

There are many reasons to have a column for seniors

That is a fair question and one that requires comment. Notwithstanding the fact that about 50 percent of us in Brevard County qualify as seniors, there are many other reasons why we should have articles that address senior issues.

For instance, I recently received several emails from friends who had had problems ordering items on the Internet. They wanted me to discuss them so that our readers would not make the same mistake. I agreed and will tackle that subject and several others that seniors need to know more about.

Internet orders. Here is an example; How many of you ladies have ordered a sample of a beauty cream because it looked to be a great purchase, something you could get at Sally's? The cost is low, though the fine print may say otherwise. The cream arrives (two really small tubes) and several days later you get a bill for \$90



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

per tube, when you thought the price was only \$12 to cover mailing costs. This happened to one person, who was let off the hook by the cosmetic company. Had the hook been set the cost would have been roughly \$180. She was lucky, admitted it, and learned her lesson. Mostly she was upset with herself. The moral of the story is that if it looks too good to be true then it probably is, so be careful what you order.

Spectrum television. As a result of a call, we are working with Spectrum to provide a bundle of services for seniors. We would like to put together a group of channels that play shows of interest to

seniors, offered with other services at a set price to protect seniors on fixed incomes against the rapidly increasing costs of cable. A series of phone calls indicates the real problem will be getting to someone senior enough at Spectrum to make a decision that would help us. It certainly is worth a try and on our list of things to do.

Changing perception. Some people look at seniors as having too much, that their lives are fully funded until death, when in fact many live day to day even though they have tried to save for retirement. At the same time there are those who live continually on the edge, not saving, buying expensive cars, often living beyond their means, and planning on someone else to pay the way until death. One thing is certain - we are an aging nation. Many seniors are not prepared for the future for whatever reason, and it goes against the way most of us live to ignore someone in need.

Action. Encouraging people to read what they order online is not a challenging task, since it is something we can all do if we take the time. Developing a package of cable services for seniors is doable though it might be a difficult sell. Changing perceptions, on the other hand, is a whole other ball game but is probably the most important need due to the rapid aging of Americans. The information and education part of the Helping Seniors' mission statement signifies this organization's dedication to taking action, but require the support of readers to make such action a reality.

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 the group at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call (321) 473-7770.

Rants

From page 6

Let's drop the rhetoric and address what is happening to our families and children in their homes.

Replacing the hostility and violence so often found there with nurturing love and care will turn this country around.

I will take climate change more seriously when I see changes

To "Do your part" . . . Look down and up the street on trash day.

You will see trash and recyclable containers at every house. Sometimes every other week.

My house has low-water usage toilet,

shower, and washer: appliance and lighting is energy efficient: car is economical: cloth grocery bags: hung out clothes: last house had solar panels.

We are called conservative.

Yes climate changes all the time. Two years ago it was one of the coldest winters in the northern states.

Volcanic activity and forest fires are a big contributor of green house gas and we have been having both.

How about that meteorite that started the ice age.

I always will be suspicious when huge amount of money is being made and trading hands for power and control. It's not always about the welfare of the human state.

Al Gore has received millions of dollars, and uses more energy annually than a six-to 10-member family.

When I see some changes in their behavior, than I will take it more seriously.

New Patients Welcome

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Dr. Anthony "Tony" DiPasquale
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