



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



September 2023

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Last month marked the first BCG meeting I was able to attend since last year. I would like to express my gratitude to Paul Zimmerman and Nancy Koenig for conducting the meetings in my absence. Additionally, I would like to extend my thanks to Jeff Boyle for his valuable contributions to our newsletter.



I would also like to give a special thanks to all the volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of our meetings. Your dedication and hard work are deeply appreciated.

Although I was unable to walk the tables and connect with old and new friends, I was overwhelmed by the kindness of those who approached the stage to wish me well. It reminded me just how much I missed my BCG friends and the sense of community they provide.

Furthermore, I must acknowledge Jeff's insightful perspective on our meetings. His contributions to our newsletter have been invaluable, and I am pleased to request his continued involvement.

Please find below the contributions from Jeff and Nancy for our newsletter.

Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, September 21st!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.

\$5 donation suggested

Dinner:
Pasta with Italian sausage and
meatballs
Italian green beans
Raspberry-filled chocolate cake
Beverages

Jeff Boyle --- *The Bellaire Community Group witnessed the largest turnout of the year at the August 17 meeting. Attendees were rewarded with a trifecta: a superb meal prepared by Nancy Koenig and her volunteers, a fascinating featured guest, and the return of our patriarch, Steve Koenig. The Chicken Marsala over angel hair pasta, broccoli, with chocolate raspberry cake, was a dinner prepared to perfection. Steve's questions for local elder law attorney, Mel Stack, were well-prepared and on point, encouraging scores of "what if" inquiries from the floor regarding wills, trusts, and estates. The final audience member rose to thank Mel for all his many good deeds of community service including great leadership for the Halifax Humane Society, and for his years of loyal friendship with our beloved Big John.*

Nancy Koenig --- *Our August meeting welcomed the return of Steve after almost a year of missing our BCG meetings while recovering at home. He was touched by many of our members who took the time to come visit with him on stage before and after the meeting.*

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2023 OfficersChair

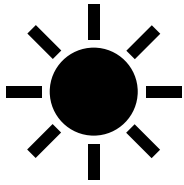
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Contributors

Derrick Henry
Mike Chitwood
Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Kuendig
Steve Koenig
Ken Strickland

1. 6 p.m. dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guests: Paul Zimmerman sharing vacation memories and Jessica Fentress, Director of Volusia County Coastal Division, discussing matters related to our coast
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

This month's dinner is inspired by memories of my Dad. Daddy loved to cook, especially for family parties. One of his favorites (and ours too!) is an Italian dish of pasta with Italian sausage and meatballs. He would simmer the meat in sauce for hours which made it so tender. Rolls were always served if you wanted to make a sandwich with the meat. The Chocolate Raspberry Cake I made last month was such a hit that I am baking it again this month. I am happy to have Steve and Paul both back this month and look forward to seeing all of you too! I love meeting new neighbors and seeing my old friends too. Come join us this month.

It was a pleasure interviewing Mel Stack. I enjoyed hearing about his personal life as well as his love for the work he does in the area of Wills, Trusts, and Estates. I did not realize he grew up in the area having graduated from Seabreeze High School. He started attending Florida Gator football games before he attended the University of Florida. He has been going to the Gator football games ever since.

Our program this month will include a conversation with Paul on his cross country travels after which Paul and I will have a conversation with Jessica Fentress, the Director of the Volusia County Coastal Division. We hope to see you there.

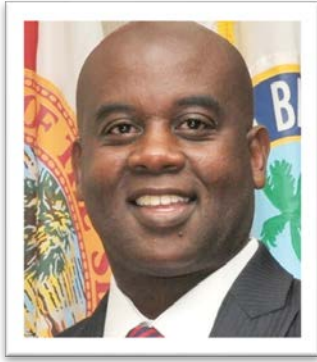
Thanks for being a part of this journey.

Steve and Nancy Koenig



Captain Jermey Nikolow gives police report

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

The city is preparing to host public meetings to inform residents about the redistricting process and provide them with an opportunity to meet their City Commissioner.

In your zone, which spans the beachside and mainland, residents are represented by Commissioner Ken Strickland (Zone 2). On the beachside, the zone runs from the northern city limits to International Speedway Blvd. and on the mainland from George W. Engram Boulevard west to Nova Road and north to the Holly Hill city limits. With the redistricting, the boundary was expanded to the south to ISB and now includes Main Street. On the mainland, the boundary was expanded to the south from Madison Ave. to George W. Engram Blvd./Fairview Ave.

