

# The Value of Information



In the 22 years that I have been working with seniors, I have stressed education and the value of connecting those who need help to the right resources. For seniors, the importance of information must be stated and restated, as it is critical to continued good health. Most significantly, we should all understand that false pride, a pride that prevents us from using assistive devices as we age, is something we must overcome.

We all know how beneficial it is to exercise regularly if we are to age gracefully. In a recent television show with Chris Marriott of Kindred at Home, we discussed the value of body suppleness to an individual's ability to move as safely and painlessly as possible. I have fibromyalgia and know what pain can do as we age. Exercise, especially walking, is vital to my continued mobility.

In the conduct of the show, Chris and I discussed the use of canes, walkers, and other devices to assist us as we walk. Falls are the leading cause of fatal injuries for older Americans according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The number of seniors who die from fall-related injuries has nearly doubled since 2000, and about one in three seniors falling every year. Non-fatal falls can cause broken bones, brain injuries and decreased independence.

Many of these falls can be prevented through the use of a walking device. Although using assistance devices is sometimes considered a sign a weakness, I use them to remain safe and independent. I have a cane and 4 wheel rollator in my car and one I use at home. Most of the time I use the cane, but if I think I am too unsteady or have more pain than usual, I use the rollator. It is safer, eases my mind, and gets me to my destination safely and on

time. It takes no effort to remove the cane from the car and only a little more effort for the rollator.

Knowing all of the above, why do so many ignore the warning signs and turn into couch potatoes? I personally do not like walking, although I believe it is the best possible exercise for me at my age.

Running and other impact exercises may not be our best choice, but we can develop individual plans with the advice of a personal trainer or friend. There are excellent facilities in Brevard, some free and some you pay a small fee.

At the start of this article, I mentioned the value of education, information, and access to services. The nonprofit organization Helping Seniors of Brevard will help you get connected when you call their helpline at 321-473-7770 or visit their website at [www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](http://www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org). It is also important to know that changes under the Affordable Care Act will change the way we have been using therapy and rehabilitation after a fall or surgery so it will become more important to know what is available to us in a way of assistance in recovery. In the meantime, keep moving and use the devices that will help you remain safe.

Joe Steckler is the President of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non profit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Feel free to contact us at: [info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or calling: 321-473-7770 **SS**

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chase other older houses on the street and preserve them as well. Places like Field Manor and Green Gables can serve as a place of gathering, company meetings and community events. At all these places, some conversations will reflect on the past, not only keeping memories of the past alive, but instill on the next generation the importance of community. There is great value in historic preservation and restoration. I encourage each of you to read about Green Gables (<http://www.greengables.org/>) and consider supporting its preservation. Its rescue will leave a legacy not only of the Wells family (the original owners) but also of the people who saved her.

We invite you to explore our website (<http://www.southbrevardhistory.org>) for further information and a schedule of our monthly programs. **SS**

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