

New Home for Senior Resource Center

It is my very great pleasure to announce a donation to Helping Seniors of 5,000 square feet of floor space in the main OMNI healthcare building at 1443 Apollo Boulevard. This was in response to my letter to Dr. Deligdish, owner of OMNI, regarding our need for office space for a Senior Resource Center, especially one located to serve all of Brevard – and the Apollo location does meet that requirement. We are now in the process of obtaining licenses and restructuring the medical offices.

The gift of office space by Dr. Deligdish is quite timely, as it affords us the opportunity to assign one office as the headquarters for developing affordable housing. Like many of you, I have read several plans for creating affordable housing, but what I have read does not address any sort of plan that would result in the construction of new rental housing to accommodate demonstrated



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

needs.

Taking the cost of land out of the equation is a good idea, but does not really solve the problem, as there is still the cost of building that must be met. I think the real issue is that we are trying to build housing that will solve all needs and that is not doable. We need housing to accommodate workers at the low end of the wage scale as well as those at the high end, such as engineers at Embraer. Both require available rental housing. This is not a problem that can be solved using a dart board, we need a plan.

Another need in Brevard is for a volunteer

driving program. Years ago there was a small driving program on the beach with about 20 volunteers led by one lady who managed this program for years. It was a great program but succumbed to age and change in management. We do have several good programs now operating in Brevard, and perhaps we can give them an office and grow the program.

There are needs identified in a planning effort by United Way back in 1996 that are still unfulfilled. These needs are identified for all, but in particular those of seniors. Dr. Deligdish's donation gives us the space to clarify seniors needs, make the people of Brevard County aware of those needs, and develop a plan to resolve them at a lesser cost than others.

We have long known that the senior population of our county is increasing, and bringing in more seniors only exacerbates

the problem. We know seniors will age on a fixed income and require some type of assistance, but we have not done the planning necessary to effect a solution. Even the availability of Section 8 housing is marginal, and failure to successfully address those needs only increases the homeless population.

These are real problems we encounter. We all pay taxes, part of which goes to fund a Brevard County budget that pays people to develop plans to address these problems. Such major problems should be the charge of Brevard's Housing and Human Services Department, rather than a small local nonprofit. If that can not be achieved, then divert their funding to an organization that can do the job.

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

Rants

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ties, or to the beach, or park, and do not pick up their feces. You even see it at the beaches here in Indian River — dogs unleashed, pooping all over the beach, and the Lifeguards often will not say anything to the law breakers, and you never see the police. It can be very frustrating to see. No one wants a strange dog darting at them untethered, especially if you have been

bitten by a dog in the past. My neighbors constantly give their dog no attention, putting it out in their backyard to bark nonstop, not thinking about their neighbors around them. Then, when they get tired of the barking, they muzzle their dog, and the dog whines and cries. It is very sad and cruel to see. Dogs require a lot of attention and responsibility, they deserve good homes and to be treated with love. It is sad to see a lot of selfish people with dogs not following rules and abusing them the way they do. If you have a pet, follow the laws around the pet, and do not abuse them. It is animal cruelty and

not right. Love your pets and follow the rules! Thanks for publishing all you do! You are a great local paper!

Free our roads!

Enough with the speed tables! I was driving by my local golf club, watching some older gentlemen golfing to ensure they don't shank another ball through my window, when my car abruptly got airborne (driving the speed limit). I looked in the rear view to see what happened,

and I saw parking strip that someone asphalted onto the road. This roughly resembled a speed bump, but after my mechanic replaced my front struts, he skeptically told me speed tables don't cause that kind of damage.

At what point did our city decide the best way to get cars to abide by the speed limit was to turn our roads into parking lots filled with parking strips that damage your car? I should be able to maintain the posted speed limit on any road without fear of getting airborne or having to repair my front end suspension. Stop the obstructions and free our roads!



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