

Thank you, Hometown News,
for helping share our story!

MELBOURNE WEST MELBOURNE Hometown News

 @HometownNewsBrevard  @hometownnewsbrevard  @HometownNewsBre

Vol. 19, No.40

HometownNewsBrevard.com

Friday, April 28, 2023

Friday, April 28, 2023

Hometown News – MELBOURNE – www.HometownNewsBrevard.com

3

Nonprofit opens Seniors Resource Center

By Brittany Ó Ruacháinn

bmuligan@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

BREVARD COUNTY — Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit with a mission to improve the wellness of the county's elderly residents, has found a new home in Melbourne thanks to OMNI Healthcare.

The new Helping Seniors Resource Center will be in Suite 2-C at 1344 S. Apollo Blvd. in Melbourne.

When Joe Steckler, the nonprofit's founder, reached out to the community for help, OMNI Healthcare President Dr. Craig Deligdish answered.

"Last November we had a meeting with Dr. Deligdish ... and he was kind enough to work out with us 5,600 square feet in the OMNI Professional Building," HSOB Executive Director Kerry Fink said.

The new office will help the nonprofit grow in several ways, such as by having space for its TV and radio studio, a meeting room for training and seminars, and finally a place for volunteers.

Residents can participate in computer classes, which according to Mr. Fink, is a big need among the elderly population.

"One of the things members of the Brevard County Community Development Block Grant asked us to look into, they felt there was a need for seniors to have better use of technology," Mr. Fink said. "Most of the places you go to for help now want you to fill out some form online."

For example, HSOB's Operations Direc-

tor is often asked for help by seniors on how to access applications, so she will sit with seniors on the phone and guide them through the process.

Computer classes will be one of the benefits to having a physical location seniors can get to, but although seats will be limited to 15 to 20 people, Mr. Fink added HSOB will still host events in the community to help a wider audience.

Another large request HSOB hasn't been able to fulfill in the past is taking in volunteers.

In 2022, Mr. Fink said HSOB received 5,473 phone calls. That's double the amount of calls the helpline received in 2021, which shows the word is getting out on how HSOB can make an impact.

Most of the calls, Mr. Fink said, have to do with the senior housing crisis. As rent keeps increasing, seniors are being pushed out of their homes because they can't afford it anymore. Unlike most folks who can get a second job or do what they need to pay the new rent, not all seniors can do the same.

"In this new office, we're putting together a Senior Housing Task Force," Mr. Fink said. "This task force is really becoming almost the most important thing we've been trying to address."

HSOB is creating community partnerships that will provide additional resources for seniors, and the nonprofit is quite welcome to those who want to help.

Furthermore, one of HSOB's long-term goals is to open more resource centers



Photo courtesy of Helping Seniors of Brevard

Nancy Deardorff, from left front, Joe Steckler, Ashleigh Caswell; and from left back, Kerry Fink, Marti Upton, Karen Wernlund, Attorney Ruth Rhodes, Chris Morse, Ed Fleis, Vicki Moore and Jennifer Barton were at the new seniors resource center.

throughout Brevard with the help of Dr. Deligdish.

Ways in which the community can help is by spreading the word about the nonprofit's seventh annual car raffle, which will feature five cars this year, and its third annual Helping Seniors Foundation cruise.

The car raffle will be at the American Muscle Car Museum from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7. Winners need not be pres-

ent and raffle tickets are available for \$25 each or five tickets for \$100.

The cruise will set sail aboard the MSC Seaside for three days starting Oct. 12 and seven days Oct. 15, and travel is open to all ages.

For the Helping Seniors Information Helpline, call (321) 473-7770.

For more information about the events, visit helpingseniorsofbrevard.info.

Look for Helping Seniors President/Founder Joe Steckler's columns regularly in your edition of Hometown News

Read online at HometownNewsBrevard.com
or at HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org

With an Average Net Circulation of 160,636 (print edition)
and CVC Estimated Gross Contacts of 397,445 (print/digital),
Hometown News is a trusted source of information throughout our region.



Read Joe Steckler's
Helping Seniors column
in this week's Hometown News

Look for Joe's "Helping Seniors" column in:

Hometown News

Connect with us at 321-473-7770

HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org

