



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



April 2025

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Mayor Derrick: Road improvements

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Neighborhood Activist

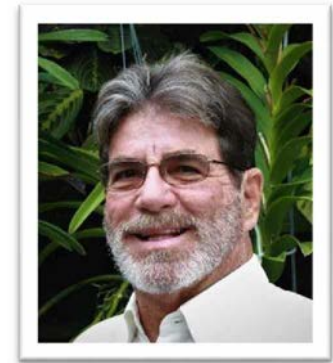
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Greetings, friends and neighbors; according to the calendar, Spring is here. Thank goodness, it seems as though this has been a long and lingering winter. It is hard to complain, though, when we look at what our friends to the north have had to endure. Soon we will be enjoying our glorious summer weather. I guess being here all my life, my blood is thin, so I much prefer 90 degrees over our occasional dips to 40 degrees.



In last month's meeting, we received a report from Daytona Beach City Code Enforcement Officer Denzel Sykes. Mr. Sykes informed us of the proposed State of Florida Legislation that will clarify whose responsibility it is when a tree falls into a neighbor's yard. Mr. Sykes explained that if and when the law passes, it will establish that the tree's property owner will be responsible for damages and/or tree removal to the adjacent property. Mr. Sykes said he thinks that this law will pass.

We also had Daytona Beach Zone 2 City Commissioner Ken Strickland as our guest. Commissioner Strickland brought us up to speed on the city's plans to invigorate our Main Street corridor. Mr. Strickland was optimistic in his report that there is a major out-of-state player who is willing to invest in significant projects for that area. Let's hope Ken's optimism is rewarded as this area has been an area that has long been in need of rejuvenation. Mr. Strickland also gave us updates on several of our oceanfront properties that seemed to be recovering slowly after hurricane damage.

This month's guest will be Volusia County environmental activist Suzanne Schreiber of Dream Green Volusia. I hope to see you all there.

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, April 17th!
Meal at 600 p.m.
Meeting at 630 p.m.
Suggested donation \$5*

Dinner:

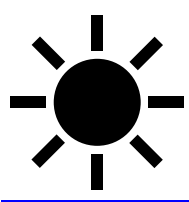
**Kottbullar
(Swedish Meatball Pasta Bake)
Green Beans Almondine
Buttery Rolls
Swedish Almond Cake
Beverages**

Bellaire Community Group

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Contributors
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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: Suzanne Schreiber, Dream Green Volusia
5. 50/50 drawing
6. Put tables and chairs away
7. Go home with a smile!

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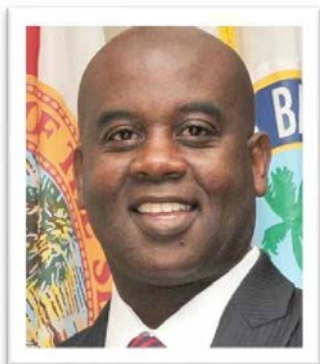
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OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Derrick Henry
Mayor of Daytona Beach

One of the most popular and impactful programs in our city is the Citywide Road Resurfacing and Restoration Program, now in its fifth year. I am pleased to share that we are taking another major step forward to improve our streets and sidewalks—with the help of cutting-edge technology. This month, the city is partnering with Transmap, a nationally recognized firm specializing in road and sidewalk evaluations, to conduct a comprehensive survey of our residential streets. This initiative is part of our commitment to keeping Daytona Beach safe, accessible, and beautiful.

Utilizing state-of-the-art tools, including 360-degree cameras and GPS, each city-owned street will be inspected and given a pavement score between 0 (failed) and 100 (excellent), providing a clear picture of where maintenance is needed most. We expect to receive a final report, complete with web-based images and interactive maps, by June.

Your safety and quality of life are always top priorities. I look forward to seeing how this effort will continue to enhance our community.



Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff

In my job, unfortunately I deal with a lot of bad news. But as I travel this county, I also get the chance to see so many people doing incredible work for the people of Volusia County.

Recently, I went on another ride along with my friends at the Meals on Wheels program operated by the Council on Aging of Volusia County.

Let me tell you, this is an inspiring program made possible by a bunch of selfless volunteers who truly love serving others.

Food is something many of us take for granted, but it's a major unmet need for many seniors across America. Many are living on a fixed income below the poverty line, and many live alone. We have a responsibility to step up and make sure their basic needs are met.

In riding along with Gretchen, I was inspired by her dedication not only to providing meals to her clients but checking in on them to make sure they're OK overall.

The Council on Aging also provides neighborhood dining sites across the county where meals are served along with social interaction that is crucial for our seniors' well-being. I'm already making plans to come back and serve as a BINGO caller at one of these meals.

If you could use a home-delivered meal or a place to go and dine with others, I really encourage you to see what the Council on Aging has to offer. You can call them at 386-323-4700, email info@coavolusia.org,

visit www.coavolusia.org, or go see them in person at 420 Fentress Blvd. in Daytona Beach.

