



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



March 2024

Our Elected Officials.....3

Mayor Derrick: Easter Beach Run

Sheriff Chitwood: Stay Safe from Scammers

Zone 2: Ken Strickland: Update

A Native Remembers5

Neighborhood Activist

Weegie Kuendig.....6

From the Chief of

Police.....7

Leaving Lockdown.....8

FundRai\$er Info.....9

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

Suggested donation \$5

Dinner:
Fettuccine with Meat Sauce
Italian Green Beans
Buttery Garlic Rolls
Chocolate Raspberry Bundt Cake

This month we kick off our 15th annual fundraising event. We reach our goal through contributions from our longtime supporters as well as new donors. Last year your contributions totaled just over \$7000 to helped us reach our goal. Please see page 9 for a breakdown of our revenues and expenses so you can see just where our funds are going. Beginning next month, we will publish a list of contributors in the newsletter.



Paul Zimmerman -- *Last month I sat in for our Chair, Steve, who is recovering in the hospital. I ask you to keep Steve in your thoughts and prayers. Volusia County Chairman Jeff Brower was our guest last month. I had the pleasure of interviewing Jeff. We talked about a variety of subjects. Jeff spoke about the adversarial approach his fellow County Councilmen have taken towards him. We spoke of his initiative towards low impact development, his involvement in the attempts to restore Mosquito lagoon, and his desire to open up the beach to Volusia residents free of tolls. Jeff will be running for reelection this election cycle with a primary in August and a general election in November of 2024.*

Jeff Boyle — *Another great crowd turned out for the February 15 Bellaire Community Group meeting. Almost everyone took advantage of the opportunity to make a small donation for a tasty dinner prepared by Nancy and friends, Grandma's favorite Polish dish of Pierogies and Kielbasa with green beans. Chocolate Glazed Orange Cake, an all-time hall of fame dessert, complemented a wonderful meal.*

County Council Chair Jeff Brower was our guest speaker and Paul Zimmerman conducted a masterful interview covering a wide range of subjects. Chairman Brower summarized his recent state of the county address that called for a unified Council on issues like problematic growth, protection of water resources, the development application for a dangerous fuel terminal on the Ormond Beach boundary, and his continued call for a return of cars to the beach between the Bandshell and International Speedway Boulevard

(con't on next page)

Bellaire Community Group

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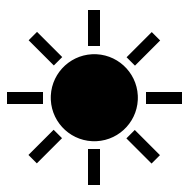
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Contributors

Derrick Henry

Mike Chitwood

Jakari Young

Ken Strickland

Paul Zimmerman

Weegie Kuendig

Steve Koenig

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guests: Jordan Hobson, Author, and Mike Pyle, Attorney: History of Our Area
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

He characterized five Council members as seemingly motivated more by political agendas than by constituent agendas, with the election looming only eight months away.

Paul presented valuable information about our beach, erosion damage, and a County staff that mysteriously refuses to enforce a long-standing state-mandated coastal setback line. Volusia County has paid a steep price for overdevelopment along our beach, and we are now vulnerable to more catastrophic storms. Concrete seawalls have done more harm than good.

But the articulate dialogue between these two men left the audience with hope. The first step in solving a problem is honest recognition of its cause.

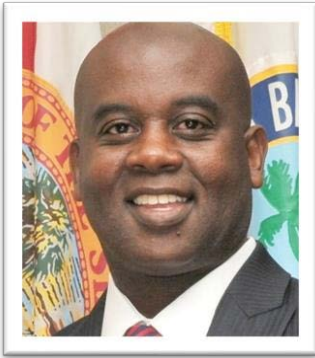
Come, join us for the start of spring and meet some new friends and neighbors. I promise you'll be glad you came and experience the spirit of community we all share.

This month we look forward to hosting Jordan Hobson and Mike Pyle, author and attorney, about the history of our area. I thank Paul again for stepping up this month.

Thanks for the journey.

Steve and Nancy Koenig

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

Spring is in the air, and what better way to celebrate than with the fresh ocean breeze and some invigorating exercise? The annual Easter Beach Run is the perfect outdoor activity for the entire family. This year marks the 55th year of the city-sponsored 2- and 4-mile races with shorter sprints for kids. It will take place on Saturday, March 30, starting at 7:30 a.m. The professionally chip-timed race features an up-and-back course on the hard-packed sands of the “World’s Most Famous Beach,” starting and finishing on the beach in front of the Oceanfront Bandshell.

This Easter weekend tradition was first established in 1967 to provide an activity for visiting college students. Today, the race has grown in popularity among children and adults, women and men, locals and visitors, runners and walkers.

Registration is open now. All ages are welcome to join hundreds of other participants. The cost for the 2- or 4-mile race is \$35, and children's races are \$20 if registered by March 20. After March 20, the fee will increase to \$40 for adults.

