



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



October 2023

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We have an exciting program planned for our October meeting! Ken Strickland, Zone 2 DB City Commissioner, will provide us with a comprehensive update on all the latest city matters. Following that, we have a special treat in store for you. Steve and Connie Lambert, members of our Bellaire family, will be sharing captivating photos and delightful stories from their balloon business. Their unique experiences and participation in balloon festivals across the country are guaranteed to both entertain and inform you.



Jeff Boyle --- *The September 21st meeting of the Bellaire Community Group drew the year's highest turnout for the second consecutive month. People may have been celebrating the autumnal equinox and the end of summer. More likely, the large crowd, which included a number of first-time attendees, came for the world-class hot meal prepared by Nancy Koenig and helpers: pasta with Italian sausage and meatballs, Italian green beans, and raspberry-filled chocolate cake. The guest speaker, Jessica Fentress, Director of Volusia County Coastal Division, detailed interactions with multiple levels of government to re-nourish our beach. Exponential amounts of sand were washed away in last year's storms, damaging the single resource that is our most vital economic engine. The speaker was questioned by both Steve Koenig and Paul Zimmerman (recently returned from an expedition to the American West). Paul offers further comment on the interview in this month's report.*

Nancy Koenig --- *The ladies and gentlemen who volunteer in the kitchen and setting up for our meeting begin the afternoon by joining hands and lifting up our community, the meeting, and those in need. This prepares us for the evening and prepares us to serve YOU! We love you and look forward to seeing each of you and serving you a delicious meal.*

I love to cook! And I love to serve! I believe these traits came from my youth. Mommy and Daddy reminded us: of those to whom much is given, much is expected. We all must step up and help our neighbor. Each of us has a gift. Steve and Paul have a gift of leadership. They

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, October 19th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.*

\$5 donation suggested

*Dinner:
White chicken chili
Sweet cornbread
Apricot-filled cake
Beverages*

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2023 Officers

Chair

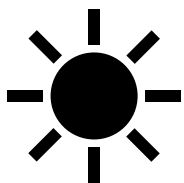
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Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Kuendig
Steve Koenig

Vol 17, Issue 10: October 2023

AGEIDA

1. 6 p.m. dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guests: Ken Strickland Zone 2 Daytona Beach City Commissioner, and Steve and Connie Lambert, Professional Balloonists
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

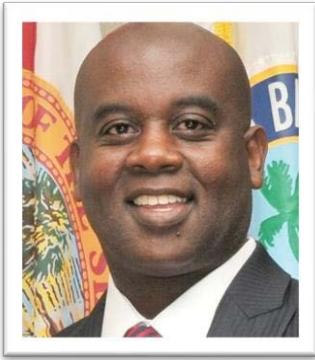
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have guided our Bellaire Community for over 17 years. These two men have such compassion for our community. Their work is to inform and educate us on all to do with our quality of life in our beloved beachside community. I believe my gift is serving. It is what I do best. I look forward to serving you this month with a meal fitting for the long anticipated cooler weather. White chicken chili is a dish I love to prepare. I look forward to seeing my old friends and neighbors and meeting new friends and neighbors. Please join us this month. I promise you it is worth it!

Paul Zimmerman --- *First of all I want to say how good it was to have our Chairman, Steve, back in action. Steve and I interviewed the Director of the Volusia County Coastal Division, Jessica Fentress. Ms. Fentress explained that her duties include not only our beach but also the waterways of Volusia County. My questions focused mostly on what Volusia County is doing to restore our beach from the recent tropical storms Ian and Nicole, and what is being done by the county to protect our beach in the future. Ms. Fentress provided us with statistics on the amounts of sand lost and the amount of sand that is currently stockpiled by the county to restore and protect the beach in the future. She reported that Volusia County has looked to the Federal Government for assistance and has requested that the Army Corp of Engineers begin a 3 year study on the Volusia County shore line. I suggested that, with nearly a billion dollars in reserves, Volusia County take action on its own to re-nourish and protect our beach. I was surprised by Ms. Fentress's response when I asked her about county standard requiring new seawalls to have a revetment (a retaining wall) in front of them. Ms. Fentress reported no knowledge of item 72.1056 of Volusia County's Standards regarding ocean front armament.*

Our Holiday Auction and Party is right around the corner. DJ Sean Doyle will again help us get in a festive mood with his music and lighting. I look forward to seeing you at our October meeting.

Thanks for the journey,
Steve and Nancy Koenig



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

The future of downtown Daytona Beach is bright and much to my delight, the future is here. Thanks to Hyatt and Cici Brown's vision and extraordinary financial contribution, the Riverfront Esplanade is now completed and opened.

