

Isnardi-Tobia Town Hall Meeting slated

Join me on April 4 at 6 p.m. at the Palm Bay City Hall for the Isnardi/Tobia town hall meeting. It is time for seniors to unite and let Brevard County Commissioners know our concerns, especially the lack of funding for nonprofit agencies that help seniors.

In a county of 545,000 people, with about 245,000 meeting senior citizen qualifications according to AARP, it is unconscionable that less than one-tenth of one percent of the county budget funds services of county-based nonprofit organizations. I could make the words stronger, but I think you get the point.

In the early 2000s, the amount funded for these programs was \$500,000. We managed to get that increased to \$1 million, but it fell back to \$500,000 with lack of attention.

Roads, public services and retirement income for our county staff are important, as are all services, but we reach a point where decisions have to be made. Seniors, according to the governor's office, are one of the highest contributing elements to state and county budgets; they pay a more than fair share of the monies for roads, children's services, schools, etc.

It is time that seniors held all public officials accountable for the use of tax payer dollars. Just as schools and meals are important to children, so too are



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

senior centers, Meals on Wheels and other elder care services important to senior citizens.

Each year, local nonprofit organizations are forced to compete for already scarce dollars. Most organizations can make a good case for need and a small increase in county funds would make it possible for these organizations to do a better job serving our community.

Helping Seniors is committed to informing, educating and connecting seniors and those who care for them to the many wonderful resources in Brevard.

We recently had a caller who was limited to bologna sandwiches because he had no other food - he was not aware of the Meals on Wheels program. Currently, Brevard has no Aging Plan. To remedy this, Helping Seniors formed an Advocacy Council, conducted a senior needs assessment survey and developed a paper that was submitted to our commissioners. No comment was

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Adoptable Pet of the Week

GUMBLY
is a 2 year old mixed breed

To meet Gumbly, visit the
Brevard County Sheriff's Office
South Animal Care Center
5100 West Eau Gallie Blvd.
321-633-2024
www.BrevardSheriff.com

Hurry! Last chance for tournament sign ups.

THE MAJORS GOLF CLUB

The Greater Palm Bay OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
Saturday April 1 & April 2

Proceeds to benefit
The Greater Palm Bay Senior Center and Palm Bay Police Department's Benevolent Fund

Call the Pro Shop for questions and booking information
Advanced tickets only \$130
(includes 2 day tournament green fees and cart, lunch and hors d'oeuvres)

Trophies and Prizes!
4 Flights for Men's and Ladies Divisions

3425 Bayside Lakes Blvd SE, Palm Bay, FL 32909
(321) 952-8617

HIT LIKE A GIRL!

TWELFTH ANNUAL
REVOLUTION TECHNOLOGIES
Pro Tennis Classic
A USTA Pro Circuit Event
April 9-16, 2017

for info. including sponsorship and VIP opportunities - www.KiwiTennisClub.com

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Kiwi Tennis Club, Indian Harbour Beach

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PET OF THE WEEK!



A 10-month-old Boxer, 'Dixie' is the darling pet of Jodi Bristol of Palm Bay. Dixie loves chasing her tennis ball outside, sitting outside in the sun and going on car rides.

Is your pet worthy of the spotlight?

Hometown News will be the judge of that.

We are asking our readers to submit photos of their beloved pets, as part of our "Pet of the Week" Contest. The winner for the week will have his or her pet displayed in our newspaper, while also being qualified to become the Hometown News "Pet of the Year!" Email a photo of your pet (one entry per owner) that is at least 1 MB in size to yourphotos@hometownnewsol.com. Write "PET OF THE WEEK CONTEST" in the subject line, and in the body of the email, please include the following information:

- Name of pet
- Age
- Breed
- Three of your pet's favorite things to do
- Pet owner's full name and hometown
- Phone number (in case we have questions)



Hours:
 Mon, Wed, Fri 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Tu & Th 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 Sat 8 a.m. to noon

Affordable Vet Care, LLC

2880 Aurora Road, Melbourne, FL 32935

Phone: (321) 622-8166

Fax (321) 610-1818

Valerie A. Yucius, DVM

W. Joe Fuller, DVM

www.AffordableVetCareBrevard.com

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Seniors

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ever received.

Seniors will continue to be treated in such manner until we convince county officials that senior needs are equal to other stated needs. My most recent column addressed senior leadership.

Until we make known our desires and current funding inadequacies, the status quo will continue.

I ask you to join me at the April 4 town hall meeting and let our elected representatives know we want to be recognized as a major contributor to county revenue, and that senior needs are as important as

all others. This is a matter of concern for all seniors and those who support senior programs.

I realize that this information is being sent to you on a short notice, but it is important that all seniors are aware of actions being taken in their interests and how they can be involved in future town hall meetings.

Joe Steckler is the president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate and fundraise on behalf of Brevard County's senior citizens.

Feel free to contact us at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or by calling (321) 473-7770.

Rants

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prohibited.

Why can't these people take their trash with them or use the appropriate litter bin?

Not only that, they most assume that nobody minds their smoke.

On a positive note, I am thankful that Hometown News is in existence. I think they carry more local news than any of the big newspapers.

A rave about a business

Too often we only hear the bad information about a business. Well, I would like to take this opportunity to rave about

a business, Rice's Body Shop on Garden Street in Titusville.

I had an occasion to visit Rice's Body Shop last year and received a quote to have a window fixed on my van.

Carrie helped me and gave me a reasonable quote to get the repair done.

Unfortunately, it took me a while to save the money. When I was ready to have it fixed, I called Carrie and she ordered the part and scheduled an appointment to replace the motor.

When I originally got the quote last year, I was so impressed by Carrie and how she presented her company to someone just walking in off the street that I didn't even get a second quote - which is very rare, since I always get multiple quotes.

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LISTEN TO WIN TICKETS

HEROES & LEGENDS

98.5 The Beach
 The Greatest Hits
 www.985.com

NASA
 Kennedy Space Center
 VISITOR COMPLEX
 www.kennedyspacecenter.com