



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



February 2025

Our Elected Officials.....3

Mayor Derrick: Citizens Academy

Sheriff Chitwood: Stats from last year are great

Zone 2 Ken Strickland: Update

A Native Remembers5

Neighborhood Activist

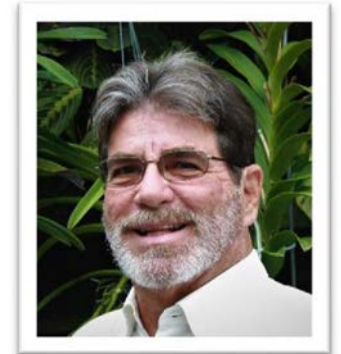
Weegie Kuendig.....6

From the Chief of

Police.....7

Greetings, friends and neighbors,

Well, we made it through January with as many days dipping into the low forties that I can ever recall. Hard to believe I'm saying welcome to February.



Last month, one of the bright spots was having our friend and Volusia County Council Chairman, Jeff Brower, as our guest. Jeff shared his thoughts on his recent election victory and the makeup of, and his relationship with, his fellow council members. Chairman Brower spoke of his concerns regarding the rampant development and resulting flooding that has become a reoccurring problem across the county.

Jeff shared that even though most of the intense development is taking place in municipal jurisdictions, Volusia County government can affect that development by imposing stricter criteria on county wide minimum standards.

This month's guest speaker will be Anthony Luizzo, PhD, CFE, CST. RETIRED NYPD, AUTHOR, EDUCATOR, LECTURER. Dr. Luizzo's topic will be Stopping Fraud in its Tracks

Paul

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, February 20th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.*

Dinner:

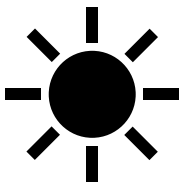
Honey garlic chicken
Cilantro rice
Green beans almandine
Warm rolls
Fruit-topped cream cheese pie

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2025 Officers
Chair & Founder
Paul Zimmerman
386.316.6259
ptzimm@bellsouth.net

Treasurer and
Marketing Manager
Nancy Koenig
386.679.3363
nancy@koenigrealty.com



Contributors
Derrick Henry
Mike Chitwood
Ken Strickland
Weegie Keundig
Paul Zimmerman
Jakari Young

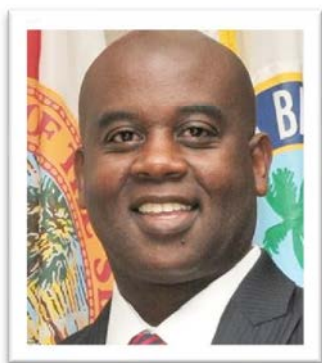
In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Jeremy Nikolow
4. Featured Guest: Anthony Luizzo, PhD, Stopping Fraud in its Tracks
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!



OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

Registration is open for the next Daytona Beach University Citizens Academy class – Discover How Your City Works!

Have you ever wondered how our city operates behind the scenes? Now's your chance to find out! I invite you to join the Daytona Beach University Citizens Academy, a unique nine-week program beginning March 13, designed to give you an in-depth, hands-on look at our municipal services.

Through interactive sessions, you'll learn from senior city staff across key departments like Police, Fire, Public Works, Growth Management and more. You'll see firsthand how we deliver essential services—from maintaining our parks to ensuring clean water for all. The program culminates at the May 7 City Commission meeting, where you'll witness city government in action.

This program is an excellent opportunity to gain insider knowledge about how Daytona Beach functions. Participants will engage in activities highlighting the work being done to serve our residents daily. Additionally, this academy provides a great way to connect with other engaged community members who share a passion for improving our city.

The Daytona Beach University Citizens Academy is completely free and requires only a commitment of time. Please apply as soon as possible, as spots will fill quickly. Applications are available online at www.DaytonaBeach.gov/CitizensAcademy.

It seems like we just turned the calendar to 2025 yesterday, but here we are already 2 months in. Before we go any farther, I want to share an overview of last year, with some stats that show the fantastic results we're seeing in Volusia County.

Some of those results include a 77 percent overall clearance rate for Group A offenses, including a remarkable 89 percent clearance rate for crimes against persons and society, and 50 percent for property crimes. Each of these rates far exceeds the national average, which I am proud to say we have consistently beaten year after year.

With almost 283,000 calls for service, more than 9,300 arrests and nearly 38,000 traffic stops in 2024, patrol deputies were busy. The VSO 911 Communications Center handled about 330,000 calls and texts to 911 (on average, more than 900 per day), plus 359,000 non-emergency calls.

