



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



March 2025

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Happy Spring! (well almost). I for one am looking forward to the warmer weather and all that Spring brings. It is a time for new beginnings after the cold winter months.

This month we kick off our 16th 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 \$8,000 and we reached our goal. Achieving this milestone was a testament to the generosity and community spirit that defines the Bellaire Community Group.

Please see page 7 for a breakdown of our revenues and expenses so you can see just where our funds are going. The transparency of our financials is key to maintaining the trust and support of our donors.

Bellaire Community Group is committed to Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority. We do this by keeping our community informed of political, social, and justice issues in our area. Information is the backbone of a thriving community, and we strive to provide our members with the knowledge they need to stay engaged and make informed decisions. We host the largest political forums in the area at election time, fostering a space for democratic discussion and civic engagement. Additionally, many of our members serve on our city advisory boards, lending their expertise and dedication to the betterment of our city.

Supporting the Bellaire Community Group supports ALL of us. Your contributions not only sustain our events and initiatives but also empower you within your community. Beginning next month, we will publish a list of contributors in the newsletter. This public acknowledgment is a small way to express our gratitude and recognize those who make our work possible.

Ken Strickland, City of Daytona Beach Zone 2 Commissioner, will be our guest at our March meeting. We look forward to hearing updates on the current issues in our city. Commissioner Strickland's insights and updates will provide valuable context and information on the pressing matters affecting our community.



*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, March 20th!
Meal at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
Suggested donation \$5*

Dinner:

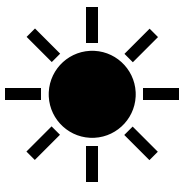
**Shipwreck Casserole (beef,
noodles, cheese, and veggies)
Garlic Toast
Apple Spice Cake
Beverages**

Bellaire Community Group

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Daytona Beach, FL 32118

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Chair & Founder
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Contributors
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Mike Chitwood
Ken Strickland
Nancy Koenig
Weegie Keundig
Paul Zimmerman
Jakari Young

AGENDA

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

Come join us, meet a neighbor, and make a new friend. Building connections within our community is one of the core objectives of Bellaire Community Group. The relationships we foster strengthen our collective resolve and ability to address the challenges we face. I promise it is worth it!

The path we have walked together has been paved with shared goals, mutual support, and a steadfast commitment to making our community better. Your involvement, whether through donations, participation in events, or serving on advisory boards, has been instrumental in our success.

Looking forward, let us embrace the new beginnings that Spring brings with renewed enthusiasm and dedication to our shared cause. Together, we can continue to make a difference and uphold the quality of life that we all cherish.

Thanks for the journey,

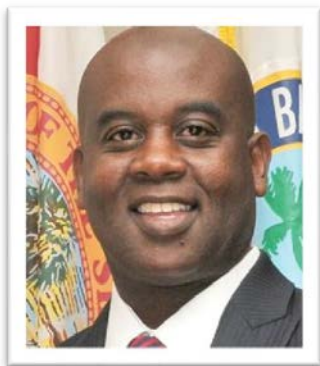
Nancy Koenig

In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 19, Issue 3: March 2025



OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



*Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach*

My office has received numerous complaints about door-to-door solicitations in our neighborhoods. Many residents have expressed concerns about whether these solicitations are legitimate or potential scams. The city has clear regulations to protect our community while allowing lawful business activity. Any person conducting door-to-door sales in Daytona Beach must carry a valid city-issued permit. Additionally, solicitation is strictly prohibited at any residence or business displaying a “No Soliciting” sign. Solicitors can only operate between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily, excluding Sundays. The permit process requires disclosing past criminal convictions, including the nature of the offense and the penalty received. Applicants must also provide their address, employer name, fingerprints, and a description of the business and goods sold. The issued permit will have a current picture of the permit holder.

