



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



November 2024

Our Elected Officials.....3

Mayor Derrick: Mayor’s Fitness Challenge

Sheriff Chitwood: Scam protection

Zone 2 Ken Strickland: Update

A Native Remembers5

Neighborhood Activist

Weegie Kuendig.....6

From the Chief of

Police.....7

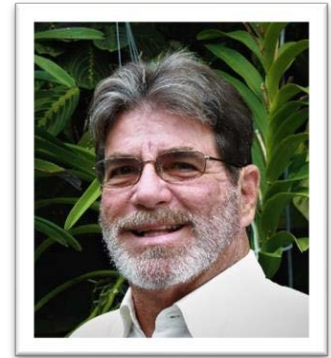
Holiday Party and

Auction.....8

Greetings friends and neighbors! Fall is here and hopefully the hurricanes and the heat are behind us.

Last month, we had our always crowd favorite, Sheriff Mike Chitwood. Mike has been a frequent guest and a friend of BCG for over 15 years, since the days when he was our Daytona Beach Police Chief. Mike presented us with information regarding the latest attempts by the criminal element to scam us out of our money.

The Sheriff gave us several examples of how clever scammers have successfully fooled even some of the smartest members of our community out of thousands and thousands of dollars. Mike explained that these scammers have become experts at concocting scenarios that tug at our heartstrings to enable them to fool us. Some of these scammers are using artificial intelligence to clone the voices of loved ones when requesting money. Sheriff Chitwood cautioned us all not to react emotionally but to be patient in our assessments, and when in doubt, call his office, and his department will investigate and advise.



This month's guest will be Dr. Wendy Anderson, Professor of Environmental Science at Stetson University. Dr. Anderson’s presentation will address the timely and very important flooding issues.

Paul

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

Suggested donation \$5

*Dinner:
Traditional Thanksgiving Turkey
Dinner
Sides and Desserts
Beverages*

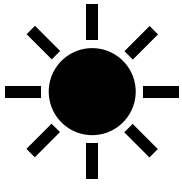
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Ken Strickland
Paul Zimmerman
Weegie Kuendig

In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

AGEIDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guests: Dr. Wendy Anderson, Director of Environmental Science, Stetson University
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!



Please Help!

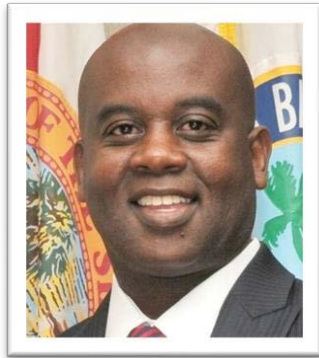
**To make this year's Ticket Auction a success,
we need your help!!!**

Look in your cupboards and closets for those things that need to be re-gifted- - they could be a great fit for someone else.

If you have home decor that no longer has a place, it may be just what your neighbor is looking for. Use your imagination and think of things you would like to receive! Gift certificates, artwork, etc... all these things will be greatly appreciated as additions to our annual auction.

**Call Nancy (386-679-3363) for gift pickup.
Lets make this year's auction the best ever!!!**

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

It's not too early to think about joining me for the return of the annual Mayor's Fitness Challenge! Kicking off in January, this initiative is designed to energize and support everyone in our community in embracing a healthier, more active lifestyle. The Mayor's Fitness Challenge goes beyond just losing weight—it's about celebrating well-being and making meaningful changes together. Regular physical activity and social engagement offer immense benefits for both our bodies and minds, and this challenge is a fantastic way to kickstart a year focused on wellness.

Registration will be opening soon for this 10-week program, featuring a variety of activities for adults of all ages and fitness levels. The first session begins Tuesday, Jan. 7, with biweekly sessions offering a mix of indoor and outdoor options, from line dancing and strength training to walk/runs and yoga. The registration fee is \$20 per participant, with classes scheduled for 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. each Saturday.