Residents can learn more at a Meet Your Commissioner meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 5, at Schnebly Recreation Center. For more information and to see all of the meeting dates, visit www.CODB.us/Redistricting.

We are continuing to recruit volunteers to serve on a Salary Review Committee (SRC), which will be tasked with evaluating the compensation and benefits of the members of the City Commission. The SRC will be an independent committee with the goal of setting salaries of the mayor and six zone commissioners. In addition to reviewing existing salaries and duties of Daytona Beach's elected officials, SRC members are expected to conduct

research of elected officials' compensation in comparable municipalities and make a final recommendation to the City Commission.

Interested participants, who must be Daytona Beach residents, should send a resume and a letter of intent to the City Clerk's Office at Clerk@CODB.us. Submissions can also be delivered in person or mailed to City Hall, City Clerk's Office, 301 S. Ridgewood Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32114.



Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello Neighbors,

The new Beachside Police Precinct is now open on Grandview. There was a nice ribbon cutting ceremony that was well attended by residents and city officials. Refreshments were served and a good time was had by all. This should go a long way toward making Seabreeze safer for residents and tourists. Also I committed \$80,000 in ARPA funds to improve the lighting and install more cameras along Seabreeze and in Colin's Park.

September 1 the new redistricting lines became official. Zone 2 on the beachside now extends from the Ormond Beach City limits south to the north side of East ISB.

Another \$80,000 in ARPA funds has been committed to improving the lighting and add cameras along Main St.

Until next month.

Ken Strickland

Zone 2 City Commissioner

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386-307-4253



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

Watch out for scammers exploiting tragedy and disaster

With the peak of hurricane season upon us, and destructive storms and other natural disasters already making headlines in Florida and across the country, now's a good time for a reminder about scam artists who exploit these tragedies to make a buck.

From the devastating wildfires in Maui, to the floods of Tropical Storm Hilary in Southern California, to the damage caused by Hurricane Idalia in the Big Bend of Florida, unfortunately we've been getting regular reminders of what Mother Nature can do.

The primary mission during any disaster is to save lives. But when the dust settles and the recovery phase begins, the sad reality is that we in law enforcement also have to focus on preventing victimization of survivors, evacuees and those who want to help them.

The scams come in a variety of forms, from fake charities soliciting donations to fraudulent contractors offering services they don't provide.

Residents in Maui's scorched areas have endured unimaginable losses of homes, businesses and, for many families, their loved ones. It's only human to want to help, but it can be difficult to sort out the legitimate charities from the fakes.

If you're interested in helping Maui, one good cause is the Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund, which is putting 100 percent of funds raised back into the immediate and long-term recovery needs of the community. You can find out more

at <https://www.hawaiicomunityfoundation.org/maui-strong>.

That's just one example. In general, my advice to generous people all over our community is to seek out valid organizations where YOU want to send your hard-earned money.

Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody's office (www.myfloridalegal.com) has some great resources available for those looking to do research.

Before donating, make sure a charity is accredited with the Better Business Bureau by searching its Wise Giving Alliance website at: <https://Give.org> or CharityNavigator.org. You can research whether a charity exists and if complaints have been registered against the organization;

Research how the charity uses donations using CharityNavigator.org to see spending breakdowns.

Do NOT provide personal or financial information to unsolicited calls or emails on behalf of a charity. If you want to donate, ask the charity to mail or email you information and a pledge form;

Carefully review the charity's name, logo and email address before donating. Scammers may trick unwary donors using names and designs that closely resemble well-known organizations.

Consider donating to a legitimate charity of your own choosing rather than responding to a solicitation.

Victims of charity scams in Florida can report them to the Attorney General's Office by calling [866-966-7226](tel:866-966-7226), or of course by calling the Volusia Sheriff's Office to file a report with us.

On the topic of disasters, I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to once again encourage everyone to prepare your homes and families and be ready for storms in the weeks to come. Gather your hurricane supplies and have an escape plan, just in case. Also, let's practice good crime prevention and awareness to avoid falling victim to criminals.

If you think you have become a victim of fraud, please call our non-emergency number at [386-248-1777](tel:386-248-1777) or call [911](tel:911) in an emergency. We're always here to help.