Deputies and detectives seized more than 2 kilograms of fentanyl (enough for more than 1.4 million doses), plus almost 33 kilograms of cocaine and 19 kilograms of methamphetamine. One of our major narcotics operations in 2024 was an 8-month investigation that dismantled a trafficking ring based in Daytona Beach and distributing fentanyl, heroin, meth, and cocaine across Central Florida. We arrested more than 3 dozen suspects and seized large amounts of drugs, including 75 grams of fentanyl hidden in a baby diaper.

Expanded technology included countywide availability of Live911 (giving patrol units a real-time feed of 911 calls in their area), additional License Plate Readers to cover all major thoroughfares, a Raven gunshot detection system, a state-of-the-art ballistics lab processing shell casings from crimes across the Seventh Judicial Circuit, Rapid DNA, and more.

Addressing a spike in hoax threats of school shootings, we launched a public campaign on the criminal consequences for offenders, and threats plummeted. I am not naïve enough to believe we have suddenly solved the problem of school threats – we just had another hoax last week. We have to stay vigilant about every threat, and continue to drive home the message about serious consequences.

In November, after the tragic drownings of two missing children with autism, we joined Project Lifesaver and partnered with Halifax Health and Easterseals Northeast Central Florida to provide tracking tools and resources to families. Earlier in 2024, another missing child with autism was rescued when a deputy saw him clinging to a log in a lake and jumped in to save him.

Deputies also averted a potential tragedy in Ormond-by-the-Sea, where a shooter at a condo complex fired more than 700 rounds from a submachine gun, but was neutralized by a VSO sniper before anyone was injured or killed.

In response to persistent fraud and scams targeting vulnerable citizens, in September we established a dedicated Financial Crimes Unit, which recovered more than \$350,000 for victims in just a few months. In all, we have recovered about \$1.9 million for scam victims since 2021.

While this is just a partial summary of 2024 at the Volusia Sheriff's Office, it certainly speaks to the level of dedication VSO personnel display year in and year out, and we have much more to accomplish in 2025!

Sheriff Mike Chitwood



*Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

We are now well into the Special Events season. With One Daytona's Hotels and the Speedway Campground, the traffic for the 24hr race was noticeably lighter than in past years. Traffic will be a bit heavier for the Daytona 500.

Then a week of quiet followed by bikers roaring into town. Please be very vigilant when driving as motorcycles are hard to see.

When driving on West ISB, check out the banners that were dedicated on February 6 at the BCU Center for Community Engagement.

The Mayor's First Step Shelter Gala was well attended. Money was raised with up to a \$50,000.00 match at stake. Hopefully the FSS Board can up their game and minimize bad publicity going forward. Our area really needs this shelter to continue to exist. I find that the number of unhoused individuals seems to be down considerably from 5 years ago. The unhoused population will always be with us. Being proactive in managing these less fortunate individuals only makes sense for our community.

Until next month.

Ken Strickland
Zone 2 City Commissioner
386-307-425

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman
Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Part 4 of my memories of a surf trip to the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1975. We had just been not so politely confronted by a contingent of local Mexican surfers. They had made it clear that Petacalco was their home break, and that gringos with cameras were not welcome.

We drove back to Playa Azul to our base in the El Delphin motel. One of the best things about the El Delphin was that it was right on the beach, and there was the little ramada (a stick hut with thatched roof, a table, chairs, and stone fire pit) out front where a Mexican woman and her fisherman son served up some delicious fresh fish tacos with cold cervezas. They really hit the spot after a surf session. There were little waves breaking out front, but nothing like Peta, and nothing like what we were looking for.

We knew there had to be alternatives to Peta, we just had to find them. We got out our maps, which gave us some ideas. That part of the coast was full of bays and points, which was very encouraging. So the next morning we struck out to find waves. The maps were only slightly helpful as there were no road signs indicating which dirt road was which. We meandered through the coastal hills, following our instincts. We had no idea where we were, or where we were going. We followed one road down to a bay that looked promising. The road ended at a Mexican fishing village that looked like something out of the Margaret Mead film from the south Pacific. Idyllic is the word that comes to mind. There was a mountain ridge on the north side that protected the bay. The sparkling deep blue bay was lined with wooden fishing boats, with nets strung between coconut palm trees blowing in the wind. The coconut palms gave way to jungle that went up the hillside. The villagers were working on the boats and nets, while the children played in the water. We all seemed to instantly and simultaneously have the same reaction of awe at the beauty and simplicity that was in front of us. There was no surf here, but we were all happy to have found this isolated piece of paradise.



