



Joe Steckler

Developing Senior Leadership

The topic of today's column should capture the interest of every one of the 250,000 senior citizens in Brevard. Several years ago, when two prominent Brevard County Commissioners who advocated for senior needs left office, no one stepped forward to fill the void. Since then, local funding to maintain and develop senior care programs has fallen steadily behind other, more vocalized causes, despite the fact that Brevard County has one of the most rapidly developing senior communities in the United States.

In 2015, Helping Seniors of Brevard formed a Senior Advocacy Council to develop public awareness of elder needs. The group researched and wrote a concept paper on the need for an aging plan for Brevard County, which it presented to the County Commissioners in 2016. To date, there has been no public response to that document. In an effort to further promote a preparedness plan, the Senior Advocacy Council has already had its first meeting for 2017, but if you would like to attend future meetings, please call Kay Keyser at 321-473-7770.

Although there are federal, state, and local monies currently directed to local programs serving senior causes, it behooves us to investigate how wisely these severely limited dollars are being

spent. If money is going to programs no one knows about, or if transportation funds are being used for overhead costs, then we may need better leadership. To check out how well a nonprofit is doing, simply take a look at their IRS 990 form. This is a public document that can be found online or requested from the organization. It is quite easy to see for yourself if your tax dollars are being effectively used.

Until we develop active and participatory senior leadership, there will be a need for columns such as this one. It is easy to ignore wasteful use of public funds but it is not the right thing to do. The classification of nonprofit means little if we do not hold public type entities accountable for uses of donated and public funds. To be a part of the movement to develop a senior leadership organization for Brevard County, contact Kay at 321-473-7770. It is never too late to join other community leaders in promoting senior issues and causes. Leadership belongs to all of us.

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

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Club News from Page 24

meeting at 8 am. We have contest, food ideas, programs, friendly chatter and awards for weight accomplishments. TOPS is \$32 a year; national dues, local dues are \$3 a month.

So come join us for a meeting and maybe we can be the club you need.

Patti Hart

TAKING OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) #470

We would like to welcome anyone and everyone interested in losing and maintaining weight loss to join us on Fridays from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the South Mainland Library meeting room. The useful information, support and encouragement from members are the incentives to get going in the program. Membership dues are \$32 a year and \$5 a month. We are a friendly, lively group and welcome you to come to a meeting and check us out. For more information call Jeanne Diehl, leader, at 617-515-3495 or Mickey Perrone, co-leader, at 664-4944.

TAKING OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) #473

All are invited to Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) affordable, weekly meetings which include accountability, awards and recognition, informal programs, family, friendly environment, TOPS News Membership Magazine and much more! Everyone is welcome to join! Meetings are held every Thursday at 5:45 p.m. at the Roseland Old Firehouse, 8025 129th Court in Roseland. Contact Denise at 772-913-0120 or Loretta at 772-202-4225 for more information.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) #641

Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) group meets every Thursday morning at the Roseland Fire Hall on 129th Court in Roseland.

Our weigh-in is between 7:45 and 8:30 a.m. with a meeting to follow.

We have programs, contests and awards as incentives to help you achieve your weight goal. It is a fun group and we would love to have you join us.

For further information please feel free to call me at 772-913-3980.

**Beth Gillette, Leader
Chapter 641, Roseland**

TENNIS CLUB

Hello again, hope everyone had a Happy Valentine's Day.

The tennis club started off the month with a Pizza Party and round robin tennis on Monday, Feb.6th. About 40 members enjoyed tennis and delicious hot pizza.

We have a Monday Night (5:30 - 7:30) mixed doubles. You do not have to be a member of the club and all levels of play are welcome. You just need to email me if you want to play (lewsam2@cfl.rr.com). You are not required to be there every Monday.

We also have a Wednesday night round robin. You will need to check with Susie White on the time.

There are FREE tennis lessons for children on Monday and Thursday at 4 - 5:15.

Until next time, Stay fit — Play tennis.
Sandy Richter

Roseland United Methodist Church
12962 Roseland Road, Roseland

Sunday morning worship
Pathfinder Service 9:00 a.m.
Traditional Service 11:10 a.m.
Pastor Beth Bostrom
www.roselandchurch.com
(772)589-3035

Craft & Flea Market:
2nd Saturday August-March
8:00am-1:00PM

the Barefoot Tattler
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