



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



February 2024

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*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, February 15th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.*

Suggested donation \$5

*Dinner:
Pierogies and Kielbasa
Green Beans
Chocolate Glazed Orange Cake
Beverages*

As I was unable to attend the January meeting, I asked our founder and vice chair, Paul Zimmerman to fill in for me.



Paul Zimmerman - - - At our last meeting, I had the great pleasure of interviewing Daytona Beach Police Chief Jakari Young. Chief Young was a wealth of information. First off, he filled in for Captain Nikolow, giving us a crime report in our area. In the interview, Chief Young identified the most significant challenge currently facing him: keeping his department adequately staffed. The Chief told us that he has 20 new recruits coming in from the academy. Chief Young explained that those 20 new graduates will be trained and acclimated to the way things are done in the Daytona Beach PD, so they will be ready to go on day one. In discussing the upcoming special events season, the Chief informed us of how the DBPD and the Volusia County Sheriff's office collaborated on a drone program to help identify problem areas and disperse his officers accordingly. I think it was evident to those in attendance that we are lucky to have Chief Young serving us and guiding our police department.

Nancy Koenig - - - My heritage is Polish and Irish. I am Polish on my Dad's side. My sisters and I spent some of our summers growing up with our paternal grandparents (I suppose to give our parents a well deserved break from us girls). They lived in a very large house in Springfield NJ and my aunt and uncle and cousins lived there too. Grandma and Aunt Dutch loved preparing meals for the family. This month's BCG dinner is inspired by my memories of our summers with Grandma and one of her favorite dishes. You are in for a treat this month with Grandma's Pierogies and kielbasa.

(con't on next page)

AGENDA

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2024 Officers Chair

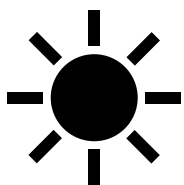
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Derrick Henry
Mike Chitwood
Jakari Young
Ken Strickland
Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Kuendig
Steve Koenig

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guest: Volusia County Chair Jeff Brower
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

Come join us this month and meet some new friends and neighbors. Experience the spirit of community we all share. I promise, you will be glad you came.

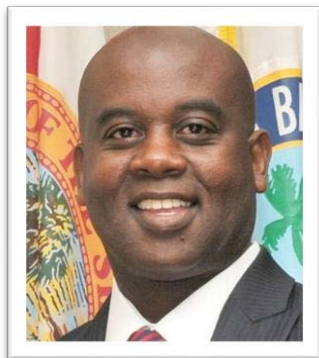
This month we look forward to hosting Jeff Brower, Volusia County Chair. Jeff is a good friend of the BCG and has joined us in the past. I thank Paul for stepping up again this month.

Thanks for the journey,

Steve and Nancy



OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

Great news for Daytona Beach's youth! I am proud to announce the city will receive a \$125,000 grant from the 2024 Childhood Obesity Prevention & Environmental Health and Sustainability Awards, facilitated by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Foundation for a Healthy America. These generous grant funds will allow up to 400 children, ages 5 to 14, to participate in the Mayor's Math & Fitness Bootcamp program this summer. The innovative program integrates exercise and dance into mathematics learning and exemplifies a successful fusion of physical activity with educational outcomes, contributing to the well-being and development of Daytona Beach's youth.

This grant is part of a broader commitment by the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the American Beverage Foundation for Healthy America to foster community-based programs that promote health, wellness and environmental quality. To date, the partnership has awarded \$6.5 million to 73 cities, supporting a diverse range of initiatives aimed at improving the health and environment of communities across the United States.



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

It's hard to find a neighborhood today that isn't on camera. Even if you don't have a security camera, there's a good chance one of your neighbors does.

Obviously the prevalence of home security video has become a huge asset for law enforcement. Whether it's a rash of car breaks, a package theft, or a shooting, we often can find video evidence that provides a solid lead.

Some of the most common devices out there are Ring cameras. You have probably seen the news that Ring is shutting down its "Request For Assistance" tool that allowed law enforcement to ask users for their footage.

That tool was a great way for my deputies to ask the community for help. Unfortunately, as with a lot of technology out there, there were misconceptions about how it worked.

When we sent out a "Request For Assistance," we weren't able to just access anyone's footage without their consent. The tool simply allowed us to select a spot on the map where a crime was committed and send out a request to Ring users in the area to send us their footage.

It was a digital version of going door to door asking for video.

Taking away that tool will slow us down in some cases, but the good news is we have an alternative if you're interested.

Through our partnership with FUSUS, we have a registry that's very similar to the video-sharing tool Ring shut down.

If you register at <https://volusiasheriff.fususregistry.com>, we can send you the same types of requests we used to send through Ring – except this program works for any brand of camera.

If we send a request in your area, you'll receive an email with details about the case (date/time, description of incident, case number, etc.) along with a link to upload your video for our detectives.

