

Training Service Dogs For Veterans

Scrapbook 2020-2017

DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Party





Veterans-specialty healthcare outside the VA

Patrick McCallister

POSSYTTEMAN HORSE

procediates (weter annoise weekly com-

Kris Hasenauer was at Florida State University when the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks came. He was studying medicine to become a physician's assistant, so went to the Army recruiter and asked what he could do to help the nation.

"I made a career of special operations medical," he said.

Now he owns Emerald Medical in Fort Pierce aiming to serve as many Veterans as possible. While there are medical generalities that apply to everybody, groups have special considerations and needs. That's true for Veterans as any other. For example, on the extreme side, Veterans have a higher risk for conditions such as multiple sclerosis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS. A doctor knowing that fact about Veterans can be the difference between taking weeks

proper diagnosis and treatment.
"We're taking Tricare patients now,"
Hasenauer said.

instead of months or even years to get a

Homecoming

Hasenauer finished his youth on the Treasure Coast.

"I went to high school here. My dad was in the military and retired here," Hasenauer said.

Of course, as said, Hasenauer went off to college then joined the military. He was active duty until about 18 months ago.

"Then I came home and started all this up," said Hasenauer.

By "this" he means a company that specialized in taking healthcare all over the world — wherever clients needed it.

"Oil platforms, construction jobs overseas," Hasenauer explained.

But, he wasn't quite ready to give up the combat boots.

"I'm still in the National Guard," Hasenauer said.

He's in the 20th Special Forces Group. The 3th Battalion is headquartered in Florida and is part of the US Southern Command.

COVID came along

The upstart portable medical business was just starting to break in its new shoes —

"When COVID hit, all our overseas stuff evaporated overnight," remarked Hasenauer.

So, Hasenauer was thinking the company had qualified medical staffing and proper equipment, but no work. Now what with the SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 on the loose? The staff, made up most-



Photo courtery of Emerald Medical

Army Veteran Kris Hasenauer is owner of Emerald Medical, a new general practice in Fort Pierce. Emerald Medical specializes in treating Veterans. Jasper is a service animal Vero Beach's Dogs For Life united with Hasenauer. He's become the mascot of Emerald Medical.

ly of Veterans, like Veterans, and of the 21 million in this country only about 9 million get Department of Veteran Affairs healthcare.

Hasenauer decided to get some space, throw out a shingle and look for some of those 12 million Veterans who aren't enrolled in the VA.

Some of those VA patients are getting some of their services outside the Veterans Health Administration, because of different programs designed to ensure they get needed healthcare one way or another.

"We're partnering with them so we can take VA patients and treat as many Veterans as we can," Hasenmer said.

Speaking of COVID

With a highly contagious airborne bug around, Hasenauer said Emerald Medical is doing two things for patients. One is increasingly common telehealth. The other harkens back to a time few remember.

"We do house calls," Hasenauer said.
"Instead of having to go to the doctor,
we'll come to you."

That doctor, by the way, Dr. Edil Josue Agosto, is still serving in the Army Reserve. He's bilingual, too, speaking fluent Spanish.

Emerald Medical is at 117 N. 5th St., suite 5, in Fort Pierce. The phone is (772) 307-9840. It's online at www.emerald-medical.com.

Holidays for Heroes Christmas Military Packages



Some of the packages have arrived, big shot out to you and Dogs for Life for making it happen!!

NOVEMBER

Veterans Day at Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary





Presented by American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc.



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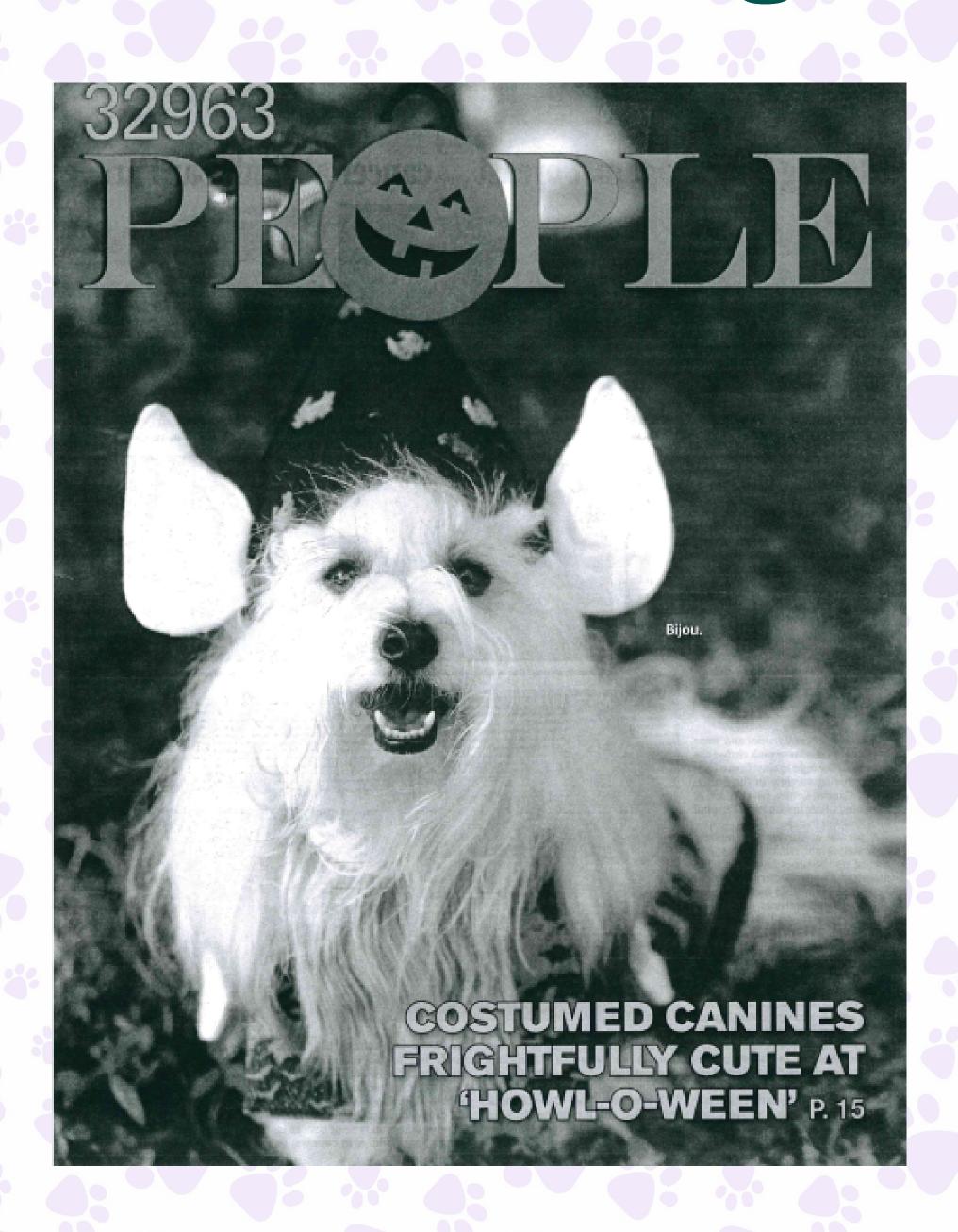






OCTOBER

News Coverage



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PEOPLE



Costumed canines frightfully cute at 'Howl-O-Ween'



Barbara Gorman with Lola.

The woodsy Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park was all pumpkined up for the 20th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade last Saturday. Eagerly anticipated by area pooches and their humans, the popular event featured a wide assortment of cleverly costumed canines. The creativity didn't disappoint, with outfits ranging from a diminutive pooch and her human dressed as candy com, to a black Lab mix sporting Battdog) wings and a Weish Terrier charmingly channeling a zebra. Underwritten by Prinz Schumann, whose human, Kathi Schumann, is DFL board president, the Howl-O-Ween festivities included a substantial array of raffle and silentauction items. There was also a thrilling demonstration by Sheriff's Office Dep. Ryan Holly with K-9 Ruckus and Dep. Shane loerger with K-9 Doc. The robust list of sponsors support the principal mission of DFL which is to train support dogs for veterans and individuals with disabilities.



Kent Velencia and Bailey.



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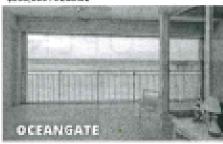
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Bonz has scary good time at 'Howl-O-Ween'

Hí Dog Buddies!

One of my absolutely FAV-rite events of the fall is the Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade. Some of you poocheroos have probly been in it, right? I always get a kick out of the Cool Kibbles costumes. Me, I wear the same outfit every year: I grab my snazzy hat with the "Press" badge stuck on it, an go as a Hardworking Reporter.

The Dogs for Life campus is real nice an woodsy, an they always have it all spiffed up with FUN-kins and pretend colored leafs, an not scary scare-crows. They have music too, by a human called Hobo Jim for some reason, an he always sings this hub-LARRY-us song, "Why Don't You Love Me Like My Dog Does?" Didja know that it was written by a human from here named Scotty Emerick?

