

What is Helping Seniors of Brevard?

Over the past eight months I have answered our helpline, trying to solve problems and guide people to available services. Based on the calls I have received, it is time to do an article about Helping Seniors and how we can assist you.

Helping Seniors was founded in 2011. Our mission is to educate seniors and caregivers and connect them to the help they need. We also advocate for the elderly and seek development of a County aging plan. Why is this needed? A recent article in Florida Today reported that the number of those over age 65 and under 18 in Brevard County is equal. Yet seniors, who pay a major portion of local taxes, are excluded from County funding to nonprofits serving seniors.

For many years nonprofits received general revenue funds from the County to help them provide services to many causes in Brevard. At one point those funds reached one million dollars. Now they



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

have been completely eliminated by the current Board of Commissioners, making it more difficult for smaller nonprofits to survive.

There are two nonprofits in our community that provide a helpline: 2-1-1 Brevard and Helping Seniors. 2-1-1 answers calls for a range of needs, while Helping Seniors focuses on senior needs. From answering our helpline and working referrals from 2-1-1, I believe we follow-up more to help callers solve problems, whereas 2-1-1 provides single contact crisis intervention. Both organizations are needed, but serve the

community in slightly different ways.

One major difference is media outreach. Helping Seniors uses print media, radio, and television to advertise its services and educate people about the many senior services in Brevard. Our locally produced television shows air daily on Space Coast Government TV, a live radio program is broadcast each Wednesday at noon on WEJF FM 90.3, while informative articles appear regularly in Hometown News, Al Dia Today, Ebony News, Barefoot Bay Tattler, and Senior Scene Magazine.

What we don't do is supply roofs, rebuild storm damaged homes, or pay rents of those who call for such help. Like other nonprofits, our funding does not enable us to do so. However, in some cases callers can be directed to possible sources of assistance. Due to the large number of veterans and their spouses in Brevard, it is important to know that the veterans office

in the Government Center is a source of help to many. Just call 321-633-2012.

Brevard ranks in the top one percent of counties nationwide in terms of number of seniors. It is time to recognize such fact and support organizations such as Helping Seniors, since the County has made no effort to provide such service or recognize the needs of those who are major payers to its general revenue fund.

There will always be a need for organizations like 2-1-1 and Helping Seniors, organizations that exist to provide possible sources of assistance to those in need. With a population that is 50% senior, Helping Seniors is definitely needed so remember our number 321-473-7770 and give us a call.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770 or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. The current endowment level is \$950, and we welcome all donations.

Crime

From page 5

Tonya Ziegler, 45, of Melbourne, was arrested June 20 and charged with obtaining public assistance over \$200 as fraud.

Brandon Bauler, 28, of Merritt Island, was arrested June 20 and charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of marijuana under 20 grams, manufacture of methaqualone, and possession of drug parapherna-

lia.

Vanessa Henry, 23, of Merritt Island, was arrested June 21 and charged with possession of a controlled substance, driving while license suspended with knowledge, and possession of drug paraphernalia with residue.

Lakicha Lockhart, 28, of Vero Beach, was arrested June 21 and charged with aggravated battery with a deadly weapon.

Arthur Soares, 58, of Cocoa, was arrested June 21 and charged with driving while license suspended with knowledge (3rd or subsequent offense).

Deanna Adkins, 38, of Rockledge, was arrested June 22 and charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Melvin Hinson, 52, of Melbourne, was arrested June 22 and charged with driving while license suspended (habitual offender).

Dorinda Lowery, 75, of Satellite Beach, was arrested June 22 and charged with battery on a person 65 years of age or older.

Daniel Portillo Valladares, 24, of Palm Bay, was arrested June 22 and charged with possession of marijuana over 20 grams, possession of drug paraphernalia, and driving while

license suspended with knowledge.

Kathy Robertson, 53, of Merritt Island, was arrested June 22 and charged with burglary of an unoccupied conveyance unarmed, criminal mischief \$200 and under, and petty theft 2nd degree from a motor vehicle. (2nd offense).

Anthony Snedeker, 27, of Cocoa, was arrested June 22 and charged with battery with bodily harm.

Victoria Hernandez, 28, of Cocoa, was arrested June 23 and charged with possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

WANT TO STRESS LESS ABOUT YOUR COOLING COSTS?

- Spread cost over 72 months
- Individualized Plans
- Quick and Easy payment plans





Call us at 321-233-2633
or email us at info@BRGairsystems.com

check, repair or replace your cooling system **BEFORE** it gets **TOO HOT!**

\$250 TRADE IN with purchase of new A/C System *with any complete Bryant A/C system. Cannot be combined with any other offer	\$67.97 SUMMER TUNE-UP SPECIAL Cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 7/25/19	FREE UV LIGHT* *with full system install
---	---	--



BREVARD MEDICAL DERMATOLOGY

We Specialize In Medical Dermatology

3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

Viera 321-428-4737
Merritt Island 321-453-3360
Titusville 321-567-7530

If It's On Your Skin, We'll Get You In!

www.BrevardMD.com