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Joe Steckler



A Friend to Seniors

Picking up on the many comments in Florida Today and by the Brevard County Commissioners regarding funding for nonprofits, I have the following story to tell. This story drives through many myths about who helps and who does not, and whether or not the county has responsibility for helping the frail elderly, the homeless, and disadvantaged.

Regardless of your position, it is true that there are many needs that are not being met. Community based organization funding of \$510,000 is a small drop in our county budget. However, to the nonprofits who receive said funding it represents community support of their efforts to help those in need. It is one thing to say the business community will support, but rather another to actually receive that support. It is easy to say how something can be done but when it comes time to fundraise, it is another ball park – a ball park with often closed doors.

My story is about a local business that steps up to the plate to help others yet receives few accolades for its work. In 1994 I asked a car dealer to help me raise funds for Alzheimer's patients. He provided cars to raffle, gave us free advertising, hauled the raffle cars to Daytona and local events, and put on events at his store at no cost to us. At the same time he loaned us three vans to take clients to and from daycares.

Time moved on. After starting Helping Seniors in 2011, I went to seven car dealers for similar help but had no success. Just recently I called the same dealer and said I wanted to buy a car but could not afford anything expensive. The dealer

asked me to come in and talk. He insisted we get a muscle car, but I told him it would be too expensive. He then pointed to a 1951 Ford Victoria and said, "I could sell that car for (X dollars) but for you the price is zero because I want to help you help seniors."

Yes, folks, A.J. Hiers of Boniface-Hiers gave us the car from his personal collection and we will use it as our 2017/8 raffle fundraiser car. It is similar to the one driven by Robert Mitchum in the 1951 movie Thunder Road, with matte black finish, high gloss gold top, and matching interior. You can view the car at www.Helpingseniorsofbrevard.org.

The Commissioners' decision to delete county financial aid will make it necessary for nonprofits to develop new partners. I could write several articles about A.J.'s support of charities, but I think my point is made. There are people like A.J. in our community who will help if asked and if they identify with the cause they are asked to support. A.J. has supported seniors and children for the 23 years we have known each other.

Raffle details and a schedule of the car's showing can be accessed on our website or by calling us at 321-473-7770. Or you can go to Boniface-Hiers dealerships to see the car and get raffle tickets. I encourage you to stop by and also tell others about this very special car and the purpose for which it was given – to help seniors. Thank you, A.J.

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.

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keeping with the "kinder-gentler bay" idea that I proposed for this year we opened the badge office on Saturday, April 29 for badge updates. Please remember to trim your trees and plants and pick up your yard prior to the start of storm season. In high winds even a coconut becomes a cannonball. Also please note the Sheriffs Department is starting to give warnings and tickets to vehicles parked on the streets between 2 and 6 am. This includes the median.

Our Food and Beverage Department had a successful Mothers Day brunch in which a buffet was served and Steve Cole serenaded the moms (and dads). Speaking of Dads, Food and Beverage is hosting a Fathers Day clam bake, tickets are on sale in the Lounge, at Resident Relations and at the 19th Hole. Speaking of the 19th Hole, it will be closed for repairs from May 30 for about two weeks. I urge ALL residents of the Bay to come out, enjoy all Food and Beverage has to offer featuring adult beverages, food, and entertainment.

Our Golf Course hosted a HOA golf tournament raising over \$ 3,800 for the HOA and is hosting an employee golf tournament also in May. We have started our summer restoration projects on our award winning course, projects that can not be done during season. We have been awarded a grant to fund Junior Golf Camp, something for the youth in Our Bay. We are currently reviewing the irrigation system on the course for repair evaluation.

Our Property Services department is sprucing up Our Bay, and what I hear

from people I talk to is that Our Bay has never looked this good. The storm water project on Tamarind went quicker than expected and the contractor has moved over to Cherokee Court and has begun to install new drainage. Construction in both of these areas Bay is to alert our residents, guests, snowbirds, and renters. This is the season where significant capital improvement work is done so that by season, when our snowbirds return, Our Bay will be an even better gem.

We will beginning work on our own private beach project on A1A within two weeks and our beach will be closed during construction. Signs will be posted in the Bay letting our resident know in advance of the work.

This is the time of year when the significant capital improvements projects are done so that when our snowbirds return Our Bay will be an even better jewel. Something that we all strive for as a Board of Trustees, we all are working for the common good of Barefoot Bay's family, our year round residents, our part year residents, our short and long term renters and, yes, our snowbirds.

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