



BELLAIRE COMMUNITY GROUP

Keeping Quality of Life Our Priority!



August 2026

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*Join us at the
Schnebly Center
1101 N Atlantic Ave
Thursday, August 20th!*

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

This Month's Dinner

**Cheesy Chicken & Broccoli
Casserole
Mixed Veggies
Dinner Rolls
Lemon Ricotta Cake
Beverages**

\$5 Donation

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Summer break certainly went by quickly, didn't it? As families begin packing backpacks, planning lunches, and settling back into morning routines, we want to wish a wonderful start to the school year to all the students, parents, teachers, bus drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and school staff in our Bellaire Community Group neighborhood.

These young people in our community are precious, and this season is a good reminder of how much encouragement, patience, and support can mean. A few neighborly reminders to keep our littles safe:

- Keep an eye out for school buses, walkers, bicyclists, and extra school traffic.
- If you know a family juggling the back-to-school scramble, consider offering a helping hand.
- Give students a little extra patience and encouragement as they settle into new routines.
- Take a moment to thank the people who help school days run smoothly, including teachers, drivers, crossing guards, coaches, and staff.

Here's hoping everyone enjoys an easy first week and a great school year. We're cheering you on!

This month, we are pleased to welcome Susanne Scheiber of Dream Green Volusia, a local environmental group, to help us better understand Volusia Forever and Amendment 5. Susanne brings a wealth of knowledge, and I am looking forward to her presentation and to learning more about protecting our environment.

Please come and learn with me. I encourage you to join us. Come enjoy dinner with a neighbor, meet a new friend, and spend time learning about an issue that matters to our community. I promise it is well worth the time.

Thanks for the Journey,

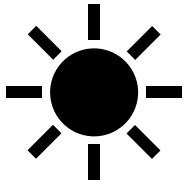
Nancy Koenig

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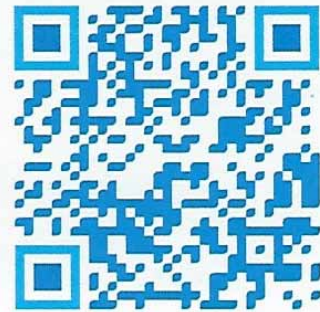
In memoriam in aeternum
Steve Koenig

Vol 20, Issue 8: August 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. August Guest: Susanne Scheiber, Dream Green Volusia
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.



**Which historic document was officially
signed by most delegates on
August 2, 1776?**

Answer on page 4

OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS



Mayor Derrick Henry

As Mayor of Daytona Beach, one of my greatest privileges is recognizing the young people who are working hard and setting a strong example for their classmates. I am proud that during the 2026-2027 school year, we will celebrate another year of the Mayor's Honor Program, continuing a tradition that has become very special to our schools, students and families.

The Mayor's Honor Program was created to shine a spotlight on academic excellence and exceptional character among students in Daytona Beach's elementary and middle schools. Over the past three years, I have witnessed just how meaningful it can be when a community tells a young person, "We see your hard work, and we are proud of you."

This year, 64 students will be recognized. Each celebration begins with a red-carpet welcome, followed by a limousine ride to a special lunch with me. Our honorees will receive certificates recognizing their achievements, along with special gifts and items donated by businesses and community partners.

As we begin the program's fourth year, I look forward to meeting another remarkable group of Daytona Beach students, hearing about their accomplishments and celebrating everything they have achieved.



*Mike Chitwood
Volusia County Sheriff*

Every time there's a big leap forward in the tech world, it seems like it moves too fast for the rest of us to keep pace. That's never been truer than right now. You see it in your own life every day, and so do I. Lately, as I travel this county, there are two elements of modern tech I hear about more than any others. One is e-bikes, and the other is license plate readers.

First, e-bikes. They're everywhere. I would even say they're starting to outnumber human-powered bikes like mine. While they're a great mobility tool for lots of folks, they also pose safety risks and practical enforcement challenges.

The law has not been able to keep up with the rapid rise of e-bikes and scooters. Some of the models available for sale now are basically high-powered mini motorcycles marketed as e-bikes – but they're not street legal without registration, insurance, and a license. Florida law says a legal e-bike must have operable pedals, a seat, an electric motor of **less than 750 watts**, and must fall into one of these three classes:

Class 1: Pedal-assist only, with motor assistance stopping at 20 mph.

