



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



December 2023

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This month is our annual Holiday Ticket Auction and Party!

Nancy has been collecting items for the ticket auction. Please see page 7 for a list of what we have already collected. We have something for everyone.

Following are the recaps from Jeff Boyle and Nancy Koenig:



Jeff Boyle --- *The November 16 meeting drew a remarkably large turnout of enthusiastic Bellaire Community Group members, volunteers, and guests on a night stormy enough to keep people home. We were rewarded by the annual Thanksgiving dinner of turkey, traditional sides, and desserts, prepared by Nancy Koenig and her volunteer helpers. We can return the favor on December 21 when all of us get to bring potluck dishes for the buffet table at the Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction.*

Equally rewarding was the First Step Shelter presentation by Executive Director Victoria Fahlberg. The First Step Shelter was born in great controversy and skepticism over location, funding for construction and operations, and unlikely buy-in agreement between 16 city governments, County government, and the Sheriff's Department. It seems a miracle that questions, disagreements, and conflicts have dissipated, and much of the credit for the growing harmony goes to Dr. Fahlberg, appointed to the position in 2019 just months before the First Step Shelter opened. She described the challenge as "building an airplane while it is already flying," constantly adapting to an institution that is still evolving. Resident capacity has increased incrementally from 20 residents to 60 residents, with a potential for additional clients. "A path to housing changes everything" is the First Step slogan. Volusia County, its cities, and its ever-present homeless population are well-served by the Shelter, and the invested dollars have been well-spent. The homeless population, mostly invisible, are a human problem we normally don't want to think about. By the end of her talk, it was clearly apparent that Dr. Victoria Fahlberg is a highly effective leader, devoted and dedicated to work that she loves.

(con't on next page)

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

Dinner:
Annual Holiday Potluck dinner:
bring your favorite to share! (and
a utensil to share it with!)

AGENDA

Bellaire Community Group

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Daytona Beach, FL 32118

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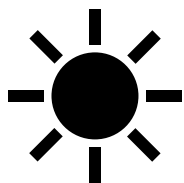
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Steve Koenig

1. Potluck dinner (bring your favorite to share!)
2. Holiday Party and Ticket Auction

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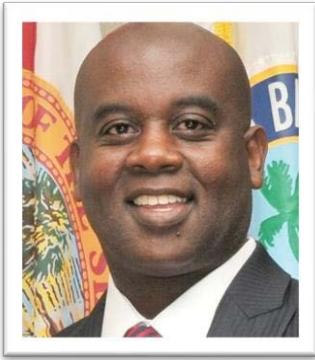
Nancy Koenig --- *Our December meeting is one of my favorites! DJ Sean Doyle provides the entertainment, including holiday and dance music, our members dress in festive holiday attire, and a feast of dishes is brought to share by our members. Oh and the fun we have when the ticket auction begins! This is one of our 2 fundraisers held each year. \$1 buys a ticket. Buy as many as you like. Stroll the items and put tickets in the bags of the items you would like. One ticket is pulled from each bag for a winner. We also have 2nd chance prizes. So come and spend the evening with your neighbors and friends at our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction. I promise you, it is worth it!*

We have a wonderful treat for our Annual Holiday Party! We will have a decorated Christmas tree in the lobby and a sign indicating the Bellaire Community Group's 2023 Party to create a festive atmosphere. A professional photographer will capture the memories of the event. Please sign up and provide your email address to receive the special holiday picture. We hope this will make our event even more memorable. So be sure to dress for the event!

Thanks for the Journey.

Steve and Nancy





Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

Happy Holidays! As we welcome the dawn of a new year, I am thrilled to announce the much-anticipated return of the annual Mayor's Fitness Challenge! This communitywide initiative is designed to inspire and support all of us on our journey towards a healthier, more active lifestyle. The Mayor's Fitness Challenge isn't just about shedding a few pounds; it's a celebration of well-being, a rallying call for unity and a commitment to making positive changes in our lives. Regular physical activity has countless benefits for our physical and mental health, and this challenge is the perfect opportunity to kickstart a year of wellness.

Registration is open for the 10-week program featuring fun and diverse activities for adults of all ages and fitness levels. The first class is Tuesday, Jan. 9, and biweekly sessions include a mix of indoor and outdoor activities including line dancing, strength training, walk/runs and yoga. Registration is only \$20 per participant. Classes will be at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. every Saturday.

There will be a weigh-in at the beginning of the program and again at the end to track results. Prizes will be awarded to those who lose the highest percentage of weight. Additional prizes will be awarded.