Amazing is the one word I can use to describe the unbelievable transformation of our riverfront. Being born and raised here, I am honored to be mayor at this time in our city's history. The Riverfront Esplanade is an absolute treasure for residents and visitors. Completion of this long-awaited project was worth the wait. It is a sensory experience whether you want to just relax and enjoy your surroundings or get some exercise in the beauty of this 22.5-acre manicured space along the Halifax River. Children can safely play in the splash pad, swings, slides and run the in the open spaces.

When you think of all the great things that have happened in Daytona Beach, this is one of the grandest. It is worth our children's dreams.

If you haven't already visited the Riverfront Esplanade, please do so. It opens each day at sunrise and the section north of International Speedway stays open until sunset. The southern and most recently unveiled section, is open daily from sunrise to 9 p.m.



Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

New lighting and cameras are being installed along Seabreeze and coming along nicely. Go there and check out the new lighting. It looks much better.

The proposed outdoor food truck and entertainment venue is moving through the process at City Hall. It is creating a bit of controversy. I would like to hear what everyone has to say regarding this. Please email or text me your thoughts.

Beachside Elementary had an event Oct 3 introducing the STEM Bus. The bus is equipped with very interesting science projects for the kids to learn with hands on participation. We were told a second STEM is in the works.

Please contact me by email or text me with questions or concerns.

Ken Strickland
Zone 2 Commissioner
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386-307-4253

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

My family has been living in the Daytona Beach area for about 100 years. As near as I can tell, my great grandfather, Harry Zimmerman, came here at the beginning of the 20th century. Harry is buried in Pinewood Cemetery on Main Street. The last time I checked, his home is still standing on Segrave, near Cedar Street. My grandfather Harold and grandmother Genevieve were married on our beach in 1917. My dad was born in their home on the corner of Orange and Segrave in 1921. Back then, the Orange Avenue Bridge was the only bridge connecting the mainland to the beachside. This was before the days of air conditioning. Then, living on the mainland, with its large live oak trees providing protection from the scorching summer sun, was considered a wise move. The beach side was mostly scrubs and plagued by no see'ums that are nothing more than flying teeth that would make living there intolerable.

Harry had come down here from the Jamestown, NY area. Photos of his home up there would indicate that Harry was not a poor man. If we look at the names of some of the folks who came to settle in this area--Rockefeller, Gamble, Day, and Burgoyne--it is clear that our area was seen as a desirable locale. Most families, like mine, wanted to escape the weather of the north and saw our area as a piece of paradise. Our wide, flat, white sand beach, the almost prehistoric Tomoka basin, crystal clear springs, and the (then) crystal clear Halifax River must have seemed like a different planet. I have pictures of my grandparents, with my dad on his 8th birthday (1929), preparing to board one of the Tomoka River boats that took folks on a Jungle Cruise. I have others of my grandmother swimming in Deleon Springs from the 1920s. What is surprising to me is how previous generations recognized and appreciated the natural beauty of our area. They knew and respected the uniqueness of our area, especially our beach's white rolling sand dunes.

Recently, we all have noticed that the condition of our beach has been greatly impacted by the erosion



caused by tropical storms, nor'easters, and hurricanes. Much of the beach has lost 6-8 feet in elevation at the base of the seawalls, threatening the upland properties. This of course is part of the dynamic of nature. The State of Florida has been completely submerged four times in the past, and there is no reason to believe it cannot happen again. Hopefully, it will be a gradual process, not a crisis that leaves us scrambling for higher ground. Delaying this possible inevitability should be part of what motivates those of us who live along our ocean front. But it seems it is the opposite. Instead we seem to be intent on ignoring that possibility, and we continue to develop larger and larger structures and put lives in harm's way.

As a member of the Sons of the Beach, I have been doing some research on who owns the land along our beach and where the boundaries exist between private and public lands. Some oceanfront properties have set dimensions designating their eastern boundaries, while others use the "mean high tide line" as their eastern boundary. Does anyone think the mean high tide line is the same as it was 5 years ago? I don't. It has clearly moved westward. Why is this important? It is important because the size of the property is relative to the size of the building that will be allowed. In addition, many oceanfront lots have assumed the mean high tide line as their eastern boundary, when neither their original official plat nor their deed indicates they do. One such discovery of an original plat and deed supports how previous generations appreciated the protective nature our oceanfront dunes by setting the eastern boundary, at what then would have been, westward the dune line.

'til next time,
Paul

SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

5

Weegie Kuendig
Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

Some Phrases I Don't Use:

Every time I hear someone say or I read that, "it's always been that way," I cringe for a number of reasons. The first is that it seems to me like an excuse to ignore and accept a problem. Secondly, I wonder why, if it's always been that way, has no one come up with any way toward a solution at all? This way of thinking keeps issues from being addressed. I hear it from residents and government officials alike.

