

What would I do if I were a senior?

If I were a senior, and I am, how would I answer the title of today's article? That depends on who you are asking, but read on to find my answer.

For the first 25 years of my life, I was either in school or an enlisted person in the Navy. While a student I was most concerned about rabbit and squirrel hunting (meaning skipping eighth period), playing sports, acquiring a summer job, and dating pretty girls. Politics certainly was not a priority. For the next 30 years I served as an officer in the Navy and, while I participated in national elections, local politics was still not a major factor in my life.

Now that I am well past those first 55 years, politics interests me more, especially as it affects seniors or caregivers. Since working as an advocate for seniors, I better understand the forces aligned



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

against seniors trying to survive their golden years with dignity. And, as a retired Captain, I can best describe these challenges using some military terminology.

Navigating a minefield, whether it be at sea or ashore, is fraught with danger. I remember spending 30 anxious days in the Vietnam War on a submerged patrol next to an enemy minefield. Thinking back to those times, I can well imagine the anxiety that some seniors experience when they have little food in the pantry,

electrical bills several months behind, or the water about to be shut off. Do you think I am making this up? I am not, for I have listened to seniors telling me these very things in Brevard County.

We just handed out thousands of pounds of candy on Halloween. At Thanksgiving, we will eat huge amounts of food and donate to food pantries, Daily Bread, Meals on Wheels, and sharing centers to feed the homeless or families in need. But what about the thousands of seniors in Brevard that do daily battle just to survive? Homelessness, poverty, inadequate housing, and no transportation are a real and present danger to seniors in our county.

These things all exist, so what are our county leaders doing about it? In a county that ranks seventh highest in the U.S. in terms of number of seniors, are our

elected officials developing a plan for seniors? The Advocacy Council of Helping Seniors identified such factors in a paper to the Brevard County Commissioners in 2016, wherein they outlined the development of a County plan to meet the rapidly increasing numbers of elders in Brevard.

As you decide how to cast your vote in the forthcoming election, consider what it will mean to seniors if we do not address needs to which seniors are entitled. I do not mean a handout, rather a well conceived plan to care equally about people of all ages, especially seniors who are frail, disadvantaged, and unable to care for themselves. If I were a senior, I would think a little with my ballot and vote for those willing to support seniors and others who need help.

Calendar

From page 2

Enjoy card games, Bunco and board games and lots of prizes.

Admission is \$8 and includes homemade refreshments

For more information, call Lois Stearly at (321) 373-405, Nora Stoio at (321) 704-7474, or Carole Kuehn at (321) 802-3288.

Rock the Porch: Rock the Porch Jam is from 1 to 2:50 p.m. the second (Nov. 10)

and fourth (Oct. 27) Saturdays at Melbourne Beach Old Town Hall History Center, 2373 Oak St., Melbourne Beach. The free, inclusive event features blues, rock, folk, and country jam for spectators and musicians.

For more information, call (321) 427-4624, email info@beeandthehive.com, or visit www.beeandthehive.com.

Need a break?: The Sandrift Community Center, 585 N. Singleton Ave., Titusville, hosts Parents Night Out every first Friday (Nov. 2) at Sandrift

Community Center.

For more information, call (321) 264-5037.

How bazaar: The Trinity Lutheran Church is hosting a Candy Cane Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 3. at 3671 S. Hopkins Ave., Titusville

The community wide event is part of a Holiday Stroll among the local churches.

The event will include craft vendors, bake sale, silent auction, children's craft corner, door prizes and more. This will be a fun day to start your holiday shopping

by purchasing items made by local crafters. Donations of nonperishable items for the local food bank are greatly appreciated! Charities that will be supported by this event are Nana's House and National Homeless Veterans Support.

For more information, call Kathy Deal at (321) 268-4827 or the church at (321) 267-6323.

Let's meditate: Seaside Serenity is a meditation group that meets at 9 a.m. the first Saturday (Nov. 3) of the month at See **CALENDAR**, page 4

PREMIERE THEATERS

UPCOMING SHOWS THIS WEEK:

Halloween	Bohemian Rhapsody
A Star Is Born	Nobody's Fool
Hunter Killer	The Nutcracker & The 4 Realms

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