



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



April 2024

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Friends, our annual fundraiser is underway, and so far, we have received donations totaling \$3,225.00 (Our goal this year is \$7,000). Our costs of food, supplies, and printing go up over time, so this will help us continue to offer a quality dinner and pay for our newsletters that are hand delivered by our street captains monthly in our community. On page 9, you will see a list of our donors by category. Thank you for all your support!



Last month we had a little history lesson. Mike Pyle and Jordan Hobson, both authors of books about the history of our area, gave a very interesting presentation. Jordan is the Chairman of the Holly Hill Historical Society and Mike is a retired attorney, and lifelong resident of Daytona Beach. Both gentlemen had photos and gave a very detailed description of the many of the historical landmarks that no longer exist in our area. One of the obvious crowd favorites was photos and descriptions of the history President of Cuba, prior to the Castro revolution, Fulgencio Batista, and his home and social life here in Daytona Beach. Batista was quite the celebrity about town.

Jeff Boyle --- *The Bellaire Community Group was treated to a wonderful night, starting with the tasty optional dinner prepared and served by Nancy and friends. Fettuccini with meat sauce, Italian green beans, buttery garlic rolls, chocolate raspberry bundt cake, coffee and iced tea. Delicious home cooking!*

Guest speakers Mike Pyle and Jordan Tyler Hobson took everyone on a fascinating trip back through time with a power point presentation of historic photographs documenting scenes from early Daytona Beach, including the central beachside, City Island, and downtown Beach Street. Comparing past with present was a fun exercise, with precisely detailed narratives by the two guests. Both men are authors and local historians, Mike Pyle is a retired attorney while Jordan writes a Hometown News column and serves on the Holly Hill Historic Preservation Board. Like Paul Zimmerman, Mike was born and raised in Daytona Beach, and was my social studies student, Seabreeze High School Class of 1971, my first year of teaching.

(con't on next page)

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

Suggested donation \$5

*Dinner:
Chicken Sausage Jambalaya
Sweet Cornbread
Lemon Raspberry Dream Cake*

Bellaire Community Group

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Daytona Beach, FL 32118

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Paul Zimmerman, Founder

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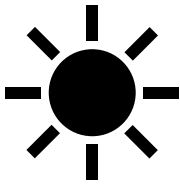
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Contributors

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Mike Chitwood

Jakari Young

Ken Strickland

Paul Zimmerman

Weegie Kuendig

In memoriam

Steve Koenig

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guests: Ken Strickland, Zone 2 City of Daytona Beach Commissioner
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!

(con't from first page)

Nancy Koenig --- *As most of you are aware, Steve has not been able to attend our BCG meetings these past few months. Steve went to be with Jesus Saturday night (April 6th) after so many prayers, hopes and good wishes for him to come home with me. That was not God's plan. He is at complete peace now in the presence of Jesus. I am comforted by my family and friends and memories of Steve. Heaven is so much better than our best days here on earth. I ask that you continue to pray for me and our family. We are strong together and I am so grateful to Paul for creating this group and I feel privileged to serve the BCG community. Steve and I have met so many amazing neighbors through our group. We have developed new friendships over the years with so many of you. I love you all! Our group will continue with Steve's spirit watching over us. Please come join us. I promise it is worth it. You will experience what I have all these years: the love and compassion of our friends and neighbors. Let's get to know each other and take care of each other.*

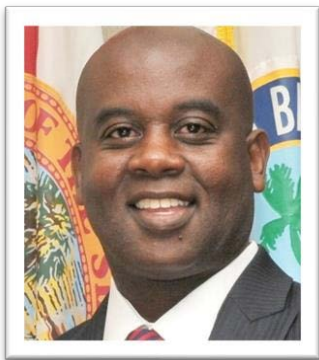
Our April guest will be Daytona Beach City Commissioner, Ken Strickland. Please join us.

In honor of Steve.....

Thanks for the journey!

Nancy Koenig

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

The City of Daytona Beach has a new non-emergency reporting system called SeeClickFix. It is a community-driven tool and request management system that bridges the gap between residents and city staff to increase resident engagement and improve city services. SeeClickFix can be accessed from the city's website, www.CODB.us, or the city's app, DBCityConnect, via desktop, smartphone or tablet to request services or get help fixing issues.

Use the reporting system to report issues such as potholes, clogged storm drains, overgrown lots, damaged street signs and graffiti. Photos can be uploaded with each service request as a visual reference to help communicate the issue. Submitted requests are automatically routed to appropriate city staff, who will help answer questions and provide solutions. Once an issue has been reported, a confirmation email is sent to the person who submitted the request. Individuals will be able to check the status of their request online, and an email will be sent once the work is complete or the issue has been resolved.



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

For most of us who go to the DMV, or City Hall, or the tax collector's office, we're there to get our business done and get out.

