

A Call to Action

I have been writing to you for many years, covering a multitude of topics. Today is a test, a type of test if you will, that I have wanted to try for many years. I think it will be successful because both the writer and readers of this column have known each other for years.

Most of you know we are just about to wrap up our sixth annual Car Raffle for Helping Seniors. Like other non profits in Brevard County, we exist through the generosity of our donors. At various times during the year, we ask you to open your wallets, just as your minister does each Sunday to support the operation of the church, non profit, or whatever good cause is on the menu. Today the item I am proposing is the Helping Seniors Car Raffle.

The reason I am discussing the Car Raffle in Hometown News is because it is the most



**HELPING SENIORS
OF BREVARD**
JOE STECKLER

widely read newspaper on the Space Coast. Right now, Hometown News is seeking sponsors for their special edition that will appear just prior to the Thanksgiving sales. For years I have told my readers that Hometown News is one of the most informative media sources on the Space Coast, especially for seniors due to the articles by One Senior Place and Helping Seniors.

I am confident our readers will respond to a good call to action in a small time

frame when they know the request is a good one. Hometown News is selling their special edition ads for \$964 to promote businesses interested in advertising in a heavily read and highly visible newspaper; I am asking all readers of my column to go to www.Helpingseniorscaraffle.com and order tickets for the Car Raffle on October 29 at the America Muscle Car Museum. You can see 459 beautiful muscle cars, Porsche tractors, and other collectibles, even a 1930's gas pump.

You do not have much time. Hometown News hits the streets the morning of October 28. The Car Raffle Grand Drawing is October 29 at 7 PM. You can get tickets by calling 321-473-7770 and say you are responding to the special request or go to www.Helpingseniorscaraffle.com. I hope you swamp us because all we raise will be

used in a special fund to help people. With your support we can surpass the \$100,000 mark.

And, I assure you that I have asked no one, even the staff at Hometown News, whether or not they will print this article. If you are reading it, it means they think asking for donations to help people is a good idea, just like advertising in the Turkey Day Edition to promote top of the line products is a good way to reach people.

It is time to have a fund available that can be used to help people when the help is needed. With your support we can do this – \$100,000.

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

Surfside

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artist pulls from his varied experiences, demonstrated by an extensive, pages-long portfolio beginning in 1972 with *No Greater Love*, performed at St. Mary's Church. Mr. Bergeron has also written and produced a host of musicals and plays and has operated in the following roles for many more: Production Management, Production Support for Live Stage Presentations, Scenic Design and Fabrication, and he designed and executed various Educational theater workshops at King Center for the Performing Arts and the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Performing Arts, to name a few.

Mr. Bergeron's passion for The Arts is palpable. "Proximity to an art program provides valuable outlets for our young," he exclaimed, "and gives freedom of expression to all, regardless of age or economic status."

Like many nonprofit organizations, Surfside Playhouse faced many challenges in the face of the pandemic. The future looked grim for the group of performers dependent upon audience participation, ticket sales, and attendance. But Surfside prevailed thanks to generous donations from patrons and government subsidies. In an effort to keep the community engaged, the troupe also staged online readings. Although precautions remain in place, Surfside Playhouse is now open at full capacity and is thrilled to - once again - stage its engaging productions for your viewing pleasure.

Mark your calendar for one or more of

the following shows still to come this Season: Gilbert and Sullivan's *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Nov 4th-20th; *Home for the Holidays*, Dec 9th-18th; *The Miracle Worker*, Jan 13th-29th; Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella*, March 10th-26th; *You Can't Take it With You*, April 28th-May 14th; and *Moby Dick Fractured*, Jun 16th-Jul 2nd. This Surfside Original is a hilarious retelling of "whaling, madness, and mayhem," a nautical adventure you'll never forget.

