

VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2017 • MELBOURNE • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSBREVARD.COM • PAGE 6

Rants & Raves

Got something to say?

Email the Hometown Rants & Raves at

brevnews@hometownnewsol.com

or call (321) 242-1276.

Contributors are asked to refrain from making libelous statements.

Something for nothing folks are good-for-nothing folks

Some contributors to the Rants & Raves should enroll in Logic 101 at a school of their choice.

First off ... there was a rant about forcing bicyclists to buy tags at a similar price to cars. Duh! Tag prices for cars, trucks and motorcycles is based upon vehicle type and weight. These factors affect wear and tear on roads. Most compact cars are at least 2,000 pounds, and most use the roads for thousands of miles per year.

My bicycle weighs less than 50 pounds and travels the roads less than 500 miles per year. There is no comparison between its wear and tear on roadways and that of a compact car. I think that ranter has a bone to pick with the minority of bicyclists who abuse the right-of-way. Tags will not fix that problem any more than traffic laws stop red-light runners and other reckless drivers.

A second rant that caught my attention suggests FP&L should give away surge protectors (that must cost hundreds of dollars) to everyone who pays to get electrical power in their homes. Duh again! Companies maintain certain profit margins. They would have to raise everyone's rates to pay for the devices, plus their installation. This ranter wants something for nothing from a for-profit corporation. That person probably wants food stamps, welfare and Medicaid, thinking it is free. No, It costs us hard-working taxpayers.

I have worked hard all my life, and I hate freeloaders. This great country was built by people who paid their own way, not by freeloaders.

America has about \$20 trillion in debt, and too much of that debt is because of people who want something for nothing. I call them good for nothing.

Feeding the hungry kids

OK. So, before anyone flames me out as uncaring, let's consider a few things.

The article about feeding hungry kids states that The Childrens Hunger Project feeds 1,600 kids per week and further states that, for some children, there is no food between lunch at school (on) Friday until breakfast at school (on) Monday. What is wrong with this picture?

Presumably, a family in such dire straits is receiving some type of assistance. So where is that assistance going?

Yes, let's provide for those kids for now, but I say let's also investigate the responsible adults; and if public assistance is being sold (as it commonly is) or squandered on expensive items, let's start with education and, if necessary, go to imprisonment for endangering these children.

Drain pipes cut off by city

My house was built in 2006, and because of the drainage, it was required to have drain pipes to go from the back of the lot all the way to the ditch.

Last time, when they were going to dig out the ditch, I put out signs to let them know there were pipes there.

This time, I labeled them, and they cut off about 6 inches of one of the pipes. So I called to let them know, and the woman who answered the phone started giving me (that) the city owns 15 feet, and I said Palm Bay changed the building code. She transferred to the Super's Office and, of course, he's not in.

If they are going to destroy the pipes, why pay out a lot of money to have them put in?

Stop AMTRAK from ripping off its

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Preparing for Irma



Alex Schierholtz/staff photographer

Hundreds of people wait in line for sand bags in preparation of Hurricane Irma Wednesday, Sept. 6 at Calvary Chapel Church in Viera.

The broken process

Dear Friends,
You may have noticed that my columns lately have dealt with the continued assault on funding for senior care programs.

In 2016, Brevard's population was 579,000, with 23 percent being senior citizens. Although census data shows that our senior population is rising steadily while the younger than 18 population is declining slightly, major funding streams persist in favoring youth programs.

Our two main sources of taxpayer-supported funding for nonprofits are the Community Based Organizations program and Community Development Block Grant program. Then there is United Way of Brevard, which is heavily supported by workplace campaigns at local businesses such as Harris and Publix.

In June, the CDBG program awarded 60 percent of its limited funding to youth services, primarily funding for charter school busing when such services are already funded in the public



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

school budget. Three months later, the CBO program froze out Aging Matters, the largest source of senior services in our county.