Dogs for Life has been doin' the Pawrade for 140 years in Dog, an this year, cuzza that scary virus that's makin' everybody a liddle Dismal Dog Biscuits, the humans had to wear masks, too. But not Halloween ones.

I innerduced myself to a liddle Chihuahua, Cliff Page, who was dressed like a PIE-rat. He told me he's a rescue pooch, and his human, Kathy, found him at H.A.L.O. up in Sebastian.

A pair of liddle white pooches identified themselves as Bijou an Miss Lilli Starr. They had beautiful, silky hair so long they looked like they were floating. Bijou was wearin' an orange an black vest and a pointy hat with pointy ears on the sides. "I'm a Guh-NOME," he told me proudly. See. I even have a BEARIX* Indeed, he did.

"An I'm a bal-uh-REE-nuh," chimed in Miss Lilli, pirouetting in her white an orange tutu over black crinoline. They both had colorful ties in their topknots. "These are our humans Debbie an Art." she said, "In case you didn't know, we're

Coton de Tulears." (I'm glad she told me cuz I was gonna hafta Google it.)

A good-lookin' black Lab mixture was obviously eager to check everything out, an was pullin' his human along with considerable determination. I inquired about the cool black wings he was wearin'. "I'm Batdog," he told me. "My ackshul name is Kuzco Cross. An this is my Dud, Ian. He's Batman. My Mom's Kelly."

I caught up with a poocheroo like a ZEE-bruh, with ears anna mane even. Way cool. "I am Fergus Higginbottom," he announced. 'I am a Welsh Terrier, an this is my human, Jana. It's our first time at this event. Quite a bit of fun, don't you think?"

"Totally," I agreed.

A very waggy, frenly pooch wearin' a red

heart-shaped cape with crossed pink ribbons on it hollered, "Hey, Mr. Bonzo." She looked like a Boxer mixture. I trotted ower. "I'm Baby Cakes Talt, an this is my Mom. Margaret."

"Pleasure to meet you, Miss Baby Calors," I said. "I like your outfit."

"Why thank you, Mr. Bonzo. Momsays the pink ribbons are for Breast Cancer Assareness. It's a Very Bad duh-ZEES humans are fighting, an I'm helping."

"That is a very important an serious contribution your making, Miss Baby Cakes," I told her.

"I hope someday we can make it go away forever," she replied.

The minute I spotted Prince Pulliam an his human, I started laughing, an trotted over for a closer look. They were both dressed like that dub-licious white, orange and yellow candy com. They even had little hats. "My Mom, Sandy,

crow-SHAYED our costumes all by herself! Aren't they Totally Cool Kibbles?"

"Abso-woofin'-lutely," I agreed.

Jasper Hasenauer, a white Lab, is a congenial Dogs for Life-trained service: pooch who had brought his entire human family with him. "I'm workin' so I'm not wearin' a costume," he explained. "But my liddle human brother Callen likes to pretend he's a dog, so he's wea-

rin' a dog costume today. This is my

glad I made it to graduation," she said. "That was a tough course" "You're not woofin" agreed gradu-

her proud Mom. Tammie. "Wood, I'm

ate Spencer Bergmann, a Jack Russell mixture, relaxin' with his Mom Sue. "But now, look how much we can DO!"

One of my favrite parts of the Howl-O-Ween event is when those big, impressive K-9 deputies an their humans.

from the Sheriff's Office, demonstrate some of their Seriously Cool Kibbles moves. So K-9 Ruckus and his partner Deputy Holls, and K-9 Doc with his partner Deputy Joergen showed how they sniff out explosives; an how they stop bad guys, an how they can even jump out of their pleece vee-hickle an help their buman partner if they need to. I was happy to learn the K-9s don't go on calls when there is shooting involved.

Every year, Headin' home from the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade, I always wish I had more room in my column,

cux there are absays so many clevercostumes an Cool Kibbles poocheroos. Plus, Dogs for Life trains pooches not only so they can learn Basic Dog Stuff an won't make their Forever Families rruts; they also train pooches to be service dogs for veterans and other humans who have disabilities, which is a big responsibility that only dogs can carry out. It makes me proud bein' a Fellow Pooch.

Dad Kris. I'm his Service Dog. An this is my Mom, Carly, and my sisters Kares an Kailani."

"What a great famly you have, Jasper," I told him. "Yep, they are," he agreed.

Willow Muzzy is a soft-spoken American Pit Bull Terrier who was dressed as a bumblebee, with round yellow wings. She introduced her Mom Connie; her human brother Kendall, 8; an her pooch brother, Spirit, a German Shepherd, who was wearing a NASA yest.

Cuzza that Virus, the recent Dogs for Life class graduation got postponed, and was rescheduled the same day an place as the Pawrade, so I got to meet an congratulate a couple of the 18 proud

Poppy Mandeville, a Golden Doodle, was rockin' a purple leash and harness ensemble with her Service Dog name an stuff in yellow letters. She introduced Till next time.

The Bonz 🥸



Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.







Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween,

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

COVER STORY

Dogs for Life a lifeline for veterans, first responders

Katherine Bauman

Special to Tressure Coast Newspapers USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Dogs For Life was founded in 2002 by CEO and Director of Training Programs Shelly Ferger.

DFL is a nonprofit organization is devoted to improving the quality of life for veterans and other disabled individuals through training service dogs and operating an off-leash dog park.

The agency programs include Service Dog Training, Volunteer Veterans Training Veterans, Foster Dog/Puppy and Dog Park Ambassador Program.

Service Dogs are trained at no charge with a special emphasis on veterans and first responders through a certification program that "task trains" dogs to assist veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD).

PTSD tasks can include waking from a nightmare, creating a distraction, providing deep pressure for calming effect and reducing hyper-vigilance. Hearing dogs alert their owners to a door knock, a ringing telephone, a smoke alarm, or other sounds a person with a hearing impairment may be missing.

Mobility Dogs are trained to assist with rising from a chair, picking up a phone, and retrieving a fallen object tasks that can be impossible to a person with a physical challenge.



Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO and Director of Training Programs with Kim Prado, DFL Director and Howl Event Chair at the driveway of the Training Center located at 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach, DUSTIN TACKETT, CITRUS THREE MARKETING

Indian River County has over 15,000 resident veterans, of whom 2,600 have a service-related disability. Many veterans prefer service dogs to traditional medications and tend to isolate and find it difficult to integrate back into society after serving in our military.

Since 2010, DFL has been accredited every five years by Assistance Dogs International (ADI). It is noteworthy that DFL is one of only five organizations in the state of Florida to hold this accreditation.

In 2014 DFL moved to their current administrative training center located at 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach; graduating 16 assistance dog teams of the 24 enrolled. The exposure increased inqui-

On the cover

Standing are Suzie Gomez DFL
Director with Prince, Shelly Ferger,
DFL CEO, Kim Prado, DFL Treasurer
with Sunny. Seated are Eddle
Boatright, DFL Director with Sassy
and Linda Barberi, DFL Volunteer
Coordinator with Zoey. They are
getting ready for the Howl-O-Ween
Mask-A-Rade Fundraiser Oct. 24 at
the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park 1230
16th Ave. in Vero Beach starting at 4
p.m. Call 772-567-8969 for more
information. Photo by Dustin
Tackett, Citrus Three Marketing

ries for the program, which rose over 50% in 2015. Many of those inquiring were veterans referred by ADI, The Veterans Administration and other veterans.

DFL partners with the Indian River County Veterans Council, Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County and American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County hosting Veteran PTSD Recovery and Group Support Meetings Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Training Center.

As the world changes, Dogs For Life will also change as we strive to address the needs of our disabled clients in our community and beyond.

Triming refee

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A Nose for Good

A FOUR-LEGGED DEPUTY CAN SAVE LIVES WHEN TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

partners of men and women in law enforcement, but not all K-9 officers are built the same. Images of sleek, racy shepherds are what come to mind most often, but there is a place for a droopy, methodical type that lives to track.

In 2007, Deputy Brian
Reimsnyder proposed the
acquisition of a search
and rescue dog for the
Indian River County Sheriff's Office. A bloodhound
breeder offered a puppy to
the department gratis, and
IRCSO took a chance on
Dixie. "She came at 8 weeks
of age with no training, just
the innate ability to use
her powerful nose," says
Reimsnyder.

"I've been a patrol dog handler and still am," he adds, "but working with her was very different than working with a shepherd or a Malinois. Those dogs have totally different motivations."

Before the pair worked their first search together, they had to get past the puppy stage. "I have been around dogs for many years, but this one had my number for awhile. Until they get some maturity, they do not excel at obedience, to put it mildly," he laughs.

While Dixie may not have come from a long line of working bloodhounds, she contributed to lifesaving missions. One search that stands out in Reimsnyder's mind happened when the team was deployed to



Deputy Reimanyder with K-9 Dixie, who retired in 2019 at age 12

help find a missing 11-yearold autistic boy. "The search had begun with deputies on foot and in vehicles, so I was not called in with Dixie until close to midnight, nearly eight hours after the boy was reported missing."

