



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



July 2026

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Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Summer has arrived, and I, for one, am so thankful for this little slice of heaven we call our beachside community. How wonderful it is to call this place home. Visitors spend so much to vacation on our beach, yet we are blessed to enjoy its beauty every day.

What makes summer here truly special is not only the ocean at our doorstep, but also the people who share it. Ours is a close-knit community where neighbors look out for one another, celebrate small moments together, and make everyday life feel welcoming. Whether it is a quick hello on the way to the beach, a helping hand after an afternoon storm, or casual conversation as the day cools down, these simple connections are the heart of our neighborhood.

This month, we look forward to welcoming back Volusia County Sheriff—and our friend—Mike Chitwood as our guest. Sheriff Chitwood is passionate about our County and known for his highly direct, outspoken style.

As we wind down our annual fundraiser, I would like to thank all who contributed again this year. Your contributions show our community strength.

As the summer days unfold, may we continue to enjoy the beauty around us, support one another, and take time to appreciate the easygoing spirit that makes our corner of Daytona Beach so special. Here's to warm days, ocean air, friendly faces, and another memorable summer together.

If you have not been to one of our community group meetings, or if it has been a while, I encourage you to come, enjoy dinner with a neighbor, and meet a new friend. I promise it is well worth the time.

Thanks for the Journey,

Nancy Koenig

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

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

This Month's Dinner

**Philly Cheesesteak Casserole
Garden Salad
Crusty Bread
Peach Snack Cake
Beverages**

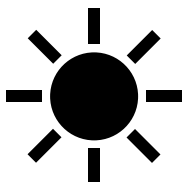
\$5 Donation

Bellaire Community Group

2000 N. Halifax
Daytona Beach, FL 32118

2026 Officers
Chair & Founder
Paul Zimmerman
386.316.6259
ptzimm@bellsouth.net

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



Contributors
Mike Chitwood
Derrick Henry
Nancy Koenig
Weegie Kuendig
Jakari Young
Paul Zimmerman

In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 20, Issue 7: July 2026

AGENDA

1. Dinner with neighbors
2. Call to Order and Pledge
3. Crime and Safety Report: Captain Kim Gernert
4. City Code Enforcement Update Mariah Quinn
5. July Guest: Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood
6. 50/50 Drawing
7. Put tables and chairs away
8. Go home with a smile!

Get Involved!



How You Can Help. Vertical Oyster Gardens (VOGS)

- . Do you own a Dock or Know someone who does?
- . 1 Oyster can Filter up to 50 gallons of Water a Day!
- . Hanging strings of cleaned oysters (VOGS) off your dock attracts babies that grow and can create a habitat for fish AND clean the water. *these oysters filter toxins they are NOT for eating.
- . VOGS take no permitting on private docks.
- . It took 20+ years to make the river dirty, it will be over time, not overnight. We are a grassroots group.



**How many bones comprise a
giraffe's neck?**

Answer on page 4

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

As we celebrate the country's 250th birthday, we are also celebrating our city's 150th birthday. As part of Daytona Beach's yearlong sesquicentennial celebration, the city invites residents to a special time capsule ceremony at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 18, at Fire Station No. 1 Headquarters, 420 S. Ridgewood Ave. The time capsule will preserve a snapshot of life in Daytona Beach in 2026 and will remain sealed for 100 years, to be reopened July 18, 2126.

Community members are encouraged to attend and take part by writing a personal message to future generations for inclusion in the time capsule. In addition to the time capsule event, a weekend of activities is planned for July 24-26, including special live entertainment, a drone show, a festival on Main Street and a community event at the Midtown Rec Complex. Visit DB150.com for more information about these exciting events.

Also, this month residents can enjoy free beachside games and activities from 1 to 4 p.m. every Thursday through July 30 at Breakers Oceanfront Park, 13 S. Atlantic Ave. The free program features beach volleyball, yard games, board games, chess, checkers and other family-friendly activities. Bring family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of recreation overlooking our world-famous beach!



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

Knowledge is the best tool in fighting against scammers who prey on the most vulnerable in our community.

And while we make every effort to keep our community informed, scammers continue to target our residents with increasingly sophisticated, ever-evolving schemes that can appear remarkably convincing.

It's why we decided there was a need to cast a wide net when it comes to how we keep our residents informed. Recently, the Volusia Sheriff's Office Financial Crimes Unit kicked off an initiative aimed at spreading our knowledge as far as possible.

Here's how it works: Every quarter, FCU detectives will meet with community members to teach them about the latest fraud trends and how to avoid them. The goal here is a "train-the-trainer" approach. The community members, for example, are city leaders, bank representatives and assisted living facility directors. Armed with this new knowledge, they can then spread it with citizens, customers and those most vulnerable.

This new initiative allows these community members to join us in the fight against these scumbags. To show you just how brazen they've

become, here are a few examples of some scams from this year.

In January of this year, a victim received a call from someone claiming to be from VSO stating she had a warrant and needed to deposit \$1,800 into a Bitcoin ATM. She deposited the funds before realizing she had been swindled.