To keep everyone motivated, we'll hold weigh-ins at the start and finish of the program to track progress. Prizes are awarded to those who achieve the greatest percentage of weight loss, along with additional prizes.



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

The single most persistent type of crime that seems to resist or evolve past every law enforcement effort to contain it is fraud, especially scams targeting our seniors.

Despite all our efforts at educating the public and warning people about the constant threat of scams out there, it seems that new cases keep coming in every day.

But there's some good news, at least from my perspective: We are seeing some successful results in recovering portions of the money stolen from victims in Volusia County before it disappears overseas.

Over the past couple of weeks I've had the chance to visit scam victims along with our Fraud Unit and hand them checks for the funds we've recovered.

Recently, we've returned about \$40,000 to three victims – not the full amount they lost, but a big portion of it.

This is all thanks to the fantastic, highly trained and experienced fraud detectives we have assigned to these cases. They know how to investigate these crimes, how to trace the funds, and how to claw back whatever amount they can.

The bad news is that in most cases, once the money disappears into an overseas account, it's virtually impossible to get back. It's also impossible to arrest the

vast majority of scammers who are sitting in front of computers and phones in foreign countries.

Sadly, many victims of these cases are so financially destroyed and ashamed that they may never report what happened.

In some cases, even when we have placed signage on Bitcoin ATMs warning would-be victims not to send off their money to scammers, they ignore it and fall victim anyway.

That doesn't mean we're going to give up. We did track down and arrest a courier who arrived in Daytona Beach to pick up more than \$400,000 in gold bars from a victim who had already given away close to \$3 million throughout March 2024. She believed she was dealing with federal investigators who needed her to purchase and hand over millions in gold bars to resolve an identity theft case.

That suspect has pleaded guilty in court to our charges, and is still awaiting sentencing.

I will take these wins wherever we can get them, but I still need your help in spreading the word about the constant threat of scams. For the latest news and tips on how to protect yourself, a good place to start is <https://consumer.ftc.gov/scams>. I'm always more than willing to bring a fraud presentation to any group that could benefit from the information – just send me an email at mchitwood@volusiasheriff.gov.

Stay safe,
Sheriff Chitwood



*Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude for your confidence and support in re-electing me. For the next four years, I will continue being your voice at City Hall. A big thank you to all who voted for me.

The corner of University and Halifax has a new look. The dilapidated eyesore that occupied that parcel has been removed.

The "Trunk or Treat" event held on City Island was a successful event enjoyed by the kids of Daytona Beach.

By the time you read this, there will have been a Fire Station One Headquarters Groundbreaking Ceremony. The new location is 420 S Ridgewood Ave. This project will replace historic Fire Station One, now located at the corner of Beach St and Orange Ave. The current location, which has been flooding for years during storms, will not house a conventional size fire truck. The truck currently housed there is custom built to a shorter length so that it can fit into the bay with the door closed.

Until next month.

Ken Strickland
Zone 2 City Commissioner
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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

This is the third installment of my memories of a surf trip I and some friends took to the central Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1975. We landed in Zihuatanejo (Zihaut), rented a car, drove into town, and spent the first night along the beautiful Zihuat Bay. Bright and early the next morning, we loaded up our gear and strapped our surfboards on our trusty 1964 Dodge Dart rental car. Because my name was on the rental car agreement, I was the designated driver. We headed up the gravel coastal Highway 200, 50 miles to our destination, a fabled surf spot called Petacalco (Peta).

The road ran inland, away from the coast, along a high ridge. It was fairly well-graded, with the occasional pothole. There were 6 of us, 3 in the front, 3 in the back, with surfboards on the roof, so 25 mph was about the top speed we could comfortably travel. Even though this was January, it was very hot...no AC in our deluxe Dodge Dart. This part of Mexico was extremely dry and rural: very few cars. Most of the people were on foot with burros carrying their supplies. The countryside was hilly, with cactus and scrub undergrowth covering the land. It looked barren. There was the occasional shelter home with walls that were made of 6-7 foot tall sticks, 2-3 inches in diameter, driven into the ground close together, with tin roofs and dirt floors. We would see the Mexican women sweeping the floors until they were hard and smooth. Occasionally, we would see people carrying buckets of water on their heads walking along the road. There was no electricity once we got out of Zhaut. It looked like these folks lived a tough life.

