

Do we really fear taxes?

Of the five words in the title for this article, there is only one word that strikes fear into the hearts of many---taxes. Deep down most of us know that those we elect to govern must at times make difficult decisions to do their jobs, and here I refer to raising taxes.

If you review past articles I have written regarding care of seniors, lack of affordable housing, and funding for nonprofit organizations, you will note a planning trend that will ultimately save the citizens of Brevard County valuable general revenue dollars.

Why is it then that those we elect to serve the over 600,000 citizens of Brevard County fail to recognize that people will age and that many will not have the necessary funds to live? There will always be a need for affordable housing and care for



**HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD**
JOE STECKLER

those who have not been able to keep up with rising costs. Local leaders should understand that inflation and unforeseen circumstances will result in a huge number of seniors who will need assistance.

I have previously told you about an aging plan prepared by ordinary citizens of the Helping Seniors Advocacy Council that we submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. Not one Commissioner replied to this document. Most of us know little about the inner workings of

local government. Certainly roads are important. Acquisition of deputies and equipment for the Sheriff's Department is a well addressed need as is pay for good public school teachers.

Once our Commissioners realize that a tax is the only way to meet these valid requirements, we should add the need to adequately fund nonprofit organizations, many which serve to prevent the assaults on people that we have recently observed. People who have no place to live, or fear for their lives because they can not access medical care, or who are placed in situations that cause extreme actions should be a matter of concern to all.

I recently sent a letter to 1,800 Brevard citizens who have previously given to Helping Seniors. I hope they will read my letter and recognize the need I have stat-

ed. There are still over 600,000 people in Brevard who will never receive such letter. However, many of them may get a tax increase of some type. If so, where will these tax dollars be spent? Will some replace the \$1,000,000 that funded local nonprofits serving people who had NO ONE to help them? And, I assure you that there are thousands of people in our community who need help.

Please consider my words and support a tax increase to assist our teachers and nonprofit organizations who help so many in need, assistance which often results in those who are served becoming productive members of our community.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org, or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

Calendar

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a member of the National Horseshoe Pitcher's Association and all the pitching activities are sanctioned by the NHPA. Dues for club membership at \$15 per year. For more information, contact Jerry Michalek at 321-632-2527 or John Peplinski at 321-725-0171 or visit <http://brevardhc.9f.com>

Monday, Aug. 19

Ask the Experts - Medical Marijuana:

One Senior Place, the Viera marketplace for senior resources, will explain the facts with Medical Marijuana to Treat Chronic Everyday Pains on Monday, August 19 at 1:00 p.m. at 8085 Spyglass Hill Road. The special "Ask the Experts" event will feature a discussion with Dr. Frank Filiberto of Marijuana of Brevard. Ill Floridians have the right to obtain and use medical marijuana (cannabis) with a recommendation by a physician who has determined that the person's health would benefit from marijuana use in the

treatment of cancer, epilepsy, AIDS, HIV, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Crohn's disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, glaucoma, chronic pain or any other illness for which marijuana provides relief as outlined by the Medical Marijuana Use Registry. For more information, call 321-751-6771 or visit www.OneSeniorPlace.com

Shuffleboard Club: The Shuffleboard Club of Brevard County meets every Monday at Wickham Park, located at 2500 Parkway Drive in Melbourne at 6:30 p.m.

There are over 40 members of the club who play on 12 lighted courts at the park. No supplies are needed. Membership fee is \$20 a month and \$1 for play days. Yearly tournaments are played as well. Participants are required to be 55 years of age or older. For more information, contact Tom at 321-254-6308 or email tawinki@me.com

Tuesday, Aug. 20

Singles Meet: The Single, Separated, Widowed and Divorced (SSWD) group will meet for lunch and birthdays See CALENDAR, page 8



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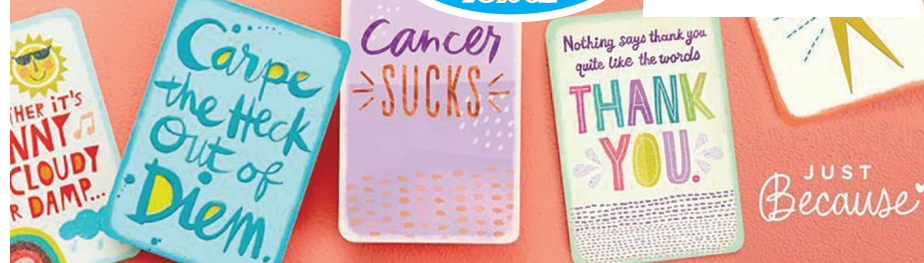
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