In March, a victim was contacted by someone from his bank claiming he was an investigator for the bank conducting a fraud investigation and needed to transfer money to a different account. The victim withdrew more than \$30,000 and transferred it to the scammer.

This one had an interesting twist. The victim met a subject online who asked her if she'd like to be an investor for Kenney Chesney Concerts. The victim gave the scammer more than \$50,000 before realizing it was all fake.

As you can see, these scams come in many forms and are often designed to look and sound legitimate. We launched this initiative at the beginning of the summer and plan to continue it through the end of the year. By working together and sharing this knowledge throughout our community, we can better recognize these scams, protect one another, and make it harder for fraudsters to succeed.

waiting—decided they were not going to wait. They went ahead of me and continued on with their day.

A day like that required me to pause and think things through. I needed to remember empathy, compassion, and forgiveness. We all know how easy it is to say, "This always happens to me." But isn't the picture clearer when we realize that we are all doing this life thing together and choose to empathize with one another?

We are all entitled to have a bad day. And perhaps even better, doesn't it feel good to know you have turned the other cheek so that someone else feels compassion and understanding? St. Francis of Assisi said it best: "It is better to understand than to be understood." That is compassion.

Best of all, when empathy and compassion fail us, we must remember the test: forgiveness. When we forgive, the trespass no longer rents space in our beautiful Bellaire minds.

It is easy to practice these traits with those we love. The true challenge is to extend that same love to neighbors we may not even know—throughout the Bellaire Community Group and to outsiders who love not only our beaches, restaurants, and sunshine, but also the wonderful community here in Northeast Daytona Beach: the Bellaire Community Group.

2 Corinthians 2:7 reminds us, "...you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow."

Isn't It Funny When We're Going Through Something?

The other day, I had to stand in line to receive services I had already been waiting a week to get. As I waited with my number in what was supposed to be an organized line, a few people who had just walked up—and who knew I had been

Trivia answer:

Seven (the exact same number as a human neck).

Did you know?

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint from July 2022

Summer is here, and it seems as though we go through the same scenarios every year. In the summer, people like to go to the World's Most Famous Beach. Some of the folks are tourists, some are "day trippers," and some of us are locals who kinda feel like this is OUR beach. I have been here all my life and pay property taxes, so that feeling of ownership of the beach is not just some hare-brained idea but is based in some reality. And because I am not the only long time resident who pays property taxes, I am joined by a lot of other owners of OUR beach. Further, if we look in our County Charter it says all y'all (a Big phrase) are owners of OUR beach. There are times it seems that not only do we not own our beach, we are lucky if we can get on it at all.

I grew up and worked and played on our beach from the early 1960s till today. And I can tell you that the concept of a public beach from then until now is like night and day. I hate to use that night and day cliché because it is over used and doesn't have the impact that I want. Imagine if you will a beach that has no gates, no toll booths, no concern for soft sand or tides (you drive at your own risk), and access to any of the 47 miles was 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. That is how our beach was not managed up until the 1980s. I am sure that those of us who didn't live here then have seen pictures. Traffic lanes were loosely suggested. Parking? We parked where we wanted, either side of where the traffic was. Look at the pictures. There were way more people using the beach back then. The statics show that there was no carnage of people being run over by cars. People in cars and those walking paid attention to each other. Statics also show that tourist numbers were higher then than they are today...a lot higher.

Now let's look at today. Recently, I received several phone calls from locals, and folks who make their living on our beach. They were complaining that the traffic lanes were placed to the west edge of the

beach in
the
softest
sand,
and
access



was restricted to 4 wheel drive only. Access was denied to OUR beach and businesses were losing money. This was the week leading to the 4th of July, a week when a huge number of folks want to use OUR beach. I don't know the numbers of folks who own a 4 wheel drive vehicle but it is a relatively small percentage of folks who want to use OUR beach. After making inquiries, I was told that the reason the traffic lanes were in soft sand was for safety and continuity reasons. How did we survive when there were 100,000 folks on our beach with no "beach traffic management"? Where were all the dead bodies? Safety?

The day after my inquiries (July 2nd) the traffic lanes were moved to the hard sand. The remedy was one that was standard operating procedure, back when we didn't have an almost paranoid preoccupation with "safety": simply move the traffic lanes in and out as the tide moves in and out. As far as I remember, and that is back about 60 years, there has always been patches of soft sand and patches of red sand....this is not a new phenomenon. We survived it in the past and chances are we survive it again, no need to close OUR beach.

I was really happy that the traffic lanes were adjusted to allow a huge turn out on OUR beach for the 4th of July. Like I said in my opening paragraph, we seem to go through this every year let's hope that "moving the traffic lanes with the tide" somehow gets embedded into the beach code and becomes a standard operating procedure again.