Registration is online at www.CODB.us/FitnessChallenge or at the first session/weigh-in at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 9, at the Cherry Cultural & Educational Center, 925 George W. Engram Blvd.

I am excited to embark on this fitness journey alongside each and every one of you. Together, we can make our city healthier, happier and stronger!



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

When you call 911, seconds matter. The clock is ticking from the moment we answer your call, take your information, notify the right units and send them to your location. A lot has to happen in a short window of time.

That's why we're always looking for ways to improve our response times and get help to you faster.

In my opinion, our latest tool in that effort is one of the best advancements in technology available. We're launching Live911 at the Volusia Sheriff's Office, which allows deputies to hear real-time 911 calls in their assigned area.

Of all the advancements in tech in the past few years, this one may be one of the most beneficial to public safety.

Now, my deputies in the field can hear what's going on from the moment an emergency call comes in.

Deputies in the area of a call can see the location of the caller on a map while listening to the live audio and heading to the scene.

They'll hear all the interactions between the caller and call-taker, including answers to questions, first-hand descriptions, emotions and background noise.

This can cut response times when it matters most. Other agencies using this technology have already saved lives with it, including a call where a drowning child was saved before the panicked caller was even able

to provide an address. The Polk County Sheriff's Office was one of the first agencies in Florida to try Live911, and they credited it with saving 3 lives in the first 30 days of deployment.

Our 911 call takers and dispatchers do a fantastic job answering emergency calls with calm professionalism, gathering crucial details for all law enforcement, fire and medical emergencies. They will continue to do that work 24 hours a day. This new Live911 program is just an added feature that gives deputies direct access to the raw audio with zero delay.

I hope you never have to call 911 for help! But in the event that you do, please know we're taking every step we can to ensure the most urgent emergencies get the fastest response possible.

For more info about this technology, check out some of the articles and case studies at Live911.com.

Thanks and stay safe!

Sheriff Mike Chitwood



*Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

From Ken Strickland
Zone 2 City Commissioner



Printed in Daytona Beach at



735 N. Ridgewood Avenue
Daytona Beach
(386) 252-6571

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

As I begin my 75th trip around the sun, all of which but 5 years were spent here in the Daytona Beach area, or a few miles up A1A in Flagler, the reality of my blessings become glaringly obvious. It is not lost on me that this is the time of year when feelings of gratitude, childhood memories, and joy of the season come to the fore of our minds, but that number 75 is significant. 75 is three quarters of a century! Wow, it reminds me of an oft used phrase of my dad's. "if I'd known I was gonna live this long, I would have taken better care of myself." But it is what it is. Blessings, according to Webster, means a thing conducive to happiness or welfare. Well, living along our Atlantic Ocean beach sure fits the bill for happiness. Welfare can get a little sketchy every now and then, but the good days certainly out way the bad.

I was blessed to be born as part of the baby boomer generation, descendants of the greatest generation, and they were. I am further blessed to be raised down in South Daytona well before the development we see there now. When I was a kid, US1 was two lanes, and was what some folks called the paved road. The rest of the roads were dirt or shell. I was blessed to have a childhood with great friends, whose parents along with mine gave us long leashes, to run, explore, build rafts, sail and fish the river, ride horses, camp out in the woods, swim in artesian fed canals, leave at sunrise and return at sunset...freedom...but when lines were crossed, they collectively held us accountable. It was as if they gave us enough rope to grow and succeed.

Welfare is something that can be provided for us, or it can be achieved through effort on our own. My parents and most of the parents of my childhood friends adhered to the latter, as certainly did the Dominican nuns who instructed me at school. We learned that the rewards from hard work outweighed the suffering we



endured to achieve our goal, even if the goal was to learn Latin. I used to think they enjoyed torturing us because we were young and they were old and wore those outfits that had to be sweltering in our non-air conditioned classrooms, but yep, those were blessings too.

Family, for most of us, is the greatest blessing of all. As we grow older most of us realize there is no such thing as perfect parents, but if you are blessed to have parents whose love outweighed their faults, that's another blessing to count. My daughter, Jennifer, her husband David, and my granddaughter Avery are the blessing of my life, for sure. They are a blessing I did not earn. I think those are the best of all blessings, those blessings you get that you don't deserve. All you can say is thank you.

Last but not least is to be blessed with good health. I have been attending a lot of funerals and memorials lately. Who knows, but we are all gonna find out if leaving this mortal coil is yet another blessing. Lord I hope so. I know that surfing at 74 + is a blessing that not many get to enjoy, so I am grateful for that, but I have to say my joints and muscles aren't nearly as flexible as they were just a few years ago. But it is what it is, and the good feelings outweigh the bad.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays, I am blessed to be part of the Bellaire Community Group.