Signing up does NOT mean we'll have access to your camera. You're simply telling us you have a camera at your address, and you can upload footage on request.

You can also find more information at <https://connect.volusiasheriff.gov>, where you can read some FAQs and learn all about the program.

Thanks for your help in solving crime and keeping our community safe!

Sheriff Mike Chitwood



Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

By the time you read this a Charter Review Committee should have been selected. This Committee meets every 10 years.

While writing about selections it would be nice to have a Zone 2 resident volunteer to be on the Nuisance Abatement Board. Also the Board of Adjustment needs a Zone 2 member. Anyone that is interested should contact Betty Goodman at City Hall or me to get more information.

Regarding the lease agreement with the Chamber, the lease/rent will be below market rate. It came to my attention that we have staff in the Marina offices that could be renting for a higher rate.

The Chamber offers a program for new businesses to join at a reduced rate for two years. Participants will be able to participate in the Chamber's training and mentoring programs.

Until next month,

Ken Strickland

Zone 2 City Commissioner

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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group

I was talking to a friend the other day about our childhood experiences, and how great life was as a child before the rest of the country decided to move here. We both sounded like what we used to criticize as typical old folks complaining about how things used to be and how the new comers have ruined everything. You remember, like the old man who used to yell, “get off my lawn.” Well, that is what we sounded like. I guess it is better than comparing notes from our last visit to the doctors.

We talked about how much freedom we had, and how our parents would be charged with neglect today for letting us run wild on our own like they did. We talked about how that freedom led to experiences that caused us to learn about ourselves, our strengths and limitations. How social skills were learned through those experiences. Back then there was no hypersensitivity to hurting somebody’s feelings. If you made a social faux pas, your peers would let you know, sometimes in the cruelest of ways. We both shared experiences of either being the giver or receiver of these social skill lessons. Neither of us remembered any classes in school teaching social skills, nor were we certain the term was even mentioned.

We spoke of the forts we built by either swaying down pine and gum trees or chopping them down with axes or machetes. We would campout in the woods in those forts as 9 and 10 year olds, build fires, cook hot dogs, roast potatoes in the coals, and on hot summer nights sleep under the stars. We pretended we were settlers or explorers roughing it in the wilderness. We would wander miles from our homes beachcombing the river and canal banks, catching snakes, and fishing. Looking back, it is amazing to me the confident fearlessness, or maybe recklessness, that we exhibited as



kids. Some of those trees we swayed down were 30 to 40 feet tall and we were at the top swaying back and forth till we got close enough to the ground for our friend to grab hold and pull them over. Some of those snakes were moccasins, but we knew to stay clear of them.

Looking back on it now, it seems that that confident fearlessness was developed through experiences, or through shared experiences of our other friends. Oh, we watched out for each other. We would warn each other about making a mistake that could lead to pain, usually referenced by previous mistakes of our own. I guess that is what was so different about growing up then as opposed to now. Back then the freedom we enjoyed allowed us to fall, to fail, to get our feelings hurt, and to adapt. I can remember my dad saying, “Shake it off, rub some dirt on it, or sticks and stones can break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” The hurts were there, but they were somehow expected, and the message was to move on past them, and on to the next adventurous challenge. Today, for a lot of reasons kids seem to be sheltered from experiencing those hurts, in my opinion to their detriment.

I am glad I was a kid during those times and got to experience the lessons of childhood. I am especially happy I can remember what it was like to ride those trees to the ground with my friends reaching up to grab it and pull it down. Ah, those are some great memories. I am glad I can share them with you.

‘til next time,
Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I used to think that a "prescribed burn" was used mainly to protect us from larger forest fires and was highly regulated. Turns out that isn't quite the whole story as we witnessed last week near Margaritaville. "Open burning of land clearing debris (uprooted or cleared vegetation in connection with construction for rights-of-way; land development; or mineral operations is allowed provided that requirements... are met." I thought the Florida Forest Service issued the burn permits and were also in charge of the control of the burn.

Silly me. The reality is dangerously different. There are contractors who specialize in burning land who are hired by land owners. The contractors get a permit (most often in advance) and then even if the National Weather Service issues wind warnings, these contractors can go right ahead and start burning - because they were issued a permit by FFS. Exactly what happened.

Questions: why didn't the FFS rescind the burn permit; why did the contractor go ahead with the planned burn; who is the land owner whose name seems to be protected in the DBNJ articles? Who pays when the burn goes awry? Seems it is our residents through the tax supported local DBFD. And thank goodness for them. It could have turned out much differently. I think these controlled burns need a lot more scrutiny. We have so few trees left that I also wonder if controlled burns are even state of the art practices any longer!

