



# Where Are Your Tax Dollars Going?

By Joe Steckler, President, Helping Seniors of Brevard County

Over the past month, I have watched the Brevard Cultural Alliance (BCA) cat and mouse game with our county commissioners regarding funding for local arts groups. Was there ever any doubt that the decision would once again enter the main ring for further discussion? I knew in my bones that the first round was not a done deal, that the subject would be revisited.

While I am not a fan of every event supported by the BCA, cultural organizations should be funded, as they bring in revenue and attract tourists and residents to the Space Coast. In addition, it should be noted that these events exist for the enjoyment of the participants—an important fact.

While the attack on the BCA grant was being formulated and put in motion, a similar attack was made on a one-million-dollar grant that helped support several nonprofit agencies. These agencies assisted seniors and others in need, often providing them with the very means of survival.

Consider for a moment a man 70 years old, living in a truck. His wife is in a hospital, waiting for room in a rehab

center. After he visits her, the man then goes home... home to a truck. I am not going to go into the how's and why's of this situation, I will only say that such things do happen, more than you may realize. My main concern is the act of the county commissioners to use this money for other budget items.

Organizations that serve single women and children, homeless people, hungry families, and seniors living in cars and sleeping in the woods all have a right to some help from our tax dollars. It seems ridiculous when five people – our commissioners – who have a highly paid county staff to accurately inform them of the need, make some of these poor decisions that adversely affect the lives of many. Can we do better?

Of course we can. It does not take a Harvard Law School graduate to see when our tax dollars are being wasted. It does not take the same type of person to see when decisions are being made for political gain. (S)

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at [www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org](http://www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org), or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

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## SENIOR SCENE MONTHLY TRAVEL TIPS

### Travel Tips (Part 1 of 2 Parts)

Senior Travel Agent Chris Morse has over 35 years travel agent experience.



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A trip requires careful planning. The first part of a two part series. Listed below are important steps you can take to prepare for a safe trip anywhere outside the United States. In addition, you can search for your destination to view more specific information about that country or area.

#### Packing

##### ■ Pack Smart!

- Pack light so you can move more quickly and have a free hand when you need it. Carry a minimum number of valuables and plan places to conceal them.
- Check your bags, clothing, and vehicle to make sure you are not carrying any banned items or substances, such as weapons or ammunition, into your destination country.
- Use covered luggage tags to avoid casual observation of your identity and nationality.

- Avoid packing IDs, tickets and vital documents in backpacks/other locations you won't be able to see at all times.
- **Do You Have Photocopies of Your Itinerary and Travel Documents?** Make two photocopies of all your travel documents in case of emergency or if your documents are lost or stolen. Leave one copy with a friend or relative at home. It is always a great idea to let at least one person know exactly where you will be staying and how to contact you in an emergency. Carry the other copy with you stored separately from the originals. Documents to make copies of include:
  - Passport ID page
  - Foreign visa (if applicable)
  - Itinerary
  - Hotel confirmation

Travel Tips continued on page 47

## Are you retiring or downsizing? Have you been thinking about buying or selling a home in 2023?

I am not only a Realtor, I am also a Certified Financial Planner and a Seniors Real Estate Specialist. I expertly help seniors to manage the financial, emotional and transitional issues that are associated with buying or selling their home.

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Contact me today for more information.



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