'til next time,
Paul

DOH-Volusia County Issues Rabies Alert

**Contact:**

Wendi Jackson
Wendi.Jackson@flhealth.gov
386-281-6423

Daytona Beach, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Volusia County (DOH-Volusia) is issuing a rabies alert in Volusia County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in an unvaccinated cat that was captured near the intersection of A1A and Hartford Avenue in Daytona Beach on June 29, 2026. DOH-Volusia is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies is currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Daytona Beach, Volusia County:

- **Northern boundary: Plaza Boulevard**
- **Southern boundary: Golf Boulevard**
- **Eastern boundary: the Atlantic Ocean**
- **Western boundary: the Halifax River**

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Daytona Beach Animal Control at 386-248-1777.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Volusia by calling 386-274-0651.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).
- Call your local county or municipal animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood.
- Prevent wildlife, including [bats](#), from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies](https://www.floridahealth.gov/Rabies)
###

About the Florida Department of Health

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

Follow us on X at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov).

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It always amazes me when I hear residents say there isn't anything to do in Daytona Beach. What I am seeing however, is that we may be entertaining each other – not tourists especially on the Boardwalk. I just read an article about Florida tourism, and it seems to be down all over Florida for many reasons. I noticed a quieter Beachside this past weekend as far as tourism goes. I use A1A a lot simply to see what is happening. It was not crowded. But again, the FDOT project was always in my way.

Look, I can still multitask as well as the next guy, but these so-called improvements are complete impediments to safe driving. Here are some notable ones. Which should I prioritize?

Vehicles: cars that disobey speed limits and pedestrians, and make ridiculous u-turns, driving into my lane and up on the opposite sidewalks; delivery trucks that block entire lanes. I remember that wasn't supposed to be a problem as developers said they would demand delivery trucks would use porte-cocheres instead – ha! Other vehicles of varying wheel numbers driving on and off sidewalks and streets at their choosing. Workmen's trucks parked anywhere. Equipment trucks parked everywhere – often unattended.

Flashing lights: everywhere and often meaningless and ignored by pedestrians, vehicles, work trucks and equipment trucks. Should I prioritize pedestrian crossing blinkers, lane change blinders, work truck blinkers, regular blinking lights

at big intersections, blinkers on barrels, speed limit blinkers, blinkers which show my speed?

Pedestrians: those that actually use crosswalks are few and far between – including hotel workers, regular pedestrians and constructions workers.

Landscaping and Beautification: I do not care what phase it is scheduled for. I was not aware that trees and vegetation did well in cement. Sign pollution is also overwhelming and FDOT has made the roadway look like a throughway with not enough open lanes for travel.

I could go on. I asked our TPO rep to find out how much all this has cost all these many years and counting. I was basically told to go to FDOT meetings. Years ago, I found out that each of these meetings cost taxpayers \$100K. Cannot imagine what it costs now to put stickers on what you like and then FDOT does exactly what they want anyway.

There are many others I see are more than disgruntled but enough for now.

Hope you can deal with this heat – kind of getting to me, but better than hurricanes, I suppose.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to express my opinions as always.

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Jakari Young, Chief of Police of Daytona Beach

Summer is in full swing, and the Daytona Beach Police Department has stayed busy serving our community through proactive policing, community outreach, and special events. July has been filled with opportunities for our officers to connect with residents while continuing our mission of keeping Daytona Beach safe.

The Fourth of July was a success thanks to the teamwork of our officers and the community. With additional patrols throughout the holiday, residents and visitors were able to celebrate safely. We appreciate everyone who did their part to make it a fun and safe Independence Day.

Throughout the month, our officers will continue participating in the City of Daytona Beach's Summer Fun on the Run program. This initiative gives us the opportunity to spend time with kids and families through games, educational activities, and conversations in neighborhoods across the city. On July 8th, we'll be visiting the Dickerson Center and, on the 15th, we will be visiting the Pine Haven Apartments. These events are always a great reminder that building relationships with our community starts long before someone has an emergency.

You'll also continue to see Drip Patrol out in the community this summer. Our ice cream truck has become a fun way for officers to meet residents, hand out frozen treats, and spend time with families in a relaxed setting. Be on the lookout for announcement alerts on our social media.

Traffic safety will also be a focus this month as the Daytona Beach Police Department joins agencies across the state for Operation Southern Slow Down. The FDOT-led campaign runs July 13-18 and focuses on reducing speeding through



education and enforcement. Our agency will take part in the campaign kickoff on July 13 before conducting traffic enforcement throughout the week.

With school still out for the summer, we also want to remind drivers to slow down and stay alert, especially in neighborhoods, near parks, and anywhere children are outside playing. A few extra seconds of caution can make all the difference.

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 horizontal banner with red and white stripes, resembling the American flag.

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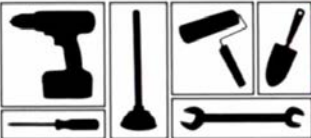
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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

Street Captains Needed to deliver newsletters...

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

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: Terre Tumminello

Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness

Euclid: Janice and Mike Felisko

Flagstone: Ellen Gerard

Flushing and N Peninsula: Shree Gobin

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

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!