And if you're looking for a way to get involved in a good cause that serves others, it's hard to think of a better opportunity than Meals on Wheels. They need both meal packers and servers. Call Doreen Willett at 386-253-4700, Extension 239, to learn more about signing up!

Lastly, these programs are possible in large part thanks to donations. Federal and state grants just don't cover the growing need for meals and services. If you have funds to spare and are looking for an organization worthy of your support, please consider the Council on Aging.

Thank you to all the members and volunteers of this amazing organization for the incredible work you're doing for our seniors.

-Sheriff Mike Chitwood



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A NATIVE REMEMBERS

*Paul Zimmerman
Chair, Bellaire Community Group*

Part 6 of my memories of a surf trip to the Central Pacific Coast of Mexico in 1975. After finding great waves located on Lazeros Cardenas's Mexican military base, we found ourselves down range from the soldier's target practice.... surfing as rounds zinged and skipped across the ocean surface.

When we came in out of the water, our Mexican friends explained that the soldiers have target practice a couple times a week, and it usually only lasts an hour or so. So, to us, that seemed to be something we could handle... after all, these were great waves, and the guy with the red flag and whistle would give us a warning.

Surfing in central Mexico at the time had its difficulties. The decision on where to surf was really a calculation of benefits and liabilities. The two breaks that we had found, Petacalco and Lazeros, both had exceptional surf, so the benefits were pretty much equal. Surfing at Petacalco required crossing the Atoyac River, which included dealing with a military checkpoint that had a machine gun pointed at us and being asked to get out of the rental car for drug inspections. Peta also had an understandably hostile local surfer contingent who seemed to be adamant about protecting their break. To surf Lazeros, we had to pick up the Mexican surfer, who had the pass, so we could cross the military checkpoint. That check point only had a rifle or two to deal with, and there was also the occasional target practice into the surf break. It seemed to be an easy choice, so we surfed Lazeros for the next 3 or days. Because of our friend Nancy's friendship with the locals, we were even able to keep the military pass for the days our Mexican surfer friends weren't able to come with us. We were well rewarded for that decision. Lazeros provided us with some really great surf.

Compared to Petacalco or Playa Azul, Lazeros Cardenas, because of the port, would be considered a big town. After surfing overhead waves for a few hours we were plenty hungry. Finding a place to eat could be sketchy. We had pretty much settled on cooking our own food at the El Delphin or eating at the little ramada on



the beach. When we asked Nancy about a recommendation on where to eat in Lazeros, she recommended a place that turned out to be one of the highlights of the trip. I wish I could remember its name or the owner's name, but 50 years have left me with only the memories of his friendliness and how delicious his food was. His restaurant was upstairs. It had mosaic tiled floors with aqua painted columns, allowing for an open-air dining area with an ocean breeze keeping things cool. When we told the owner that Nancy had recommended him, he was delighted and treated us like royalty. Language remained somewhat of a barrier, but the owner assured us not to worry. He took charge and served us a breakfast spread of eggs, chorizo, black beans, rice, toast, and fresh fruit. Needless to say, it became a stop after our surf sessions. Lazeros had provided us with great surf and our gracious Mexican restaurateur with great food, and a fun experience.

As our trip wound down, for some reason on our last day in Mexico we decided to go back for another try at surfing Petacalco. This meant crossing the dam over the Ayotec River with its military machine gun nest and the checkpoint where we had been harassed and treated less than hospitably by the federalis. During previous crossings we had believed that the soldiers had not understood English. Something looking back on later we realized this was their intention. During those scary inspections, speaking English, we had used some not so nice language, and even mumbled names that that called into question the soldier's heritage. We thought the soldiers didn't understand us. Well, on that last day as the soldiers were again inspecting the carpet and trunk of the rental car, scaring the heck out of us again. We began talking to each other about our return flight home the next day, about packing and returning our Dodge Dart to the airport in Zihuatanejo, probably mixing in some comments about how stupid these soldiers were and this

search was. Well, after we had been given clearance to proceed. The soldier in charge gave us a big grin and said in English, "Have a good trip, shake a leg." All of us had an immediate sick feeling, realizing these guys had understood everything we had been saying about them on our previous crossings. Lesson learned: beware, things may not be as they seem, and sometimes you don't get what you deserve.

We flew home the next day with the memories of a trip of a lifetime. One that even after 50 years is one that none of us on that trip will ever forget.

'til next time,
Paul



HAPPY

★ **EASTER** ★

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

"It's beginning to look a lot like" Springtime, isn't it? My favorite time of year. Residents get back to taking advantage of where we live!

This month's Beach Malaise: As important as Main Street is, it is not the only gateway to the Beachside. I think we have spent way more on the Main Street CRA than there are commensurate improvements. Imagine a Bike Week with vacant storefronts. That is exactly what happened this past Bike Week. Evidently, the noise didn't equate to more people attending.