'til next time,
Paul



SAVE OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

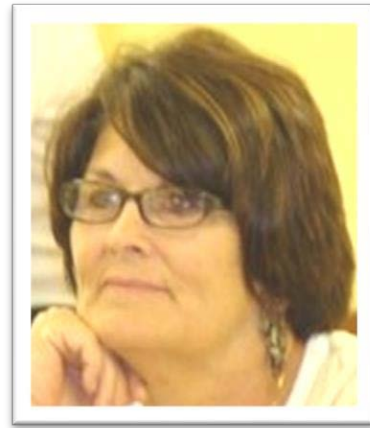
Weegie Kuendig
Past Chair, Save Our Neighborhoods

Dear Bellaire Friends and Residents:

The Holiday Season is here and I sincerely wish all of you the very best. May you and your families be blessed in the New Year.

I hesitated to write one of my usual columns about city processes and procedures as I usually do, but the city is still having important meetings with consequences for residents well into the Christmas and Holiday Season. So I do want to address a few things before the New Year begins. I am not advocating for City business to stop but there are very important issues coming before the Commission (December 20th) and the Planning Board (December 21). The agenda for the Planning Board hasn't been published yet, but the Commission agenda is up. The saga of the Silver Beach Development continues full force for a Second Reading. Important decisions will be made at this meeting.

I am more convinced than ever that during First Readings for Development requests (and other issues) that the city should allow residents and the Commission to comment. At the last meeting residents were denied comment. I requested, through Commissioner Strickland, that the city produce written evidence (laws, policy, etc) where it was actually stated that no comment was allowed. I was told there is nothing. So we are left with state law, which as far as I can tell does not deny residents or the Commission this due process.



And something came up at the last Beachside Redevelopment Board meeting that concerned me during the discussion and vote for a very convoluted request for a parking lot in a redevelopment neighborhood. One of the board members who pointed out a lot of issues with the proposal was "asked" to recuse herself from voting because she lived across the street from the proposed lot because it might affect her property value. It was stunning to me because in the past I don't recall people on the Board who owned businesses on Main Street not being allowed to vote on changes across the street from them that would directly affect their business. I have a lot of unanswered questions about all of it.

Well, so much for no comment from me! I do thank you for another year of reading my column.

Happy everything to everyone.

Weegie Kuendig
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BCG 2023 Annual Ticket Auction

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Hand Painted Teacher Stool

Wall Décor and Assorted Artwork

Giant Box of Candy

Wine Bottle Opener and Wine

Jumbo Pot with Steamer Baskets

Hawaiian Dancer Portraits and Picture Frames

Assorted Costume Jewelry

Adult 3 Wheel Bicycle

Literary Fiction

Complete set of Mems Golf Clubs and Golf Supplies

Outdoor Wall Thermometer

Refrigerated Tote Bag

Scented Candles and Scented Body Gift Set

Assorted Costume Jewelry

BigFoot 1/2 Gallon Drink Tank

3 Piece Ceramic Mixing Bowl Set

Holiday Ceramic Cake Plate, Glass Serving Platter and Decor

Case of Busch Light Beer and 5 Beer Steins

Area Rugs

SubSafe Container

Washcloth Gift Set

Thermos with Carrying Case

HDTV Antenna

Assorted Size A/C Grille Covers

Windshield Sun Shade

Handmade Turtle Artwork

Amway Gift BasketRumba

Air Fryer

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

We held our annual Shop-with-a-Cop event on Sunday, December 10th at Walmart on Beville Road. This gives disadvantaged children and their families the opportunity to shop with a law enforcement officer for Christmas gifts. Officers volunteer to participate and have a great time interacting with the children. It is a heartwarming experience to see kids get what they want for Christmas, kids who without this event would have little or nothing. This can be held each year due to donations from the community and business leaders.

The Police Department participated in the Jingle All the Waves Christmas Parade on December 12th at 6 p.m. The parade began at Beach Street and Mary McLeod Bethune and ran south to Jackie Robinson Parkway. We had our high-water rescue vehicle, police cars and other police vehicles in the parade. Many employees participated by walking along the parade route passing out candy canes. There were fireworks at Jackie Robinson Ballpark at the conclusion of the parade.