The people working in these offices want the same thing: to get the customer's business done and move on to the next task.

Over the past few years, though, we have seen more and more of another type of "customer" – the ones who aren't there to do any business at all.

They're "First Amendment auditors" out to film people and provoke reactions they can post online for clicks and ad revenue.

We see them all the time in law enforcement, too. They show up at traffic stops, at crime scenes, during speed enforcement operations – all under the guise of "transparency" and "First Amendment activity."

While it's true that they have a right to record in public, it's also true that they're intentionally acting as instigators, agitators, and pests.

They insult and antagonize law enforcement officers, public employees, and anyone who asks them not to film them. If you have ever encountered one, you might have experienced it for yourself.

Lately we have seen them target specific deputies and officers they don't like. When one of our deputies made a lawful traffic stop on a "First Amendment auditor" and wrote him a ticket, the scumbag responded by posting the deputy's name and photo on the Internet, asking his large audience of

followers to find and send in any available info about him.

As platforms like YouTube have grown and incentivized video creators to post more and more outrageous content, this activity has only increased and crossed a line for most reasonable, rational people.

I have spoken out against it recently due to the attack on my deputy. The response from the “First Amendment auditor” community has been vulgar and violent. They can call me whatever they want and wish for my demise. But they have also harassed my staff and called my hard-working employees names that no reasonable person would tolerate.

I fully support Florida Senate Bill 184 (Impeding, Threatening, or Harassing First Responders), which will provide penalties for those who harass our first responders while they’re working. Upon receiving the Governor’s signature and taking effect Jan. 1, 2025, the law would make it a crime to ignore a warning and continue to harass a first responder within a 25-foot area.

This is about safety for our first responders. While they’re working, they need to be able to focus on the task at hand. They have my full support in ignoring these “auditors” anytime they show up.

But they also shouldn’t have to deal with the online mob that descends anytime a YouTuber decides to unleash an attack.

I would argue that no profession is more closely scrutinized than law enforcement. We are video-recording virtually every professional interaction we have with the public. People can and do pull out their phones and record us every single day. We welcome it!

We have to draw the line against professional provocateurs interfering with public safety. Senate Bill 184 is a great step in that direction.



Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2

Hello neighbors,

April is National Donate Life Month. I attended the ceremony at Halifax Hospital on Friday April 5 standing in for the Mayor. Colors were presented by the Air Force ROTC from Embry Riddle University followed by Mainland High School Choir singing the National Anthem. Jeff Feasel from Halifax Health spoke about how important Organ Donation is and the success of it at Halifax Hospital.

I shared a few words on behalf of the Mayor and the City of Daytona Beach; followed by testimony from families whose loved ones had passed and their donations provided a new opportunity for others to live. A very special testimony was provided by a recipient of an organ donation and how grateful he is to have been a recipient.

Another \$10k-\$12k has been provided to allow for the installation of cameras in Colin’s Park. The initial funding fell short of what was required to get the job done.

Until next month,

Ken Strickland

Zone 2 City Commissioner

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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman
Vice Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

Near as I can recall, this must be close to 20 years now that we have been meeting as the Bellaire Community Group. It all started one summer afternoon in my living room on Woodland Ave. I had just finished an unsuccessful run as a candidate for the Zone 2 Daytona Beach City Commission Seat. It was a campaign with very similar issues that remain on the table today and the lines between candidates' supporters were similar as well. Mine was a grass roots campaign and my opponents were financed heavily by the Speedway and the then powerful News Journal (NJ). I was up against what some would call the residents vs. the special interests.

One of the reasons I ran for office was because I had some information that there was some illegal campaign practice that had become common place in Daytona Beach. During my campaign, I was approached by one of the players in the illegal bundling of money that I knew existed. I ended up reporting it the State's Attorney's (SA) office. Subsequently, I wore a wire for the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and recorded the delivery of 4000 dollars in bundled checks. To my knowledge at the time, there were 2 or 3 special interest groups who regularly used this practice. It was my bad luck that the folks who bundled the checks were affiliated with the Strip Clubs. So when the word broke, the SA office only reported that I was involved with an investigation regarding illegal contributions from the Strip Clubs. Obviously, not good luck about a month before the election. After my vehement protestations, the SA office issued a letter explaining that I was working with SA and FDLE on a illegal campaign financing investigation. The damage was done. I lost by 90 votes.

After licking my wounds from my defeat, I decided I was not willing to go quietly. I think this was the summer of 2005. So, along with my then wife Andrea, we printed out flyers on our home computer asking our neighbors if they would be interested in establishing a neighborhood group to amplify the



residents' concerns. If they were interested, please show up at our house on set a time and date. It was a summer afternoon, and as is typical of summer days here in the BCG area a explosive electrical storm arrived simultaneously with the scheduled meeting time. I figured that we would be lucky if anyone ventured out in to the storm. To our surprise, approximately 25 people showed up and crammed into our small living room and the Bellaire Community Group was formed. Present in that first meeting were Steve and Nancy Koenig.

