


Joe Steckler



Funding for Seniors

Brevard County funding for nonprofits has declined from \$1 million dollars to zero dollars. Yes, you read that correctly—no money for seniors who still pay into a county budget of \$1.83 billion. Zero funding for nonprofits that assist seniors in a state with the highest percentage of seniors in the country. Our task now is to develop a campaign to restore this funding.

There are government funds to help low-income seniors facing homelessness and other issues, but these are almost always restricted funds. Many of these funds are given on a reimbursement basis, meaning that the nonprofit must have enough cash to fund the service up front, submit an invoice, then wait an undetermined time to be reimbursed. Most nonprofits operate on a limited budget, making this difficult to do.

That is why county funding is so critical for vital nonprofits like the Sharing Center, Senior Resource Center, and St. Vincent De Paul food pantries that do a superhuman job of helping people in need fulfill basic necessities such as shelter, food, electricity, and gas when there is truly no public resource that will do it.

We have an aging population. We need affordable housing. We need a way to help those who live paycheck to paycheck, especially when a paycheck is missed, or a job lost. Many churches have programs to assist those in need. Why don't our elected officials have the same concerns?

Brevard County should restore funding of \$1,000,000 for nonprofits that serve elders and people in need. It is past time for those we elect to do something about assisting those nonprofits that work to mitigate the homeless and other needs of seniors, seniors that pay their share of taxes but are shortchanged in the county provision of services to seniors.

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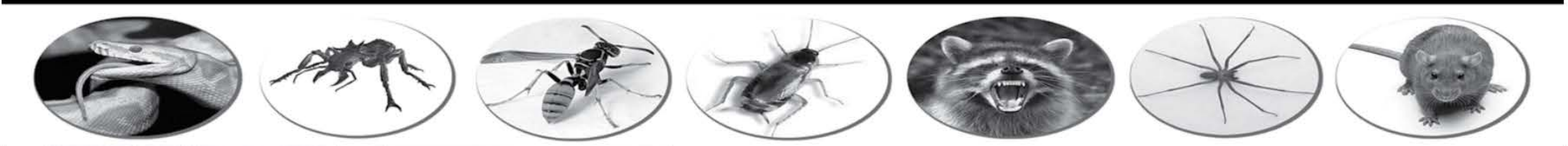
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