

Nonprofits are necessary for young, old

Most readers will remember the battle of the nonprofits waged in 2017, when the Brevard County Commissioners decided to eliminate public funding for local charities over a five-year period. We are in year one of that landmark decision and, while the \$408,000 to be awarded in 2018 is small in comparison to the one billion dollar plus county budget, it is still an enormous amount to the handful of organizations who will receive encouragement and a small amount of sustenance.

The Commissioners justified their decision to eliminate nonprofit funding by citing the shortage of county funds to repair roads and other infrastructure. Yet at the same time, county employees received a 3.5 percent pay increase to lessen their turnover rate — at a cost to Brevard County taxpay-



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

ers of \$1.66 million. Why do nonprofits take the entire hit while staff prospers? Food for thought.

What few people realize is that when discussions about nonprofits occur it generally is in relation to only a very few. Even though there are more than 2,000 nonprofits in Brevard, most of these are private foundations and never come to your attention. As a group, the nonprofit sector is hardly mentioned at all, except when something con-

tentious like eliminating their support occurs. The majority of the times, these organizations operate behind the scenes to support the cause with which they are associated.

In general, the nonprofits I address in my articles are those that support people programs; in my case, those supporting seniors. Other types of nonprofits are also important, especially when they are not already funded by magnanimous sums of tax and private donor money. These organizations serve particular community needs that cannot be met by any other resource.

In concluding this discussion on nonprofits, it is extremely important for readers to understand that different age demographics in Brevard County have different needs and resources to meet those needs.

Our elected officials must be held accountable to see that the young and old alike are supported fairly and that taxpayer money is equally directed to both age groups. If we allow those we elect to designate tax dollars to the support of one segment of the population without thought or some measure of support to the other then we are unfairly attaching an element of need to one without regard to the other. Nonprofits are needed. Commissioners, direct your Housing and Human Services Staff to give you the necessary facts to govern wisely and fairly.

Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Contact the group at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call (321) 473-7770.

ADOPTABLE PET OF THE WEEK

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Calendar

From page 4

from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. the second Monday of the month.

Tuesday: Story time at 10 and 11 a.m. (for age 2 years and older with an adult).

Non-Fiction Book Club from 3 to 5 p.m. the fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Friends of the Suntree/Viera Library meet at 3 p.m. every third Tuesday in the conference room.

Wednesday: Library Book Discussion Group from 10 to 11:30 a.m. the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Knitting - Sit & Stitch from 1 to 3 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

Group Art Talk from 1 to 3 p.m. the first Wednesdays of the month.

Story time at 4:30 p.m. (for age 2 years and older with an adult).

Thursday: Story time at 10 and 11 a.m. (for age 2 years and older with an adult).

Neighbors Book Club from 2 to 4
See CALENDAR, page 8

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