I didn't want the muck from the SA's investigation to contaminate the fledgling BCG group. I asked Steve if he would be the Chairman of BCG. One of the best decisions ever. I may have founded BCG, but it is Steve and Nancy who have nurtured and grown it into the largest neighborhood group in the area. We all see how Nancy works tirelessly in the kitchen and delivering our Newsletters. I remember in the very early stages of BCG, Steve and I sat down in my living room and decided that BCG was not going to be a neighborhood watch style group where one neighbor reported on another. No, Steve insisted that BCG would be about protecting and improving the quality of life in our BCG area. When it came to politics, and whether or not BCG would endorse one candidate over another, Steve tempered my political fervor, and wisely counseled that BCG should remain neutral. Steve decided that BCG should take on the role of providing candidate forums, where all candidates would be heard. Steve trusted that the residents to make the right decisions, and that is just one reason why Steve is such a great Chairman for BCG.

Steve went to be with Jesus on Saturday, April 6. I ask all of you to remember Steve and Nancy in your prayers.

'til next time,
Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

A *This and That* column this month on things that cross my mind when I listen to a Commission Meeting or simply ride around town.

-The Chamber, VCARD and the City have a cozier relationship now that the renovation of the Chamber Building is completed and I think they need to be very transparent and follow Sunshine Laws.

- I wish more residents and Commissioners understood the difference between a 501C3 and other Not for Profit LLC's - like a 501C4.

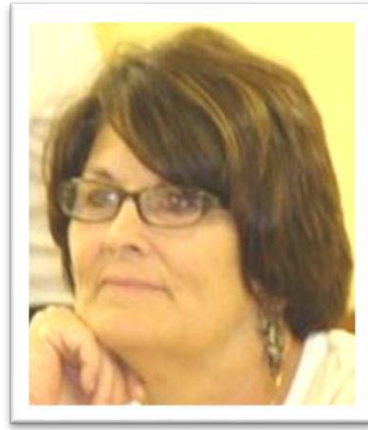
- Imagine a developer calling his project "Majestic Oaks" and then asking the Commission to cut down 2 healthy historic oak trees for profit. Luckily the Commission turned them down.

- I don't like Commissioner pontification about subjects they say they know all about, but really don't, and use their limited knowledge to berate another Commissioner for their use of ARPA funds.

- Commission touting "family friendly" tourism and then allowing Main Street windows to be filled with porn doesn't make sense to me. Neither does allowing extreme exhibitionism. Is it First Amendment rights or is it entitlement without caring about others? Still have never gotten the connection between the "party til u puke" reputation and promoting family friendly tourism in the same breath.

- I wonder about the Corbin Building. What is the hold up? Is staff slowing down the RFP acceptance hoping for someone more familiar to show up? Government is only slow when things aren't a priority.

- We keep paving over our Beachside with parking lots and inappropriate development when we have little beach left. I think that's a disaster for tourism and asking for flooding and other environmental problems. I wish the Commission would lean on the County Council. After all, the entire County is dependent on Daytona Beach for a lot of tourism tax money.



- Lots of talk about Affordable Housing yet some of the most affordable housing stock are places already built - not new development. This is one of the reasons why I think our older apartments and single family housing needs to be maintained and protected. I am also wondering if paid code fines should still go into the general fund or be designated to help protect already built housing options?

- We have many traffic accidents and deaths, near the worst in the state. When I drive on A1A, I am amazed there aren't even more. One recurring issue I see is that delivery trucks take up not just one lane on each side, but often the turns lanes as well. Pedestrians are in danger also. It is very difficult to see around them and their parking is unpredictable. When I listen to developers and some businesses tout their projects and ask for no front setbacks, many of them say that they have room for deliveries or that they will require deliveries to be in smaller trucks. I don't see that to be the case ever.

Local elections are coming and I will start thinking about voting, non- partisanship, etc. in the coming months.

As always, thanks for allowing me 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*

Spring has arrived in Daytona Beach, which means crowds of people hoping to enjoy all that our great city has to offer have also arrived. For the past two weeks the beach area has seen increased traffic, but overall remained calm and orderly. I'm pleased that we've not seen an increase in crime or accidents, and we haven't had any major incidents.

As we near the end of Spring Break festivities in the region, DBPD is gearing up for Jeep Beach, which takes place April 19 – 28. This annual gathering of Jeep enthusiasts typically brings an influx of 200,000 plus visitors and more than 2500 Jeeps to Daytona Beach during the 10-day event. We expect travel in and around the Speedway and Main Street to be impacted.