Stay smart and stay safe,

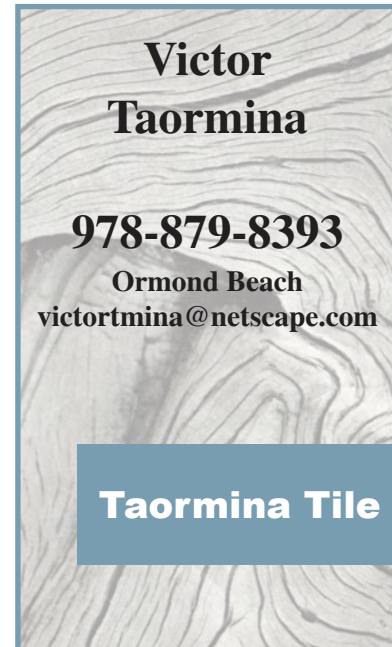
Sheriff Chitwood



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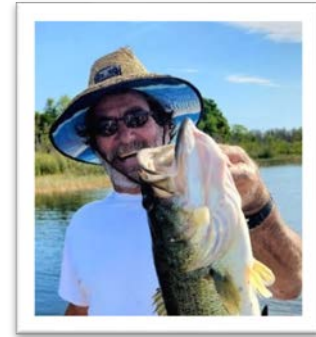
*Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

Last month, I wrote my article while in my camper trailer just outside Yellowstone National Park. I used to go out to Wyoming to fish the high mountain lakes of the Wind River Range with a couple of my childhood friends, Danny and Duke, back 30 years ago. I thought those visits would be an annual excursion, but life and death had different plans. My friend Danny, who had moved to Lander, WY back in the early 70s, was our guide on those trips. Sadly, cancer got Danny after our third trip. Because I hadn't factored in the possibilities, and the fragility of life, I thought in my mind I would see Yellowstone and all the surrounding nature beauty that part of our magnificent country has to offer on future trips. Danny's death halted those future trips. Then, about a year and half ago, my good friend Duke succumbed to cancer too.

The raw beauty, mixed with the adventure, and physical challenge of hiking up to 11,000 feet to Cathedral Lake left an indelible impression on all three of us, so much of an impression on Duke that he asked to have his ashes spread there. His daughters and their spouses asked me to be the guide to fulfill one of his dying wishes. So, some 30 years later I had been given the opportunity/mission to not only return to the Winds, but to see that part of our country again. A responsibility to my friend, along with the fulfillment of a bucket list of destinations, had been presented to me. Life has its twists, a trip with a mixture of sadness, reverence, and pleasure. The oft used phrase of my dear departed Aunt Edith echoed in my head: "the time to take tarts, is when tarts are passed".

So I bought a travel trailer and a truck to pull it, and planned to meet Duke's kids in Lander, and to see that part of the county before I meet Danny and Duke again on the other side. Then, life said oh, yeah? Three weeks before my scheduled departure Covid hit me, and it hit me hard. I quickly took Paxlovid, Hydroxychloroquine, Ivermectin, Zinc, and all the rest of meds I could find. In 7 days, I tested negative and felt fine. I had gone from thinking I was going to have to cancel, to being determined to seize the opportunity that life had put in front of me.

I left on schedule. Off I went up through the center of America to the Bad Lands and Black Hills of SD, on to



Mount Rushmore, and Montana. I then went down to Lander to meet Duke's kids for the hike up to Cathedral Lake. In preparation for the hike, I had walked the 3-5 miles a day for 6 months, the last 3 months, I walked the Ganada Bridge in boots with a 30 pound pack on my back. I thought I was ready. Ah, but time is relentless. 30 years is a lot of time. 73 is not 43. I thought I had prepared for the hike to 11,000 feet. Well, the trail started at 8,800 ft. I made it to about a half mile before I had reached something I later found out was one of the after effects of Covid called "breathlessness." It is exactly what it sounds like. It is not a shortness of breath. It is like there is no air coming in. I have to admit it is a scary experience. I had no choice but to abort the hike. Reggie, one of Duke's sons in law, walked me back the half mile to my truck. Disappointment is an understatement: shock at my pitiful attempt to complete my promise to my friend, and dismay at my own physical condition. The kids continued on up to Cathedral Lake and fulfilled Duke's wishes, spreading his ashes along the banks and in the water of the lake. I spoke with them later and all said it was the most difficult thing they had ever done, which was some consolation. I returned to my camper and did some research and found out about the lasting effects of Covid. That information provided some relief and assurance that the remainder of the trip still had potential. Happily, much of my stamina returned as the trip went on.

