



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



Happy Easter Season, Friends and Neighbors,

April 2026

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As I sit back and reflect on the last 20+ years of this journey with the Bellaire Community Group (BCG), my heart is filled with love. BCG was the dream of a courageous man, Paul Zimmerman, who had a vision to create a neighborhood where “Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority” was not only a dream, but a true desire.

I reminisce about our meetings over the years and the guests who have graciously given their time to come and share with us. I am grateful for the friendships I have formed with you—my neighbors—relationships I would not have without this group.

It is not about me, or Paul, or Steve, or Megan, but all of us— together—building what we call BCG. I have said many times that BCG is a “labor of love,” not just for me, but for all of us.

Many of you knew and were friends with my late husband, Steve. That means so much to me. I feel like a part of him lives in BCG. Paul and I have been navigating this journey together the past two years following Steves passing. As you all know, after 20 years we desired to step down from leadership. What we discovered was that we hadn’t clearly explained what that leadership involves—or what it meant to us. So many of you have expressed your desire to continue this group (as do Paul and I) and to help in any way you can.

What we understand is that there is a desire to help, but not necessarily to step up and be out front. I have found this myself this year. Paul and I have agreed to continue leading our BCG group— with the help of all of you. I was always more comfortable in the background, with Paul and Steve leading. What I am faced with this year is that I need to step up and be out front. Yes, that makes me uncomfortable, but I will do it for you and our BCG. **Let’s do it together!**

*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, April 16th!*

*Meal at 6 p.m
Meeting at 6:30 p.m..*

This Month’s Dinner
Ham and Rice Casserole
Homemade bread
Lemon Poppy Seed Cake
Beverages

\$5 Donation

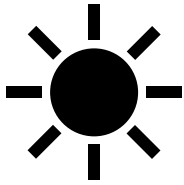
Continued on page 2

Bellaire Community Group

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In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 20, Issue 4: April 2026

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Trisha Jones
4. City Code Enforcement Update
5. Featured Guests Sara Chrisman and Chuck Gleichmann
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!

Continued from page 1

This year is our **17th Annual Fundraiser**, and we are excited to report that—thanks to you—we have reached **\$3,022**. Please keep those donations coming. We are in this together for the well-being of our community and neighborhood.

We are pleased to welcome Sara Chrisman and Chuck Gleichmann, as our guest speakers at our April meeting. Sara and Chuck will share with us efforts to improve the health of the Halifax River for future generations by building Vertical Oyster Gardens. I am excited to learn more about this project.

I look forward to seeing you at our April meeting. I promise you it is worth the investment to come—meet a neighbor, make a friend, and help our beloved Bellaire community.

Thanks for the journey,

Nancy Koenig



**Please join us to suggest a different
flight pattern for Flight Schools
AWAY FROM BEACHSIDE**

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

I want to share some exciting news that could make a real difference for property and business owners throughout our community. The City of Daytona Beach is currently waiving permit and inspection fees for eligible commercial and residential projects. This opportunity is available through September 10, and it covers a wide range of improvements from new construction and interior renovations to roof replacements, upgrades to electrical and fire suppression systems, as well as enhancements like fences, doors, windows, driveways and air conditioning units.

This initiative is another step in our ongoing efforts to help property owners invest in their homes and businesses, while fostering growth and progress across Daytona Beach. The impact of this program has already been proven. During our previous fee waiver period, which ran from September 1, 2024, to March 1, 2025, more than 2,000 projects advanced, and property owners saved approximately \$3.5 million in fees. Since 2020, this marks the sixth time we've offered waived building permit fees, and each round has helped boost reinvestment and improvements throughout our neighborhoods.

I strongly encourage residents, contractors and business owners to take full advantage of this opportunity. To apply, simply visit www.daytonabeach.gov where you'll find all the necessary forms and resources. If you have any questions or need more details, please reach out to Permits & Licensing at 386-671-8140.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

A top priority of solving financial crimes is making every effort to make a victim whole again. But it's something that's difficult to achieve as scammers often are overseas and hard to track down.

That's why seeing a case go from investigation to arrest to prosecution to restitution is extremely rewarding and a reminder of why we do what we do.

