



# BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

*Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!*



## December 2024

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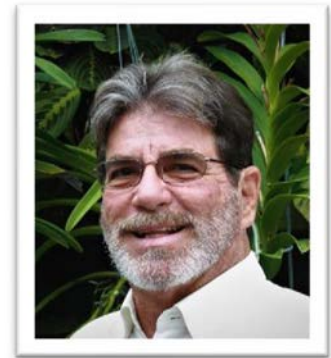
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Greetings, friends and neighbors,

Let's begin with a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, and Happy Holidays to all. Whichever one you celebrate, joy to all in this season of love and giving. In keeping with those sentiments, this month's BCG meeting will be our annual Holiday Party with our super fun ticket raffle. As always, lots of goodies will be available, so don't miss it!



Last month's guest was Dr. Wendy Anderson from Stetson University. Dr. Anderson provided us with information on the flooding that has become a serious issue for all of Volusia County. Wendy spoke on how new development has impacted and increased the incidents of flooding across Volusia. Wendy explained that our wetlands, which are being filled by development, used to provide a natural storage area, allowing the water time to percolate into our aquifer. She offered ideas on how we can develop alternative ways to store water until it can be absorbed into the land. Dr. Anderson stressed that these ideas are not a solution but are only ways to mitigate the problem.

As mentioned above, this month will be our Holiday Party, with music provided by Sean Doyle, BCG's own DJ. Thank you, Sean!

Paul

*Join us at the  
Schnebly Center  
1101 N Atlantic Ave  
Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>!  
Meal at 600 p.m.  
Auction at 630 p.m.*

*Dinner:*

Annual Holiday Potluck dinner:  
bring your favorite to share! (and  
a utensil to share it with!)

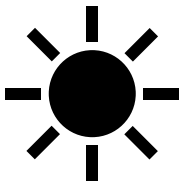
**Bellaire Community Group**

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Contributors  
Derrick Henry  
Mike Chitwood  
Ken Strickland  
Paul Zimmerman

*In memoriam in aeternum*  
*Steve Koenig*

**AGENDA**

1. Potluck dinner (bring your favorite dish to share!)
  2. Holiday Party and Ticket Auction
  3. Put tables and chairs away
  4. Go home with a smile!
- 

**Please Help!**



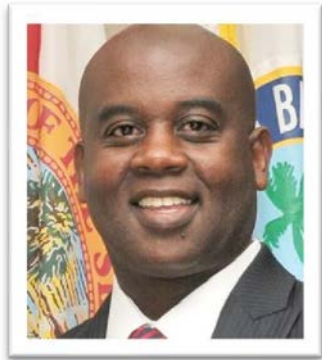
**To make this year's Ticket Auction a success,  
we need your help!!!**

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*



*Mike Chitwood*  
*Volusia County Sheriff*

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! The fifth year of the city’s Road Resurfacing and Restoration Program is underway with select streets north of Seabreeze Boulevard. This initiative has repaved nearly 140 lane miles or 30% of the city’s road network, significantly improving travel safety and roadway durability. This year’s \$5.7 million program will resurface 14 miles of roadway. The work is expected to take two weeks, and crews will work from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. I look forward to seeing you in the new year.

The streets north of Seabreeze are:

STREET NAME	FROM	TO
CHIPEWAY AVE	FLAGSTONE AVE	HALIFAX AVE
COLUMBUS AVE	OLEANDER AVE	HALIFAX AVE
GOLF BLVD	ATLANTIC AVE	HALIFAX AVE
GRANDVIEW AV N	PELICAN AVE	FLAGSTONE AVE
GRANDVIEW AV N	UNIVERSITY BLVD	SEABREEZE BLVD
PELICAN AVE	ATLANTIC AVE	HALIFAX AVE
WILMANS BLVD	HALIFAX AVE	END OF ROAD

After our community lost two missing children with autism to drowning, we knew we had to come together with options to try and prevent more of these tragedies.

In a few days’ time, we put together a plan that I hope will help save lives. If we save even one child, it will be worth the effort, and I hope it will serve as a legacy for 4-year-old Waylon Childs in Ormond Beach and 7-year-old Charlie Newton in Deltona.

First, with funding from the **Community Partnership for Children**, the **Volusia Sheriff’s Office** is joining **Project Lifesaver**, a comprehensive program designed to help individuals affected with a cognitive disorder that may lead to elopement or wandering. Any child or adult enrolled in Project Lifesaver will wear a small personal transmitter around the wrist or ankle that emits an individualized tracking signal.

We are in the early stages of setting up this program, and we’ll have more details to announce in the coming weeks as we acquire the equipment and training we need prior to launch.

Also, through the **VSO Autism Awareness Program**, which allows families to register their address and contact information with the Sheriff’s Office, families will be offered specialized water safety training through a partnership with **Halifax Health** and **Easterseals of Northeast Central Florida**. The VSO autism awareness and decal initiative was launched in 2022 and has contact with more than 1,000 Volusia County families.