These measures help ensure that individuals going door to door in our community are properly vetted. If you encounter an unpermitted solicitor or have concerns about fraudulent activity, please report it to the Daytona Beach Police Department. For more details on permit requirements, contact the Permits & Licensing Department at (386) 671-8280. Together, we can ensure a safe and secure environment for all Daytona Beach residents.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

We talk a lot about scams that use fear and pressure to rattle reasonable people into giving up thousands of dollars.

Fake tech support, sweepstakes, arrest warrants, bail bonds, court summons, jury duty – these are just a few of the high-pressure tactics scammers love to use.

But there’s another very common scam out there that often goes unreported, likely because the victims are embarrassed: The romance scam.

Recently in Volusia County, a man fell victim to a romance scam that cost him \$365,000. The victim was using a dating website to find a potential partner, but what he found instead was a ruthless thief looking to drain his savings. She convinced him that she was a cryptocurrency trader, and she’d be willing to marry him if he raised money to invest in various crypto funds.

Unfortunately, he proceeded to send her the money, and she convinced him he was making a profit off his investments. He sold his stocks and started taking out loans through his credit cards, online banks, his 401k, and even his friends, all to send every penny to his scammer.

This sounds like an obvious fraud when you spell it out on paper. But for many people, when their judgment is clouded by fear, pressure, or in this case, “love,” it’s difficult to see clearly and apply logic to the situation.

I can’t tell you how many times I’ve seen similar scam attempts play out in the comment section of my own Facebook page. Fake accounts will reply to commenters, often complimenting their profile and

asking to connect to get to know each other better. Rest assured, it won't be long before they're asking you to share personal information, send money or transfer funds in crypto.

As hard as we try to filter out these scam accounts and prevent them from victimizing innocent people, new profiles keep appearing.

The Volusia Sheriff's Office has received 93 reports of fraud since Jan. 1 of this year, with total losses estimated at about \$1.4 million. Our Financial Crimes Unit will do everything they can to recover as much of that money as possible, but some of it is almost certainly gone overseas forever.

The first line of defense is you. Not only do you have to stay alert and protect yourself – I need your help spreading the word and telling others. The message may be more effective coming from a trusted family member or friend.

The same applies to all the scams I mentioned at the top of this column. Please help me drive home the point that no law enforcement officer or court official will ever contact you asking for any type of payment. We simply don't call people and demand money – if that happens to you, it's a scam.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or think you or someone you know has fallen victim to one of these cases, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

-Sheriff Mike Chitwood



*Ken Strickland
City Commissioner Zone 2*

Hello neighbors,

Another Bike Week is in the books. I have been living in the area since about 1990. As the years have come and gone, it has been my observation that the number of Bike Week attendees has dropped dramatically. In 2024, according to the Daytona Beach News Journal, the City paid to have geofencing, which provided a more accurate count of attendees at 420,000. By the time you read this, this year's count will be in.

Over the years the Main Street crowd has become much grayer--as in hair color. Many have been called home to be with their maker. The number of us who have been promoted (demoted) to riding on three wheels in recent years has grown substantially. Becoming more mature has its advantages and disadvantages for bikers and residents alike.

I have a friend who lives on Beach Street near Downtown. I have known him for probably close to 30 years. He's complained about motorcycles and noise every year except this year. He said he even slept with his balcony doors open one night.

My point is change is slow sometimes but it is also inevitable.

Until next month,

Ken Strickland
Zone 2 City Commissioner
386-307-4253

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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman
Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Part 5 of my memories of a surf trip to the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1975. We had just finished exploring the coast for new waves to ride. The day resulted in finding a beautiful fishing village and stumbling onto an area guarded by well-armed men on horseback telling us to “vamos.”

We returned to Playa Azul realizing that we might want to be more careful in our wanderings of the area. We were foreigners in a third-world country, and our enthusiasm to find someplace to surf other than Petacalco could get us in trouble. The next day we spent hanging around the town and surfing the little waves in front of the El Delphin.