In July of last year, the VSO Financial Crimes Unit arrested two California residents and charged them with defrauding an Orange City woman out of almost half a million dollars.

The 61-year-old victim believed she was sending a wire transfer of \$487,350 to her accountant for taxes owed. In reality, her accountant's email had been compromised by scammers.

Detectives with the VSO Financial Crimes Unit tracked down the suspects Jason Hellawell, 56, and Ariel Wang, 33, and seized bank accounts.

Since then, detectives have been working with the State Attorney, Florida's 7th Circuit to reach a deal that will require the defendants to repay what they stole.

It worked. The defendants have each provided \$125,000 in certified funds that have been turned over to the victim, for a total of \$250,000.

On top of that, the defendants must repay another \$250,000 that was covered by an insurance carrier, plus accruing interest.

Both defendants were placed on 20 years' probation during which they each must make minimum monthly restitution payments of at least \$750. Any violation of probation could result in up to 25 years in prison on each charge.

We hope holding the defendants' accountable serves as a reminder to the victim – and to all victims of financial crimes – that they are not alone in this fight.

Pulling Gray Hairs Doesn't Cause Two More To Pop Up!

There's a myth that if you pluck out a gray hair, two more will grow back, but it's not based in fact. Every strand of hair on our bodies grows from its own single hair follicle, and one by one, those follicles eventually stop producing pigment. When that happens, the follicle grows gray or white hair, but it still only grows one single hair. It has no effect on the surrounding follicles – so plucking a gray hair affects only that hair.

You do, however, run the risk of zero hairs growing back from that follicle when you pluck one, so if you want to avoid bald patches, it's best to leave them on your head.



What significant event began on
April 12, 1861?

Answer on page 6

When Does Your Brain Hit Its Peak?

We often think about our physical peak – the years when we can run fastest, stay up late without consequence, or bounce back from a pulled muscle overnight. But the brain's peak isn't quite so easy to pin down.

Mental performance involves many abilities, including how quickly we process information, how well we remember facts, how creatively we solve problems, and how deeply we draw on experience and judgment. The question of when the brain is at its best depends on which ability we're talking about – and how we define "best."

For decades, scientists assumed that mental capacity increased through adolescence, hit a high point in the 20s, and then declined steadily. But more recent research has overturned that long-held view. Our brains develop, plateau, and adapt in complex ways over their lifespans, with different skills rising and falling on their own schedules. Processing speed, memory, vocabulary, reasoning, and emotional intelligence all follow distinct arcs – and can peak at different times in our lives

The brain is far more dynamic than we once believed. It remodels itself constantly, responding to how we live, what we learn, and how we connect. Some kinds of quick thinking may slow with time, but deeper forms of intelligence – such as judgment, emotional regulation, and creativity – continue to grow as the decades stretch on.

So if "peak" brain function means raw speed, that typically occurs in our youth. But if it means the integration of knowledge, empathy, and problem-solving – the ability to balance logic with perspective – the real peak likely comes later, in our 50s, 60s, or beyond.

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint from April 2021

One of the advantages of living a long time is that you have real life memories of the history of our town on which to draw. Those memories, coupled with my family's shared memories and history here in the area dating back to the turn of 20th century, I think, offer a different perspective of our area for those who have been here for the last 30 or 40 years. Perspective on our history can greatly influence our identity and how we see ourselves today. That is why I think it is so important to keep the historical record accurate; a community will initiate policies that will reflect its identity, good or bad. Sadly, I think much of the history of Daytona Beach has been manipulated to distort her identity to the benefit of some, to the detriment to the citizens of Daytona Beach and the area as a whole.

Those real life and shared family memories paint a picture of Daytona Beach from the early 1900s to 1970s as a very desirable place to life and visit. My Grandparents, Harold and Genevieve, offer what I think were a fairly typical turn of the century couple who located in Daytona Beach. They came down from Jamestown NY in 1915. My Great Grandfather had preceded them to the area some time before that, and he is buried at the Pinewood Cemetery on Main St. My grandfather was a banker until the great depression hit, when he moved into the insurance business. They were active members of the Congregationalist Church on the corner of Volusia Ave. and Palmetto Ave. He sang in the church choir and at weddings. They were educated folks who appreciated opera and classical music. Did you know that Daytona Beach had an opera house? It was on the corner of Beach and Orange Avenues where the 5th DCA courthouse is now. One of my dad's favorite stories to tell was when he was a teen in the 1930s, of being a DJ on the radio classical music program of the former editor of the News Journal, Mrs. Josephine Davidson. Dad misidentified one of the composers on one of the



albums and she called him into her office the next day and chewed him out for it. "The Gambles, the Rockefellers, and the Burgoynes didn't come to the Daytona Beach area to party, you puke."