We moved on from that village, although we all carry that scene with us to this day. Back to the search for those waves that we knew were there. Weaving in and out, and up and down, the wooded hills and roads of that part of the coast, we rarely saw another vehicle. We came upon a cross road with an elderly Mexican man with his burro. We asked, “*Donde es las grandes olas, señor?*” He replied pointing, “*Aqui.*” That was just what we wanted to hear. We took the man’s advice and headed in the direction he pointed. This part of the road seemed to become a little more remote if that was possible. It didn’t seem as arid, the trees were a little denser, jungle like, and the brush came down to the edge of the road. After the experience of the fishing village, we had visions of rounding a corner, and then descending down into a picture of a perfect point break, with unriden waves peeling off. Well, suddenly, the next thing we knew we were surrounded by 5 or 6 Mexican men on horseback pointing their rifles at us. Bam, so much for that fantasy! Reality was quite different. The horseman spoke in Spanish, but the rifles spoke a language we understood clearly. We were not welcome, and it was time to turn around right now, get out of there, and never come back. As I previously mentioned, we were in the Mexican state of Michoacan. We didn’t know it at the time, but even back in the 1970s that part of Mexico was controlled by the Mileneo Cartel. Looking back, I think we were lucky that day.

Youth is a remarkable thing. The powers that be seem to grant much favor to those of us who wander in and out of danger when young. We knew we had just dodged the proverbial bullet, and that we had inadvertently wandered onto what was probably a marijuana growing area. We laughed with anxiety and headed back to Playa Azul. Undeterred, we knew there were waves to be found, and more danger ahead, further on...to be continued.

‘til next time, Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I want to address what I call Beachside Malaise. It goes back beyond the holidays. It is something I have been noticing for years. But the holiday decorations were next to non-existent this year in too many places - many places not inviting or festive at all on Beachside. I will say Main Street merchants did a good job. Not so much Seabreeze or A1A merchants. Although very few merchants on those streets did put up some type of decoration, Ocean Center looked pretty sad, as did the County Convention Center. In addition, there were street lights out everywhere along A1A.

Now, FDOT has turned ISB and A1A into roads that resemble I-95 - complete with light and sign pollution. It looks like an invitation to speed through our beachside without stopping and that is exactly what I see happening. Hotel and county parking lots are not nearly filled - even during special events. I notice the quiet - could be a vibration thing since I live so close. While I enjoy the peace and quiet as a resident, I understand what it means economically for the Beachside. Seems to be no shortage of activity out by the Speedway and some other places, however.

IMO the Beachside has had issues for a very long time - all the way back to the times of Bray and Gillespie and Ocean Walk. And the excuses have never stopped and are pulled out and recycled all the time: it's rainy; there's a hurricane, it's cold, it's the economy, etc. - the excuse list has become predictable even if there is a kernel of truth in them. But it is difficult to have a thriving Beachside when so little of our Beach remains destroyed and unusable and cars are almost encouraged to pass on by. The past few years hurricane damage has made this situation much worse. So have unfinished or inappropriate development projects.

It does not help that our city (Commission or staff) doesn't even talk about these things at convened meetings except in the general terms above and to promote the status quo. Gussying up the top of our Beachside residential roads helps with looks - but does not address issues under the roadways (infrastructure) or surrounding them. I think we need some hard discussion from the Commission and staff about these issues and I want them to advocate for our residents to other



government agencies - whether it's FDOT or the County or the State. This hands off approach is allowing other agencies to push their agendas on us. I don't think that has positive results for residents or tourists.

Enjoy Speedweek.

And again, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

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

FREE JEWELRY CHECK UP

- FREE Estimates, Jewelry, Watch & Clock Repairs
- Complete Jewelry Repairs
- Large Selection of Diamonds & Colored Stone Jewelry
- Large selection of High Fashion Silver Jewelry & Beads
- We Buy & Sell Estate Jewelry
- On-Site Parking
- BENCHMARK Bridal Dealer
- Open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday
10 am - 3 pm



Bill Green
Since 1971

CHAMILIA
YOUR LIFE. YOUR STYLE.



Voted Best
Around for past
28 years for Best
Fine Jewelry
& Clock Shop

108 W. International Spdwy. Blvd. | 386-253-5807
www.billgreenjewelers.com

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

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. Daytona Beach Police are dedicated to keeping residents and visitors safe during these events. Additional officers are assigned to duty.

On Sunday, February 16, the Daytona 500 will take place at the Daytona 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 Motor Unit 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.

The 84th Bike Week begins on Friday, February 28th and concludes on March 9th. This 10-day motorcycle event attracts enthusiasts from around the globe. Main Street will be bustling with live entertainment, vendors, motorcycles and people. Some roads will have altered traffic patterns for the event.



Please be cognizant of the increased traffic and allow extra time to get where you need to be.