At Daytona Beach Police Department we consistently strive to improve our policies and processes. On March 19, I joined fellow law enforcement agencies and community partners for a press conference hosted by Attorney General Ashley Moody to celebrate the expansion of the Helping Heroes program into Volusia County. Helping Heroes is an Attorney General program that provides free naloxone to emergency response agencies, so that first-responders and law enforcement agencies can administer life-saving aid to those experiencing a drug overdose emergency. As a program partner, DBPD will have expanded resources to help those in crisis.

Additionally, we hosted a FEMA Active Shooter "Table Talk" for our agency and several community stakeholders. Regrettably, we see a rise in active shooters in public spaces throughout our country, and even internationally. We're doing our best to be proactive and prepared to handle such an incident,



should it occur in Daytona Beach. The Table Talk allowed DBPD and community stakeholders to collaboratively evaluate policies and procedures related to engaging an active shooter or armed assailant in public spaces.

We were joined by Tanger Outlets, Volusia Mall, Volusia County Emergency Management, Volusia County Communications Center, Volusia County Medical Examiner's Office, AO Precision, Advent Health, Halifax Hospital, and Daytona Beach Fire Department. Together, we are partnering to keep our community informed and safe. As an agency we'll continue to lead in establishing innovative strategies that advance community safety and collaboration.

As we continue to evaluate best practices, I'm focused on capacity building. I'm delighted to announce that our latest Police Academy recruits are graduating on April 25. These men and women have worked diligently since November to gain the necessary knowledge and skills required to be Daytona Beach Police Officers. We are an elite agency. As such, our recruits go through an intense process of physical challenges and classroom instruction while attending the Academy. After graduation, the recruits are paired with seasoned officers for a 12-week period of hands-on experience, prior to being assigned to the Patrol Unit. The addition of these officers is essential to capacity building.

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

 A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page featuring a horizontal bar with a blue section containing white stars, flanked by red and white stripes, reminiscent of the American flag.

LEAVING LOCKDOWN

(I need to find a better title for this column!)

This month, with so much in the news, the weather, the global reality of Earth in 2024...I am focusing on what really (to me) matters: the absolutely unending cycle of birth, life, and death.

In the last few months, I've watched gray foxes start to parade across the back yard at our house in the woods. First one, then a completely different second one, and tonight, after several nights in a row, an adult gray fox has crossed under the overhanging magnolia trees on its way somewhere. I see a fox every day! What a treasure. I think a pair of foxes have decided to live here for the season, choosing somewhere in our uncharted little bit of forest to make a den and raise their babies. I must say they are polite company, especially compared to the wild pigs.

I like to think this fox pair has found a peaceful, safe place to den for a season. Did you know that foxes are monogamous? Did you know that mother and father co-parent, until their kits are about 7 months old and ready to leave the den? Did you know that an average litter of fox kits is 8-10? (Can you imagine having 8-10 human babies in the house??? OMG) That all this is happening now—among so many reports of violence and savagery across every part of our media streams—tells me that I need to remember birth and life.

One of my friends has just passed after a long, long struggle. I met him in Paul Zimmerman's living room on a stormy afternoon 20 years ago, and I can't add anything to his column this month about that momentous first meeting of what would become the Bellaire Community Group. His wife rapidly came to be one of my close friends, and she had a depth of faith that I have never seen equaled. Through life's events, both these dear people kept the group going, kept smiling, kept believing in the vision of the BCG.

Over the course of two decades, he and I worked together on this newsletter, figuring out how to build it every month, thinking about details, occasionally swearing and laughing at ridiculous grammar details in some articles—including his own. Long before COVID I had decided to take my name off the masthead of the newsletter, but at his request, I started a little column—the one you're reading—and while remaining

anonymous came to find that everyone already knew who was writing this. He respected my choices.

I remember summer afternoons with them on the deck of the Beach Bucket, and dinners together at the Chart House, and the long evenings when we would all gather at their house to assemble the newsletter (before they streamlined the process into the seamless production that it currently is). I remember his laugh, his absolutely awful jokes at the BCG meetings, and his genuine adoration of his wife. And she adored him just as much. The absence of my friend is a profound gaping hole in my life now.

I have to think that—like the foxes—what my friends are going through is inevitable. Birth and death and all the glorious loving and living in between. Heartbreakingly inevitable, when we lose a life mate. One will always go before the other.

The key to surviving is, for me, knowing that a profound loss means that there was an even more profound love.

My heart is with them both, and I wish Steve and Nancy peace. Steve is never gone while we remember him.

Keep them in your thoughts, friends.



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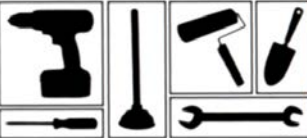
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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

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 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!