



We're Going to Need Your Help!

By Kerry Fink, VP/Exec Director, Helping Seniors of Brevard

Hopefully, that got your attention!

We're asking for your help to better understand what "Seniors Need" in Brevard County.

In addition to serving as Executive Director of the Helping Seniors nonprofit, I am privileged to serve on the Brevard Commission on Aging, a body authorized by the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. The Commission is chaired by Dr. John Potomski, President of the Brevard County Medical Directors Association and a highly respected geriatric medicine physician.

The Commission's mission is to assist in planning for the future of the elderly population in Brevard County and to foster a community that supports, accommodates, and values aging.

Why This Matters

In 2015, Helping Seniors launched a "Senior Needs Survey" to better understand the most pressing concerns of Brevard County residents. It was a simple 10-question survey that our founder, Joe Steckler, introduced to assess how well the County was doing in making Brevard a great place for seniors to live and thrive.

At that time, we learned a great deal about the areas where Helping Seniors could advocate more effectively and help individuals connect with needed resources. Interestingly, the results closely mirrored the needs Joe had identified decades earlier when he launched the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation in the mid-1990s.

A Growing Senior Population

Since our 2015 survey, Brevard County's 65+ population has increased by 39.8%. The share of residents aged 65 and older has grown from 20.4% to 24.7%.

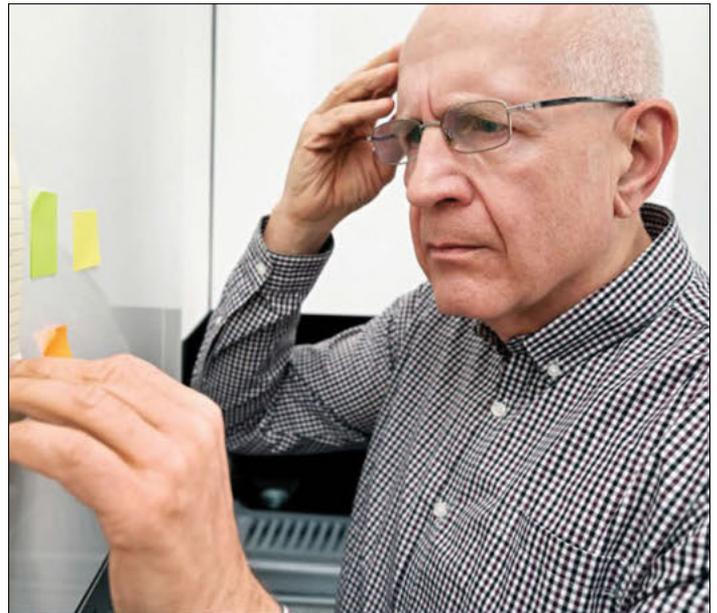
Simply put, we have more seniors than ever before — and that number continues to rise rapidly.

The 2026 Senior Needs Survey

To that end, the Brevard Commission on Aging is preparing to launch a new Senior Needs Survey. Our goal is to revisit and better understand what matters most to today's seniors and their families, so we can advocate for improved systems, services, and resources for those who call the Space Coast home.

The survey will launch on April 1. Please be on the lookout — and most importantly, please participate. Your honest and thoughtful responses will help ensure we gather accurate information that truly reflects the needs of our community.

We're Going to Need Your Help! continued on pg 45



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Senior Day Trips and Cruises



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Senior Travel Day Trips are dedicated to making every outing enjoyable for our senior community and their families. Recognized as Brevard County's leading Senior Travel Agency, we take pride in collaborating with senior groups and local city centers to create memorable experiences. Our friendly team is always ready to help and ensure each trip is filled with fun and laughter for everyone involved.

Thank you for choosing us and trusting us, joining other seniors and their families on exciting day trips and cruises. We're committed to offering you the best prices for your adventures, whether it's a relaxing day out, a cruise, or hotel bookings around the globe. Our promise is to make travel affordable and accessible, so you can focus on making great memories.

As a beloved travel company among seniors and communities, we're known for our excellent service and unbeatable prices. Understanding the importance of budget and retirement plans, we offer flexible options for all senior travelers. We look forward to meeting you and making your next trip a wonderful experience for both you and your loved ones.

Our Special Gifts:

- With over four decades of expertise, Chris is the "go-to" guy who's connected with every cruise line and tour operator executive. That means you get the inside scoop and personalized care every time you travel!
- Thanks to Senior Travel's outstanding reputation and the sheer number of happy travelers, our partners generously donate to Helping Seniors of Brevard and support senior communities. It's their way of saying "Thank you" for choosing us and for championing senior adventures everywhere!
- These special gifts aren't tacked onto your booking—they come directly

from our travel vendor friends, sharing a piece of their profits to help seniors thrive.