The Land Speed record attempts on the beach in the 1920s and 1930s brought the elites and upper crust of Europe to our area, including Sir Malcolm Campbell, and they labeled us the "The World's Most Famous Beach." After the depression and the end of WWII, Daytona Beach became the destination of hundreds of thousands of families for good clean and wholesome fun, a family destination for most of the southeastern United States. In the summer, I worked on the original Castaway Beach motel pool deck for three years-- 1964, 1965, 1966. I lived the heyday of Daytona Beach. I heard directly from the families who came here every year about the admiration and regard they had for Daytona Beach. It made me swell with pride for my community to hear how they looked forward all year to be able to return to the World's Most Famous Beach for just one week out of their year. During the school year, I worked after school and on the weekends at Humphreys Men's Store on Main St. In the evenings and weekends, Main St. was packed with visitors and businesses were booming year-round. I lived it. I saw it. It happened.

Sometime during the 1970s and 1980s, "community leaders" decided to take a short cut and began promoting our area as a special event destination. That year-round stuff, I guess, was too tedious. With high impact special events came all sorts of unintended consequences. Those consequences are still felt today.

Last week, I walked the Main St area collecting petitions (available on line or from Steve and me) for the Sons Of the Beach, requesting that

the Volusia Council reopen the beach to vehicle driving and parking from ISB north to the Boardwalk. It made me sad. Many of the business are holding on by a thread. Many of the businesses complained of city policies that seemed to be meant to shut them down, and many were closed. All but 3 of the shop owners or managers couldn't sign the petitions fast enough. They want the beach open. They want the tourists back. The SOBs hope that returning traffic and parking to the beach will help them, and will help stimulate what used to be the "World's Most Famous Beach." The fun and easily accessible beach that brought my family here over a hundred years ago will bring families back today, if we allow it. #makeourbeachfunagain.

'til next time,

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Trivia answer:
The American Civil War.
Did you know?

**Here's what's going on
in our community at
Schnebly Recreation Center...**

Senior Fitness:

9 am Tuesday and Thursday 55+
Exercise and stay in shape **FREE**

Zumba Class:

9:30 am Tuesday
A fun dance fitness program
\$5 per class

Yoga by Lisa:

9:30 am Mondays and Fridays
Gentle Yoga and Relaxation
\$10

Line Dancing:

Wednesdays 5:15 pm to 7:45 pm
Enjoy Dancing with exercise and fun!
\$10

**Tai Chi Class with Instructor
Marlon Pilossoph**

11:15 am Tuesdays and Thursdays
\$5

Mahjong Game:

Mondays Noon to 3 pm **FREE**

**Spring Senior Oasis Social
and Luncheon**

Tuesday, April 21st 11 am to 1 pm
RSVP Required 386-671-3560

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I have a few thoughts about past events and projects.

Bike Week: It seemed to me that anything with two or more wheels participated (Ebikes, golf carts, skateboards, scooters, etc.). Not sure that's a good thing as they tended to zip on and off sidewalks and didn't follow vehicle rules. Also, I noticed a lot of "costuming" that went beyond normal black leather. I saw an elderly person with a full-on Evil Chuckie Doll costume plus many other costumes unrelated to Bike Week.

Spring Break: It sure isn't what it used to be. And I think we need to stop pretending it is, or even making comparisons. Pop-up events paralyze Beachside if not contained. Families probably will avoid the Beachside during these times. Things change and I hope the city will rethink both Bike weeks and Spring Break. I'd like to suggest promoting more local vendors for Bike Week and wresting away some of the influence of the Regional Chamber of Commerce. I think we are living in the past. We have done the same things for decades. I think there is a lot of room for improvement.

