

Homeless or Affordable Housing?

We are past, I hope, the chicken and egg theory, but the point needs to be made that homelessness and affordable housing are two completely different entities. A homeless person needs a heck of a lot more than an affordable place to live, but unless there is affordable housing available, a family could quickly reach a state of homelessness. I have encountered such happenings.

In most cases, a homeless person is dealing with a complex set of factors. Factors that most likely will not be satisfied if they are offered affordable housing, but may be satisfied if they are given free temporary housing. For example, a bedroom, small kitchen, and bath facilities - simple but suitable living arrangements with meals provided until the person finds employment and becomes a productive member of society. Unfortunately, we live in a world in which there most likely will always be homeless and not the subject of



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

today's column.

Today I want to address the need for affordable housing. Lack of affordable housing can create homelessness. There are many scenarios where this is possible. Say a person outlives his savings and is dependent on Social Security to pay all bills. With an income of \$1,500 a month and rent of \$1,200 a month, this person could quickly become homeless. Although I know disabled people living on Social Security of \$800 a month who are not homeless, they live in a state of continual risk, no dining out and a life of few frills. These are the

survivors.

Then we have those people who have seen their monthly rents rise from \$700 a month to \$1,400 or more and who can not sustain their style of living. Unless they find a way to make up the short fall, they may need to move to affordable housing. Consider also families that rent and live close to the margins, never able to save anything for the future. Additionally there are migrants who move from an area with affordable housing to Brevard, where they find excessive housing costs. They could easily become homeless, and I have seen this also.

Finally, there are families with school age children who could manage what we formerly considered "payable" rental housing, but find themselves here with nothing they can afford. An average family of this type may not be able to find a decent home to rent that they are willing to live in safely with their children. It is for this very

scenario that Saint Stephens Way is building a small community along Crane Creek in downtown Melbourne.

I do not have the space to tell all I wish about the community other than it is being developed by local citizens who are not interested in making a profit. Rather, this group of civic minded folks have seen a much talked about need and decided to do something about it. Their houses will be affordable, meet family needs, and be built on donated land with private donations and a LOAN they will pay off through more donations and funds generated by fair property management. Consider what else we can do to assist the homeless and the MANY that need affordable housing. This will be the topic of a follow-on article.

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

Softball

From page 1

The National Youth Sports Strategy funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and "developed by the President's Council on Sports, Fitness & Nutrition Science Board" notes that youth sports have many positive effects on participants, including "lower rates of anxiety and depression, lower amounts of stress, higher

self-esteem and confidence, reduced risk of suicide, less substance abuse and fewer risky behaviors, increased cognitive performance, increased creativity, greater enjoyment of all forms of physical activity, improved psychological and emotional well-being for individuals with disabilities, [and] increased life satisfaction."

Adam Medina, Organization Manager for the Storm, notes that the support the team receives from their community is invaluable to the team's success. "The primary source of revenue that Palm Bay Storm has is

through registrations paid by families, proceeds from team hosted fundraisers and donations from generous members or business owners within the community. We are thankful to have partnered with Space Coast Harley Davidson to host a chili cook-off fundraiser where all of the funds will directly impact each of the girls within the program by significantly reducing the rising expenses that these ladies and families face. The expenses of travel softball tend to not be feasible for some families, especially those with more than one child in the sport

and/or those that are struggling financially due to the ever so difficult times that we currently face. Proceeds from the event will offset tournament entry fees and allow female youth athletes to continue the sport of softball without placing hardship on their families. We look forward to a day of fellowship with members of our community."

Follow the Palm Bay Storm on Facebook to stay up to date with all of their latest events and activities.

Housing

From page 1

- Community of Hope, Inc. (\$1,231,320)
- I am Ministries, Inc. "The Source" (\$1,299,000)
- Volunteers of American of Florida, Inc. (\$975,000)

- Habitat for Humanity of Brevard County (\$961,120)
- Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc. (\$368,560); and
- Helps Community Initiatives, Inc. (\$15,000)

In all, the City received a total of 14 applications.

The City of Palm Bay was allocated \$18,009,865 in Coronavirus State and Local

Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) under ARPA. At a meeting on May 5, the City Council "earmarked \$5 million for the purpose of addressing homelessness, affordable housing, and any public services associated with such efforts," per the release.

The City also is allocated \$150,000 "for the monitoring and compliance of these funds," per the release. The funding will go towards the salary for a full-time position

that pays \$50,000 per year.

The funds are required to be earmarked by Dec. 31, 2024 and must be fully used by Dec. 31, 2026, per U.S. Treasury requirements, the City says in the release.

Those interested in more information regarding the City's ARPA-related business should visit pbfl.org/ARPA.

Out

From page 11

stood strong for 126 years. Come and enjoy a tour of Green Gables and see why preserving this home's history further enhances our community's uniqueness for

future generations. Your donations will go to rehabilitation and restoration of the historic home and its family legacy. Visit: <https://www.greengables.org>

Through - Saturday, Sept. 10

"Endless Summer" Paintings by Terry Cope:

The Downtown Art Gallery, 335 S. Washington Avenue in downtown Titusville is proud to present the paintings of Terry Cope, their Spotlight Artist for the month of August Terry is well known for his textured painting of mangroves. With summer in full force, he has turned his attention to surfing. His Endless Summer Series features playful, light filled, surfers shaded by their boards in

the bright Florida sun, or confidently riding the waves. His pen and ink sketches whimsically capture surfers in action, Terry spent his childhood exploring the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and surfing area beaches. For 20 years he lived in South Florida, marketing high quality artist

See OUT, page 13

HOMETOWN NEWS BREVARD

HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS

LISTEN TO OUR HEADLINES & HIGHLIGHTS ON PODCAST... IT'S FREE

Scan the QR code below or go to our website www.HometownNewsBrevard.com to listen to Podcast

iPhone



Spotify



Android