In retrospect, my perspective on the hike has changed. The feeling of disappointment has been replaced with a sense of fulfillment. Although I wasn't able to reach the final step of the hike to spread Duke's ashes, without my commitment to be their guide over a year ago, I doubt the kids would have made the trip. I wasn't there at the end, but I was there at the point of no return, that first half mile where the commitment to spread his ashes was etched in stone.

'til next time. Paul

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Weegie Kuendig
Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

Last month I said I wanted to address another safety matter: Environmental Safety. And didn't a whopper of an issue show up. I try to stick to only city matters in Daytona Beach but I believe this latest issue affects everyone in our county. I am going to assume everyone has at least heard something about the proposed Ormond Beach "Fuel Farm" (an oxymoron if I have ever heard one).

The project was submitted by Belvedere Terminals, a subsidiary of Grupo Mexico. They want to build a storage facility for different types of fuel and become a distribution center for their customers - mainly railroads. A railroad depot will also be needed. This proposed project will be located on Hull Road, near I-95 and Route One. Tanker trucks will go in and out of the facility at the rate of 7 trucks per hour, 24 hours a day. It will have 16 storage tanks, some 40 feet tall, which will be capable of storing 20 million gallons of fuel. It is adjacent or very near to several housing developments, a training airport, a well-used, very large sports complex and an already problematic large intersection.

What could possibly go wrong? Before the first clear cutting, so much has already gone wrong in my opinion. Residents were blindsided by this. Elected officials and staff members from Volusia County and Ormond Beach claimed they knew nothing about this. I have difficulty swallowing the excuses from officials. Secrecy, obfuscation, hand-wringing, lack of accountability, the blame game, "our hands are tied" nonsense, denial and instilling



fear of lawsuits are in full force now. My experience has been that these projects don't drop out of thin air. They can take years to come forward to the public - when developers make certain they have their ducks in a row. And their ducks can include elected officials, staff members and the movers and shakers (aka big political donors). Their ducks can exclude certain people as well - mainly tax-paying residents.

What could possibly go wrong in the environment if this goes through? One "accident" from a hurricane, airport mishap, truck mishap, railroad derailment, etc. could kill people, make people sick for life, destroy homes, make the air unbreathable, and destroy our water supply. And quality of life issues can't be ignored. Imagine what the truck traffic alone will create at I-95 and Route 1. As far as I know, there aren't any FDOT plans to address this. Noise levels will be a big issue.

I think this project needs all Volusia County residents hands on deck. No grandstanding or in-fighting needed by any group anywhere. I believe we must be united in this effort to defeat this wildly inappropriate Fuel Farm proposal in Ormond Beach.

Once again and as always, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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LEAVING LOCKDOWN

Well, here we are, another year into the pandemic, and sure enough, here it comes again. It won't be nearly as bad this time, but the CDC reports that hospitalizations and deaths from the new variant called BA.2.86 are on the rise. This one is sneaky! It gets underneath the existing immunities and spreads faster among the unvaccinated. (Of course it does.)

I am still COVID clear—what my friends tell me to call “NOVID.” I came close in the last week, though, as one of my closest friends at my place of employment contracted it after almost three years of avoiding it. Worse (for me) was that I had been sitting right next to her for over an hour at a meeting....and the next day she told me she'd tested positive.

Well. Are you surprised to know that I was wearing a mask during our meeting? Assuming you read this little article every month, you're probably not surprised. You're probably also not surprised to learn that in a face to face, enclosed meeting of over 200 people, only four were wearing a mask.

I know, I know, there are a lot of concerns about masking (which just to be clear I do not share), but I am really grateful that I was wearing a mask that day. There was just something in the room that told me I'd better not take it off. I didn't even eat my free lunch (which included vegan chocolate cupcakes, which I adore) because I didn't want to risk additional exposure by taking off my mask.

Lest you think I'm concerned about nothing, I will report that I have two epidemiologist colleagues who have worn the KN95 masks, refuse to eat inside, and refuse to unmask around other people unless they're in “the bubble” of safety. Those two colleagues are literally among the top in their field. If they're worried, you better believe I'm wearing that mask. (And no, they have not contracted COVID.) And my students are dropping like flies—just a week or so after classes have begun, already five of my 18 students have reported testing positive for the darn thing. They're still following the protocols of quarantine, masking after quarantine, and making sure they test negative twice before they take those masks off.