When they arrived at the apartment complex where the boy lived, Reimsnyder saw the potential difficulty for Dixie. "There was quite a bit of what we call contamination at the scene. Different people had been in and out of the entrance, so she would have to pick out the boy's older scent from all the rest." Dixie sniffed the boy's pillow case thoroughly and put her nose to the ground.

"First the dog will search, or cast, a radius," he explains. "There is a change in the dog's behavfor when she picks up the scent; she gets almost a frantic, urgent look and may backtrack or cross a track," he explains, "She'll do a head check, almost like a double-take; I can see that clearly. Then, I may put a little back pressure on her, just a slight pulling back on the harness. If she pulls me through that cast, I am pretty confident she is on the right track."

Dixie sniffed her way out of the complex into the darkness, leading a relieved Reimsnyder directly to a culvert. "I saw his shoe first. Dixie is trained to sit in front of the person she finds, and when she did,



In more ways than one, K-9 Willow is growing into her role as Dixie's replacement.

the boy woke up and looked right at us."

Dixie shone again during a search for a missing elderly man. "The man's son told me, 'My dad always walks south when he leaves here,' so Dixie sniffed an article of his clothing, led me out of the house and made a hard turn to the north," recalls Reimsnyder. "I thought, 'O.K., let's see this play out." Dixie did not waver in her northward. direction and soon found the father, who had fallen into a depression on the

golf course near his home and could not get up.

Patrol dogs have high prey drives. Their focus on the sleeve, or bite work, is its own reward for these more intense dogs. In contrast, search and rescue dogs work for praise. "We always talk with the person we found; sometimes they" are a bit overheated or disoriented. I'll often ask the person if they will praise the dog, too," Reimsnyder says.

"Whenever we deploy a search and rescue dog, we assess the environmental factors that may affect the scent; there are hundreds of competing odors out there and she must pick the right one." Every human being has a unique scent that falls to the ground in the form of skin rafts that we shed constantly. Skin rafts consist of skin cells, hormones, bacteria and other elements that give each person a unique scent signature.

Even though the relationship between dog and handler is a working one, Reimsnyder wants people to understand the loving Ask Amy

amy@verobeachmagazine.com

My dog Carly is having spay surgery next week. The doctor said she has to wear a cone to keep her from scratching or biting at the stitches, but I am afraid she will hate me for putting it on her. Can I take it off her sometimes if I am watching her?

- Emmie in Vero Beach

Your veterinarian has seen many cases in which the patient licked or chewed at stitches and the surgical site became infected.

An abundance of caution is appropriate, but you can absolutely take the cone off for walks and trips out to the yard, and even in the house if you have Carly on leash and are keeping very close watch. That being said, if you go to the kitchen or the phone rings, keep Carly with you so she doesn't sneak a quick bite at the stitches, which will itch as the site heals. The cone should be on unless you are in complete control with eyes on the dog. This is just a two-week interruption in her normal routine, so keep her safe and sound and I'm sure she will forgive you.

My friends and I were talking about pets and the pandemic, and we got into a friendly debate. Are dogs and cats happier with us home all the time, or do they prefer some alone time when we are out?

- Liam in Stuart

I am coming down on the side of pets loving our presence at home. That is, as long as we are engaged with them and not just hunkered deep down in the sofa with eyes glazed over, staring at the TV. It isn't just dogs that want to interact with us; cats, birds and pocket pets enjoy a bit of active fun, too. My sister and I had gerbils when we were young, and our mother let us take them into the hallway, close all the doors and let them run around and play with toys, which they enjoyed immensely. Your pets will respond to quality interactions that put their needs front and center. Time spent with your pet is never time wasted.

bond that is formed. "These dogs are part of our family, our partners. But we outlive them, which is, by far, the hardest part of this job." Reimsnyder noticed Dixie slowing down and decided to retire her, and she died on Aug. 11, 2019, at age 12.

Now he has a new partner, Willow, an 18-month old bloodhound, to fill the void left by Dixie both personally and professionally. Unlike Dixie, who was donated from a pet dog breeder, young Willow has the pedigree and working lineage that promised a good search and rescue dog. Willow was provided to the department through the Jimmy Ryce Center, which sponsors bloodhounds for law enforcement to save precious time in the search for missing children.

The eager Willow follows in Dixie's footsteps and excels in ways that amaze Reimsnyder. On hard surfaces such as sidewalks or parking lots, scents burn off faster in the sun, and the wind can blow them across the pavement into cracks or toward curbs. "Willow can track across a parking lot with no trouble," he says.

She got her chance to test this ability when the pair was called to track a missing person. "His wife told us he had some dementia and did not return from a walk. Willow tracked his scent out of the housing development and across

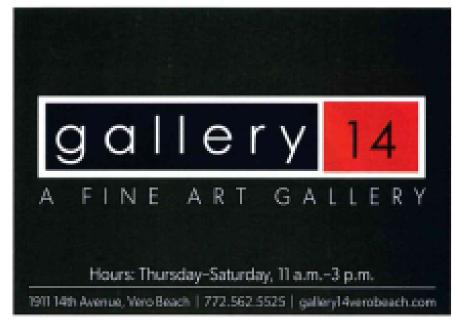


K-9 Willow is a full-fledged deputy, badge and all.

Old Dixie Highway to a strip mall where people were waiting for a business to open," he recalls. "There was plenty of
contamination there, so we stopped and asked people if they
had seen an elderly man matching his description. We were
pointed north and our helicopter spotted the man at the
base of the 17th Street Bridge resting under a tree." The man
had walked more than 3 miles. While Willow did not make
the find, she pointed deputies in the right direction.

IRCSO's Sgt. Christian Mathisen heads Special Operations, which includes the K-9s and handlers. "Our guys love
these dogs like they love their children," he says. "If they
don't have kids, the dogs are their kids." The job entails a
minimum eight-year commitment, with the dog as a constant companion at home and at work. "Brian is our unit
trainer for the Vero Beach Police and the Sebastian Police, in
addition to our sheriff's department." Every Wednesday of
the year, Reimsnyder runs K-9 teams through complex exercises in various locations. "They may replicate a deployment
to see how it could have been improved, explore problem
solving and take on real-world scenarios," says Mathisen.
"This is a lot of work."

Besides Willow, Reimsnyder is never without his patrol dog, a 10-year-old male Belgian Malinois named Kobi, who possesses the polar opposite personality of the bloodhound. A new patrol dog, Remy, also a male, is joining Reimsnyder's household to transition into the aging Kobi's job. Asked how that will go over with the established male dog, the deputy responds with a laugh, "Not well, if experience is any guide. That is why I wanted a female dog for search and rescue. There is quite enough testosterone here without a third male dog." His vehicle is equipped for two dogs to ride with him for his entire 10-hour shift, and he always has both at the ready to serve, protect and find. **









