



# BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

*Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!*



## November 2023

### **Our Elected Officials.....3**

**Mayor Derrick:** The River Esplanade is open

**Sheriff Chitwood:** Bicycling safely

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Our BCG meeting on October 19, 2023, was a resounding success with a great turnout from our members. When I asked for feedback on the chili dinner, I was met with enthusiastic applause, indicating that it was a hit.

After opening the meeting with the pledge, we had the pleasure of hearing from Captain Jeremy Nikolow from the DB Police Dept. He provided us with an informative update on police matters, keeping us well-informed about the safety of our community.

Next, Ken Strickland, our Zone 2 City Commissioner, provided us with updates on several city initiatives. He shared information about the First Step Shelter, which has served 1,038 individuals and provided 216,653 meals from 2019 to 2023. Colin's Park, located at 100 University Blvd. is a two-and-a-half-acre riverfront park, adjacent to the fire station and recently underwent renovations. The park features a fenced dog park, restrooms, water fountains, benches, picnic tables, new playground equipment, an outdoor grill, and a fishing dock/pier. Improvements made at the Schnebly Recreation Center, include fresh landscaping and a complete resurfacing of the basketball courts. The landscaping on Oakridge Blvd has been upgraded, and there have been landscaping and planting efforts along A1A from ISB to Oakridge Blvd. Under the Seabreeze Bridge, the boat dock area has seen improvements, including the laying of sod, upgraded lighting, and the installation of cameras. A new HVAC system has been installed at the Peabody Auditorium, and the lobby area restrooms have been upgraded.

We want to thank Ken for providing such an informative update.

One of the highlights of the evening was a captivating presentation by Steve and Connie Lambert, who shared their experiences in the ballooning business. They treated us to a delightful showcase of photos from one of the balloon festivals they attended, leaving us in awe of their adventures.

*(con't on next page)*



*Join us at the  
Schnebly Center  
1101 N Atlantic Ave  
Thursday, November 16th!  
Meal at 600 p.m.  
Meeting at 630 p.m.*

*\$5 donation suggested*

*Dinner:  
Traditional Thanksgiving turkey  
dinner with sides and desserts*

## AGENDA

### Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax  
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

#### 2023 Officers

##### Chair

Steve Koenig

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Cell: 386.795.0023

[steve@koenigrealty.com](mailto:steve@koenigrealty.com)

##### Vice Chair

Paul Zimmerman, Founder

386.316.6259

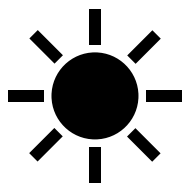
[ptzimm@bellsouth.net](mailto:ptzimm@bellsouth.net)

#### Treasurer and Marketing Manager

Nancy Koenig

386.679.3363

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#### Contributors

Derrick Henry

Jamari Young

Paul Zimmerman

Weegie Kuendig

Steve Koenig

Michael Chitwood

1. 6 p.m. Dinner
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and safety report—Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured guest: Victoria Fahlberg, Executive Director,  
First Step Shelter
5. Adjourn
6. Put tables and chairs away and
7. Go home with a smile!

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(con't from first page)

As the meeting drew to a close, Nancy Lewandowskyj had a stroke of luck and collected her winnings from the 50-50 drawing. It added an exciting element to our gathering.

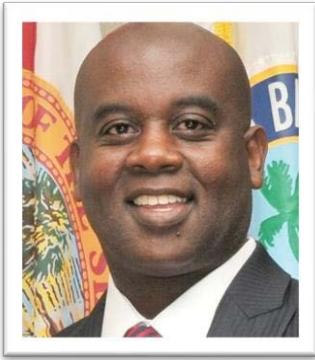
**Nancy Koenig** --- *I look forward this month to our annual Thanksgiving dinner which will include turkey, traditional sides, and desserts. I can't help but being thankful for everyone who helps keep our Bellaire community group alive and thriving. This includes all of our volunteers, guests and members who attend our monthly meetings. I am thankful for all of the friendly people I have met as a result of our BCG meetings and the friendships that have grown. Our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction is December 21, 2023. DJ Sean Doyle will be there to get everyone in a festive party mood. I need your help to make this auction a success. Donated items are very much appreciated and a necessity to make the night fun for all. Please call or text me at 386-679-3363 and I will gladly pick up your donated items.*

I'm happy to report that our mission of having everyone leave with a smile was accomplished. The positive energy and camaraderie throughout the meeting were evident, making it a memorable and enjoyable event.

