



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



January 2024

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Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, January 18th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Dinner at 630 p.m.

Suggested donation \$5

Dinner:
Chili with Sweet Cornbread
(veggie option too!)
Desserts
Beverages

Happy New Year!

Last month's meeting was our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction. Jeff and Nancy share their perspectives again this month.

Jeff Boyle --- The Bellaire

Community Group celebrated the December 21st winter solstice with the Annual Holiday Potluck Dinner Party and Ticket Auction. The festive atmosphere was accented by a beautifully decorated Christmas tree in the lobby, wonderful music selections by DJ Sean Doyle, and a professional photographer roaming the packed Schnebly Center. The dinner provided more than enough delicious food as attendees brought and sampled tasty dishes and desserts arranged on the buffet table. Then everyone settled back for the entertaining drawings for a record number of valuable prizes donated by local businesses and Bellaire Community Group members and patrons. Rachael announced the items with a running commentary and humorous one-liners, with her Christmas daughters, Kalina and Viara, reading the numbers aloud and delivering the items to the tables of the lucky winners. The highlight of the ticket auction was the drawing for the amazing adult-size tricycle, when winner Mary Ann Wilson, cheered by the crowd, quickly climbed aboard and peddled her prize out the door to the lobby, on a trike that looked custom-designed for her.

Heartfelt thanks to the many individuals who worked so hard to make this unique event such a total success, and to all the people who gave so generously in love and service to others. Everyone felt warm camaraderie and fellowship in an evening filled with Christmas spirit. The Annual Holiday Party just gets better every year, and we are blessed the other eleven months in getting together with the great people in the Bellaire Community Group.
Happy New Year!

Nancy Koenig --- I love a good party and celebrating and Our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction 2023 was the best one ever! Thanks to all of YOU! Everyone stepped up this year to make it a huge success. To those who donated auction items, helped collect items and donations, sorted and organized items, decorated dinner tables, (con't on next page)



AGEIDA

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2024 Officers

Chair

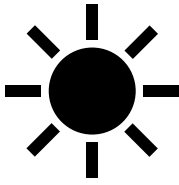
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Mike Chitwood
Jakari Young
Ken Strickland
Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Kuendig
Steve Koenig

1. Chili Dinner with Neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guest: DB Police Chief Jakari Young
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

displayed auction items, played holiday music for us (along with amazing lighting), brought delicious dishes to share, Emceed the event, sold auction tickets, and everything in between...a huge THANK YOU! We did it together! AND we raised over \$1,200 for our BCG.

For me, Christmas is a season for love and sharing. We had so much food left over after our party. Most of you are unaware that two ladies with big hearts, Julia and Renee, stayed behind and boxed up warm meals with the left overs and delivered them that evening after our party to folks in need. In the days following, they shared with me how appreciative everyone was and were thanked with handshakes and hugs!

Happy New Year! I am excited for January's meeting. It is going to be VERY cold! So, I decided to prepare Chili for the meal. This month I will also have a veggie (meatless) option. My family loves chili. My sister, Karen, makes the best version. This time of year, she prepares it almost weekly. And as it goes in our family, we prepare enough for all our family households and share. (Well, mostly hers and mine as we live next door to each other.)

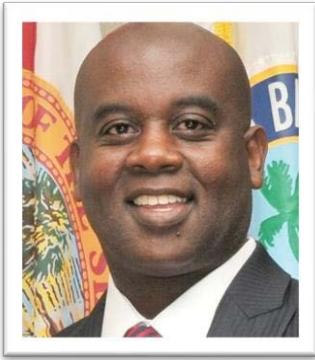
Make it a choice to join us this year at one of our BCG meetings. Have dinner with your neighbors and I promise you, it is worth it!

This month we look forward to hosting Daytona Beach Police Chief Jakari Young. It has been a while since Chief Young has joined us. Please bring your questions and concerns and Chief Young will be happy to respond to our members.

We hope you join us this month and experience the community spirit we share in our Bellaire Community Neighborhood.

Thanks for the journey,

Steve and Nancy



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This month, members of the city commission and I will sign a historic agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the much-anticipated Daytona Beach Flood Control Study. The signing will signify the start of a three-year, \$3 million federal feasibility study for the city's core area, which is highly susceptible to flooding during major storm events.

The fully funded feasibility study is the first step toward a potential federally-cost shared project that could be part of the city's overall, long-range flood resiliency strategy. The Corps' Jacksonville office will lead the project team assigned to the Daytona Beach study, comprising 25 experts including planners, engineers, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, surveyors, archaeologists, economists, real estate specialists, etc.