In addition to these initiatives, VSO is supporting **Halifax Health** and **Easterseals** in their “*Project Lifeline*” campaign, with the goal of raising funds to provide Volusia County families with options for kids or adults who are prone to go missing or drown. These options include Sharewear ID bracelets, AngelSense GPS devices that provide live monitoring, alerting and tracking, door and window alarms, and water safety training.

I know there’s no magic solution that works for every family. In August, one of our deputies in Deltona jumped into a pond and rescued a missing 5-year-old with autism who was clinging to a log. That child was able to escape his home and make it to a body of water in minutes despite the house having alarms on the doors.

In other words, even families that put prevention measures in place can see them defeated in the blink of an eye. AngelSense, the GPS company I mentioned above, has since provided the family of the Deltona 5-year-old with a free tracking device and subscription.

My hope is that if we come together and give families options, we can save lives and prevent more tragic deaths like Waylon’s and Charlie’s.

For more information on the **VSO Project Lifesaver program**,

contact [projectlifesaver@volusiasheriff.gov](mailto:projectlifesaver@volusiasheriff.gov) or visit <https://projectlifesaver.org/>

To sign up with the **VSO Autism Awareness Program**,

visit: <https://www.volusiasheriff.gov/autism.shtml>

To donate to the **Project Lifeline** campaign, visit: <https://halifaxhealth.org/lifeline>

-Sheriff Mike Chitwood



*Ken Strickland  
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

Most of you know that we are working hard to improve Main Street. At the last City Commission Meeting, we voted 6-0 to approve a non-binding agreement with Savage Craft Ale Works to buy and develop 777 Main Street (Corbin Building.) This company has a recently successful similar development in the Columbia South Carolina area.

November 30: Main Street Merchants Association sponsored “Light Up Main Street.” I was there and received nothing but positive feedback from everyone involved that I spoke with. We must continue to work with and support the existing businesses along the street.

The City of Daytona Beach sponsored a “Senior Prom” for all of the “Senior Oasis” groups. Each recreational building throughout the city has a group. This event brings all of the groups together for a night of good food, dancing, and fellowship. A good time was had by all.

I would like to thank Andrew Holmes and David Waller for getting the collapsed storm water pipe that runs under Halifax Ave near the back gate to Beachside Elementary School repaired.

Until next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Ken Strickland  
Zone 2 City Commissioner  
386-307-425

# A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman*

*Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

I will continue with my memories of an epic surf trip I took with some friends to the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1975. Last month, we had just arrived at Peta Calco and walked up the stone-covered beach and witnessed the best-looking waves of our lives...before going further, let me fill you in on who the other 5 members of our party were. There was my wife at the time, Lindalu, her sister, Marilyn, Marilyn's husband, and my brother-in-law Phil, Lee, and Paul. Phil and I started surfing together in high school. Lee had moved to Florida from Michigan just a few years earlier and had only been surfing for a couple of years. Paul wasn't a surfer; he just wanted to go on an adventure. All of us were in our mid-twenties, with a lot to learn, but eager, somewhat brash, and also aware that, in a lot of ways, we were totally out of our element, at the mercy of this foreign environment.

By the time we had driven from Zhaut to Peta Calco, it was mid-afternoon. Peta was a primitive fishing village with no accommodation, and no electricity or other utilities. We knew we needed to establish a base camp, and Peta offered nothing other than perfect surf. So we got out the map and looked for a nearby town that might foot the bill. We settled on a town upcoast about 20 miles called Playa Azul (Playa). We figured we would get there, rent a place, and get back to Peta before it got dark. We loaded up and headed to Playa.

We had spent the first night in Zhaut, a town that accommodated gringos to some extent, but as we moved out of Zhaut, we began to realize that our minimal and *muy mal* knowledge of the Spanish was going to be a BIG problem. Do you have any rooms available? Where do we eat? Where can we get gas? How much does it cost? You know, the fundamental questions. Stumbling through our Spanish/English dictionary was met with the blank stares of the locals. In Playa, we were met with unsuccessful attempts to communicate those fundamental needs. We were beginning to feel stuck, frustrated, and anxious about getting back to Peta to ride that perfect surf. You know, it was like we were speaking a different language,



because we were! At the height of our frustration, we caught a glimpse of blonde hair...it was a girl running between a couple of buildings. Blonde hair! We figured blonde hair could mean an English speaker who might speak Spanish. We ran after her and caught her. She was like a God send. I am ashamed to say I can't remember her name with any certainty, but I think it was Nancy. She was an American from Cocoa Beach whose boyfriend was a Mexican surfing champion. Nancy spoke fluent Spanish. She told us that we should stay at the El Delphin Motel. She went with us and made arrangements with the desk clerk for our stay. That fortunate and serendipitous meeting would lead to introductions to her boyfriend, and some local surfers. Little did we know at the time how that encounter would dramatically impact our trip...sometimes you get lucky.