For more information or to register, visit www.codb.us/EasterBeachRun.



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

It’s well known that scam artists will never stop coming up with ways to separate you from your money.

Unfortunately, in the ultra-connected world we live in today, there have never been more opportunities for scammers to reach new victims.

Whether it’s on the phone, via email, in person, or all of the above, there’s just no limit to the dishonest creativity of these thieves – and they seem to be everywhere.

The latest scam that has hit our residents is a new twist on an old routine. It starts out like many other scams – you get a call, a message or an email from someone posing as technical support, warning you of a virus on your computer.

Or you hear from an official-sounding law enforcement representative claiming you owe money for missing jury duty, or to clear up an arrest warrant, or to bail a relative out of jail.

Or someone claiming to represent your bank or other financial institution claims your account has been compromised and (by their fraudulent reasoning) you’ll need to provide funds to secure it.

These are just a few examples, but there are more every day.

Lately, these scammers have been directing their victims to find their nearest Bitcoin ATM – of which there are many popping up all over our county – and deposit thousands of dollars of cash to resolve whatever fraudulent issue they just made up.

Recently, a senior couple from DeBary deposited \$20,000 at a Bitcoin ATM at an Orange City gas station. A few days prior to that, a Deltona woman put \$7,400 into a Bitcoin ATM at her local Circle K.

These scammers can sound very convincing, and they use pressure tactics to stress you out and steer you into hasty decisions you wouldn't otherwise make.

The best thing you can do is stay skeptical and hang up when in doubt! Call the Sheriff's Office (386-248-1777) or call us at District 3-North at 386-323-0151. We can help you identify scams.

Remember, legitimate entities will never ask you to pay at a Bitcoin ATM, or via gift cards.

Please spread the word about this important topic and help us make sure our residents keep their money in safe hands – their own!



*Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

Another Bike Week is in the books. We had a pretty respectful group of visitors this year. Businesses and vendors reported having steady business. Noise seemed to peak both Friday nights, otherwise it was just a continual dull roar for ten days.

Our Police Department did an outstanding job of keeping attendees behaving in a civilized manner. The crews working traffic and pedestrian crossings did an outstanding job as well. Code was out there working hard too.

The Beachside Neighborhood Watch and the Veterans Group did an outstanding job both weekends cooking and serving hamburgers, hotdogs, pulled pork, sausages, hash browns, and all the fixings to keep our public officials fed.

We should be able to enjoy some peace and quiet until October.

If any of you have issues or concerns please contact me by text at the number below.

Until next month,

Ken Strickland

Zone 2 City Commissioner

386.307.4253

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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group

We all have noticed the increase in our population, and there seems to be no slow down in the number of folks flocking to Florida. The development west of town is impossible to ignore. The other day on my way home, there was a wild turkey on Woodland Avenue. I have lived on Woodland for over 20 years and have never seen a turkey on my street. I wonder how it crossed the river? As far as I know, and I could be wrong, wild turkeys can only fly short distances, but somehow this bird got over here. A few years ago, I was driving on Williamson Blvd. and saw several turkeys running along the side of the road adjacent to several hundred acres of land that had been clear cut down to the dirt. Not a tree, not a saw palmetto, not a scrub oak, not a pine tree was left standing. The turkeys were running looking for somewhere to get off the heavily traveled roadway. I guess this is what they call progress. That's not what I would call it.

For the last several months there has been a construction company working on the old oceanfront Beachcomber Motel (across from Steve's Famous Diner) property cleaning up the old slab and pilings that provided the foundation and seawall for the Beachcomber. Tropical storms Ian and Nicole washed away the old seawall and eroded about 50 feet of the lot towards State Road A1A. For the last few months, I have watched two large track hoes digging out the old seawall, and sometimes the buckets literally had seawater pouring out of them mixed with beach sand and old concrete. The construction has now moved to vibro-hammering in new steel panels in for the new seawall in the footprint of the original seawall....that's right in the footprint of the old seawall, approximately 50 feet east of what was left of the original lot elevation. I guess this is some more of that progress.

I was talking with a friend who lives up in Ormond, and she told me that they now have coyotes



and bears in their neighborhood. She has lived on the same street for over 20 years and had never seen either a coyote or a bear before on her street. I am sure these animals, like the turkey I saw on my street, are looking for some place to live because their natural habitat has become a new apartment complex. Is it really necessary to clear cut every living thing to build homes or apartments? In my younger years, I was a building contractor, and back then we had to do a tree location prior to building. The intent of the tree location was to take into consideration the natural beauty and habitat of the trees provided. Often we would shift the building one way or the other to SAVE the trees. Now, progress seems to not concern itself with any environmental consideration at all.