This month's featured speaker will be Victoria Fahlberg, Executive Director First Step Shelter. She will share with us about their services and also take questions from our members.

Thanks for the Journey.

Steve and Nancy



*Derrick Henry*  
*Mayor of Daytona Beach*

Each city has its own unique charter and Daytona Beach is no different. A charter sets the foundation of a local government, setting forth guiding principles for governance. It establishes the framework for how a local government operates in terms of its structure, responsibilities, functions and processes. The charter is required to be reviewed every 10 years by a committee made up of residents called the Charter Review Commission (CRC).

The City of Daytona Beach is currently recruiting residents for the CRC. Once members and alternates are selected in January, the public process is expected to take about six months. While the CRC is hard at work, all citizens are encouraged to fully participate in the process and offer feedback. Any recommended changes will be presented to the City Commission in June. Upon approval by the City Commission, the charter amendments will be placed on a ballot at the next general election, which is November 5, 2024. Voters must approve changes to the charter before they can be incorporated into the official document.

I want to encourage you to participate in the charter review process. Your thoughts, ideas and abilities are needed. If you're interested in serving, contact the City Clerk's Office at (386)671-8023 or visit [www.codb.us](http://www.codb.us).



*Mike Chitwood*  
*Volusia County Sheriff*

It's no secret that I love to get out on my bike in Volusia County. I've biked across enough of this area to confirm that this is a beautiful but sometimes dangerous place to ride.

In both of my crashes, I've been lucky. Twice, I've been hit by vehicles, and each time I've been able to get back up.

But the risk of serious injury or worse isn't lost on me, or anyone who truly loves to ride. I will never forget that morning in June 2019 when Senior Deputy Frank Scofield was fatally struck by a van that blew through the intersection of Tomoka Farms Road and Pioneer Trail.

I was out on my bike that morning, too, and crossed paths with Frank probably 15 minutes earlier. When word came that he'd been hit, I headed back and faced the tragedy that every cyclist hopes never comes for them.

Volusia County had more than 1,000 bicycle crashes from 2018 to 2022, with 30 fatalities and 140 serious injuries.

There are certainly cases where the bicyclist's own actions cause a crash. Those of us on bikes need to be mindful of the laws and ride responsibly. Riding against traffic, in the dark without a light, or without obeying stop signs and traffic signals are all good ways to get hit. Data from the Florida Department of Transportation indicates bicyclist actions contributed to 61 percent of crashes. However, those same stats show



that vehicle drivers contributed to 40 percent of bicycle crashes, often with erratic, reckless, aggressive or careless driving, or failure to yield right-of-way.

We all know distracted driving plays a role, too. The young woman who hit me on Town West Boulevard in Port Orange in 2021 was shopping on Amazon on her phone.

As our area continues to grow and our roads seem to get busier every day, the risks for all types of crashes can only increase. All of us – cyclists, drivers, pedestrians – have a role to play in preventing tragedies. The most important thing we can do is also the easiest: Pay attention to the road and others on it.

On a related note, beginning in 2024, the nonprofit organization Bike/Walk Central Florida is expanding its “Best Foot Forward” program into Volusia County. This specific program focuses on educating the community about pedestrian safety, which is just as important an issue. It’s currently in place in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties.

I look forward to improving the safety of everyone using our roads and highways, and I always appreciate your help in making that happen!