Class 2: Throttle and pedal-assist, with motor assistance stopping at 20 mph.

Class 3: Pedal-assist only, with motor assistance stopping at 28 mph.

Now remember, cities, towns and other jurisdictions like beaches can establish stricter rules than what Florida law allows. That's going to leave a lot of room for confusion. What's legal in one Florida city might not be legal the next town over.

One thing's for sure: Injuries from e-bike crashes are soaring across the country, and the risks are only going to increase as more and more of them share the road. Some initial studies suggest e-bike riders who crash tend to sustain more serious injuries than traditional cyclists. Please wear a helmet (kids under 16 have to, by law) and ride with caution around traffic and pedestrians.

The second big topic I've been hearing about is license plate reader (LPR) technology, or "Flock." That's the company that provides the LPR cameras that have become common all over the country. While this technology has been around since the 1980s and '90s, lately Flock has become a trending topic on social media, where facts get mixed up with a lot of fiction and opinion.

In today's world, we're on camera pretty much everywhere we go. The grocery store, the gym, around the whole neighborhood. It's just a fact of life now. Still, some folks are wary of cameras, even out in public.

I get it, but there are limits on LPRs. They're taking pictures of license plates and vehicles. They can recognize the text of your tag and the characteristics of your vehicle (make, model, color, etc.), but they're not using facial recognition or collecting personal information. They're taking pictures of vehicle tags. For example: When we have a tag number or a description of a vehicle used in a crime or a missing person case, we can enter that information into the LPR system to (a) check whether it's been photographed in the past 30 days, or (b) send an alert if/when it's caught on camera.

LPRs played a role in finding an attempted murder suspect who shot two people in their bedroom in Deltona, then fled to Michigan. They

helped us find a hit-and-run driver who struck a 16-year-old student riding a scooter. They helped track down a suspect who beat up his ex-girlfriend and locked her in the trunk, and they helped find 2 horses that were stolen from Osteen and transported to South Florida. LPRs helped us catch suspects in multiple robberies, car breaks, burglaries, and road-rage cases.

Now, for the folks who are concerned about privacy, I have a few thoughts. First, state and federal courts have held that a driver operating a vehicle on a public road has no expectation of privacy. Your tag is not private. Second, we have strict limitations on how law enforcement can use this technology. We purge data from the LPR system every 30 days – so we're not gathering months of any vehicle's historical data. Besides, without a valid law enforcement purpose, any "tracking" of a random or innocent motorist's vehicle is strictly prohibited. A deputy must be able to document a valid reason to run an LPR search.

You may have seen posts about a small number of bad cops who have abused their Flock access to look up the vehicle of a spouse, or an ex, or a spouse's ex. Those violators were caught, reported, and dealt with. Let's face it, any database or tool can be abused, and Flock is no different. That's why it's essential that we have strict rules in place, and violators are disciplined, terminated and/or prosecuted. I support good policy and legislation that upholds these rules and ensures serious penalties for abuse or misuse. We have a good tool here – let's not let scare tactics get in the way of common sense.

**Trivia answer:
The United States Declaration of
Independence was officially signed
by most delegates on
August 2, 1776.
Did you know?**

A NATIVE REMEMBERS

Paul Zimmerman

Chair, Bellaire Community Group

Reprint from August 2022

In recalling memories of growing up here, it is hard not to become aware of how many things I took for granted back then that are simply not here anymore. When I grew up here during the 1960s, there was less than a quarter of the people living in Volusia County that live here now. Think about that. That is an increase of 125,000 to 550,000 in my lifetime, and if you look at the trend lines that population growth is accelerating.

When I was a kid growing up in South Daytona, I spent most of my time outdoors playing sports, camping out, or fishing in the Halifax River. Most of the roads in my neighborhood were dirt, and U S 1 was only two lanes back then. It was nothing to see a rattlesnake slither across the dirt road or a bobcat in the woods. In the evening, and it was every evening, I would go to sleep listening to the song of the Bob White Quail and the Whippoorwill (actually a Chuck Wills Widow in Florida). I haven't heard either of those birds, nor have I seen a bobcat, in years. The woods I camped in no longer exist. The cattle farms and or orange groves I roamed are gone and have been replaced by hundreds of homes. We developed and paved the habitat for the snakes, bobcats, Bob Whites, and Whippoorwills. Today, we have coyotes near Granada Avenue and bears in Ormond Beach neighborhoods. Development seems to have forced them into areas that are not natural to them, areas where they can be dangerous to humans and pets.