There were no road signs along the highway, so when I came to a fork or an intersection, I just took the larger, wider, more traveled road. We would stop every once in a while and refer to the map, which was pretty much useless given that there were no signs. We just kept heading north, until the road started to descend down off the ridge we traveled as the vegetation became greener with Coconut Palms. Then we came up on the only road sign we had seen since leaving Zhaut. Now, we have a slide photo of this sign but I can't find it now. It was a sign that had the partially decomposed head of a burro, with its teeth bare, and enough skin and fur to be



recognizable on top of a sign that read Petacalco. Well, not sure of the macabre significance, but it was unusual to say the least.

The road to Peta was left of Highway 200. Now we weren't sure what to expect. Zhaut was a fairly modern town with restaurants and accommodations. Well, Peta had not yet entered the 20th century. The "town" consisted of several stick homes, with a not so aromatic ditch that ran along the side of the road. The road ended at a wide bay with what appeared to be a Ramada (an open-air restaurant with stick walls and a thatched roof). We got out and walked past several surfboards that had been broken in half, leaning up against the walls of the Ramada, but the Pacific behind the Ramada was as flat as a lake. Our hearts sank. Surf trips can lead to bitter disappointment, as the fickle nature of the oceans can change from perfect surf to a surface as flat as a table top without warning. In 1975 there were no computer models, and surf trips were left to chance. We started to walk back to the car, accepting that we may have missed the swells that led to the broken boards. We asked a young Mexican a phrase that would become our favorite use of Spanish "Donde es las grandes olas, Senior?" He smiled and pointed up the beach and said "aqui." We began walking up the rounded stone covered beach. As we walked north, we began to crest a shallow rise...first, we began seeing the spray blowing in the offshore wind above the beach, then we quickened our pace, in anticipation...then we began to see the perfectly shaped empty 10-12 foot aqua waves peeling off, under a bright blue sky, white foam explosions...no one was there, but us...we walked on, and stood staring, amazed, analyzing what we were seeing. The waves at Peta break very close to the shore, and these were big waves... from dejection, to total stoke, with a dash of trepidation, in 200 yards. For a surfer this is Nirvana...

To be continued.

'til next time, Paul.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I want to follow up on last month's column - especially about my feelings about the way the City and other agencies prepared for and handled Milton's terrible effects.

I will always be grateful for our first responders. They put their lives on the line during perilous times. They also managed to upgrade necessary equipment and have important discussions about how to improve responses - not just for this storm but as ongoing policy.

I am grateful to all the FPL workers and the workers from other power companies. I am not very satisfied with FPL itself. I overheard a conversation with a resident and a worker from an out-of-state utility company. They couldn't believe the state of our equipment on the beachside and elsewhere in the county. They mentioned regular maintenance issues, very old equipment, and damaged equipment - all creating dangerous situations. They thought it was unbelievable that this infrastructure system was even allowed in a coastal community. These workers were allowed to hook up power but not permitted to replace equipment. That had to wait for FPL. It meant that even on the same block (like mine) some residents were out much longer than others. And FPL would like to charge us \$12 more per month. I think they need to be held accountable.

I am glad that yard waste is being picked up and thank the workers, but I think Waste Pro itself has some issues that need addressing. Long before this hurricane and a previous storm was even formed, huge piles of yard waste and house trash sat on streets for a few months in certain areas. This ruins and clogs our drainage systems. I think Waste Pro needs to do an outreach program to residents, businesses, apartment owners and dwellers to educate the public on how the program operates, telling us exactly when and how they will pick up different items. This haphazard pickup can be dangerous and certainly is unsightly.