See you on the road,

Sheriff Chitwood



## 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!!!**

# A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman*  
*Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

My first experiences with our Bellaire Community Group neighborhood dates back to 1963. I was a freshman at Father Lopez and my girlfriend back then, Janet, lived on Pelican Ave. This was before I got my Honda 50 motorcycle and I would ride the city bus up from my family home in South Daytona. Back then, Bellaire Plaza had a movie theatre, the Cinema, that boasted the widest screen in town, and it was. Janet and I would sometimes go to movies and other times we would hang out at her house, or go to the beach.

I had inherited my brother Marty's Ten Toes surfboard when he went up to Tallahassee to FSU. I was living in South Daytona, and not being old enough to drive meant getting to the beach was a difficult task. I was 13 and totally into the surf scene, as were most of the kids in our area and of that time. I remember that my friend Danny and I once paddled across the Halifax River to go surfing. What an exhausting mistake that was. Paddling over wasn't bad, but the paddle back after surfing was brutal, not to mention walking those 9 foot boards from the river to the beach and back again to our homes...admittedly we were young and stupid, but once was enough for that adventure. So I was, for all intent and purposes, a land locked surfer. That's a bummer.

Now it just so happened that Janet's dad bought her a surfboard. It was a huge Ole surfboard from Hawaii. It was heavy, and I would grab the nose and she the tail and we would walk down to Hartford Approach to surf. Janet's aunt owned an oceanfront beach cottage on the north side of the Harford Approach. It was tucked into the rolling sand dunes that were covered with windblown oaks and sea oats. The cottage was colonial and had a covered wrap around porch that we would sometimes shove the Ole under rather carry it back to Janet's. I am pleased that I can still see in my mind's eye how that weathered shingle covered cottage seemed not to distract from but rather complemented the natural beauty of our ocean front. The dunes, oaks, and sea oats seemed to nestle around the cottage in a most harmonious way. That cottage sat where the Island Crown Condominium sits now.

North of Janet's aunt's cottage, there were more blinding white sand dunes covered with windswept oaks and sea oats. The next home north of the cottage was a large home built on what must have been 300 ft of ocean front. It was



well known back then as the Grey Sands. Like the cottage, the Grey Sands was a tasteful complement to nature's handiwork. It sat atop the dune line overlooking the beach. The Grey Sands must have been 100 ft long. It, too, was covered with graying weathered shingles, but it was more a ranch style. If my memory is correct, it had dark green trim. My memory has lost the details of the ownership but it seems to tell me that it was a winter residence and would be closed up in the summer. The other thing that seems to support that memory is my recollection of the planted Spanish Bayonets up near and around the home...a natural deterrent to intruders, and kids who may be looking for a romantic place in the dunes (foiled again).

These two properties I describe here would have stretched from Hartford Approach to roughly where the Aliko Condominiums are now. For those who may not know there is a new 20 something story condominium on the lot across from Steve's Famous Diner, where the Grey Sands once stood. When I was a kid, the beach between Hartford and Williams had 3 or 4 residences. They all made an attempt to complement the natural beauty that attracted the owners to buy and build there in the first place. I can't help but think these folks had respect for and were somewhat in awe of Daytona Beach. Now that awe seems to be gone, replaced by a concern of how many units can we cram into a concrete and steel tower, and how high can we go. Dunes? Ah, let's build a seawall. Sea oats, oaks? They are in the way, we will put some plants out there. No need to get sentimental, there is money to be made here.

If there is one thing I wish I could do for all of you out there, it would be to share with you a visual what our stretch of beach was like in the early sixties, when beauty was appreciated and the dollar wasn't king.

'til next time,

Paul

# SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

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

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I have been thinking a lot about the importance of neighborhood groups and local Facebook Groups for residents. There are groups that cover individual neighborhoods like yours and neighborhood groups that cover a larger geographical area like Midtown. There are other residential groups that use Facebook, regular meetings and events to communicate to a larger audience and promote issues that are important to people like Sons of the Beach. I belong to many groups. They provide valuable information to residents and are a way to preserve our quality of life. Importantly, they are a way for residents to support one another.