I have never considered myself a tree-hugging environmentalist, but as I drive around our county, I can't help but be dismayed, or maybe even horrified and angered, by the clear cutting of hundreds of acres. Acre after acre bulldozed flat, no tree or palmetto shrub left standing. No cypress tree wetland that is not filled in with thousands of yards of fill dirt. I have lived in Florida a long time and backpacked and camped a lot of our forests. I know the high and dry pine scrub is the natural habitat for our endangered gopher tortoise. I am sure their burrows are bulldozed and are covered over. The tortoises suffocate as a result.



Why are we doing this?for another set of apartments or another housing development? Do we really want to do this to our environment or to the wildlife habitat? I have recently heard one of our politicians defend this type of development by saying we need to do this to "make sure the developers are made whole." Well, that is an interesting position for a government official to take. I can't think of a time when a government official was interested in making me or any of my friends "whole." Where are we going with this type of development? Is it inevitable or can we find another way that respects our land and wildlife?

It seems like much of the country is moving to Florida. Are we just going to knock down all of our forest and fill in all our wetlands? And let's make sure we make the developers whole. There are other obvious impacts of the reality that our population is going to continue to rapidly increase—there's the overcrowding of our roads, stress to our infrastructure, and depletion of our water supply. Another one of those phrases I hear some of our elected officials throw around now is that "if you ain't growing, you're dying." Well, growth has its costs and if we don't manage it, it will destroy our beautiful environment and destroy the reason people are coming here.

I miss those days of seeing a mother Bob White Quail with a covey of her babies running across a dirt road or even seeing that 6 foot long rattlesnake slithering ahead of our car. There is nothing like hearing the sound of a Whippoorwill in the evenings. I know I am one of the lucky ones who lived here when those things were as common as the sun rising in the morning.

'til next time,

Paul

AWAY FROM HOME

When I am away from home, I look for opportunities to get to know people from other communities. Those moments give me a golden opportunity both to understand life elsewhere and to share the heart of my own community here in Daytona Beach. Our recreation, our way of life, and the care we show for ourselves and one another draw people from around the globe to our little place in the sun.

Whether we are fishing, golfing, or boating, I love telling out-of-towners about the recreational fun we enjoy. It feels as though we are sharing a little piece of heaven with them, and that kind of welcome makes people feel special and included.

Beyond recreation, our lifestyles often tell others more about us than our words ever could. Recently, someone I did not know approached me after watching how I lived and said he thought I was truly living a balanced life. The truth is that, with Jesus, everything becomes balanced and right. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). I enjoy worshiping Jesus and trusting Him to guide every part of my life.

So, it is no wonder that, with Him at the center of our lives, outsiders notice our love for life and for one another. One of the nicest (and most challenging) ways to show someone that you come from a quality community is to do something kind for them and then tell no one about it.

I am most proud of my family, whose social and spiritual roots were formed right here within the Bellaire Community Group. What impresses me most is their choice to live out their lives serving this community and one another. To me, that is a template for happiness and for a life well lived.

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August Is Filled With Famous Days

August is an eventful month, packed with anniversaries both celebratory and sad. The Genoese explorer Christopher Columbus and a crew of 90 men set sail from Spain on August 3, 1492, arriving in North America in October of the same year. The world gasped on August 22, 1911, the morning after Leonardo da Vinci's masterpiece the "Mona Lisa" was stolen from the Louvre. (It was recovered two years later.) On August 6 and August 9, 1945, U.S. forces detonated two atomic bombs over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — the only use of nuclear weapons in war. And in 1963, more than a quarter of a million people gathered in Washington, D.C., to hear Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. give his "I Have a Dream" speech on August 28.

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTIVIST

Dear Bellaire Friends and Neighbors:

I want to talk about voting. I think it was Mayor Ritchey who called it "silly season". I no longer think of it as "silly season" but rather "serious season" or downright "mean season". To me, voting is a duty whether it's a primary or a final election. I hope that everyone votes - no matter which party (or no party) you support. As you know, I have been an NPA since the hanging Chad debacle. I really believe in doing my own research and not relying on others telling me for whom to vote.

