

Stand up for seniors

We are three weeks away from our first meeting of the new Senior Advocacy Group, which will be March 3 at Zon Assisted Living Facility.

The Senior Advocacy Group is sponsored by Helping Seniors of Brevard, a member of the Senior Resource Center at Zon. The purpose of Helping Seniors is to inform, educate, and connect seniors and caregivers to the many wonderful senior resources available in Brevard. We are not a marketing company, but do believe that nonprofit services need to be better advertised to potential users.

Many years ago there was an organization called the Silver Haired Legislature that mirrored for seniors the bills of the Florida State Legislature. I do not mean to insult anyone involved, but it was more of a social organiza-



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

tion and did not really bring about change. The Senior Advocacy Group is different in that it will fight for the things most needed by seniors to live and age with dignity. At the top of the list is affordable housing.

We must also stop the misuse of funds designated to help seniors. As I have mentioned previously, our elected legislators are taking money from the Sadowski Fund (developed to build affordable housing) to fund the General Revenue portion of our state budget. Over a billion dollars has been

siphoned off in the last decade - a practice that will only exacerbate the affordable housing problem. This is unacceptable in a state that's the third highest in the country in terms of number of seniors. And, we continue to attract more seniors to Florida.

Affordable housing is not the only topic of interest to seniors. What about development of a county plan to help us cope with the aging process? Years ago a Florida Secretary of Elder Affairs created a plan called "Elder Friendly Communities," calling for better street lights, wider sidewalks, businesses supporting elders, etc. The plan was too expensive to be realistic, but does show a need for better thinking for the future. For instance, underground electrical systems could lessen the frequency of power outages and safeguard those who need power for

medical machines that keep them alive.

There are many things to think about. If you want to join the discussion, please call Kim at 321-473-7770 or email info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org and make your reservation for the first advocacy meeting of 2020. It will be at 10 a.m. on March 3 at Zon Assisted Living Facility, located at 1894 S. Patrick Drive in Indian Harbour Beach. Help us identify senior needs in Brevard. It is only by will and action that anything can be accomplished, and it is past time for seniors to have an aging plan in a county where 25% of us are 65 or over. Make that call.

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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Sunday, Feb. 23. Free to the public. Browse top-rated vendors for Caterers, Cake Decorators, Bridal Gowns, Florists, Photographers and more. Everything you need to plan the perfect wedding. The first 100 brides will receive a VIP Glitter Swag Bag. Win a grand prize of a DJ package at a \$699.00 value

(preregistration required for Grand Prize). Live music, food, lots of prizes, and so much more. For more information, visit www.melbourneflorida.org

Friday, Feb. 21 - Sunday Feb. 23

Big Chili Ride: The American Legion Riders Chapter 163 presents their 9th annual open house weekend Friday, Feb. 21, 22, and 23. The Photographic

scavenger hunt will take place on Saturday Feb. 22 at 1795 N. Harbour City Boulevard in Eau Gallie. On Friday, enjoy dinner from 6-8 p.m. along with live music from 6-10 p.m. Saturday, "Big Chill Ride" registration at 9:30 a.m., \$10 per rider, passengers \$5. Stake shoot, live music, and cheese steaks will be available. All proceeds benefit Family Promise of Brevard Project Vetrelief. For more information, call 321-525-2668 or email americanlegionfl163@gmail.com.

Saturday, Feb. 22

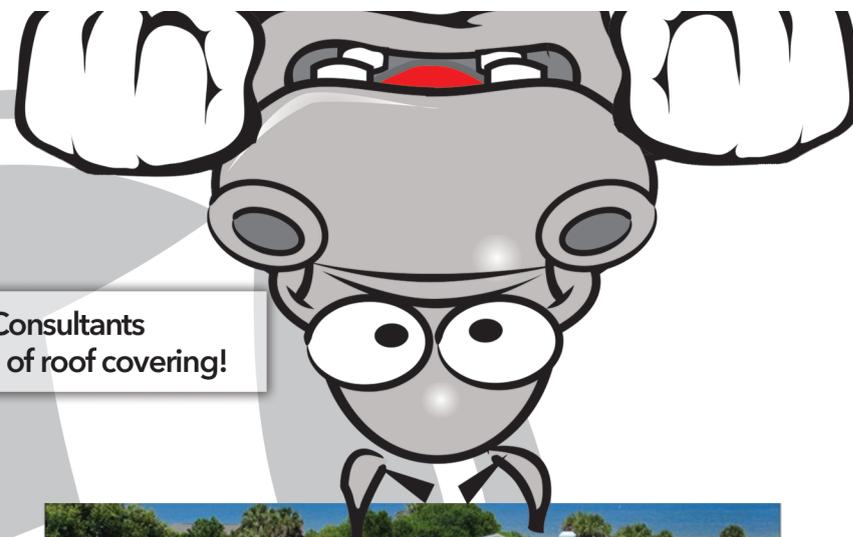
Dunkin Donuts Car Show: On Feb. 22, the Car, Truck and Bike Show at the Dunkin Donuts, located at 1220 A1A in Indialantic, will take place from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Attendance is free. All years, all makes are welcome. No contest or judging, just good fun. For more information, call Dicey Bill Antonetz at 321-725-3648.

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