The City of Daytona Beach Santa Run took place on December 13th at 5:30 p.m. Police officers, fire fighters and City leaders escorted Santa through our



great City. The escort began at Derbyshire Sports Complex and continued through several neighborhoods, concluding at the Cherry Cultural Center. Everyone was invited to take pictures with Santa. Refreshments were served for all to enjoy. This is another great opportunity for residents of our community to engage with the professional public servants in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

The Daytona Beach Citizens Academy will begin on January 16th and run through March 12th. Classes are held on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Class size is limited to 25 participants. The nine-week program gives residents the opportunity to gain insight into the municipal process from an internal perspective. Participants have the opportunity to interact with different departments and ask questions of the department heads and directors. This provides the chance to learn new things about how our great City runs.

May the blessings of the holiday season bring you peace and joy throughout the New Year.



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



LEAVING LOCKDOWN

Well, y'all, it's yet another edition of "I haven't gotten COVID yet"—but you probably don't need me saying this again. Trust me, I'll tell you when I finally catch it. So far so good. And we—me, spouse, and Dad—have had our updated shots for COVID, flu, and pneumonia.

This month's column is a feel-good!

I have learned over the years that an active attitude of gratitude makes an enormous difference in my daily life. I meditate for 30 minutes every morning while the sun comes up, and at least 5 minutes of that meditation practice are reflections on gratitude and appreciation for what I have. I am truly, sincerely, genuinely privileged, and my life situation is so wonderful despite the challenges that everyone experiences every day. Over the last year, since my 91-year-old Dad moved in and we moved to a bigger house, so much has changed...and so much remains the same!

Here are some of the many things for which I am truly grateful.

I am thankful for enough funds to buy good food and to keep the house warm and cool as appropriate. I make sure to donate to Second Harvest Food Bank to do my part to make sure some of my neighbors have enough quality food to eat. When I have enough to share, I'm going to do that.

I am ever grateful for my husband, who has wholeheartedly welcomed my dad and all his little persnickety things and his dog and his car. My husband works about 60 hours a week for pay and spends a LOT of additional time working to maintain the house and the property. He's always working! When I ask him to do something, he files it in his head; when I remind him, it moves up on his priority list; when I remind him again, he gets it done pronto. I think reminding him twice is just fine with me. He's been an amazing partner for 20 years and his love for my father is real. I am so, so grateful for that. I couldn't be caretaking my dad without my husband. I mean, I guess I could, but oh my it would be so much more challenging!

I am incredibly grateful that for the first time in my life, my siblings and my father and me are all within easy driving distance. That means we see each other often, that we can spend holidays together, go hiking on the forest trails together, spend birthdays celebrating together, and you get the idea. Having my dad here means I see my siblings more often. For all these things, I am grateful.

I am, every day, thankful for my career. I have spent over 30 years in the college classroom, honing my skills, mastering my subject, learning more every day about how to expand and deepen my practice of this thing called teaching. As I approach retirement (two more years! Yes!!), I am additionally so very thankful for the university I landed at, which has welcomed me, been often surprised at me, taken my suggestions, warmed my heart, cooled my anger, and provided me with some of the most amazing students I have ever known. I actually am not sure what I'll be "doing" with my life when I stop teaching, because I have devoted my life to my career. But there are things I want to do that I haven't been able to...and I'm excited to see what happens next. I wouldn't be here, ready to retire, without this amazing group of academics who are also friends. I have had an amazing career with this place and I am so grateful for that! (And I'm extra grateful for the "countdown to retirement" app I just put on my phone!)

I am beyond grateful for basically good health. I'm approaching 60. Some of my friends are starting to break down. One of my oldest friends—we met in junior high school—just died, after decades of bad health. She's the first of our Three Musketeers to leave. Given that as a reminder, I am incredibly thankful for what seems to be a pretty resilient body. My blood pressure is good. My weight is stable. My hips, ankles, neck, and hands are starting to feel their age...but they are not problems AT ALL. All my major body systems are in good shape. Going into my 60s, that is very important...and I'm fully aware that I need to maintain my usual health practices in order to maintain myself into my 80s. Maybe into my 90s! I'm grateful for the genetics and the environmental influences that have put me in this position. Goodness knows without good genetics I would be in an entirely different place.

And I am grateful for my cat's longevity. It may not seem like much in the Great Scheme of Things, but having my furry orange lap companion be healthy and happy makes me feel good. He's 23 now—I know!! It's amazing!—and although he's starting to show signs of aging, he still eats a good meal, enjoys his catnip, loves to sit in the sunshine on the pool patio and smell the outside, and snuggles into my lap for cuddles. He is the special joy of my life.

Happy season of gratitude, friends. I hope you have sources of joy and thankfulness in your lives.

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Special thanks to all our volunteers!