20th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade



Training Service Dogs For Veterans

20th Annual Howl-O-Ween Mask-A-Rade Pog Costume Pawrade October 24, 2020



Event Underwriter Prinz Schumann



Schedule of Events

Entertainment by Hobo Jim

3:00

IRC Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit Demonstration

4:00

Next Generation Veterans of IRC Color Guard

Mask-A-Rade Pawrade

5:00

Fabulous Raffle Drawings



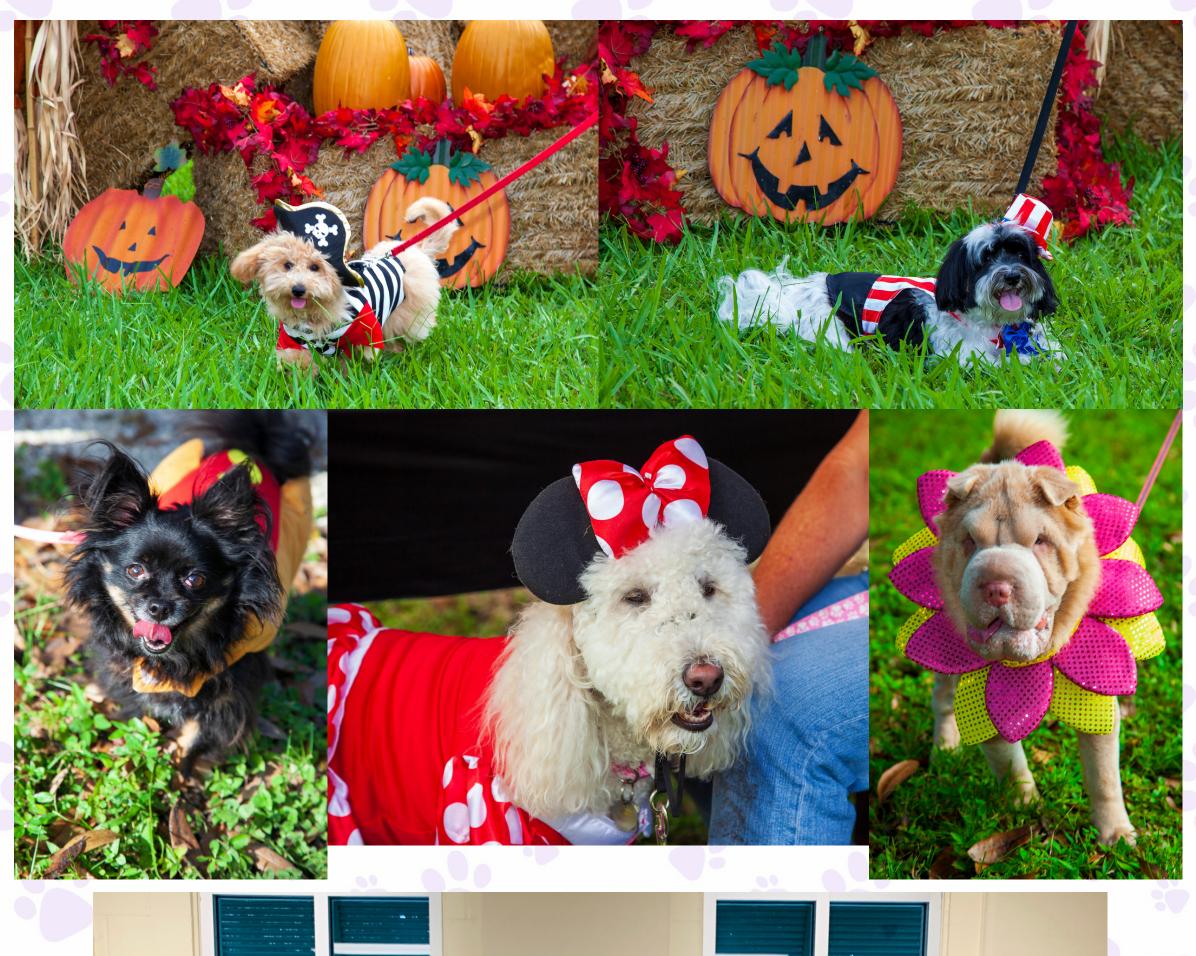
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Veterans Council Clay Shoot





32963 Armand and Betty Langevin with Lizzy. HOUND AND DETERMINED AT RUNNING OF THE WIENERS

PEOPLE

Hound and determined at 'Running of the Wieners'



Pate and Lynn Anderson.



Buth Wall, Roberts Wall and Garlon Andre.

EN STEPHANIE LABARY

A pack of dachshunds put their best paws forward recently during the sixth annual Bunning of the Wieners at Papeidolia Brewing Company to benefit the H.A.L.O. No-Kill Animal Shelter's Angel Medical Fund.

Other breeds attempted to bland in with the dexies, including a pair of great Danes in wiener costumes, while owners and fans sipped on sudsy Pareidolla beer in honor of Oktoberfest, a familiar celebration where the breed originated.

The dachshunds raced for prizes and strutted their stuff in the costume contest, all to support the nonprofit's mission to provide a no-kill safe haven for homeless pets and, ideally, find loving homes for

Jacque Petrone, H.A.L.O. founder and executive director, said many animals are surrendered to the shelter with medical issues their owners can't afford to treat.

"We're trying to be there for them. and their pets. We're really struggling this year to keep the Angel Medical Fund replenished," she

As an example, she said a cot with a urinary blockage had been left on their doorstep just that morning and was undergoing a \$5,000 emer-



Mensly and Grant Mann with their dog Lefu.



Allwaon Soutae, Jacquie Petrose and Reb Siyser holding Jonny and Res.

gency procedure that afternoon.

"I guarantee you that he was really loved. It was just somebody who couldn't afford to take care of him, so they did what they thought was going to give him the best chance," said Petrone, adding that community support and fundraisers are critical to their operation.

Attendees received their fair share of sloppy licks from two pups rescued from the Virgin Islands. They were among the 27 animals re-routed to H.A.L.O. when the Nashville shelter they were intended to go to was affected by Hurricane Laura. One of the lucky pups was adopted during the event, and the other was garnering interest.

Allyson Bootes, H.A.L.O. direc-

seen a significant increase in fostheir intake has increased by 28 puppies in only six years. In seven year because of people losing their homes or jobs during the pandemic.

Becently, thanks to an Impact 100 grant, H.A.L.O. has partnered with nonprofits that serve the county's most financially vulnerable residents. Their first Impact Clinic supported Senior Resource Association clients, and on Nov. 15 they will assist United Against Powerty clients.

In 2019, H.A.L.O. saved 1,323 animals and helped 1,171 find their forever homes, Another aspect of their mission is to promote the im-

tor of development, said that with portance of spay/neutering and folks staying at home, they have vaccinations. Bootes explained that just one unaltered female dog and ters and adoptions, but conversely, her offspring can produce 67,000 percent since the beginning of the years, one female cat and her offspring can produce 370,000 kittens.

> On Oct. 31, the shelter will host HALO-WEEN with adoption fees waived that day. This year's annual gala, a virtual one, will run from Nov. 30 to Dec. 12. The Faux Fur-Ball will have volunteers delivering gourmet meals from Wild Thyme Catering, with wine or champagne, and there will be an online raffle and paddle raise.

> For more information, visit halorexcueft.org. .

PETS



Bonzo says K-9 Odie's livin' large as a retiree

Hí Dog Buddies!

First off, I'm sending out a Big High Paw to all those fellow pooches serving alongside human partners in law enforcement, steppin' up an puttin' themselves between us an Bad Guys: Pooches like this week's innerviewee. I was Super Crispy Dog Biscuits Excited headin' to the Sebastian Pieece Department to meet Officer Odie Cole (Ret.), a Belgian Malinois.

We parked behind the Piecce Department under a tree. Preddy soon Odie an his partner drove up in their Special K-9 vee-hickle. Odie is an impressive, squared-away pooch, short, reddishbrown coat, excellent POSS-chur. His partner was in uniform but Odie wasn't, having recently retired.

I stood as straight as I could and tried to not look too excited, as Odie came over for the Wag-an-Sniff.

"Hey there, Bonz! 'Sup? I'm Officer Odie Cole. Ackshully not 'Officer' anymore. Just call me Odie. I only just retired in July, an I'm still gettin' used to it. This is my Dad (an partner) Officer Boy Cole. My Mom Nicole's workin."

"It's a great pleasure to meet you, Odie," I said earnestly, feelin' more relaxed. "Thank you for your service! I'm eager to hear your story, so just go ahead whenever you're ready."

Odie sat up arrow-straight, an began. "I was born in the Czech Republic, and raised from puppyhood to be a K-9. Not all of us qualify, though, cuz the training's hard, an you gotta have all the right stuff."

"Like what stuff?"

"You gotta be smart, healthy, strong, fearless. You gotta be able to concentrate and not get scared or distracted by ANYthing, An you totally gotta be alert an obey your partner every single second no matter what." "Wooff

"Dad needed a new partner cuz his previous partner,
Yoda, retired for health reasons.
Pleece departments over here
mostly get dogs from YOURup, cuz they have the toughest standards. Anyway, I got
picked, an flew over to begin
my law enforcement career. I
was 14 months old, an still a
'green dog,' so Dad continued
my training till I was ready to
stand beside him as his partner, an official SPD K-9 offioer. It was a proud moment.

My training took about 6 months, then there's continuing education an evaluations. Dad says I do great cuz I'm 'a pleaser,' an it's true. I ALWAYS wanna make Dad happy. When I'm workin', he calls me a high-strung ball of fire, always givin' 150 percent. Fact is, Bonz, us K-9s consider our police work fun, cuz we learn by praise an rewards. Since we're from Europe, we learn commands in different languages (I learned in Czech), an over here our partners mostly keep using those commands."

"Makes sense. So, how many other K-9 s are with the SPD?"

"Well, there was us; then Cpl. Reno an K-9 Officer Revis; Officer Irwin an K-9 Officer Suma; an Officer Smith an K-9 Officer Ghost. We're called Dual-Purpose Dogs cuz we can do patrol an NABC detection. About 10 of us K-9 teams, from Sebastian, Vero Beach and the Sheriff's Department, get together every Wednesday to practice our skills, so we can work with each other when the need arises. It sometimes gets a liddle intense cuz we're all Alphas with big egos, but we work around it. Teamwork. That's what it's all about."

"You must have lotsa stories!"

"I've brought down some perps, fer sure, but I gotta be diss-CREET. One time we got a call about a Bad Guy
who was STALKING, an had sneaked in
somebody else's house. We hid in the
backyard bushes. The Bad Guy stuck his
head out the door to check if the coast
was clear. He didn't see us, so he started
walkin' toward our bush. Well, I let go
with my SNARLBARK! (It's EXTREMELY
LOUD, FUH-BOW-SHUS and SCARY an
makes Bad Guys think I'm gonna bite
their face off.) Anyway, Boom! that guy
instantly hit the ground and hollered
I give upf I didn't haff to lay a paw on

"Cool Kibbles!" I exclaimed. "How's retirement goin' so far?"