There are benchmarks on the project's timeline which I will happily share with you during the process which will conclude in February 2026.

We've all witnessed the effects of the mental health crisis our country is facing, whether we see it in the news, in our community or even affecting people we know.

Unfortunately, while our nation has yet to figure out a solution to this growing problem, much of it has fallen to law enforcement to address.

This is nothing new, and we've been training for years in the best approaches to these cases. In addition to extensive training focused on de-escalation and the sanctity of all life, Volusia sheriff's deputies receive important crisis intervention training designed to help prevent a mental health incident from turning into a tragedy.

Today I want to tell you about another way we're addressing this issue. Through a partnership with SMA Healthcare, we have a Mental Health Call Taker embedded in our 911 Communications Center – someone who is dedicated to calls that clearly involve a mental health crisis that may require expert care beyond what law enforcement can provide.

The idea is that in some cases, the Mental Health Call Taker can help reroute certain calls to SMA's Mobile Crisis Response Team, with personnel trained in treatment needs for mental health disorders, substance abuse and other issues.

Members of the Crisis Response Team wear plain clothes and drive unmarked vehicles but carry an SMA Healthcare identification badge. They are also trained in Florida's Baker Act and Marchman Act laws

and can assist families with getting treatment for a loved one.

This won't replace a law enforcement response when a crime has been committed or someone's life or safety is at risk. We have seen plenty of those calls and will continue to respond to them. But there are a multitude of cases where no crime has been committed, no threat is imminent, and the best solution is finding the right mental health treatment.

More action is needed, for certain. As our country continues to grapple with the mental health crisis, I'm proud that in Volusia County we are addressing it to the best of our ability with all the resources we can bring to bear. The lives we save are worth the effort.

Sheriff Mike Chitwood

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Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

The New Year is off to a good start with the New Years Eve Celebration on Main Street. The evening was well attended with little to no problems. The "On Patrol" TV crew was there too.

I hope everyone's year is off to a great start. The 1st City Commission Meeting has come and gone with a very lively discussion of another proposed parking lot project on S Grandview.

The new playground equipment being installed at Schnebly Center is nearing completion. Possibly completed by the time you read this.

Also, I have been receiving comments and questions on the lack of transparency on the lease of the Chamber building on City Island.

This was pulled from the last Agenda. More detailed information is forthcoming which I will pass along upon receipt.

Until next month,

Ken Strickland

Zone 2 City Commissioner

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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Sometimes trying to recall details of events of the past is difficult. Oftentimes words fail to adequately capture the emotions of past experiences or memories. I have been writing these articles now for over fifteen years and have to come to realize that what I have been trying to capture is the feelings that permeated those times. Words can identify an attitude or feeling, but they cannot recreate the original experience. Many times I receive comments from BCG readers telling me how they enjoy my attempts to describe what it was like here before, whatever it is that happened to, or is happening to, the town of my childhood. Many of these “memories” include stories of my father’s and his childhood here as well. I enjoy the feedback and hope that perhaps the reader has experienced something that triggered a feeling that related to their own memories.

So what are some of the words we attach to events or experiences that are nothing more than titles on the tabs of our memory files? For me **belonging** is one: belonging to a family, a faith, a community. Looking back, I see my parents, cookouts, vacations, nuns and priests, little league, grandparents, other caring adults, and my friends. All those things provided a myriad of events that were the basis of the feeling of belonging and being valued. Because that happened in my youth, I think they were the most powerful of all memories--the originals. Those are good feelings indeed.

Another file has the identifying tab of **security**. Under that tab I see common and accepted values and standards expressed in the experiences of school, sports, work, and community....coloring within the lines, so to speak. The nuns were bound and determined to make me learn something and behave in an appropriate manner. I



learned three strikes and you’re out, pay day is on Friday for the work you put in during the week. Following the rules didn’t guarantee success, but breaking them almost always resulted in difficulty. A pathway was available for success that was clearly laid out and accepted. The message was, you could make it if you tried, which led to accomplishment...a hard feeling to beat.

I think there are probably countless other tabs that categorize feelings that have their bases in thousands of life experiences--some good experiences, some bad. Like tabs in file cabinets, we can pick the ones we look at. I like the good ones, and I have been blessed with a good supply of them and try to share them here.