This part of Mexico had lots of cattle. One morning, there was a mini cattle drive right down the center of town, complete with Mexican vacaros pushing the cattle to a corral. Later that day we walked up town, where there were large pieces of fly covered beef hanging in the open air. Shop owners were slicing pieces off and selling them to the villagers. That pretty much put us on a seafood diet from the little ramada in front of our motel. From the beach, we could see the boats and watch the fisherman pull the fish in with handheld lines. The fish were cleaned and cooked in eyesight. At least the sea breeze kept the flies down.

The surf out front of the motel was a small beach break, not really what we traveled for. It had been our good fortune on the first day in Playa to meet a girl, Nancy, from Cocoa Beach. Our good fortune continued when we ran into her again. We told her about our confrontations, both at Peta and the armed horsemen in the jungle. Nancy told us about another surf break that was nearby in the port city of Lazaros Cardenas. The port was guarded by a Mexican Army Marine base that required a pass to access. It just so happened that Nancy’s boyfriend was a well-connected Mexican surfer. His father was a local politician, and he had a pass to cross the base. She went on to tell us that her boyfriend had no car, and the pass was pretty much useless without transportation. We enthusiastically suggested that we would provide transportation if he would let us use his pass. She spoke with him and he agreed.



So, for the next few days, we would pick him and some of his friends up and surf fantastic waves off the jetties that protected the port of Lazarus. Not everything was hunky dory, though. There was the problem of stuffing 7 or 8 people, and boards, in and on top of our Dodge Dart. The Mexican Marines had suspicions as to why a gringo (me) was driving this vehicle with a government pass onto their base. There was also the body language of our Mexican friends that spoke of some resentment about being dependent on our transportation and revealing what pretty much was their private break. Ah, but when you are on a surf trip to a foreign country, you can’t expect things to all be smooth.

So here we are surfing some triple overhead well-shaped bombs, thinking that we had hit the jackpot, and we had, except for one little thing. We are sitting in the water on our boards waiting for waves in between sets when we hear whistling sounds, and rooster tails start appearing on the smooth ocean surface. We look around and notice that the Mexican surfers were not in the water. We looked up on the beach for some kind of understanding. We saw a Mexican soldier waving a red flag and blowing a barely audible whistle. Apparently, we were down range from the Marines’ target practice. It’s always something. Now, this is gonna sound crazy, and it was; we didn’t come in. We just paddled to what we decided was a safe distance from the rounds, skipping across the ocean surface... and surfed on.

Like I mentioned in my first article about this trip it was a contrast of ups and downs, beauty and danger...but that is where the excitement in life comes from, isn’t it?

‘til next time,
Paul

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I hope Bike Week treated you well and that you are liking some peace and quiet-- although Spring Break is upon us, so nights can still be very noisy and days very busy.

The last Friday night of Bike Week was very loud - I don't know exactly how that equates to the number of bikers attending. I saw lots of Florida locals and lots of gray beards. Bike Week can be problematic for our neighborhoods as well. The effects of Special Events spill into our neighborhoods. For instance, the Butler/Wild Olive murder is a case in point. Yes, it could have happened anytime (a problem area), but it happened during a special event. I have always noticed an uptick in drug activity near the beach during special events. These dealers and users aren't as stupid as they seem. They know that our police and fire and code people are concentrating their efforts around Main Street. Neighborhood response times can be affected. And the Biker incident in New Smyrna could have happened at anytime, anyplace, I suppose - but these club bikers were drawn here because it was Bike Week. This all leads me to wonder about the motivation for encoding all kinds of vehicle/trailer/ RV parking on lawns in my Seabreeze neighborhood, especially during Bike Week. I certainly hope this gets knocked down by the Commission. It is a safety issue for us.