I believe each neighborhood is unique and has certain issues that should be considered as stand alone issues. But I have heard some residents say that they are only concerned with their own neighborhood issues. I think this is very shortsighted and self-defeating. Many decisions that are made by our city government apply to us all. I am thinking now of development issues on our endangered and eroded Beachfront, but of course there are other issues as well where we could join together from across the city.

As you may know, there has been fierce residential opposition, led by the SOB's, to the huge project on Silver Beach. The developers made miniscule changes to their development and it unfortunately sailed through our Planning Board. It was not simply an issue for the nearby residents. It is an issue for all of us as we endeavor to protect our quality of life, even our safety. Our Beachfront has been a sustaining force in our community forever, affecting everyone. Losing it to erosion, bad



practices, and over development benefits no one who lives in this city now. If this project gets passed at the Commission level in December it will set precedents for other inappropriate projects up and down our coastline. If all neighborhoods lend support to each other and stop believing we are in competition or at odds with each other, maybe we can make a difference.

And where does the time go? A very Happy Thanksgiving and start to the holiday season to all of you.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity each month.

Weegie Kuendig  
[dkuendig@aol.com](mailto:dkuendig@aol.com)  
 386-451-6470

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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 own home you can donate
9. Anything you think one 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*

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Biketoberfest took place October 19-22, 2023. Riders and motorcycle enthusiasts from all over the country gather in Daytona Beach for the event. Attendees enjoy the festivities, coastal scenery, and vibrant motorcycle culture that the event has to offer. Much of the event centers around Main Street, Daytona International Speedway and Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Boulevard. There are tents with vendors that include food, merchandise, bike parts, detailing, and much more. This event attracts over 125,000 visitors to our City.

The event was fully staffed with officers to ensure the safety of the residents and visitors. There were 46 accidents, 19 vehicles towed, eight hit-and-runs, five DUI arrests, and 256 traffic stops.

Trucktoberfest is a two-day unsanctioned event that occurred October 13-14, 2023. This event affects the entire City of Daytona Beach. The total number of attendees is difficult to estimate due to the main promotion being on social media. The estimated crowd is between 5,000 and 25,000 people throughout the day. This year was relatively quiet and uneventful. We believe this is due to the “zero-tolerance” event zones that have been announced in the past. There was a new change to the Beach Code that prohibits driving any vehicle on the beach that has its suspension, frame or chassis altered so the height of the front fender is raised more than four inches more than the rear fender. This allows for better visibility and lessens the likelihood of an incident involving beachgoers and pedestrians.



On October 26<sup>th</sup>, Emma from EmmalovesK9s was on scene at the Daytona Beach Police Department to present the Daytona Beach Police K-9 unit with a check of nearly nine hundred dollars! Emma is a local youth who started a charity for police K-9s at the age of twelve years old. Emma’s non-profit charity sells plush replicas of our local K-9 heroes all over the world. Emma, now 15, has single handedly raised over fifteen hundred dollars for the Daytona Beach Police Department K-9 Unit alone. Emma is a special young lady and we are blessed to have her so close to home.

On October 27<sup>th</sup>, Members of the police department participated in the White Cane event in coordination with The Division of Blind Services. This event strengthens a bond between local law enforcement officers and citizens who experience visual disabilities. Officers wore blindfolds and worked in pairs to experience these disabilities first hand and the trust required for those citizens to cross the road. The Daytona Beach Police Department’s Motor Unit was also on scene to observe and educate drivers in the immediate area who violated pedestrian right-of-way. The event was deemed a success by all parties involved!

**\*\*\*SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE\*\*\***

A decorative graphic consisting of a horizontal bar with a blue center containing white stars, flanked by red and white stripes.



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7AM-12PM NOVEMBER 11TH



- Come join us for a local sale from small businesses, community members, and clubs from Seabreeze High School.
- For more information about being a vendor or the event, text 386-690-2023
- 2700 N Oleander Ave, Daytona Beach, FL 32118

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**THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!**

# 50th Annual



## 1974-2023

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 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!*