"It's takin' some gettin' use to. I miss the job. A LOT. Plus, Dad's trainin' his new partner, Douglas, a German Shepherd. We get along pretty good. Doug's still real young. But, Dog, do I hate watchin' 'em head to work, leavin' me behind. That's tough. I know it's hard on Dad, too."

"Bummerf"

"We all go through it e-VEN-shully. It was the same with Yoda when I arrived. But," he continued philosophically, "Twe got spine problems. My heart was still 150 percent in the job, but I couldn't do it: You gotta be ready to roll instantly, an you never know how long you'll be out

there; could be 5 minutes or 8 hours.

"Don't get me wrong, Bonz. I've got it great. Mom an Dad're wonderful. Doug's cool. I have my own room, an my own bed; Dad's abways buyin' squeaker toys an stuffles cux I rip out the squeakers and shred a stuffle to fluff in seconds. Even those 'indestructubble' Kongs don't stand a snowball's chance. I have so much energy it's hard to sit still. I 'specially love spinnin' real fast."

"Do you like swimmin?"

"Not really, although, during training, we drilled in ditches, canals, rivers, the ocean, on boats, even trained from a chopper."

"PAW-some!" I exclaimed.

"But it's not all chases an escitement. We're also trained to be patient, level-headed an gentle, like when we visit schools. The kids love us. When a liddle 5-year-old comes up we are always calm an cool. I personally love hangin' with liddle human puppers."

Heading home, I was imaginin' what it'd be like in Odie's pows: Exciting, for sure, protectin' people; chasin' Bad Guys; facin' Danger; never knowin' what the day will bring. The biggest excitement in my life is jumpin' in the pool when the heater's off. Just give me my comfy bed, my pool, leash walks, lotsa TLC from Grandma an Grampa, an the occasional muffin, an I'm good to go.

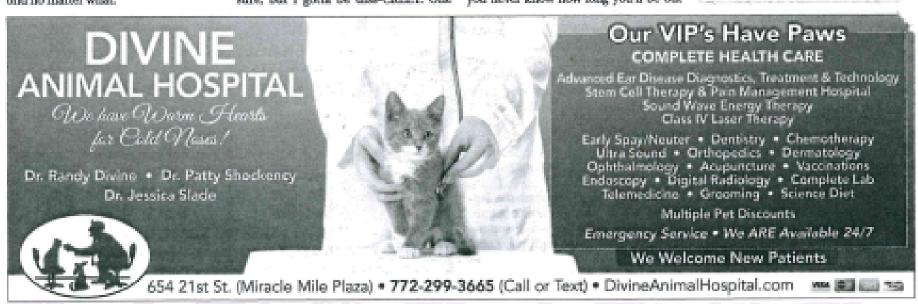
Till next time,

The Bonz

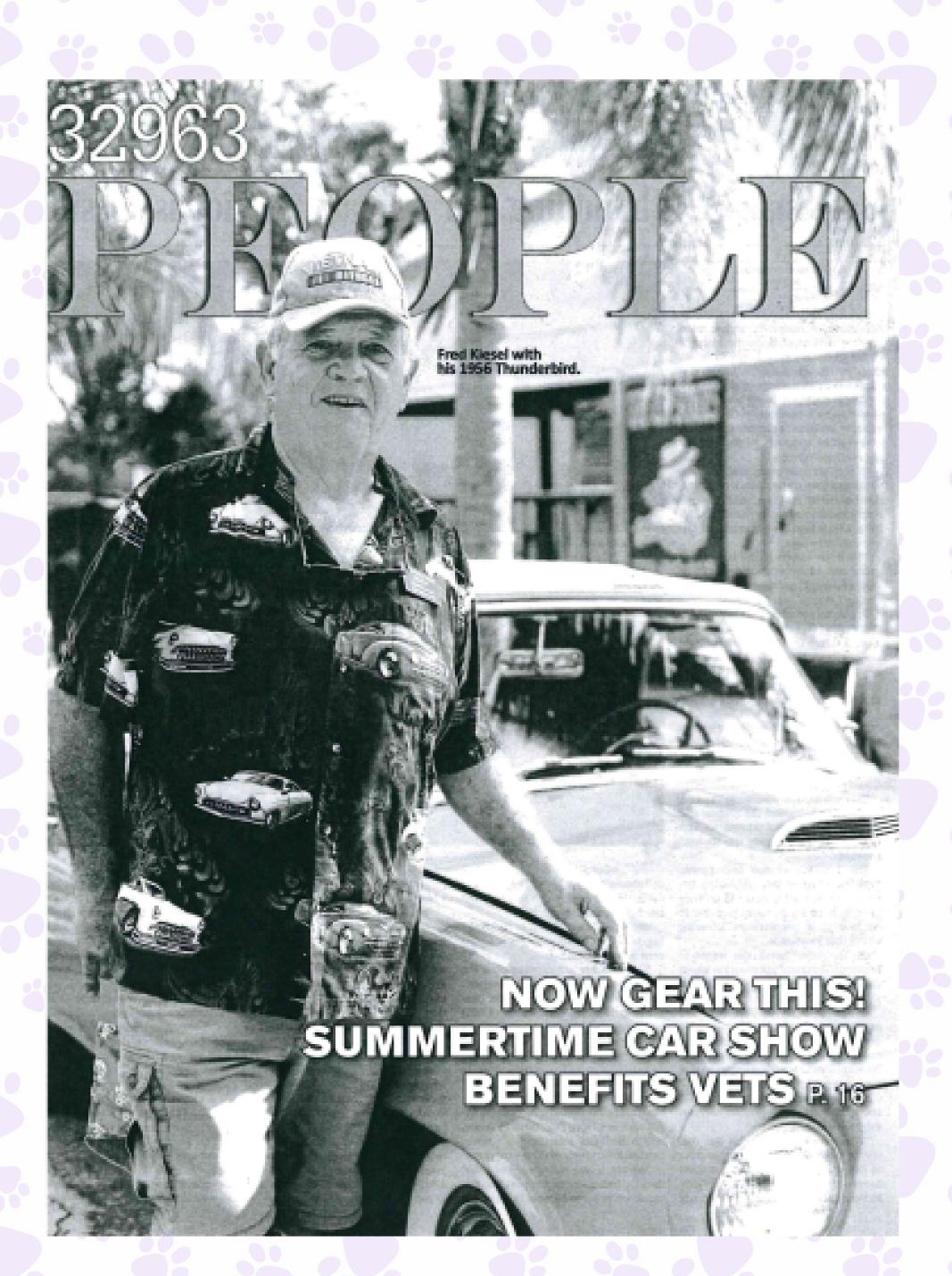
Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

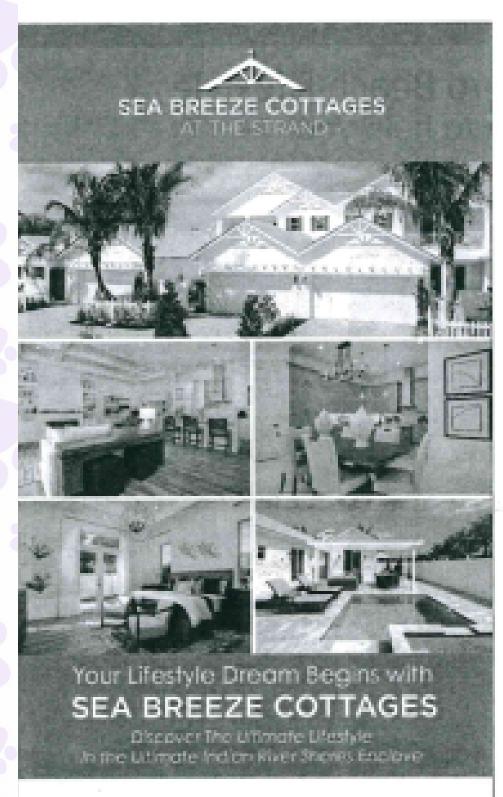
To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.



SEPTEMBER



PEOPLE



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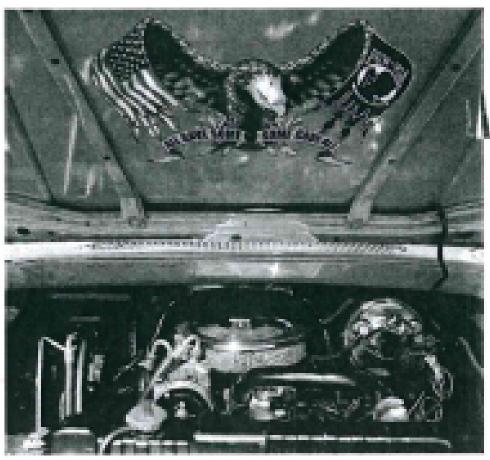
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Now gear this! Summertime Car Show benefits veterans



BY STEPHANE LABOUR

Car enthusiasts revved their engines and made their way to the lilks Lodge for a Summertime Car Show sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of Indian Riser County. The show took the place of the 10th annual Futher's Day Car Show, which was pushed into the summer due to the pandemic shutdown.