I am glad Daytona Beach has applied for a grant to get 4 new lift stations to treat sewage. I am not happy our Commission waited so long to start replacing these aging structures. It is evidently going to take four years to complete the job. Imagine if they had required developers who received our tax incentives to provide



the infrastructure necessary for at least their own projects starting 20 or more years ago. Or if they had required developers to do anything at all to protect residents who were and are still here, yet have to endure sewage spills and flooding. If you "Google" sewage spills in water and as importantly soil, you will find out exactly how dangerous these spills are to our health. You will find out how long the contaminants stay in the soil and our waterways.

Next month, I want to address building moratoriums in our city. Stay tuned.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving and again, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions.

Weegie Kuendig

386-451-6470

dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

32nd Annual Biketoberfest Recap: A Busy but Successful Weekend

The 32nd Annual Biketoberfest, held from October 17-20, 2024, was a tremendous success. Despite the recent impact of Hurricane Milton, motorcycle enthusiasts showed up in full force to celebrate the event, embodying resilience and a shared passion for Daytona Beach’s vibrant motorcycle culture.

Our public safety teams worked tirelessly throughout the weekend, ensuring a smooth and secure experience for both visitors and residents. We are pleased to report that there were no major public safety incidents. This positive outcome is a testament to the cooperation and vigilance of our community and the dedication of our officers on the ground.

A special thank you goes out to the Beachside Neighborhood Watch, who graciously hosted their traditional cookout, providing hamburgers and hot dogs for our hard-working officers. This generous gesture during both Bike Week and Biketoberfest events continues to highlight the strong community support we cherish here in Daytona Beach.



Thank you to everyone who contributed to making Biketoberfest another unforgettable and safe event. We look forward to seeing everyone again for Bike Week!

Celebrating Our Fourth Successful Academy Graduation with Daytona State College

We are proud to announce the graduation of our fourth academy class made possible through our strong partnership with Daytona State College. On Tuesday, October 15th, seven dedicated recruits were sworn in during a ceremony at the Mori Hosseini Center. This latest cohort exemplifies the commitment and resilience we value in the Daytona Beach Police Department. We look forward to seeing these new officers serve and grow within our community, bringing fresh energy and dedication to public safety.

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13th Annual Raffle Ticket Holiday Auction December 19, 2024

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1. Gift Cards
2. Hotel Stays
3. Gift Baskets
4. Christmas Gifts
5. Sporting Goods Products
6. Restaurant and Retail Gift Certificates
7. Services; Lawn Care, Oil Changes, Hair Cuts, etc...
8. Gently used items from your own home you can donate
9. Anything you think one of your neighbors would enjoy



Why Donate to Bellaire Community Group?

Bellaire Community Group is the largest Community Group in Daytona Beach with a monthly newsletter hand delivered to 2,000 beachside residents. The ticket Auction/Holiday Party is the last meeting of the year and is a celebration of the hard work our volunteers have provided throughout the year. We look to local retailers and restaurants in our Bellarie Community Area to provide donations and support our Community Group and to introduce our members to our local Merchants. We encourage individual donations as well at these have always been well received by our members.

December Holiday Party and Ticket Auction

Our Annual Holiday Party and Ticket Auction in December! This is one of the best events the Bellaire Community Group hosts, so don't miss it.

*All of the great items are donated-- by local businesses, including restaurants and hotels...and by individuals like **you**. Gift cards, gift baskets, certificates for dinners or lunches, sports memorabilia, glassware, artwork...we've seen all of these wonderful donations at previous Holiday Parties.*

If you have any items you would like to donate for our Ticket Auction, please call:

Nancy at 386-679-3363



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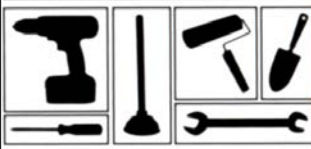
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Woodland: Don Hietala
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Special thanks to all our volunteers!