Aside from the amazing productions Surfside happily performs, the organization is equally proud of the enrichment programs they sponsor. Established by Paulette Bethel, *Gotta Dance* is a one of a kind show focused on adult movement. Under the direction of Eva Knowles, the Youth Program presents three productions featuring students aged 7 - 14. The Fearless Improv Brigade is taught by Mario Busacca and is aimed at introducing improvisational comedy as a tool to help performers better their craft. The ten-week workshop is open to high school aged students and adults of all ages.

Beginning in 2001, the Arlan Ropp Playwright Award is an annual playwriting contest with a \$500 cash prize and an on-stage production of the winning piece. Surfside accepts script submissions from all over Central Florida. The latest winner is Jude Francis Lemoncelli for her play *The Women of Saint Regret*, which premiered at the Surfside Playhouse this past summer. Brevard County writers, heed the call - yours may be the next winning entry!

In addition to shows and cultural enrichment programs, Surfside Playhouse also



brings outside acts from New York and Vegas. They also have a long history of supporting the local surfing community by viewing surf films. To keep the list of activities running, Surfside is always in need of helpful volunteers. Whether it be ushers, carpenters, painters, concessions, crafters, writers, or artists, they eagerly welcome everyone.

"Participating in art, patronizing art, and securing a future for art is a never-ending struggle," said Mr. Bergeron. And although that may be true, the Surfside Playhouse has continued to battle adversity and come out smiling by remaining true to its hometown appeal. "The moment you step foot in our

theater, he continued, "you sense the home-like atmosphere. It's a very real thing...no stress, just comfort." And it's a cheerful comfort they provide, one that lets you sit back and enjoy the show.

Mainstage production tickets are \$28.00 per adult. There is a senior, student, and military discount, a seasonal flex pass, and varying prices for enrichment program productions. Auditions for the next show is held the Sunday and Monday following the previous production's opening night. For more information regarding tickets, show dates, programs, and auditions, please visit <https://surfsideplayhouse.com/> or <https://surfsideplayhouse.com/auditions/>.

Calendar

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bake sale.

Ongoing Events

Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation Caregiver Support Group; Hope Lutheran Church, 4541 N. Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935

Meets every Thursday, Free, 1p-2:30p

Caregiving can feel isolating, but you are not alone. Decades of research and anecdotal evidence show that there are clear benefits to participating in caregiver support groups. Some of the top benefits are:

Feeling less lonely, isolated, or judged

Reducing depression, anxiety, or distress, Gaining a sense of empowerment and control

Getting advice or information about practical solutions or treatment options, Improving or learning healthy coping skills, For updates & a complete listing of groups, visit <https://brevardalz.org/caregiver.../support-group-calendar/>

Platinum Show Chorus: The Platinum Show Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is always looking for new women who love to sing. They meet Thursday nights at the Unity Church, located at 2401 N Harbour city Boulevard in Melbourne at 6:30 p.m. Come visit and hear what they are all about.

Barrier Island Center Sea Turtle Walks: During June and July the Sea Turtle Conservancy (STC) has a limited number of spaces for the public to join us on a guided turtle walk for the chance of seeing a nesting loggerhead sea turtle in the Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge. Walks are conducted on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday nights between June 2 and July 28, 2022. Space is limited to 20 people per night (this may be reduced due to Covid-19 restrictions). Cost is \$20 per person, paid in advance, to reserve your space. You are responsible for your own transportation to the Barrier Island Center. Additional details will be provided once you have made a reservation. For a list of dates, visit <https://>

conserveturtles.org/educational-programs-sea-turtle-walk-reservation-dates/?a=Yes

Strength, Balance & Mobility Class: Trinity Fitness, located at 1236 Sarno Road in Melbourne, offers a free Strength, Balance & Mobility Class on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for residents 50 year and older. Class includes medium impact, short interval, full range of motion and functional movements. For more information, email jacscone@gmail.com.

Veterans Museum Bridge Club: Have fun at the Veterans Memorial Center, located at 400 S Sykes Creek Parkway in Merritt Island

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