Proceeds support the veterans' assistance and housing programs provided by the Vietnam Veterans of IRC, a subset of the Veterans Council of IRC.

"We've got about 30 bods now where we're able to house veterans," said event organizer Craig Waskow, a Vietnam veteran and Elks Lodge member. Becently, he said, they have concentrated on providing those homes with furnishings, kitchen necessities and "creature comforts."

The group also assists veterans to readjust to civilian life and support themselves by connecting them with needed services and benefits.

"People need housing and assistance with jobs so they can get on their feet. It's our mission to get them under a roof. If we can help them get benefits from the government, it helps to defray their housing costs," explained Waskow. In February, VVIBC members conducted Operation Stand Down, venturing into the woods in search of homeless veterans, providing the homeless with alsoping bags, tents and food, and bringing them to the First Baptist Church of Vero Beach for a hot meal and clean clothes.

"He're what we call 'boots on the ground.' It's a payback for their service," said Waskow. "We all survived with small maladies. We just want to be out there to offer a helping hand, a kind thought and to see what we can do to help people."

A wide range of more than 110 cars lined the street and filled the lilks Lodge parking lot, each with a story of its own, which gearheads were happy to share.

Toungstess were drawn to a 2018. Dodge Charger, the buby of the bunch, while a 1820 Chavy Woody drew the attention of the more mature crowd. Sweet rides like a candy apple-red 1970 Buick Skylark convertible held its own alongside a 1961 Studebaker, and a 1968 El Camino stirred a debate over its age-old question, "Is it a car or is it a truck?"

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. the first Wednesday of the month at the Vietnam Veterans of IRC office, 696 8th Coart. For more information, visit valve.org.

PEOPLE



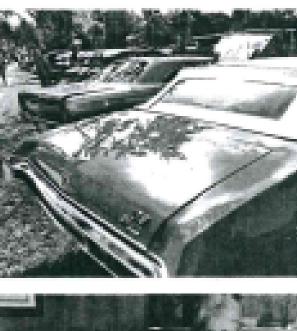
Pet Hugher poteiner up a 1968 Cherry El Carrino Brech.



Torri and Legier Hyle with their 1932 Reed.

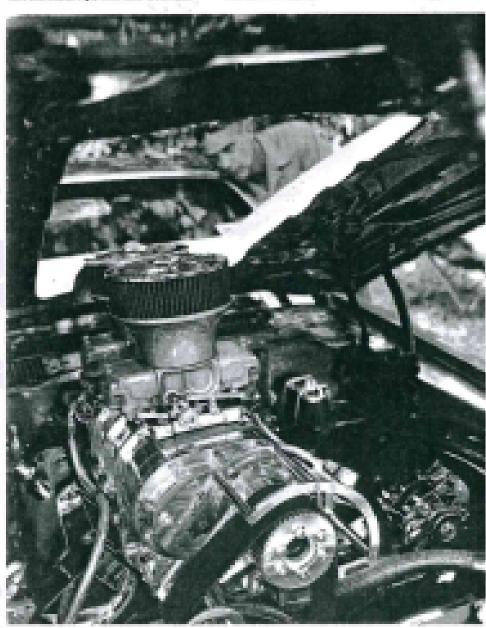


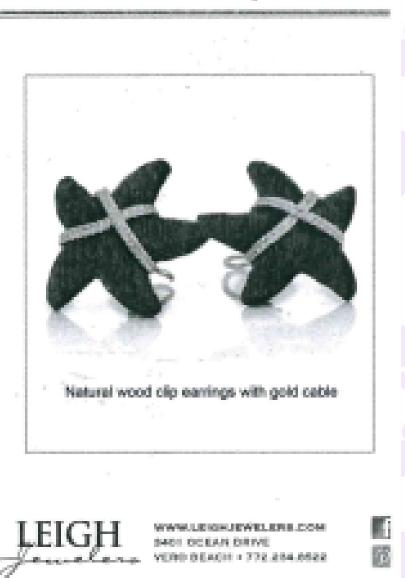
Rose Frankliss with his TESS Model T Ford.





Linds Donnigh.





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Dogs of Dorian

ONE YEAR AGO, FLORIDA ANIMAL SHELTERS, RESCUE GROUPS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS SPRANG INTO ACTION IN THE WAKE OF HURRICANE DORIAN

ack deftly on three muscular legs, his long tail held high and nose in the breeze. He is a Bahamian "potcake" dog, a mixed breed named for the leftovers of a local pea and rice stew that would stick to the bottom of the pan and commonly be fed to dogs. Mack has a bright future with new owner Laura Baughman. "I had been looking on local shelter sites every day for a month, but no other dog caught my eye like he did," says Baughman. "He has been through so much but is such a happy dog."

The 50-pound brown, gold and black dog survived Hurricane Dorian with a severe shoulder injury, and his leg had to be amputated. Like the hundreds of other dogs and cats that were welcomed to waiting shelters and foster homes in Florida, the resilience and friendly demeanor that potcakes are known for is still alive and well in Mack.

Even before the 180mph sustained winds were finished with the Bahamas, shelter directors here had plans in place to help pets and people. "When the first pictures came in, I was on the phone to people I knew who had planes or large boats," recalls Lauree Simmons, president and founder of Big Dog Ranch Rescue in Loxahatchee Groves. "During our first rescue mission, we were



Laura Baughman adopted Mack, who was airlifted from the Bahamas to H.A.L.O. after Hurricane Dorian.

chasing each other, playing tug of war, wrestling or just lying together," she says. "Theo inspires us every day. I can only imagine how scared his mom, Epic, felt being outside during the hurricane and all alone with seven little lives depending

on her."

Perhaps no dog has
shown a stronger will to
live than Miracle, the puppy
that lived for three weeks on
Abaco pinned under a large
air-conditioning compressor
and yards of metal sheeting,
subsisting on a tiny amount
of rainwater. Finding this

dog took high-tech equipment and a lot of patience.

"We had heard about a man from California, Douglas Thron, who wanted to test a heat-seeking drone to find animals trapped in the debris," says Simmons. "We called Cesar Milan, whose ranch was close to Thron, and arranged to have it tested there." The drone picked up Milan's dogs easily, and Thron boarded a red-eye to Florida that evening. Simmons gave him her seat on the charter to the Bahamas next to Sean Irion, her go-to rescuer.

Once on Abaco, the drone picked up four heat signatures, and dogs were pulled out of some precarious places, but Irion thought he heard a quiet whimper and asked for the drone again. At less than half his normal weight, with a body condition score of zero, the trapped dog needed immediate help. "From the time my team saw Miracle, it took only three hours to get him freed, in the air and in our veterinary hospital," says Simmons.

Miracle's tail wagged

slightly just at the tip, as if the effort to move the whole tail was too much, and his recovery was slow. Now, one year later, he has more than doubled his weight and lives with Brianna and Clark Beaty and their three young daughters in Palm Beach. Their application won out from more than 10,000 submitted.

Simmons reports that many of the more than 300 dogs found by her team were owned. It is important to note that there was a mandatory evacuation after the hurricane, and



VEBO BEACH HAGAZINE SEPTEMBER 2020

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Thee's mother Enter hant has seven none safe during Hurricane Dorian. Theo has found a home in the U.S. with Stephanie Anderson

responding to requests to find lost pets via landmarks and street signs, but all those were gone. We started using Google Earth to see what the landscape looked like before the storm, and used hand-held GPS devices while on the ground. We had more luck with each successive trip."

Director Tip Burrows of the Humane Society of Grand Bahama thought the organization's new structures, built a full 6 feet higher than the water rose during Hurricane Matthew in 2016, would suffice. "We were not in a mandatory evacuation zone," Burrows says. "Had we even suspected the storm surge would be so violent, we would have done things very differently." In the aftermath, the focus shifted to shipping survivors out to safety. Burrows had plenty of experience sending adoptable animals off the islands. "Our adoption rate here is only about 10%, so our shelter began Operation Puppy Lift in 2000, working with reputable shelters and rescues in the U.S."

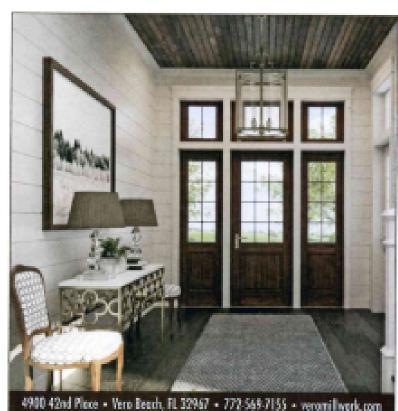
One of those shelters is H.A.L.O. in Sebastian, helmed by Jacque Petrone. The two shelter directors have been friends since 2015, when H.A.L.O. assisted Burrows with a confiscation of guinea pigs and rabbits. After Dorian finally moved north, 83 dogs, including Mack, and one cat were flown to Fort Lauderdale and then driven to Sebastian. Allyson Bootes is director of development at H.A.L.O. "Potcake dogs, as the locals call them, are generally very friendly and social. All 83 dogs were in excellent spirits, even though many had skin burns from exposure to saltwater and leaking gasoline," recalls Bootes. "Volunteers, staff and Dr. Marcus Kramer worked into the night to triage each animal and get them fed and settled in."