A bigger concern even than COVID—which, as Paul reports in his article this month, created for him a well-documented COVID effect called “breathlessness”—is the rise in childhood infections of the RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus). Normally this thing acts like a mild cold: coughing, sore throat, congestion, no big deal. But the CDC is reporting now that in kids younger than four, the hospitalization rate has almost quadrupled, and many of those hospitalized are literally infants: less than a year old. Be careful with your kids and grandchildren, my friends.

We're almost to the point of treating COVID like the flu. Get your shots every year and you're fine. We're not there just yet...but it's coming. Thank goodness for science, which always operates on the principle of “test your hypothesis and adjust as new information comes in.”

I'm getting my COVID booster as soon as I can. I'm making sure my aging dad (who turns 91 next month!) is getting his as well. Please, folks, get your vaccinations. Not just for COVID—if you have ever had chicken pox, you're at risk for shingles, which is NOT a good time. There's a two-shot vaccine for shingles. If you haven't had a pneumonia shot, you can get that too. And, of course, get your flu shot.

This month, as I write this, I'm worried about the world in general and the United States in particular. But when I see my dad relaxing in the pool, and when I see my husband getting time to relax and putter around, and when I realize that I, too, can take time to swim and relax and putter...it reminds me that life is good. There will always be stuff to worry about. What's rare and valuable is our connection to each other.

Stay connected, my friends. And get your shots.



c.c.# 96121805

Mike Felisko

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Steve presents appreciation plaque to Mel Stack



*Denzil Sykes, Neighborhood Service Manager
discusses new code enforcement system*



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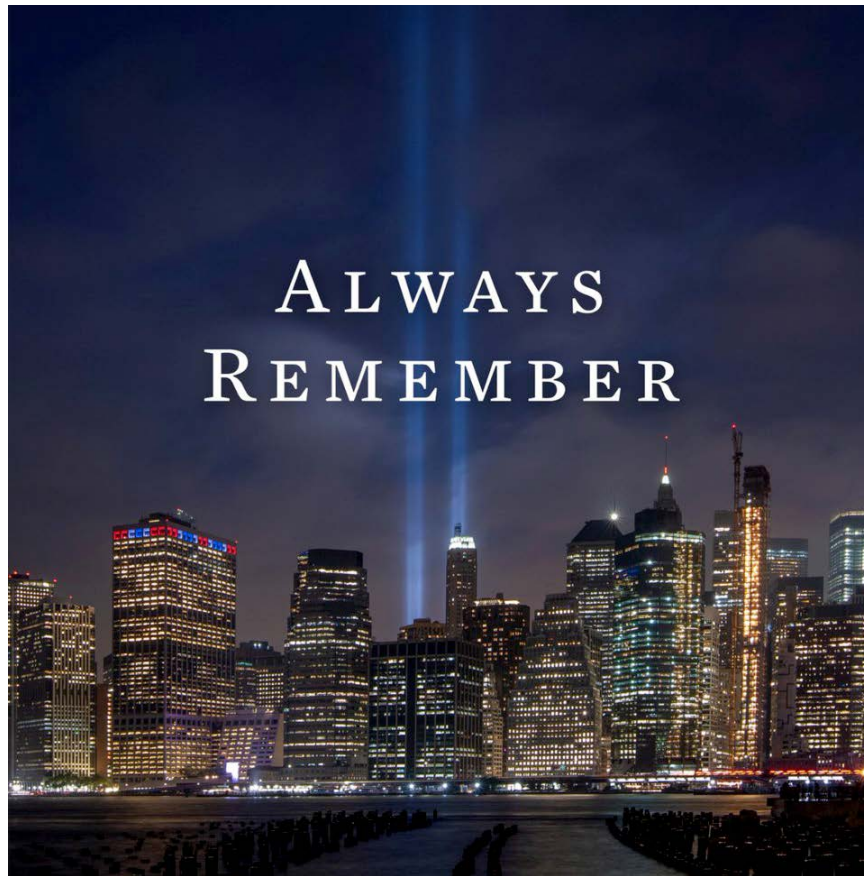


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Special thanks to all our volunteers!