

Senior Advocacy

After months of anticipation, it is now official – Helping Seniors will sponsor a new Senior Advocacy Group at Zon assisted living facility, located at 1894 South Patrick Drive in Indian Harbor Beach. Join us the first Tuesday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon. The first meeting will be March 3, 2020. To make your reservation, please call Kim at 321-473-7770.

It is imperative that seniors unite to determine their own future. We have seen state and local elected officials vote to eliminate or transfer funds intended to help seniors. For the past decade Florida legislators have been raiding the Sadowski Fund, moving \$1 billion in funds meant to build affordable housing over to the general revenue portion of the state budget. Will we continue to let those we elect make decisions that adversely affect seniors?



**HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD**
JOE STECKLER

Speaking of the state budget, I call your attention to the recent State of the State address by our Governor; if there was a mention of seniors anywhere in his talk, I failed to hear it. I have to admit that I am hard of hearing, but for that talk I had my hearing aids in and the TV turned up to hear any mention of seniors – which I did not.

You have read my comments about our County Commissioners defunding local nonprofits. Nonprofit funding in Brevard was once \$1 million annually, but times

change and so do Commissioners. Although seniors are a rapidly growing segment of our population, programs and funding to assist seniors are not in place.

I do not think that our state or county is working to address problems caused by a rapid growth of seniors, problems that will only intensify as the population increases. Would it surprise you to know that we have more than 50,000 people on Medicaid waiting lists in Florida? Neither national nor state resources can resolve the issue without local support.

In 2015, Helping Seniors joined forces with community volunteers to survey thousands of seniors in Brevard County. Based on the results of that survey, we compiled a paper and presented it to the County Commissioners for action. Nothing was heard from that effort, but now we intend to pick up where we left off. Our goal is to spearhead work with

the County Commissioners to develop a senior plan for Brevard County.

Sixty years ago I never envisioned writing columns like this. I was young, and what happened to seniors was not a concern to me. Now I can see that thinking about seniors is critical in places like Brevard where seniors make up almost half the population. We can and should do better for those who need affordable housing, assistance with prescription drugs, ramps, and other things affecting an older population.

Call 321-473-7770 and reserve your spot for the first meeting of the Senior Advocacy Group.

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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on special tours and more call 321-723-8543.

Friday, Feb. 7

Antiques and Collectibles Club: The Brevard Antiques and Collectibles Club will hold its monthly meeting Friday, Feb. 7 at the Suntreee Viera Library located at 902 Jordan Blass Road in Mel-

bourne at 10 a.m. The subject will be “Smalls”. Please bring one item for study and discussion. The club has a different topic at each meeting. The group is open to anyone having an interest in learning about antiques and collectibles. For additional information, contact Rich at 321-795-7363.

Singles Meet: The Single, Separated, Widowed and Divorced (SSWD) group will meet for lunch at the Outback Steakhouse, 777 E. Merritt Island Cswy., M. I.

on Friday, February 7 at 12:00 p.m. All are most welcome to join the group. For additional details, please call 502-299-8949 or 321-890-4310.

Saturday, Feb. 8

Landscaping Seminar: This year’s annual free Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar will be held at the Eau Gallie High School Auditorium, located at 1400 Commodore Boulevard, on February 8 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with check-in starting at 8:15 a.m. In addition to numerous vendors there will be four engaging speakers. Door prizes will be given out to winning ticket holders. All participants who complete surveys will receive goodie bags that include hose nozzles, gardening gloves and native plant seeds. This free seminar also includes muffins and donuts from Love Bugs Bakery, coffee and other goodies. Attendees should bring their own reusable water bottles. To fill them,

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