

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2016 • MELBOURNE • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM • PAGE 6

Senior Assistance for Brevard County

Now that we are coming up on our five-year anniversary, the timing is right to update seniors and those who care for them about the progress of Helping Seniors of Brevard, Inc., a nonprofit whose mission is to inform, educate and help connect seniors and those who care for them to available resources.

Our services are designed to assist all in Brevard County and are intended to complete rather than compete with others in the caregiving business.

Unfortunately, the scarcity of local, state and federal funding does not ensure that the entire county receives an equal share of the elder care services provided by publicly funded agencies. Moreover, there simply is not enough to go around, a problem that is exacerbated by the continued reduction of Community Based Operational funding. What is needed is a better advocacy machine to promote senior needs throughout Brevard.

Helping Seniors is primarily an information program. Go to www.helpingseniorsofbrevard.org to see what we are doing to raise awareness of the resources available in Brevard for seniors. We also have an information specialist who helps connect callers to programs of assistance. Where we differ from others is that we listen carefully to



HELPING SENIORS
JOE STECKLER

callers and follow up to ensure that help has been received. Although not every problem can be resolved, we do return each call and try to point the person in the right direction.

Many know that I started a radio show in 2000. That same show continues today as "Helping Seniors," broadcast every Thursday at 1 p.m. on WMEL 1060 AM. We produce six new television shows monthly, airing on Channel 499 at 8:30 A.m., 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and on Channel 199 at 7 p.m. on Monday, 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Our monthly print columns appear in *Hometown News*, *Al Dia Today*, *Ebony News Today*, "Spotlight Magazine," "Senior Scene Magazine" (with an 8-page newsletter insert) and now *Barefoot Bay Tattler*. All programs are archived on our website.

The assistance is there, but people must be made aware of it. Consider for a moment the number of widows of WWII veterans who live in Brevard and have not remarried. Most do not know that they could be receiving financial assistance from Veterans Aid and Attendance. This is just one example of the helpful things we post on our website and discuss in our monthly columns. If you need help or want to be on our advocacy council, call our information specialist, Kay Keyser, at (321) 473-7770. If she is busy, please leave a message, for the call will be returned shortly. All calls are logged on three computers so we will not lose your call.

I recently appeared before the Brevard Community Development Block Grant Program requesting funds to expand our awareness program southward. At the meeting a board member from Micco, commented on

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Showing respect



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Bert and Val Alm of Melbourne pay their respects as the National Anthem plays to kick off the Brevard County Manatees game during the 'Great American Celebration' Monday, July 4 at Space Coast Stadium in Viera.

Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

brevnews@hometownnewsol.com

or call (321) 242-1276.

Commenters are asked to refrain from making slanderous or libelous statements.

Who needs an assault rifle?

I don't understand how anybody in their right mind should think that assault rifles should be allowed out there on the streets.

We just saw in Orlando one of the largest, deadliest mass shooting sprees that there ever was.

I can't understand how these people who lost somebody say it's OK to have an assault rifle because you are protected under the law.

Well, that's not so. If its a war, (then) possibly. The soldiers could have assault

rifles, but an average citizen on the street? What need could they ever, ever have for an assault rifle?

And our leaders just need to put the word out (that) assault rifles are illegal as of now.

Get them off the street, get them out of our communities and let's just wake up, people. This is a crazy thing. You can't shoot as many people with a revolver.

Maybe you can get six shots off, but you can't get hundreds off. And why would you put something like that in the hands

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