Some, like Mack, had more severe injuries, but his new owner says his three-legged stance doesn't slow him down.
"When my boyfriend and I went to meet him at H.A.L.O., he jumped right up on us and kissed us both," recalls Baughman. Car rides were totally new, and Mack showed some anxious moments. Stairs were a puzzle, so the couple carried him a few times before the dog caught on. "We are so glad he is here with us now. He has years of spoiling and love ahead of him. He deserves it."

Another dog that found refuge at H.A.L.O. is Theo, a short but substantial brindle dog that has a mother's love to thank for keeping him and six siblings safe for almost three weeks under a vacant house. His mother, named Epic, was found and rescued with her newborn pups on Grand Bahama when another dog was approached by volunteers and Epic peeked out from her hiding place.

"We were looking for a playmate for our youngest dog, Riley," says adopter Stephanie Anderson. Theo and Riley bonded in short order. "The two of them are constantly





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VERO BEACH MAGAZINE SEPTEMBER

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I got a Lab from show lines, and I want to use his retrieving skill to exercise him. One problem: He has no retrieving skill. He will chase a ball, but sometimes halfway there he'll just stop or get distracted. Sometimes he'll get it but just lie down with it. How can I get him to play ball?

- Matt in Vero Beach

I can see why you would assume that, being a retrieving breed, he would have that innate ability. Your dog has the ability but not the motivation. Try this: Put a long leash on him and find a hallway in your house where you can close doors to bedrooms. Crouch at the open end of the hall with him and hold the leash loosely. Tease him with the ball by tossing it up and catching it yourself, or roll it down the hall fast so it hits the baseboard and comes all the way back to you. Then, when your dog looks intrigued, say "Take it!" and roll it down the hall again. If he grabs it, say "Bring it!" and reel in the leash with little to no pressure. Just the movement of the leash should help him follow it back to you. Don't take the ball right away; just praise your dog for his retrieving prowess. Do this two or three times only, and end the game by going to the kitchen for a nice treat. You both have earned it.

My beagle mix, Barney, is starting to act out toward visitors. Anyone coming into my house has to squeeze by him first at the outer gate, then at the door. It's 50-50 whether he nips at them from behind as they walk in. He doesn't bark or give warning, but he does stare at the person.

How can I convince him that visitors are O.K.?

- Leah in Delray Beach

Barney is likely conflicted about what he is supposed to do, and not getting the guidance he needs. As a result, he is torn between curiosity and territory defense. His access to the front gate allows him to watch the world go by all day. If he stares at them, they walk away from him, so Barney may think he is doing a terrific job keeping people out. Lock your gate and have visitors call you or ring the bell first. Then, come out with a leash and put it on Barney. Now you can give verbal commands like "Come" along with treats to redirect the dog's attention back to you. Bring your guest inside but keep the leash on the dog. Encourage your visitor to toss treats in Barney's general direction to improve guest relations.

pets were not allowed to accompany their owners on commercial boats or planes off the islands. Big Dog Ranch Rescue found all but four owned pets they sought and orchestrated 90 joyful reunions in both Florida and the Bahamas.

"One owner waded
through waist-high water
holding her labradoodle, but
the dog was swept out of her
arms by the current. We found
him and set up the reunion,"
says Simmons. "We were
asked to look for a Chihuahua
at Pelican Point on Abaco.
Despite his fat little body, he
could really run, and my guy
Sean had to chase him for an
hour before finally catching
him with a big net. The family
was elated."

The entire effort was a multigroup cooperation at all levels. The International Fund for Animals deployed search and rescue teams on Abaco and Grand Bahama and worked with GreaterGood. org and Wings of Rescue to deliver supplies and evacuate animals. Hundreds came to Florida by private planes, charters, and even a 240-foot vacht that sailed from Fort Lauderdale and picked up more than 50 pets. Concerned citizens donated money, time, supplies and expertise and stepped up to adopt or foster pets.

We may often wonder about the real impact of our contributions, but one look into those grateful, furry faces makes the value incalculable. *

AUGUST

Recognizing Foster Families During Assistance Dog Week







BY AMY ROBINSON

Dog of Action

THIS DO-IT-ALL DOG WITH GERMAN ORIGINS
IS AS AMERICAN AS APPLE PIE

training job was at a thriving kennel in Chicago, converted from a 1930s brownstone. The business owners kept their clients' dogs on the first floor and lived upstairs with five German shepherds and a pug. The entry was not spacious, and it was often humorous to see people trundle in with a poodle or retriever only to feel the unflagging scrutiny of these dignified dogs. All five would gaze down their long noses at canine interlopers small or large, noisy or compliant, and wait patiently but alertly for any command from the kennel owner. These dogs shaped my respect for the breed and seemed to embody the description of the ideal German shepherd.

The German Shepherd

Dog Club of America states,
"The first impression is of
a strong, agile, well muscled animal, alert and full
of life," and adds, "The
ideal dog is stamped with
a look of quality and nobility — difficult to define,
but unmistakable when
present." While the German
shepherd originated in
Germany, the dog's popularity in the United States is
steadfast.

In 1889, a medium-sized yellow-and-gray wolf-like dog caught the attention of Capt. Max von Stephanitz at a dog show in Karlsruhe, Germany. The dog impressed him as a primal type, supple and powerful, steady and intelligent. He purchased the working sheepherder on the spot, formed the German Shepherd Association and soon wrote the German shepherd breed standard based on



Samantha and Daniel Crisafulli's 2-year-old German shepherd, Rex, joined the family when he was a puppy.

Ask Amy

amy@verobeachmagazine.com

My new 5-pound puppy, Fitz, is adorable, but he barks a lot at all times of the day and sounds much larger than he is. I can't tell if he needs something or is just demanding attention, but it always happens when he is in his pen in my living room. How do I know, and how can I stop the noise?

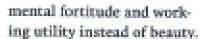


In his mind, he sees no reason you can't spend every waking moment playing with him. If it is just the two of you, look for entertainment for him beyond your walls. Take him for a walk in Riverside Park under the eak trees or along Ocean Drive, or look for a friend with a puppy that might enjoy a play date. Any of these quality outings will help tire him. At home, invent interactive games, such as rolling a ball down a hallway and bouncing it off the baseboards while he tries to run it down. Try offering him a puzzle toy. Work on your obedience training. When his eyes start to droop, the pen will be a welcome place for him to wind down.

I just attended a dog training class with my new adopted dog where we are supposed to use treats for every little thing the dog does. Really, I was hoping not to use treats at all. Should I stick with it or try my way?

- Charlie in Port St. Lucie

Watch your dog's face for the answer to your question. Is he interested in you during class? Does he respond to cues and enjoy the treats and praise? If your sweet new dog is at all attentive, I'd stay for the duration of the class. Treats are the "primary reinforcement," in that treats are rewarding all by themselves, and when you couple the treat with a new action he is asked to perform, the treat and the praise make that action more pleasurable for him. He needs to get paid for a job well done with something he values, whether that is interactive play, ball throwing or treats. Use all three at different times when practicing at home. If he doesn't know which reward to expect, but he knows it will be fantastic, you will both go to the head of the class.



By 1925, Germany was holding a national conformation show to award the title of "Sieger" ("Champion") to the best male and female shepherds. Von Stephanitz was invited to judge the Morris & Essex Kennel Club Show at the New Jersey estate of Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge that same year. Such was the heightened interest in the breed that von Stephanitz had to judge the males on day one and the females on day two. He believed the direction of the breed had moved too far toward a boxy, stout type, and so awarded the coveted Sieger title to Klodo von Boxberg, a longer-bodied, lighter dog with a sweeping. effortless gait. Klodo's line influence remains today.

German shepherds had been very useful for the German forces in World War I, and American servicemen came home with stories of the dogs' feats of bravery. Many even brought German shepherds home with them. Films starring Rin Tin Tin and his predecessor Strongheart, whose 1922 movie "The Silent Call" debuted in Los Angeles and drew 600,000 ticket holders, more than the entire population of the city, enhanced the public's adoration. These dogs were wholeheartedly adopted into the American

HINGAZINE

July

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Work Ethic

The German shepherd's curriculum vitae shows its versatility, just as Capt. Max von Stephanitz intended

SEARCH AND RESCUE

EXPLOSIVES/NARCOTICS DETECTION

TRACKING

MESSENGER WORK

PATROL/SENTRY WORK

MEDICAL ALERT/CANCER DETECTION

GUIDE DOG/HEARING SERVICE

OBEDIENCE

PROTECTION

HERDING

THERAPY



culture, but, torn between love of the breed and hard feelings over World War I, the American Kennel Club eliminated the word "German" at the 1917 Westminster Kennel Club show, opting to call entrants "shepherd dogs" or "Alsatian dogs." That name stuck until 1977, when "German shepherd" was once again sanctioned.