There are some folks that are trying to bring some balance to what seems to be a cooperative effort by government redevelopment bureaucracies and the developers. The government bureaucrats see an increase in tax revenues this development brings. The developers see savings in construction costs by their clear cutting methods. This form of development is destroying the natural habitat for wildlife and driving them into our neighborhoods. This style of development is going to destroy the very beauty that makes our piece of paradise desirable. Is this progress? Or is it something else?

There are several groups that are springing up asking for a more balanced approach to accommodate the influx of new people. If you are interested in finding out more about such groups, ask me about it at our next meeting.

'til next time,

Paul

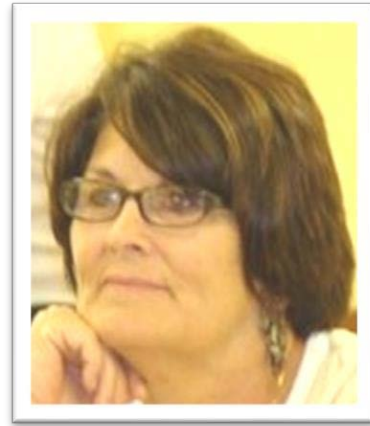
NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

Bike Week, Spring Break - it's event season for us . Especially here on Beachside. I've noticed that Speed Weeks have taken on a different flavor since One Daytona has expanded so much with hotels, restaurants and shopping. A lot of activity is now centered out by the Speedway and all the impacts on Beachside are changed. It probably has a negative economic impact on Beachside - and it doesn't help that our Beach is mostly missing and that there are so many ramps and structures still in disrepair from hurricanes and continued turbulent ocean events. The allure of staying on beachside must be negatively impacted without being able to actually get on and use the beach in the custom of the past.

Our city doesn't exist in a vacuum. We are all interdependent on each other - not just as residents and neighborhoods, but as governments and businesses as well. I think it is important that, at the least, we are aware of what each entity is doing. I understand that no one wants someone else telling them what to do or having their jurisdiction stepped on, but I think it is important for each group to promote and advocate for what they want and see as a need. This is nowhere more important than in government.

Too often I have heard government bodies saying: it's a city problem, it's a county problem or it's a State issue-- as if there is nothing to be done and the responsibility isn't theirs. A recent example of this is the closing of the Riverview Learning Center. The Volusia County Schools ran into a resident buzz saw (both here and now in Ormond) because they didn't follow the spirit or requirements of an interlocal agreement they had with our city. Our city has never really weighed in publicly on the issue or required that the VCS be held accountable. It was left up to the residents. Another even more impactful example is the Volusia County Council management of our beach. I believe our city government needs to step up and demand action from them to get this beach open and useable - the city is losing a lot each day, week, month and year that goes by. All the aspects of tourism are suffering. I believe that this will soon extend to real estate sales as well. Not good.



I have been keeping Steve and Nancy Koenig in my prayers. Steve is on a difficult health journey with Nancy by his side. Both Steve and Nancy have devoted themselves to their Bellaire Community Group and I am certain they appreciate your neighborhood residents helping out. Can't wait until they are back in the saddle again.

As always, thanks for the opportunity to express my thoughts.

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



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

It's event season in Daytona Beach!

We just wrapped Speedweek, which is always an exciting time for our city. It's our first major event of the year and brings an influx of visitors to town for the Daytona 500 and adjacent races. This year, we were met with rainy days and lots of delays. However, the smiles we encountered and interactions with race attendees were pleasant. As with all large-scale city events, the Daytona Beach Police were front and center, managing traffic and increasing patrols in heavily traveled areas of the city. Leading up to the event we released safety tips and public service announcements detailing race information and highlighting the importance of pedestrian safety and impaired driving caution.

Almost immediately after Speedweek, our largest event of the year, Bike Week, welcomed bikers, riders and onlookers to Main Street and the Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune corridor for ten days. More than 500,000 people crowded those areas partaking in events. My dedicated officers worked diligently to maintain crowd control and event safety. We deployed an increased number of uniformed and plain clothes officers, established surveillance teams and applied intel operations to intercept any gang activity.

Historically, we see a spike in motorcycle fatalities and DUI arrests during Bike Week, so we wanted to ensure that everyone was well prepared and aware. We increased DUI monitoring and provided sober driving resources via our social media channels.

Each large-scale event presents unique challenges, but Daytona Beach Police are skilled public servants. We plan well in advance and our team works



tirelessly to keep our city safe. In addition to safety, we coordinate with neighborhoods to minimize disruption during these events. We always keep in mind that our city is visitor friendly, but resident centered.

The week of March 22-31, the Spring Break crowd will arrive in Daytona Beach and surrounding cities. Although it's not the spring break of two decades ago, our approach to this year's spring break crowd (whatever it looks like) will be the same as previous years. We approach Spring Break with a "Firm but Fair" enforcement mindset. Depending on the issue or infraction, we try and start with a verbal education and warning. If that corrects the behavior, then there's no need to go any further. Any further issues will more than likely result in arrests, citations, and towed vehicles. **"It's all about respect"**.

