



*Adoptable*  
PET OF THE WEEK





**LEROY**  
1 YEAR OLD  
MALE  
MIXED BREED

Leroy has been in the shelter for a little under a month now. He is a playful and energetic pup. He knows his basic commands but could use some leash training. He has done well with adults as well as children. Leroy loves to play with toys and run around in a fenced in yard.

Leroy is heartworm negative, is up to date on his vaccinations and already neutered.

There are no adoption fees during the months of September and October!

COME VISIT ME AT:  
**THE BREVARD COUNTY ANIMAL CARE CENTER**  
5100 W. Eau Gallie Blvd.  
Melbourne, FL. 32935  
(321)633-2024




# Solving the opioid problem and six P's

If we are honest with ourselves, most of us can relate to the shortcomings and vulnerabilities of others. Since writing about the problems of increased opioid use and pain management, I have been contacted by many who do understand the need to address these issues. And, while we can't solve all problems, doing something to assist a few is a step in the right direction.

I have written for many years about the need to develop an Aging Plan for Brevard. My efforts to generate real grass roots interest in doing so seem to fall on deaf ears. Does this mean that such a plan is not needed? Not at all. Timing is everything. Even though 50 percent of all Brevard County residents are over age 50, we seem quite happy to continue failing the six Ps: Proper Prior Planning Precludes Poor Performance. You can always add one more P, but I'll let you figure that out.

Another failing that can be attributed to poor planning is the ill timed act of our Commissioners to defund the Community Based Organizations program. Those of us who work with the elderly population will surely feel the negative consequences of this decision. For instance, several newly opened adult day cares in Brevard are in danger of closing simply because there is no seed money available from the County, United Way, or federal sources to help them attract customers.



**HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD**  
JOE STECKLER

Whether we want to admit it or not, many of those needing daycare do not have the funds to pay the cost, which exceeds \$50 per day. This is another reason why a certain portion of the County budget should be allocated to helping seniors.

Having said the above, we can at least do something on a small scale to help those in our community who suffer from poor pain management and ignorance concerning their ailment and treatment options. Consider for a moment that you have lived in pain for years, taking over the counter medications when you could have received reliable medical advice. Why not become better informed by listening to others who have similar problems? Information is important, but only when we obtain this information from controlled sources.

I think back to my own medical problems, and they are considerable. We have become a pill society and in some cases that can not be helped. But what if you

See SENIORS, page 8

## NEW LOCATION







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Facebook.com/BarrierIslandPetSupply



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8am - 2pm | The Avenue Viera  
Begin your journey to a healthier you!

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## \$25K grant to go toward free spaying, neutering

For Hometown News

newsml@hometownnewsol.com

BREVARD COUNTY — Brevard Humane Society is the proud recipient of a \$25,000 grant from Florida Animal Friend, Inc., an organization whose mission is to help end pet overpopulation.

Brevard Humane Society will utilize the grant by focusing its efforts on vital spay/neuter surgeries for low-income families and the community cats in Brevard County.

"This award from Florida Animal Friend goes straight to the heart of our mission to reduce the homeless animal population in this area through proactive spay/neuter programs," said Theresa Clifton, Executive Director for the Brevard Humane Society. "Brevard Humane Society's mission is to humanely end a cats' ability to reproduce, improve their quality of life, and assist the citizens who serve as caregivers."

The main source of funding for Florida Animal Friend is the sale of its specialty license plate. A portion of every plate sold goes directly to organizations across the state that offer free or low-cost spay/neuter services.

On an annual basis, Florida Animal

Friends' Board of Directors review grant applications from non-profit and municipal agencies across Florida, and award grant funding to those who further its mission to help save the lives of countless unwanted cats and dogs.

"With the number of community cats currently in Brevard County the need is compelling," Clifton said. "We are extremely grateful to the citizens who purchased these license plates, the selection committee who awarded the grants — and to all the citizens who support our efforts. If you purchase a Florida Animal Friend plate, you are making a difference. This is a great opportunity and tremendous benefit to our community."

In 2017, the Brevard Humane Society treated 1,109 cats through this life-saving fund, 542 of which were community, un-owned stray/feral cats.

Spay/neuter appointments will be available beginning Monday, Oct. 15.

For more information or scheduling, call the Humane Society's Low Cost Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at (321) 636-3343 Ext. 206. Funds will be awarded to qualified applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis until they are exhausted.



## Calendar

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Contact Debi Pettigrew to register: (321) 749-1153 or [dpettigrew@cfl.rr.com](mailto:dpettigrew@cfl.rr.com)

View Debi's work at [www.pastelsbydeb.com](http://www.pastelsbydeb.com).

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 27

**Senior singles meet:** Viera Elks Lodge No. 2817 hosts "Social Singles" at 5:30 p.m. every fourth Thursday (Sept. 27) of the month at 5820 U.S. 1, Rockledge.

Members bring snacks and finger foods to enjoy after a short "business meeting."

Enjoy various table games, card, Bingo, etc.

For more information, call (321) 259-4471.

**All fun and games:** The City of Melbourne's Parks and Recreation

Department hosts Youth Game Night from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Thursdays at Lipscomb Community Center, 3316 Monroe St., Melbourne.

Admission is free and kids ages 6 to 11 can take part in board games and Xbox video games.

For more information, call (321) 608-7450.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sip and stroll:** The Historic Cocoa Village Association presents "Under the Harvest Moon Sip & Stroll" from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29.

Stroll through the streets of Cocoa Village discovering new merchants and visiting old favorites. Check out the latest fashions and gift ideas while you enjoy beer, wine and snack samplings along the way.

To welcome Fall and celebrate the Oktoberfest season, beer samplings have been added.

See **CALENDAR**, page 9

## Seniors

From page 7

have been misinformed? Don't you owe it to yourself to find information that can help you identify your problem? At least think about my words today. Attending a support ground might not work for you,

but I can assure you that failure to take any action will result in a status quo.

Pain is not fun, nor is poor health. To become part of a pain management / fibromyalgia support group with Helping Seniors, call us at 321-473-7770 or email [info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org).

As soon as we can identify the best group time, the support group will start – I hope you will join us.