A1A: Gets worse every day. So much signage and so many blinking lights that it is becoming confusing for motorists and probably pedestrians who continue to ignore crosswalks. I hear FDOT is going to have a landscaping phase. They will have to plant any green on concrete, and we know how that works.

And now to partially address the elephant in the room (Audit proceedings): I have advocated for the Commission and Staff to get out in front of stories before the narrative gets taken over by other entities. Instead, most of them gets chose to emphasize fluff stories. And the Commission chose to hire an Internal Auditor. They didn't have to, but I consider it a good thing. The Charter was changed a long time ago and the Commission chose to change the proposed language from " shall hire " to "may hire". Do they now not understand the function of an internal auditor? It is not supposed to be a rubber stamp position. And the mess started with the proposed purchase of the asbestos - filled building on Beach Street and the use of permit

funds. Instead of publicly discussing and really investigating the solution to the problem, most of the Commission and staff decided to move on without a proper solution - even though it was a difficult ask. Then came the questions about the use of Pcards and the same kind of narrative unfolded except now the Internal Auditor was involved. And that is when accountability and civility went out the window on all sides. My question is, where does the buck stop? I will continue this discussion in the next newsletter but I maintain those that will be hurt the most will be the residents and image of our city. I believe it will affect the economy of the city as well.

Once again, thanks for the opportunity to share my opinions. Until next time,

Weegie Kuendig

dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



*Jakari Young,
Chief of Police of Daytona Beach*

As April continues, the Daytona Beach Police Department remains committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our residents and the many visitors enjoying our city during this especially active time of year. With several large-scale events taking place, we are seeing a continued increase in population and activity throughout Daytona Beach. This includes national cheerleading competitions that are bringing athletes, families, and spectators from across the country, contributing to heavier traffic near event venues, hotels, and surrounding areas.

In addition, Jeep Beach 2026 will take place April 17–26, drawing thousands of Jeep enthusiasts to our community for one of the area's most anticipated annual events. Residents and visitors can expect significant congestion along beachside routes, main roadways, and event spaces during this time. While peak Spring Break has passed, elevated visitor numbers remain consistent across the city, and our officers continue to take a proactive approach to maintaining a safe, orderly, and welcoming environment for everyone.

To support these increased demands, the Daytona Beach Police Department has enhanced patrol presence in high-traffic and tourist-heavy areas, implemented traffic control strategies to help manage congestion, and is working closely with event organizers and community partners to

Our officers are highly visible and readily available to assist with directions, safety concerns, and emergency response if needed. We encourage everyone to remain patient, plan for travel delays, and stay aware of their surroundings while enjoying all that Daytona Beach has to offer this month.

As always, safety remains a shared responsibility. We remind everyone to lock their vehicles, secure personal belongings, avoid distracted or impaired driving, and follow all posted signage as well as directions from law enforcement personnel. Pedestrian safety is especially important during this time, so please remain attentive in crowded areas and crosswalks.

The Daytona Beach Police Department is proud to serve this community and remains dedicated to keeping our city safe while supporting the events that make Daytona Beach a world-class destination. 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 featuring the text "***SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL POLICE***" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below the text is a stylized representation of the American flag, consisting of a blue horizontal bar with white stars and a red horizontal bar with white stars.

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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

The following streets do not have someone assigned to deliver newsletters to:

Flushing, Woodland

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!

Boylston (east end): Frank Stein

Boylston (west end): Patty Interto

Brookline: Donna Hiatt

Chaffee Place: Sherry Phillips

Columbus and N Peninsula: Shree Gobin

Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness

Euclid: Janice and Mike Felisko

Flagstone, Bellaire and

Driftwood: Ellen Gerard

Golf: Lisa Gall

N. Grandview: Connie Lambert

Hartford: Kassi Mercy

Manhattan, Jacaranda, and

Chipeway: Robert Sabol and Angela

Asemota

Morningside: Ted and Cindy Beers

Nautilus: Melissa Anderson

N. Oleander, Auburn, Cornell, Bucknell: Dan Stockman

N. Halifax: Nancy Koenig and Nikolai Hargreaves

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

Zelda: Elly and Rachael Petersen

Special thanks to all our volunteers!