On to Subject # 2: The Proposed Closing of the Historic Riverview Learning Center. Once again our Historic Seabreeze Neighborhood has a consequential issue to deal with which will mightily impact our quality of life if this happens. I live within earshot of this school. Even though the school is home to kids with big problems, I can tell you that the school has been a great neighbor. The building itself is a fit for the neighborhood. The VC School District owns the property and the building and therein lies the problem. There is an interlocal agreement with the city which requires certain



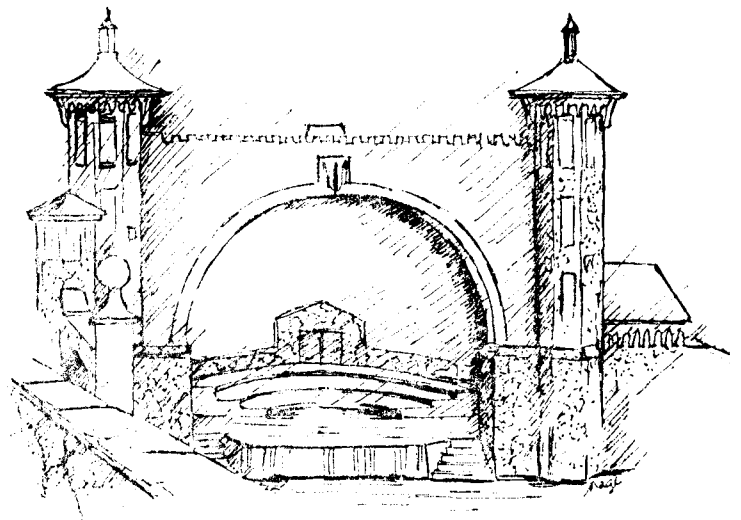
Weegie Kuendig

things - like formally notifying our city of their intentions. Don't know why it has taken so long for our city to engage and demand the District follow the requirements. This has been public knowledge for a few months (news articles). I am quite concerned as is my neighborhood. We need to know what the district intentions are. So far, their reasons to move out seem spurious at best. And did you know that the Principal of Riverview is the husband of the Superintendent? The district is not providing the info our city needs. I will monitor this closely, of course, and will talk more about the consequences.

I am waiting for the winter winds and rain to die down - how about you?

Again and as always, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions.

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com
 386-451-6470



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

On January 26, I had the pleasure of honoring the best of the best! Daytona Beach Police Department held our annual Law Enforcement Service Awards at the News Journal Center. The Service Awards provide an opportunity for us to honor sworn officers, civilians, and community volunteers who significantly impact crime and uphold excellence in service to our community. I congratulate all the award recipients, and I'm pleased to announce a few of the outstanding awardees who received high honors during this year's ceremony.

Our "Detective of the Year" for 2023 is Justin Deal. Detective Justin Deal is a dedicated Police Detective, who for the last six years, has consistently put forth a large effort to reduce narcotics crime in the City of Daytona Beach. Detective Deal is a team player with a "go get them" attitude. He routinely reaches out and extends a helping hand to the community when he finds someone in need. His charitable contributions do not stop at work, as he continues his involvement in the community, providing K-9 demonstrations for children.

Our 2023 "Officer of the Year" is Karl Smith. Officer Smith has demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to his duties. His proactive approach in targeting street-level narcotics, unlawful gun ownership, wanted subjects and fleeing vehicles showcases his unwavering determination to ensure the safety and security of the community. Officer Karl Smith's exemplary performance, proactive approach, commitment to zone integrity, and dedication to training and mentorship make him an outstanding officer.

De'Andre Dunkin is the "Civilian of the Year". De'Andre was instrumental in the roll-out of the new Central Square reporting system, becoming a subject matter expert and assisting colleagues in the process. Dee is an exceptional worker who always puts her own needs aside to help others. She never hesitates to put



forth extra effort or go out of her way to assist officers. Dee never complains and shows up to work with a good attitude, ready to make a positive difference.

February kicks off a busy and exciting time for the city of Daytona Beach. Over the next few weeks, we will host two large-scale events and thousands of visitors in our city. On Sunday, February 11, the Daytona 2 Beach Half-Marathon & 5K Fun Run will host runners from across the country. This year's course route will begin at International Speedway, travel to the beachside, and finish at Victory Circle at ONEDaytona. Daytona Beach Police are dedicated to keeping residents and visitors safe during weekend events. Additional officers are assigned to duty.

On Sunday, February 18, The Daytona 500 takes place at International Speedway. This is one of the most iconic NASCAR events, and as in previous years, we are expecting hundreds of thousands of visitors and increased traffic at and around the Speedway. Daytona Beach Police are prepared not only for race day, but also the days leading up to the race, as several pre-race activities are planned throughout the week. While this is an exciting event, it is also a time to be aware, alert, and prepared. I encourage residents to prioritize safety and security. The "Motors" and the City's Traffic Engineering Department will partner to monitor traffic operations to reduce the risk of traffic-related incidents, thus creating a more enjoyable experience for those who live in or visit our beautiful city.