Another phrase that gets used a lot is, "there's nothing we can do." I believe that in almost every situation there is something we can do. If we succumb to this mentality, I believe it is a self-fulfilling prophecy. If we don't do something, it is certain nothing will get accomplished.

"Government works slowly": nonsense in my book. Government picks and chooses which projects have priority. If it is not a priority, a project gets put on the back burner, while others get attended to. And government priorities are not necessarily residents' priorities, depending on who is asking.

"We'll get sued": No one wants to be sued, but I find this phrase is too easily used to strike fear into residents and even elected officials. It has the chilling effect of leading people to back off tackling certain issues or even mentioning them.

And there are newer phrases being used by government and even developers: "we can't find that information," "that information is not available," "that information was lost in a flood," and "we lost that information due to a computer glitch." These phrases are beginning to be used as



excuses to push a project forward, put it on hold, or to stop it entirely. These are multi-use phrases. I think that a lot of lost information is out there. They just need to look harder and so do we.

The use of these phrases all have practical implications in our City and the County: the Belvedere Project; fixing N. Beach Street issues; Seabreeze issues; flooding and sewage issues everywhere; infrastructure equipment upgrades to handle the new normal weather events rather than simply repairing the old; allowing inappropriate development on our Beachside and around I-95; traffic woes and other issues considered infrastructure; quality of life improvements; loss of tree cover, wildlife, and wetlands; clean water availability... the list is long. I think these phrases and others like them serve to stop us from addressing real issues. I am certain you could add more.

Hope our cool weather is here to stay and as always, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions.

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Don and Hannah King
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Amway Business Opportunity

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LEAVING LOCKDOWN

This month's contribution to the newsletter about is hurricane protection offered by the state of Florida.

Last year, I swore up and down that I was never ever going to go through the hassle of boarding up ever again. EVER. I can't even remember the names of all the storms but my husband and I were flat out exhausted... and we agreed that we are just too old for this crap.

So we started looking into good quality hurricane windows (technically "impact windows"). We got estimates from the usual suspects (Lowe's and Home Depot and a few others), whose estimates were about \$10,000 apart. Whoa! One guy, however, got thoughtful and suggested that we look at the grants being offered by the State of Florida for "hardening our home against hurricanes." I was skeptical, because (y'all know this) I don't trust the Florida government, but sure enough, those grants are available, and here's the good part: if you qualify, you can get up to **\$10,000 back** on your hurricane window investment. The grant even covers exterior door upgrades, roof upgrades, and garage door upgrades.

Now, the process is a little tedious. First, their inspector comes out to ascertain eligibility. "Owners of any site-built, single-family residential house or townhouse in Florida may apply for a free home hurricane inspection" is what it says on their website, mysafehome.com. There are only a certain number of contractors licensed to do this kind of work, so check carefully before you contract with anyone.

Once the inspection report came back, which took all of two days, we signed a contract. As a deciding factor in the choice, this contractor offered us windows that meet Miami-Dade code, which means impact resistant up to **185 miles per hour**. The specific construction method meant that their bid for the project came in at \$10,000 under the other bid. Now we're talking, right? And who can argue with impact resistance equivalent to Miami needs? I was all about that.

Because of the ongoing supply shortage of building materials, it took a while to get the windows in stock. That was a little frustrating, but we kept our eyes on the prize. Then, once the windows were actually installed (2 days for a whole house of windows), the Florida building inspector came, followed by the MySafeFloridaHome inspector. Once all the inspections were signed off on, the claim went in to the state and was approved, and now we're just waiting for the rebate to arrive. (That will take a while, but that's the way ALL

rebates work, right?) And meanwhile, the windows are in and it would take an impact like a Sherman tank to take them down. I can't tell you how much this relieves my mind. I mean, if a storm big enough to impact THESE windows takes them out, we're going to be having problems way bigger than the windows.

My point here is that IF you qualify for the grant funds, you could potentially save thousands of dollars on installing hurricane windows.

So, a caveat. Obviously this is a popular program, and there are only so many dollars to go around. The state has paused *approving* new grants because the demand was so high it emptied their budget, so you may be out of luck this year—but! You can still apply and be in line! The Florida Legislature approves new funding in January. Everyone seems hopeful that given the popularity of the program and Florida's substantial risk for major home damage due to hurricanes, the new funding will go through and the program can restart. But you can still apply, and in my honest opinion, I think you should.