In my 29 years of watching the process, this was a first and possibly sets a trend regarding support of senior programs. United Way has already signaled its intent to devote more assets to children's causes; perhaps if they did fund new senior causes, it would help their falling contribution levels.

At this point, Helping Seniors directed a letter to the County Commissioners citing a broken process in the CDBG and CBO funding award process. The letter found its way to the director of Brevard's Housing and Human Services,

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MELBOURNE

Funding

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who defended the grant-making process without acknowledging its main problem – namely, that funds are being poorly allocated without due consideration of the scope and source of local needs. His response clearly demonstrated the unwillingness of county staff to change their modus operandi.

In closing, the letter stated, “We have determined that the RFP process is the best avenue for getting the most impact from our limited funding. Additionally, we will not support changing the CBO process since there will only be four more funding cycles (with a 20 percent reduction each cycle) until it is discontinued.”

This assumes that the commissioners, current and future, will no longer support the use of any general revenue funds to help the homeless, elderly, hungry, dis-

abled, etc.

How do you feel that county staff members, who receive their pay from our tax dollars, have such little concern for doing their jobs, which I believe should include making a case for county funding of local social service organization? Surely in a budget of \$1 billion plus we can find some funding to help those in our community in need.

Perhaps the county should review the tasking of the Housing and Human Services staff. Belt-tightening, not staff pay increases, should be the norm, especially when some of us think the system is broken.

Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Contact us at info@helpingseniorsobrevard.org or by calling (321) 473-7770.

Rants

From page 6

passengers

There is no passenger train service from Jacksonville to Los Angeles. It was once called the Sunset Limited. But ever since the hurricanes of 2004, they stopped passenger service and only (have) freight service.

This is not good. AMTRAK had discontinued its train travel passenger service because they wanted to haul freight only.

There is nothing wrong with the tracks, like they claimed for years, and it is not right.

This means that if you get on a train in Kissimmee, instead of going to Jacksonville and continuing west on the Sunset Limited to Los Angeles, California, in one straight shot - which only takes two days - you now are routed north to Washington, D.C., which includes a nine-hour stopover. Then you continue to Chicago, which includes a five-hour stopover.

This long trip takes twice as long in dis-
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Hometown News PET OF THE WEEK

Princess Petunia is a 10-month-old rescue cat owned by Kim and Averie Trader and Shane Smith of Satellite Beach. Princess Petunia enjoys dressing up in diamonds and pearls, snuggling with her humans and keeping her sister, Lady Luna, in line.

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)

4th Annual Taste of the Coast

Friday, September 22, 2017
5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Cocoa Beach Country Club
5000 Tom Warriner Blvd.

Food • Drinks Tastings
Silent Auction
Live Entertainment by Gypsy Rain Band

Admission
\$20 In Advance
\$25 At The Door

Food Vendors will compete for the coveted “People’s Choice Award!”

Hometown News

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Intercoastal Insurance, Inc. Cindy Desposki, Broker

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Save \$5.00!

Advance Discount Tickets are available at:
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Merritt Island Office – 400 Fortenberry Rd.
Viera Office – 2261 Town Center Ave., Ste. 103
CVB Cocoa Beach Office – 3800 N. Atlantic Ave., Ste. 2
321-459-2200

COCOA BEACH REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

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FIT

2017 SCHEDULE

SEPT. 3	VIRGINIA LYNCHBURG	7 PM
SEPT. 9	MCNEESE STATE	7 PM
SEPT. 16	SHORTER	7 PM
SEPT. 23	MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE	8 PM
SEPT. 30	WEST FLORIDA	7 PM
OCT. 7	NORTH ALABAMA	7 PM
OCT. 14	NORTH GREENVILLE	2:30 PM
OCT. 21	WEST ALABAMA	2 PM
OCT. 28	VALDOSTA STATE	7 PM
NOV. 4	WEST GEORGIA	1 PM
NOV. 11	DELTA STATE	7 PM

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DATES AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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