The City Commission approved the implementation of ZeroEyes technology. ZeroEyes is an AI-based weapons detection system designed to identify firearms in real-time using existing security cameras. Former U.S. military veterans and technologists founded the company to help prevent active shooter threats in schools, businesses, and public spaces. ZeroEyes' software integrates with existing security cameras to detect firearms before shots are fired. If a verified threat is confirmed, law enforcement and security teams receive real-time alerts with images, location, and time-stamped information. ZeroEyes integrates with 911 systems, security teams, and law enforcement to speed up response times and potentially prevent violence. This technology will enable our officers to provide the best response possible should the need arise.



Bill Kooy
Licensed & Insured
Commercial & Residential
PRESSURE CLEANING
386-405-5641
Prompt • Reliable • Friendly Service

"WINDOWS"

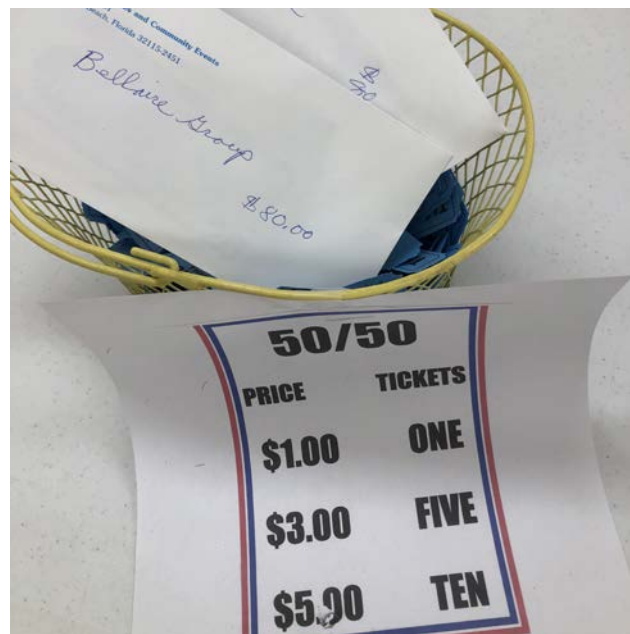
GEORGE WATKINS

- Lanai/Patio Enclosures
- Window Replacements
- Acrylic Windows

☎ 352-205-2631
☎ 386-871-4907
CRC #1330701



Call to schedule a "FREE" Estimate





Happy Valentine's Day



RICE ♦ LAW FIRM



- Divorce
- Family Law
- Prenuptial Agreements
- Wills, Trusts & Probate

www.RiceLawFlorida.com
 222 Seabreeze Boulevard ■ 386.257.1222

JON HALL ♦ RITCHEY

automotive group

Automotive Sales • Leasing • Service and Parts



551 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-4444
 JonHall.com

RITCHEY



932 N. Nova Rd. • 386-236-5000
 RitcheyCadillac.com



614 N. Nova Rd. and 998 N. Nova Rd.
 386-236-5159 386-236-5156
 RitcheyAutos.com



650 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-2252 • SubaruOfDaytona.com



901 N. Nova Rd. • 386-255-9374 • DaytonaHyundai.com

Blue Skies Fine Cuts LLC
 Full Service Lawn Service
 & Landscaping

Shane Hillyard

386-795-1101
 blueskiesfinecuts@gmail.com

Printed in Daytona Beach at



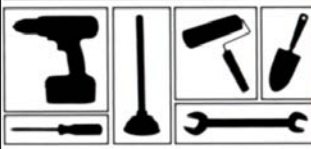
735 N. Ridgewood Avenue
Daytona Beach
(386) 252-6571

Don and Hannah King
Amway Products
Amway Business Opportunity

386-248-3095 8023kin@bellsouth.net
 www.amway.com/king

BILL MURPHY

QUALITY HOME IMPROVEMENTS



ONE CALL DOES IT ALL
LICENSED & INSURED

386-747-5358

libmurphy@yahoo.com




Nancy Koenig, Broker
 Steve Koenig, Broker

386-257-6700
KoenigRealty.com
Your Local Full Service Real Estate Company
Your Beachside Specialists

Under Contract

261 Seaview Avenue
 Under Contract
 4 bedroom 2 bath pool home



Call Us Today – 386-257-6700

YOUR REFERRALS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Contact us for a FREE 10 minute onsite price consultation on your property.
 Call 386-257-6700

THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

To the loved ones of Lawrie Davidson and Bill Phillips,

Sorrow is not forever. Love is.

*You have lost someone who held a special place
in your heart and in your life.*

*Although no one else can truly share the sadness you feel now,
may the memories of your loved one bring you
peace and reassure you that love endures forever.*

*Here for you,
your Bellaire
neighbors
and friends.*

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!