



Isnardi-Tobia Town Hall Meeting

Join me on April 4th at 6 PM at the Palm Bay City Hall for the Isnardi/Tobia town hall meeting. It is time for seniors to unite and let 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 one 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 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 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 4th 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 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 or calling: 321-473-7770. **SS**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mt Dora Boat Tour - Tues., May 2nd - \$84 - start the day with a 2 hour narrated boat tour on Lake Dora and Harris Chain of Lakes including the unspoiled Dora Canal. Lunch at the Lost Parrot, then you will have 2 hrs for shopping! Min. 35 psgs and max. is 48, sign up by April 3, 2017

11th Annual Key West Trip - December 3rd-6th, this trip will include roundtrip motorcoach, lunch on the way there and on return, dinner first night upon arrival at the hotel, 3nights accommodations at the Fairfield Inn and Suites that has the trolley stop at, breakfast daily, and a Behind the Scenes tour at the Mel Fisher Museum. There will also be an optional excursion offered for female impersonator show at La Te Da as this was a huge hit last year. Non-refundable deposit of \$100 per person is now being accepted. Minimum of 40 passengers needed for this trip. Will have flyer with cost and more details soon.

***Taking \$25pp deposits for Dr Phillips Center reservations for 2017-18 season for On Your Feet!** The story of Emilio and Gloria Estafan; Andrew Lloyd Webber's Love Never Dies, The Phantom Returns; Waitress; and Something Rotten , see our website for more information.

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