I won't use this space for advertising a specific contractor—you should do your own research. But I am *very* satisfied with the quality of the work. My windows were probably original to the house, built in 1958 or so! Rattling, drafty, probably costing me a fortune in heat and A/C over the years...and the airtightness of this house now, with the impact windows, is tangible. My peace of mind is worth this investment.

I'm so grateful that a major storm never hit us this season (I write that knowing it ain't over until it's over!), and I am doubly grateful that my little beach house is protected from hurricane damage six ways from Sunday. We even got some homeowner insurance premiums reduced because we'd had this work done (that was a nice little payout). Double win since homeowner insurance premiums are completely out of control in Florida!

Happy October, my friends. Stay safe.

(You know I'm going to say this: wear your mask. Get your COVID boosters. Stay safe.)



Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority



12th Annual Raffle Ticket Holiday Auction December 21, 2023

What to donate:

1. Gift Cards
2. Hotel Stays
3. Gift Baskets
4. Christmas Gifts
5. Sporting Goods Products
6. Restaurant and Retail Gift Certificates
7. Services; Lawn Care, Oil Changes, Hair Cuts, etc...
8. Gently used items from your won home you can donate
9. Anything you think on e of your neighbors would enjoy



Why Donate to Bellaire Community Group?

Bellaire Community Group is the largest Community Group in Daytona Beach with a monthly newsletter hand delivered to 2,000 beachside residents. The ticket Auction/ Holiday Party is the last meeting of the year and is a celebration of the hard work our volunteers have provided throughout the year. We look to local retailers and restaurants in our Bellarie Community Area to provide donations and support our Community Group and to introduce our members to our local Merchants, We encourage individual donations as well at these have always been well received by our members.

December Holiday Party and Ticket Auction

Our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction in December! This is one of the best events the Bellaire Community Group hosts, so don't miss it.

*All of the great items are donated-- by local businesses, including restaurants and hotels...and by individuals like **you**. Gift cards, gift baskets, certificates for dinners or lunches, sports memorabilia, glassware, artwork...we've seen all of these wonderful donations at previous Holiday Parties.*

If you have any items you would like to donate for our Ticket Auction, please call:

Nancy at 386-679-3363

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

It is my pleasure to announce that the Grandview substation, located at 654 N Grandview Avenue, is now open and operational. District Two night shift platoons will be based out of this location.

We held the grand opening ceremony on Friday, September 1, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony, with the assistance of Mayor Henry, to officially open the substation. The 2,900 square foot substation is located a block away from Seabreeze Boulevard. This area is known to be extremely busy with nightlife. The location of this substation is to provide physical presence and deter criminal activity.

Police substations play a crucial role in community-oriented policing efforts. They are designed to foster closer relationships between law enforcement officers and the community they serve.

The location of this substation will allow the Police Department to address safety concerns of the residents and business owners in the area. It will allow better response times



to the entertainment areas, also. Safety is a collaborative effort involving first responders, business owners and residents. Safety is a top priority to ensure the well-being of residents, visitors, and the public. Residents and visitors may visit a substation to report crimes, seek assistance, request information, or file police reports without having to travel to the central police station.

Another benefit of this substation is that it alleviates the current overcrowding at the Beachside precinct located on Harvey Avenue. This will aid in reducing stress, increasing efficiency and productivity.

The hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 4:00 p.m.- 4:00 a.m. The direct phone number is (386) 671-5720. There will also be staffing at the Front Desk of the substation during the hours listed above.



*Steve and Paul present Jessica Fentress with
a Certificate of Appreciation*

Please Help!

**To make this year's Ticket Auction a success,
we need your help!!!**

Look in your cupboards and closets for those things that need to be re-gifted- - they could be a great fit for someone else.

If you have home decor that no longer has a place, it may be just what your neighbor is looking for.

Use your imagination and think of things you would like to receive! Gift certificates, artwork, etc... all these things will be greatly appreciated as additions to our annual auction.

**Call Nancy (386-679-3363) for gift pickup.
Lets make this year's auction the best ever!!!**

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Euclid: Janice & Mike Felisko

Flagstone: Ellen Gerard

Flushing and Manhattan: Ed Labonville

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 Langton

N. Halifax: Nancy Koenig & Nikolai Hargreaves

N. Peninsula (North end): Judy Schroeder

N. Peninsula (South end): Lawrie Davidson

Plaza: Stacy Prestwood

Seabreeze High School Area: Paul Zimmerman

Seaview: Suzy Lamoureux

Stanford: Netta Weiner

Williams: Nikolai Hargreaves and Nancy Koenig

Waverly: Margaret Fathi and Jules Lemos

Woodland: Don Hietala and Kim Medina

Zelda: Elly & Rachael Petersen

Special thanks to all our volunteers!