LEAVING LOCKDOWN

This month's column: adventures in slow cooking.

For context: I am a good cook. I enjoy the process of selecting good produce, doing the chopping and trimming, adding the spices, tasting and adjusting as I go. I especially enjoy the eating part that comes at the end as a reward! My sister calls me a foodie, even, because I **like** cooking for the most part. I just don't have TIME to do it all before it's time for dinner. I'd much rather come home from work and find it all ready to eat. I specialize in plant-based meals, which has caused some adjustments while my Dad lives with me, because he's a dedicated carnivore and probably too old to change. (Much.) It's mostly to accommodate the meat preferences that I bought the slow cooker. I cannot abide the smell of cooking meat in the house, and the crock pot means I can assemble all the pieces and have it merrily doing its thing **outside** on the pool patio. That way I only have to smell it when it comes inside to be plated.

So, slow cookery is supposed to simplify my life. I christened the crock pot with a hearty 15 bean soup, and it was fantastic. Easy, delicious, no problems at all. Success tasted sweet.

The next time I tried, it was with a whole chicken, and that...was not great. The poor bird was overcooked, and nothing is worse than chicken cooked in its own juices for so long that it's dry. Ugh. Nobody said anything but I knew it wasn't good. (The dog liked the meat, so that's kind of a win, right?) So, lesson learned: adjust the cooking time or the cooking temperature.

Next: I wanted to experiment with the nifty little book of recipes I found. Betty Crocker is always the place to start, so I tried an overnight oatmeal recipe because I am sick of every morning making eggs or cereal or cinnamon rolls. I even added apples and bananas and cinnamon and maple syrup according to the recipe. It should have been perfect.

It was not perfect.

Slow cooking the oats overnight (and I swear I double checked the time and the temperature) resulted in a thick, gummy paste that tasted almost but not entirely unlike oatmeal but had overcooked to the point that the sugars had crusted onto the crock pot. That was a pain to clean (another lesson: always spray or oil the crock pot) and a tremendous waste of good ingredients, which makes me insane on the best of days.

OK, so then I tried a small pork roast. I dutifully assembled all the pieces, sliced up the onions and the potatoes and the carrots, and then apparently slow cooked the crap out of it. Another dry meal, another adjustment: triple check the time and the temperature. I thought I had done that, but I guess I didn't. Sigh.

At that point, I started to wonder whether there was something fundamentally wrong with me, or with the crock pot. I always start by assuming it's me! Am I just screwed up because I enjoy a process that the slow cooker is fundamentally designed to circumvent for busy people? Perhaps. Do I live too close to the water (which affects how my bread bakes so maybe it also affects slow cooking)? Probably not a factor. Is my crockpot overpowered, since the meal is always overdone?

AH. Maybe that's it. Seems reasonable. OK, make the adjustments.

I tried another pork roast. You can guess what happened, right? WRONG, joke's on you! It wasn't overdone. In fact, the roast was still raw in the middle, the potatoes were like little bricks, and the carrots were still crunchy...six hours later. We had to fire up the grill and eat dinner much later than I wanted. WHAT on earth is wrong with me? Grr.

I cannot imagine what I'm doing wrong, but it's starting to affect my ego. I've fed myself well for decades with my own cooking. Over time and with practice, my cooking has evolved and matured and I have a stable of excellent meals to prepare. So what is the problem with this crockpot??

I'll tell you what it DOES do well. It doesn't cost me too much electricity. It's a pretty blue color on the inside and a flashy shiny metal on the outside. It was mid-priced from a good brand. And it sits on my kitchen counter and doesn't bother anyone.

Except it bothers me. I've begun to look at it out of the corner of my eye, thinking to catch it laughing at me. I've doublechecked every setting the thing has to offer me. I've cursed at it, blessed it, and threatened to throw it out. It's supposed to be helping me and instead it appears to be insulting me. *Hah*, it says to me from its corner in the kitchen, *hah, you got nothing on me. You can't handle me, and you can't handle the truth!*

Sigh. Maybe I will leave the darn thing in the corner for a while. Teach it a lesson. Let it think about what it's done.

Yes. That's the plan.

See you next month. Wish me luck.



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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

The following streets do not have someone assigned to deliver newsletters to:

Belaire Drive, Driftwood and Nautilus Avenue

We also need people who can fill-in when our regular volunteers are not available.

You can deliver to a street other than the street on which you live.

If you could help deliver newsletters once a month please contact Nancy at 386-257-6700 or Nancy@KoenigRealty.com

The time investment is less than 1 hour monthly. Please volunteer to help our community group. Many hands make light work!

Thank You!

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!