We quickly unloaded our Dart at the El Delphin and headed back to Peta. We got back in time to ride some 10 foot bombs. The waves at Peta are not like here in our area. Our waves here come out of relatively shallow water, and come in contact with a gentle sloping bottom. Our waves roll in, and rarely stand up or pitch out. The waves at Peta come out of very deep water and suddenly collide with the shallow shoreline. The waves jump straight up immediately and break quickly. When you stand up on a wave in Peta, the face of the wave is standing next to you. Surfers call these waves "breaking top to bottom," meaning the lip of the wave pitches out, not contacting itself before it hits the trough in front of the wave. This type of wave makes a hollow tube. Hollow waves are thrilling and fun to ride.

We had been in Mexico for less than 48 hours and had ridden probably the best waves I have ever ridden in my more than 60 years of surfing...a very good start indeed. Next up, our meeting with Nancy's boyfriend, some local surfers, and the surprise they would bring. To be continued!

'til next time,  
Paul

## NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

*Note from the Editor:*

*Weegie's column will not appear this month, but she is wishing everyone a peaceful, happy, and safe holiday season.*

*On behalf of the Bellaire Community Group, we wish her the same, with thanks for all she does and condolences on the loss of her beloved pup Max.*



*Happy Hanukkah*

# FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,  
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

Chief Jakari wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! The Chief's column will return next month.



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# LEAVING LOCKDOWN

Happy December, all.

It's been a few months since I last contributed to this newsletter—did you miss me?

Of course you did.

I thought this month, I'd write about what is the biggest existential question we currently face: climate change. Specifically, the effect on Florida of increased ocean temperatures, which (in combination with other factors) is triggering more hurricanes, flooding, and temperature extremes.

In every month of this last year, Florida got whacked in the head by a significant climate event. For example, in January of 2024, south Florida got hit with unusually cold temperatures, which impacted the citrus crop.

February brought very cold temperatures to central and north Florida. Result? Tornadoes and hail damage. Between March and April, we went from very heavy rainfall (over 9 inches in some places) and local flooding to extreme dry temperatures, which increased wildfire risk.

In May, when hurricane predictions came out, the weather folks told us that the highly active season to come was spurred by record ocean temperatures. And in June, a tropical depression flooded south Florida with 20 inches of rain.

July brought us heat waves. August and September? Hurricanes and flooding.

November and December were drier but much colder than normal.

So, the operative word here is “flooding.” And also “record.” I think we may be entering a time when “record” becomes the new “normal.”

(And now, pardon my rant, combine that increased flooding with the rampant development on the west side. I think this is called “uncontrolled sprawl,” and I'm not hating on development, just the impact on us when development isn't handled well.

When water mitigation isn't dealt with responsibly, each and every new housing or business development destroys a bit of our natural water dispersion processes, making an already bad situation worse. Around my area, a direct result of a new housing development left to fend for itself during a hurricane was two weeks of standing water on an old, low-lying road. That road started to collapse, making the standing water issue even worse. It took two weeks for the waters to recede and even longer for road repairs to start. There's no way to put in a culvert that can divert floodwaters.—the roadbed is level and there are no ditches. And how expensive will other solutions be? And who's going to pay for them? It sure won't be the developers!)

OK, rant over. Sorry about that.

I'm sure it won't be the last time I rant like that.

I wish for all of us this holiday season that we are peaceful in our hearts. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, Good Solstice, and whatever you celebrate—may it be good to you. I hope we are each surrounded by people who love us.

And I hope to see you next year.







Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority



## 13th Annual Raffle Ticket Holiday Auction December 19, 2024

### What to donate:

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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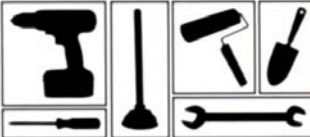
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## **THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!**



Belaire and Driftwood: Robbie Walton  
Boylston (east end): Frank Stein  
Boylston (west end): Patty Interto  
Brookline: Donna Hiatt  
Chaffee Place: Sherry and Bill Phillips  
Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness  
Columbus: Terre Tumminello  
Euclid: Janice and Mike Felisko  
Flagstone: Ellen Gerard  
Flushing: Jake and Gracie Bodine  
Golf: Lisa Gall  
N. Grandview: Connie Lambert  
Hartford: Kassi Mercy  
Jacaranda, Chipeway: George Burden  
Manhattan: Robert Sabol and Angela Asemota  
Morningside: Ted and Cindy Beers  
N. Oleander, Auburn, Cornell, Bucknell:  
 Dan Stockman

N. Halifax: Nancy Koenig and Nikolai Hargreaves  
N. Peninsula (North end): Judy Schroeder  
N. Peninsula (South end): Lawrie Davidson  
Nautilus: Jake and Gracie Bodine  
Pelican: MaryAnn and Danny Langton  
Plaza: Stacy Prestwood  
Seabreeze High School Area: Paul Zimmerman  
Seaview: Suzy Lamoureux  
Stanford: Netta Weiner  
Williams: James 'Mac' McConnell  
Waverly: Margaret Fathi and Jules Lemos  
Woodland: Don Hietala  
Zelda: Elly and Rachael Petersen

*Special thanks to all our volunteers!*