Who We Work With:

1. Our friends at Martin Anderson Senior Center
2. Helping Seniors of Brevard

Senior Day Trips And Cruises continued on page 45

Simply Klean of Brevard

Simply the Best in Senior-Focused Cleaning



Enhance respiratory & environmental health



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Preserve independence & dignity



Encourage a preventative approach to healthy aging

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Experience the difference of a cleaner, healthier home.



Senior Day Trips and Cruises

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3. The North Brevard Senior Community Center
4. Buena Vida Retirement Community Center
5. One Senior Place (prior to Covid)
6. The Moose Clubs
7. The Elks Clubs
8. Many 501C3 fun-raising companies
9. Supporters at Indian River Country Club (IRCC)
10. Guests at Chateau Madeleine

Our Reward:

- We love working with seniors that think they can never travel again.
- The laughter, the awakening of seniors when they travel with our groups.
- The hugs and BIG “thank you” from our seniors when they return from their trips.

Contact Us:

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We're Going to Need Your Help!

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Surveys will be distributed by the Brevard Commission on Aging, Helping Seniors, Aging Matters in Brevard, the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation, and numerous community partners, including local media. The survey will also be available online.

Survey collection will take place throughout April and May 2026, with responses accepted through June 30, 2026.

What Happens Next?

The Brevard Commission on Aging will review and tabulate all responses and share the results publicly. Most importantly, the findings will provide the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners with a valuable and accurate planning tool to help guide future decisions and resources that support seniors and their families in achieving successful aging.

We truly need your help. Together, we can ensure that Brevard County remains a community where seniors are supported, respected, and able to thrive. ☎

Mattress Money continued from pg 17

for most of the past decade. As a result, many investors are locking into these guaranteed rates for years before the Federal Reserve cuts them.

As a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®), I specialize in assisting seniors and retirees with their retirement planning. If you are interested in a fixed return or are seeking a better way to store your Mattress Money, I welcome you to a complimentary appointment at our office. You can call ValaVanis Financial at (321) 956-7072. I look forward to seeing you soon.

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What Are These Bitcoin Atm Scams Targeting the Elderly... Cont'd From Page 43

physically stop him.

■ The 5 rules that protect your parents

You can literally print this for them:

1. No real company or government takes Bitcoin for payment
2. Hang up on unexpected calls about money
3. Call the bank using the number on the card
4. Talk to family before moving large amounts of money
5. Never scan a QR code someone texts you for payment

■ The best family protection strategy

Set a standing rule:

“If anyone tells you to move money urgently — call me first.”
That alone stops most scams. ☎



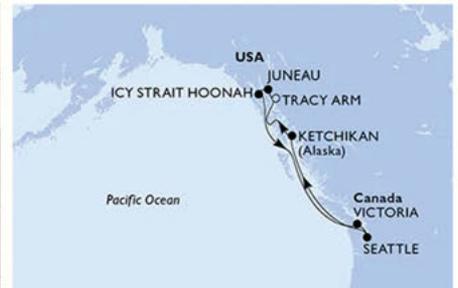
THE ALASKA CRUISE HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD

Jun 2026 - 7-Night Cruise Round Trip Seattle

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Let's explore the Majesty of Alaska together June 2026 as you sail with your friends - and bring your whole family! Meet your Helping Seniors friends from Brevard County on the luxurious MSC Poesia for the Inaugural Alaska season. With our 7-night Round-Trip Seattle sailing, we'll call on Ketchikan, Alaska, Juneau, Alaska and Icy Strait Point, Alaska well as Victoria, Canada - plus cruising the Tracy Arm Fjord.



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- * Gratuities * Meals * Drink Package
- * Wi-Fi * Special Events
- * Travel Insurance * Admin Fee
- * Donation - Helping Seniors of Brevard

(Round Trip Seattle)

Deluxe Balcony - \$1821 pp including Gratuities
Standard Balcony - \$1741 pp including Gratuities
Inside - \$1401 pp including Gratuities
 (based on double-occupancy)

Contact:
Helping Seniors of Brevard Travel Club
Chris Morse 818-430-1480 Cell



Helping Seniors of Brevard is a Florida 501(c)(3) Nonprofit. Helping Seniors of Brevard - P.O. Box 372936 - Satellite Beach, 32937 P.O. Box FL 32937. The Helping Seniors Travel Club is operated by Senior Travel division of The Travel Center - CST # 2000881-10 FST # 14672 - who is solely responsible for all travel arrangements. A portion of travel commissions from Helping Seniors Travel Club Members travel funds the Helping Seniors Endowment.