Google describes nostalgia as a sentimental or wistful affection for the past, typically for a period or place with happy personal associations...and that is it! That is what I try to capture and what I guess some of you experience in reading these screeds. Again words, even though the Google’s description, seemed to hit the nail on the head, words fall just short...close, but no cigar. Time only goes in one direction, objects in the mirror of my memory may appear real, but they are just memories. Reality has left them behind. I seem to be chasing the unobtainable. I guess it is time to make some new memories. Hard to find any originals anymore, but it is definitely worth a try.

‘til next time,

Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

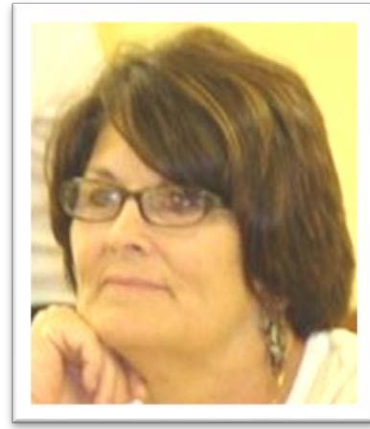
Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

The Mayor announced that our Police Department is going to coordinate with FDOT to improve pedestrian and bike safety in Daytona Beach. I believe this is nowhere more important than our Beachside where tourists and residents alike constantly cross A1A, although I do not know for certain if the statistics are worse there than on any of our other roads. I see it as an accident waiting to happen. I certainly don't think that FDOT has done a very good job on our roads left to their own devices. I don't know whether that will change. I am guessing not. I think it will be up to our Police Department and City if change is to occur.

I use A1A all the time. It is convenient for me but not always the quickest way. Half the reason I use the beach road is to keep an eye on what goes on there and what it looks like. It certainly is never boring. I believe there are many solutions to traffic woes there that the city could help to alleviate. We can start with the granting of many Planned Developments (PD's) and the effects of being way too lenient with the front setbacks. Allowing buildings to abut the sidewalks and basically the street creates many problems.

For example, I remember when the Hardrock PD was granted. They said only trucks of a certain size would be used so that their porte-cochere would be able to accept deliveries. I can report to you that doesn't happen. Large delivery trucks take up an entire lane, even using the turning lanes to make deliveries. Who checks on these things? This happens all up and down A1A.

Another huge problem is created when there is so much construction and no place for work equipment. They use the street for months or years at a time creating havoc on A1A. Workers cross the street anywhere and often with no warning. Drivers must stay hyper-vigilant not only for these workers,



Weegie Kuendig

but for all pedestrians because visibility is often blocked. You can feel the wear and tear on A1A from this equipment. Take a look at the condition of the pavers as well. And between the equipment, deliveries, and loading and unloading buses, it can be difficult to navigate - never mind if there is an event in town. Many of these vehicles use our neighborhoods as shortcuts or cut throughs, too. Our neighborhood roads weren't built for that. And the lighting: it's downright dark in some areas. Crosswalks weren't designed well either and since we seem determined to pave over Beachside for parking and other buildings, those crosswalks will need to be upgraded and I suppose we will need even more.

For pedestrian and bike safety to be improved I believe the city needs to lead FDOT and not the other way around.

That's it for this month - well, not really but space is limited! I do thank you for this opportunity as always. Stay safe and well.

Weegie Kuendig
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 386-451-6470.

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

I am excited to announce that the Daytona Beach Police Department has partnered with a non-profit to assist drivers in replacing lights. This program will be carried out with a \$7,000 grant. The Minnesota based Lights On! Program partners with local repair shops to fix burned out lightbulbs at no cost. Drivers who are pulled over for a broken or burned-out light can receive a voucher worth up to \$250 to cover the repair instead of receiving a ticket. The voucher will cover a headlight, taillight, break light or turn signal. There are three local providers that are working with the Police Department to provide free repairs. Representatives from Teresa's Garage, Jon Hall Chevrolet, and Gary Yeomans Ford, met at the Police Department headquarters for a press conference on December 13, 2023, to explain the program to the public.

To keep roads safe, vehicle owners are legally required to have headlights, taillights, brake lights, and turn signals. All lights on vehicles need to function properly. Some members of the community are faced with a financial burden if the lights are not working. The costs associated with repairs may be too expensive for someone to be able to repair immediately. These vouchers will aid in alleviating that cost and burden to



the motorist. The motorist will have 14 days to use the voucher. If the motorist is stopped a second time and the repair has not been completed, they will be issued a ticket.

Since the start of the program, more than 11,000 vouchers have been redeemed. When the program began in Minnesota, there were 21 police departments and nine auto shops. Today there are more than 160 police departments nationwide that participate in the program and a total of 389 auto shops. This wouldn't be possible without the cooperation of three of our local auto shops.