When I think about what happens in our city and county, I always look for motivation about why some things happen or don't happen or are sped up or slowed down. I have been particularly confused about the extra Permits and Licensing extra fund debacle. I have a lot of questions and not enough answers. First we were told we had to use the money collected only for enhancing the Permits and Licensing and then Code functions, including new buildings for them. Then, there was the city's attempted purchase of a building on Beach Street that was loaded with asbestos. That didn't fly. We learned our city has been under audit for 4 years because of these funds. Now we have the state stepping in with attempted legislation telling us that we can use the funds for infrastructure improvements - but even that is confusing since they don't say whether it can be used for stormwater,



wastewater, or both. And then there is Minto suing the city to get back its P and L fees. I am confused by all of this and haven't figured out the motivations on any level and I don't like any of it.

I have questions of city motivations about the Corbin building on Main Street as well. Why is it taking so long to get something accomplished there when we have a very interested out of town, proven group that has spent a lot of time, money, and effort getting a new use in place? It has come to light recently that there is something holding that from moving forward. I think someone else (in the city, on Main Street?) wants to use that property for themselves. Hope this all comes to light as well.

And water issues: how come we have to use chloramine so often and for such long periods of time when we have no specific reports being offered to the public? Is it being hidden on purpose? We have very little talk of any environmental issues in our city - we keep ignoring the obvious and talk only about nice recreational activities and building improvements - like the Jack. Don't get me wrong, these are lovely, but does that mean we ignore all other problems?

And Beachside Malaise: where is the Commission activism - especially with the County and FDOT? I think it's very telling that even a Burger King can't stay in business, even though I know it has been beset by issues. For Pete's sake, it is in the middle of everything.

Guess that is it until next time. Hope there will be some answers.

Thanks for the opportunity once again to voice my concerns and opinions.

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



Annual Fund Rai\$er



2024 INCOME

Income from advertisers averages	\$3,720
Food donations and 50-50 revenue	\$2,303
ANNUAL REVENUE:	\$6,023

Donations:

2024 Ticket Auction	\$1,036
2024 15 th Annual Fundraiser	\$8,095
Total Donations	\$9,131

2024 EXPENSES

Newsletter	\$ 8,589
Food expenses and supplies	\$ 4,878
Website, postage, auction expense	\$ 1,738

ANNUAL EXPENSES:	\$15,205
ANNUAL REVENUE:	\$6,023
	-9,182

WITHOUT FUNDRAISING, WE GO INTO THE RED BY ABOUT \$9,182

*Supporting the Bellaire Community Group—now in its 19th 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!*



The BCG Investment Levels

Residents \$1 and up
Neighbors \$25 and up
Friends \$50 and up

Patrons \$100 and up
Sponsors \$200 and up
Angels \$500 and up

*Please use the enclosed envelope to mail your investment, with checks made payable to
 Bellaire Community Group*

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

Speedweek, which is always an exciting time for our city, was a huge success. 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 had pleasant weather with a few rain delays. 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.

The 84th Bike Week began on February 28th and concluded on March 9th. We welcomed bikers, riders and onlookers to Main Street and the Dr. Mary McCloud Bethune corridor. 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 plainclothes officers, established surveillance teams, and applied intel operations to intercept any gang activity. Overall, Bike Week was a success.

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. Always keep in mind that our city is visitor friendly, but resident centered.

Volusia County Spring Break is March 15-23 this year. We have a "Zero Tolerance" approach towards unlawful behavior. 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, do not walk outside alone, and keep your drinks in sight when in public spaces.




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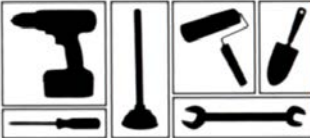
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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captain Needed to deliver newsletters...

The following street does not have someone assigned to deliver newsletters to:

Jacarda, Chipeway, N. Peninsula (South End)

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!

Belaire and Driftwood: Robbie Walton

Boylston (east end): Frank Stein

Boylston (west end): Patty Interto

Brookline: Donna Hiatt

Chaffee Place: Sherry 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: Vacant

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): Vacant

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!