We always encourage safety when it comes to joining the Daytona Beach night life scene, but especially when our city's population grows. For all residents and visitors who plan to participate in the Spring Break fun, we encourage you to utilize sober driving resources, such as designated drivers, ride-shares, or other public transportation. You should always park in well-lit areas, don't walk outside alone, and keep your drinks in sight when in public spaces.

*****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.

LEAVING LOCKDOWN

ENCORE EDITION: WILDLIFE

Last month I wrote about the wildlife that's encroaching on my lawn.

Let's be clear: I loathe having a lawn. I especially loathe St Augustine grass, which—although attractive and all that—is practically designed to be the most expensive to maintain. Various fungal diseases crop up. You have to water it all the time. It needs to be treated with pesticide, herbicide, and fungicide. (That's because it attracts and supports pests, grubs, invasive grasses, and develops all kinds of fungus-based diseases.) This is not a good grass. And lawns hold heat and that's a problem. I hate grass and I refuse to plant it. Still, I can't rip it up unless I have something "attractive" to replace it with. I want native shrubs and trees that create lots of shade. I have never understood why a lush, flowery, shrubby front yard isn't considered the ideal—isn't it **more** beautiful than blank stretches of short green grass? Don't we **want** our pollinators to have something to live on? Don't we **want** to have birds and insects creating a vibrant ecosphere? Why on earth is it considered a code violation in some places to have a vegetable garden in the front yard?

Anyway...sorry...

About the wildlife. In the last few weeks, we've been getting some visitors around here. I welcome the deer and the armadillos and the occasional possum or snake. I love that they show up because it means I have an attractive ecosystem for them to browse around in. But I wasn't expecting the guests I've recently started getting.

Wild pigs.

In the last few weeks, they've started moving around in my area and man, do they make a MESS. My neighbor's back yard was completely destroyed two weeks ago (note that she has only grass, St Augustine grass at that, huh, do you think the pigs are looking for the grubs?) and the damage was so awful that her mowing service told her they couldn't do their work! I didn't think it would be that bad at my place. Hah! Joke's on me!

It started three weeks ago when I realized that under some overhanging trees were *snout marks*. The little buggers had dug up some very old compost I'd put out there months and months ago. (Yes, I know, I'm not doing that any more!) Then they dug up some plants I didn't want anyhow, and I laughed when I realized I'd gotten the best of that deal. Then I came out of the house

one morning to enjoy the early sunshine and saw a big old mess under my magnolia tree. Sure enough, the piggies had come tromping through, rooting for grubs and whatever else they eat and fortunately not leaving any smelly stuff behind them. But still, UGH. And when I saw the most recent snout marks alongside where the cars park, rooting up the grasses and basically creating a trip hazard for my trip-prone Dad, I'd had it. Feral pigs are all well and good when you can point at the babies along the verge and say how cute they are (while feeling grateful they aren't 300 pounds of testosterone and aggression taking out the hood of your car as they charge across the road in front of you). They're entirely different when they're literally tearing up the yard and endangering my Dad. Or maybe it isn't. I don't know, this whole thing is conflict between values.

So, much to my dismay, I am finding myself using two methods to deter them: nasty smelling granules in the grass AND (my husband's favorite) an infrared alarm that blares "go away" in a very specific frequency so the pigs hear it and nobody else is scared. OK, fine, say it works. You know as well as I do that the problem isn't that the pigs are coming into my space. The problem is that humans are driving them out of THEIR space. I have some things to say about overdevelopment, but that's probably next month.

Stay safe, friends!





Annual Fund Rai\$er



2023 INCOME

Income from advertisers averages	\$4,850
Food donations and 50-50 revenue	\$2,310
<u>ANNUAL REVENUE:</u>	<u>\$7,160</u>

Donations:

2023 Ticket Auction	\$1,146
2023 14 th Annual Fundraiser	<u>\$7,265</u>
Total Donations	<u>\$8,411</u>

2023 EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$ 8,668
Food expenses and supplies	\$ 4,012
Website, postage, auction expense	<u>\$ 1,984</u>

ANNUAL EXPENSES: \$14,664

ANNUAL REVENUE: \$7,160

-7,504

WITHOUT FUNDRAISING, WE GO INTO THE RED BY ABOUT \$7,504

*Supporting the Bellaire Community Group—now in its 18th year!-- helps maintain an informed community with **regular access** to political, social, and justice issues in our area.*

*Our members serve on city **advisory boards**.*

*We offer the largest **political forums** in the area at election time.*

*Our wonderful advertisers are **local** businesses.*

*Supporting the Bellaire Community Group supports **all** of us!*



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Happy Easter!

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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!



Helping to deliver newsletters.

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 Labonbille
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!