Other gateways include Orange Ave, Seabreeze Blvd and ISB. The Orange Ave (Silver Beach) Bridge is something that has helped in many ways. And if you didn't know, there was a lot of citizen involvement and input that was taken seriously. That was then. This is now. Oakridge/Seabreeze not so much. FDOT, in their usual fashion, ripped up the road and planted a few palms. Not very impressive. And they don't seem very interested in improvements or maintenance to the bridge itself. And what do we see at the intersection of A1A and Oakridge? A vacant lot that belongs to Daytona Grande. How much longer do we have to look at that?

Speaking of the length of time we need to look at something unattractive, I turn your attention to ISB. I know a lot of people like the Tir na Nog Irish Pub. But I think it is time to admit that the problems there don't help ISB Gateway. And the amount of time given to them to address issues (not simply the way they look) amazes me. Reminds me of how much time has been given to other places on that entryway. Gateway comes to mind, as do other vacant buildings and lots along the way. The riverfront lot (NE corner) is a case in point. And once again, has FDOT really helped? They did a lot of work, but the feel of what they did, in my opinion, makes it look like a major thoroughfare with a few scrimpy palms (as if that helps - but it is cheap) instead of a gateway to our beach, which I believe should encourage a more slowed down vibe. The same



thing is happening on A1A. Just an annoying thoroughfare to navigate. Looks like an attractive Beach road? Not so much to me.

More Beachside Malaise next month. I have barely scratched the surface. In the meantime, there are a couple of other city issues to address. One is certainly the Homeless Shelter. The DBNJ (Eileen Zaffiro) wrote extensively about some of the issues there. I am growing weary of hearing about it. In my opinion, as much as I would like to see success there, I am feeling a lack of confidence in the Board and Management. Lack of confidence in this project means lack of moving forward and loss of funds. Time to start anew?

Our city parks are getting a lot of attention and that's a good thing if we have a Commission that addresses other major infrastructure issues. Did I miss the lack of mention of a park for Uptown/Kingston east of Ridgewood? Once again, they are left out of the improvement plans. Just like with the flood study by the Army Corps of Engineers. And now I am hearing that Brown and Brown wants to build another campus nearby. Will they get the zoning? What's your guess?

So, Happy Spring and Easter from me to you. Once again, thanks for the opportunity.

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

FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

As we embark upon the month of April, we remember that spring is not only a time to enjoy the outdoors but also allows time for a priceless window of opportunity to reconnect, reflect, and realign the goals we have set for the year.

After reflecting on the first quarter of 2025, the Daytona Beach Police Department capitalized on the importance of visibility, outreach, and continued engagement. It is the mission of the Daytona Beach Police Department to serve in partnership with our community to create a safer environment to live, work, and play.

We have implemented a new temporary specialized unit, in response to the recent increase in violent crimes, called Proactive Uniformed Patrol. This specialized unit is composed of pristine officers who are dedicated to enforcing violations of the law and keeping our community safe. These officers direct their attention to the areas of the city which produce high levels of crime. The officers take proactive action, addressing pedestrian and bicycle violations, traffic enforcement, and completing numerous warrant operations. This specialized unit went into effect on March 10, resulting in over 700 traffic stops, 750 traffic citations, and over 40 felony arrests. Due to the proactive operation, the officers have seized over 103 grams of Fentanyl, 7 grams of Cocaine, and over 1,000 grams of marijuana. The officers are also keeping the community informed by distributing vehicle burglary prevention brochures, which are available at any Police Department upon request.

April 18th kicks off Jeep Beach 2025, brought to our city every year, and will conclude on April 27th. Jeep Beach 2025 will attract thousands of Jeep enthusiasts to Daytona Beach. These devoted individuals travel, from all over the world, to enjoy the largest Jeep event in the country. Residents should expect increased traffic, as the population within our city will multiply, but you should know



your Police Department is dedicated to providing Professional Public Service. We have completed safety plans and implemented traffic strategies to achieve the best outcome for all. We appreciate your understanding, patience, and cooperation during this busy time.

On Saturday, April 26, we welcome you to participate in the DEA Drug Takeback Day. The Daytona Beach Police Department will be hosting the event, at 129 Valor Blvd, starting at 10:00 am and concluding at 2:00 pm. This event provides a safe and secure way to dispose of any unused or unwanted prescription medications without questions asked. Implementing safe and proper disposal helps prevent medication misuse and ensures the safety and well-being of our community. Please note that we are unable to collect any sharps, such as needles, or liquid medications.

As always, we encourage residents to report any suspicious activity. Following our social media or attending your local neighborhood watch meetings are great ways to stay informed about the safety within the community. The Daytona Beach Police Department encourages all residents to review local ordinances and visit the city's official website for information on regulations, safety tips, and event guidelines. Our officers are proud to serve the residents of Daytona Beach, and we thank you for being a vital part of our community.

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

 A graphic consisting of the text "***SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE***" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized representation of the American flag, featuring horizontal stripes in red, white, and blue.

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Street Captain Needed to deliver newsletters...

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

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

Manhattan, Jacaranda, and Chipeway:

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

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!