That brings me to partisan voter guides and groups telling me how to vote. I don't pay attention to any of that even though I think it is fine to promote and work for a candidate to get elected. I also think that every promotion should start with "I support so and so and here's why". Please use the word "I" and say why. Brow-beating doesn't work on me but I like to know what you think. I prefer to research candidates myself. I think using only guides to determine your vote is somewhat lazy and hypocritical and can be against your own best interests.

Research tools are important. Two of the best, in my opinion, are the Volusia County Supervisor of Elections website and the Sunbiz.org website. The Supervisor of Elections website details all contributions and from whom they came and tracks a candidate's expenditures. Once I have that info I go to Sunbiz.org and lookup the names of contributors and candidates to see if they have LLC's and who their board members are. That tells me a lot. I hope you can see the efficacy of using that site.

I also think talk is cheap. If you rely on going to listen to a candidate's campaign I think the following questions should be asked of new candidates who have not held elected positions previously: What city or county board positions

have you held to gain experience and understand how government operates? What groups do you support? What volunteer work do you do? If you are asking questions of candidates who have held elected posts previously please evaluate their voting records and see if those votes matched their campaign rhetoric or your best interests.



I find that the most difficult and time consuming candidates to research are judgeships. But judges can be looked up on the American and local Bar Association websites and the State of Florida has its own election website.

Some think politics is beneath them and say they don't want to be involved or will simply vote by party affiliation. My only ask is that you vote in every election so that your voice is heard. I think these elections are for very big stakes.

As always, thanks for giving me the space to express my opinions.

Weegie Kuendig
dkuendig@aol.com



FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Jakari Young, Chief of Police of Daytona Beach

As we welcome the month of August, our community is also preparing for the start of a new school year. With students returning to classrooms, we will see increased pedestrian and vehicle traffic throughout Daytona Beach, particularly during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Please slow down, stay alert and give yourself extra time when traveling through school zones. Remember to watch for children crossing the roadway, follow posted speed limits and never pass a stopped school bus when its red lights are flashing.

The Daytona Beach Police Department recently participated in the 2026 EANGUS Conference & Expo, where members of our Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team competed in a training simulation designed to challenge officers with unexpected and rapidly changing scenarios. Training in environments like these allows our officers to sharpen their skills and prepare for the situations they may encounter while serving our community. We are proud of the dedication our officers demonstrate both in the community and in training.

On Saturday, August 15, members of the Daytona Beach Police Department will participate in a bicycle ride honoring our fallen officer, Officer Raynor. This ride serves as a meaningful tribute to his service and the ultimate sacrifice he made while protecting our community. As we continue to remember Officer Raynor, we are reminded that the legacy of a fallen officer lives on through the people who served alongside of them and continue to honor them.

The excitement of racing returns to Daytona Beach on August 28th and 29th as the Daytona



International Speedway hosts the Winn-Dixie 250 on Friday, August 28th, followed by the Coke Zero 400 on Saturday, August 29th. Thousands of visitors are expected to travel to our city for race weekend. Residents and visitors should plan ahead and expect extended travel times and increased traffic in and around the Daytona International Speedway area. If you're traveling through the area, allow extra time, remain patient and follow all traffic directions from law enforcement and event personnel.

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.

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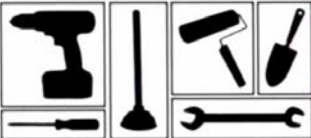
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THANKS FOR THE JOURNEY!

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

Senior Fitness:

9 am to 9:30 am Tuesdays and Thursdays - 55+ Exercise and stay in shape FREE

Yoga by Lisa:

9:30 am to 10:15 am Mondays and Fridays - Gentle Yoga and Relaxation \$10

Line Dancing:

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

Tai Chi Class with Instructor Marlon Pilosoph

11:15 am to 12:15 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays \$5

Mahjong Game:

Noon to 3 pm Mondays FREE

Creative Writing Group

9 am to Noon Monday FREE

Pilates:

11:15 am to Noon August 26th FREE

Senior Oasis Social and Luncheon

September 16, 2026 11 am to 1 pm

RSVP Required 386-671-3560

Boylston (east end): Frank Stein

Boylston (west end): Mark Lamoureux

Brookline: Donna Hiatt

Chaffee Place: Sherry Phillips

Columbus: Terre Tumminello

Cobblestone Village: John McGuinness

Euclid: David and MaryDell Penney

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: Beth Radebaugh

Zelda: Elly and Rachael Petersen

Special thanks to all our volunteers!