would deny safety is important, but it needed to become an actionable, time- sensitive Stated Priority - not just



something " we are working on " and blaming time delays on covid, supply shortages and other tired excuses. To this end, the Mayor has donated \$20K and Commissioner Ken Strickland has donated \$80K of their ARPA funds to get cameras on Seabreeze and the DBPD Substation on Grandview will be open by September.

You know, I have never been a big fan of cameras and other intrusive devices in my life, and I am very saddened now that this has become our necessary reality - even in our small city. I support all individuals and groups who are working to make our residents and visitors safe from this intrusion of violence and bad behavior.

Next month, I want to address another safety issue: Environmental Safety.

Until then, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions here.

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com
 386-451-6470



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

I am happy to share some good news regarding our Grandview substation. We should have the certificate of occupancy and be fully operational on September 1, 2023. District Two will begin to hold briefings there with both night shift platoons working out of the building on a regular basis.

There has been a recent uptick in violent crime in the Seabreeze bar area. When the patrons are leaving the establishments, there is nowhere to go. Fights are ensuing and people are getting injured. District Two has established operations and extra patrols in hopes of combatting any incidents that may arise. Operations will focus on traffic stops and ordinance violations. Police presence will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

National Night Out was a huge success for the Daytona Beach Police Department and the City of Daytona Beach. The event was held at the Cherry



Center on Friday, August 4th from 5-8 p.m. It is vital to show the people that we vow to protect and serve, that we are not just there when they need help or when something bad happens. We are also there to have fun and enjoy each other's company. Community engagement is an important part of being a professional public servant. Due to rain, the event was moved inside, but that didn't stop the fun.

Sincerely,
Chief Jakari Young

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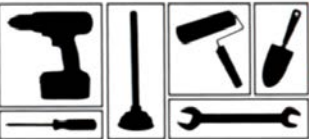
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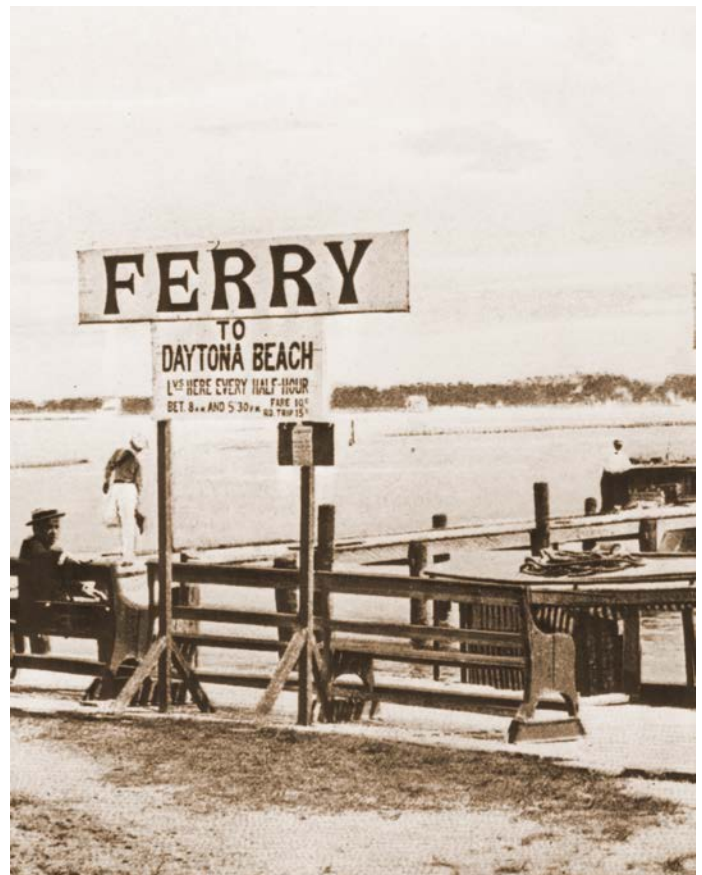
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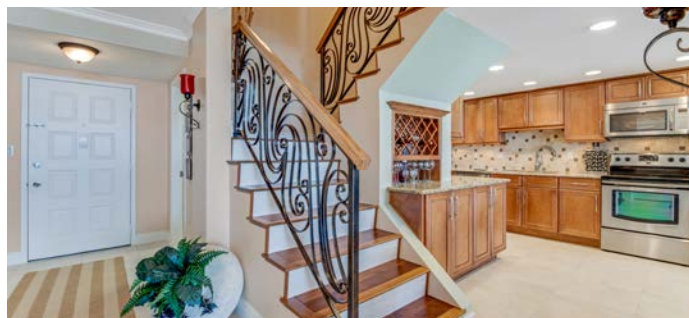
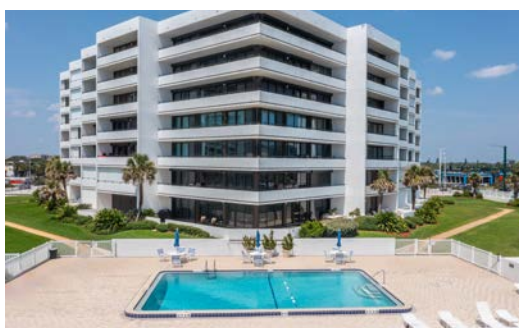
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Steve Koenig, Broker
Nancy Koenig, Broker Associate

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