The Daytona Beach Police Department is the first agency in central Florida to participate in this initiative. This will allow us to turn a stressful traffic stop into a positive experience. Our hope is to create goodwill between officers and the community.

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

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


LEAVING LOCKDOWN

I literally cannot believe that it's 2024. Something about how that sounds coming out of my mouth is...weird. Maybe it's because I was afraid we wouldn't get here. The older I get, the more appreciative I am of every additional day. More days are behind me than in front of me (unless I live to some ridiculously high number). That's worth something.

I don't make resolutions, but I do set yearly and daily intentions. The daily intentions end up dictating the yearly achievements when I wasn't expecting it...for example, my morning practice of thinking about what I'm grateful for has, over the last few years, really transformed my thinking. I rarely find myself complaining about anything anymore, for example. It used to be a challenge to reset my mind when I got caught up in a negative loop, but now I can see it coming, let it be there for a bit, and then shake it off.

Another daily intention is to extend grace to everyone, because we all need it. My goodness, do we need it. I need it every day and I'm in a really good space. I work hard to be sure that I approach every conversation assuming positive intent from anyone I talk with. It's surprising how well this works to ensure a good outcome. Try it for yourself.

But there are always achievements that I can't tie to a specific daily intention.

For example: last year, I somehow lost 12 pounds. Not sure where they went. I didn't try to lose weight and I eat pretty much the same stuff I always have. I didn't even realize I was losing weight until one day I discovered a stack of pants I'd bought on sale despite their being too small. I told myself then I'd diet into them. (And as a reminder, this hardly EVER works.) For grins, I tried them on. Every single one of them fit. I'm not one to watch the numbers on the scale, but how my clothes fit? I watch that for sure. Bye bye, 12 pounds, have fun, don't send me a postcard.

I also gained some things. Over the course of the year, I somehow established a stable evening routine (it's radical, but we now have dinner at 6, followed by the news.) I've wanted this for YEARS but my husband's work schedule meant that sometimes we were eating at 4 p.m. or not until 9 p.m. I can't tell you how soothing it is to know for sure when we can eat dinner. (I also gained a slow cooker to make sure what we eat is delicious and not time intensive!)

I threw away some stuff. Long standing preconceptions about my siblings, my relationships, my

self. I also threw away a LOT of material items: I cleaned out my old spices, I found about six pairs of shoes I will never wear again, and I bagged up several trash bags of clothes that I haven't worn in years. I mean they're all still in the trunk of my car, but hey! I got them collected and all I need now is to accidentally pass a Goodwill or something and remind myself to stop in. I'll count that as a win...and as a reminder to stop cluttering up my space.

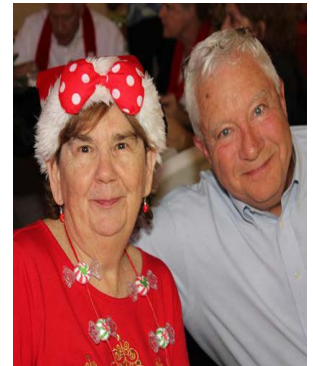
I also bought (well, had to buy) some new systems to make life easier to live. You know—a new a/c system. A complete repiping of the house when something under the sink finally gave up the ghost. A new set of hurricane windows so that I never ever have to deal with plywood or Lexan panels again. NOPE, not me, no sirree, that stuff is over with. And I also bought a bunch of potted herbs that I swear I will maintain, so I always have fresh basil, parsley, mint, thyme, and oregano. (See above, slow cooker!)

One thing I stopped doing, somehow, after years of telling myself I really had to stop if I am going to maintain my sanity: I stopped putting my work life first. It's been so easy to lose myself in my career—and it's been so rewarding to do so—until suddenly I saw the costs. My **life** is at my home, with my family. My **work** is now a separate entity and I refuse to check work email on the weekend. My job is not my life. Whew. Big realization...one of those turns you take and then look back and think *what the heck was I even doing?*

As to what I WILL be doing in 2024 (see, there it is again, it just sounds weird). Well, I'll be starting to thrive again after the pandemic years of surviving. I have to sort out which of my many current routines were established solely to get through to the next day...and if they no longer serve me, out they go. BIG ASK but it's definitely time.

And I do think, now that I'm actually seeing retirement ahead, that I will start now to build that life. I don't want to be the person who retires and then has nothing to do and so sits around wondering who I really am.

I hope the new year brings you grace, and good people, and paths to walk that you WANT to walk. Happy new year, friends.



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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!