Those who seek out this do-it-all dog as a pet often do so to the exclusion of other breeds. Daniel and Samantha Crisafulli of Vero Beach own two, having obtained an adult dog, Roman, six years ago from Hillsborough County Animal Control and then adding a puppy two years ago. "Animal Control emailed me a bad photo of just Roman's head and we drove right over to get him," Sam recalls. "He was barking like mad, but when they let him out of the cage, he practically hugged me."

At the time, the couple's children were aged 3 and 7, and Roman took to family life right away. "That very first day, my daughter sat next to him and lightly combed his hair," Sam says. "I saw the appreciation coming from him then, and it is still there."

As their children grew, they added Rex, now 2 years old. Sam reports that the first couple of times the puppy trod on Roman's bed or committed some other unseen transgression, Roman would snarl convincingly but make no contact. "From then on, they were pals," she says. "Now they race after each other, feint left and right, and jump in and out of the pool. If you take a swim you had better like company."

Both Sam and Dan can attest to the breed's famed dedication to family. "They are really interested in us, not as much other people." Roman is the serious dog. patrolling the perimeter and shadowing anyone who rises from a chair. Rex is the comic relief, showing off his goofy side by letting the kids put swim goggles on him and rolling in the grass, legs kicking. Dan and Sam plan vacations that include the dogs. "Where we go, they go with us. In North Carolina, they both saw snow for the first time and wanted to be out all day, even in single digits," says Dan. "We'd like to stick with this breed going forward, since we know what it takes to nurture these guys: Socialize, train, exercise and repeat."

There is much debate about the quality of German- versus Americanbred shepherd dogs, with the main differences in appearance being the topline, or slope of the body. The German-style shows a dog with a fairly level back and more upright hocks, which equate to our ankles, in back. American show dogs have more of a

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Rex provides comic relief to Roman's more serious nature. Both dogs, though, love jumping in and out of the pool.

dramatic downhill slope, and the hocks are much more angled, sometimes looking a bit spongy as they go through their gaits. American dogs tend to be larger and heavier in the bone. German dogs are still tested for working ability and temperament, following the same standards put forth by von Stephanitz, while the American breeding standard has no such requirements.

Breeding for looks alone has been blamed for health problems in German shepherds and other breeds. A BBC documentary in 2008 exposed the show dog industry as being complicit in rewarding extreme examples of breed standards to the detriment of the dogs, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals expressed "concern about the unacceptably high levels of disability, deformity and disease affecting pedigree dogs."

Despite the challenges facing purebred dogs, the German shepherd has retained the No. 2 spot in the U.S. for a decade, the top 10 since Rin Tin Tin's reign, and is one of the most recognizable breeds in the world. Dutch avant-garde artist Wim T.

Schippers, creator of the famous peanut butter floor installation upon which gallery patrons could draw with their fingers, was so convinced of the breed's uncanny intelligence that he produced an experimental play starring six German shepherds as the sole actors. An internet search reveals a 1986 clip of his play "Going to the Dogs," during which a dog paces, stands on a chair and barks loudly out the window while audience members giggle nervously. Perhaps this was Schippers' point, as he was often heard to say, "Nothing is as clarifying as confusion." The theater was sold out. *



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Bonzo says super Sassy is a devoted daddy's girl

Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I innerviewed Sassy Martin, a beautiful Golden Betriever with a lotta responsibility (an really big paws). Although she's just 3 in Human, she's already graduated Service Dog Training. Not every pooch who starts that training makes it all the way through, cuz it's WAY harder than your basic Sit-Stay-Shake stuff, so I knew she'd have Special Skills, an I thought may be she'd be a Very Serious Pooch, maybe a liddle intimidat-

But she wasn't, an trotted right over for the Wag-an-Sniff.

"Good afternoon, Miss Martin. Thank you for agreeing to share your

"My pleasure," she said. "Please call me Sassy. This is my Dad, Partner, an BFF, Perry. Since he says it's OK for me to be Off the Clock while you're here, I can ruh-LAX, an we can

"Excellent!" I opened my notebook. "So, how did you two find each otheri"

"Well, Dad was in The Military an then a K-9 pleece officer for a long. time, 224 Dog Years: He was an eggspert at dog training, an his K-9 partner was Jazz. Then they got hit when they were in their pleece car and got hurt Real, Real Bad. So Dad an Jazz hadda retire. Dad had a whole bunch of surgeries an was havin' a very tough time, an then Jazz went to Dog Heaven."

"Oh, Woof! That's awful!" I exclaimed.

"I KNOW, Well, even though Dad an rememberin' stuff, he was still me about your life now." a Great Dog Trainer, so, he started

bein' a volunteer with Dogs-For Life, that school where dogs get trained to help vederans an others who have Various Health Issues."

"I'm very fuh-mill-yer with it," I said. "I have several pooch pals who've trained

"Cool Kibbles!" Sassy said. "Well, Dad got another pooch, Hope, who was a wunnerful, helpful fren. One day Miss Kathi (the biggest Dogs for Life supporter EVER), bought Dogs for Life two Golden Betriever pup-

sters to start special training. One of em was, well, ME. We got named Big Sis an Liddle Sis. (I was Liddle Sis.) Dad was workin' with us trainees so we knew each other: He was a good teacher an I was a really good student. Since us trainees usually need Foster Famlys while we're in school, Miss Shelly (she started Dogs for Life 133 Dog Years agol an Miss Kathi asked if Dad would be my Foster Human: It was Okey-Dokey with him an Hope, an Extra Okey-Dokey with me. I was I by then.

"Then, in March, Hope got sick an went to Dog Heaven, an we were feeling Dismal Dog Biscuits. But, un-beeknownst to Dad, Miss Kathi an Miss Shelly had been noticin' when Hope was startin' to really slow down, an they had Sneakily Plotted to get Dad to Foster me so we'd already be together when Hope hadda go to Dog Heaven, an I'd be all trained an ready to Step in As Dad's Forever Service

I swallowed a couple of times. was a liddle wobbly, havin' a lotta "That is a Moving an Totally Crispy trouble gettin' around, an hearin', Dog Biscuits story, Miss Sassy. Tell

"My No. 1 Mission in Life is to Take

Care of Dud. I'm always by his side. I'm right there when he's wobbly, or like, if he doesn't hear the doorbell, I check to see who's there, then I stand by the door or go put my paw on his knee. If his cell is ringing an he can't find it, I sniff it out and plop it in his lap. When we go grocery shopping. I walk right along beside him. If he's duh-pressed, or in pain, I'm Right There lettin' him know it's gonna be OK. Honestly, Mr. Bonzo, I always know what he's thinkin'."

Thave great admiration for that, Miss Sassy," I said with the utmost sincerity. "Frankly, I thought you might be, you know, a liddle more stern and tough."

Some service dogs are. But ones like me are considered softer. I'm not tough, I'm quiet an reserved. I like to know what I'm gettin' into, rather than leaping in with all fours."

That works for me. So, whaddyn do

"I LOVE BUNNIN'! At the Dog Park, me an my posse run our ears off! I see Big Sis sometimes. Then there's GiGi, a Golden like me; Bo, a Chocolate Lab, an Bob, Bo's human. An I have a big basket of toys. I'm also a teensy bit obsessed with Rabbits, I wouldn't never ackshully catch one. It's just the cha-

sin'. They sit outside waitin' for me to come play. Dad hangs my leash right by the door cuz, if it wasn't on me, and I spotted a rabbit, POOF, this well-trained, uber-obedient 2-year-old Golden Retriever would be - GONE. I don't know what gets into me, Bonzo, Truly I don't. It's an issue I'm tryin' to overcome."

"Probably a good idea," I opined,

"I get regular mani-pedis an haircuts at my salon, South Paw. I loop my hair short cuz Dad can't vacuum. an I can't either. Me an Dad love takin' road trips in my truck, a Cool Kibbles Chevy Colorado. Dad took the backseat out an had it refitted. specially for me. It's All That Anna Bag of Pupperoni! We've been to Minnesoda, Kentucky, Indiana an Ohio. Ohio's where I get to hang out with a buncha my Besties - CHIGGENS! I love those goofy feather-dusters."

"Chiggens? Are you Woofin' me?" I asked, astonished.

"Not at all. At first, I tried to get 'em to run with me, but they're not really into runnin." So we just take liddle walks, talk about stuff, ponder Deep Questions like "Which came first"

Heading home, I was thinkin' how amazin' it is that The Right Dog an The Right Human so often just seem to find each other, out of all the dogs and humans in the world.

Till next time.

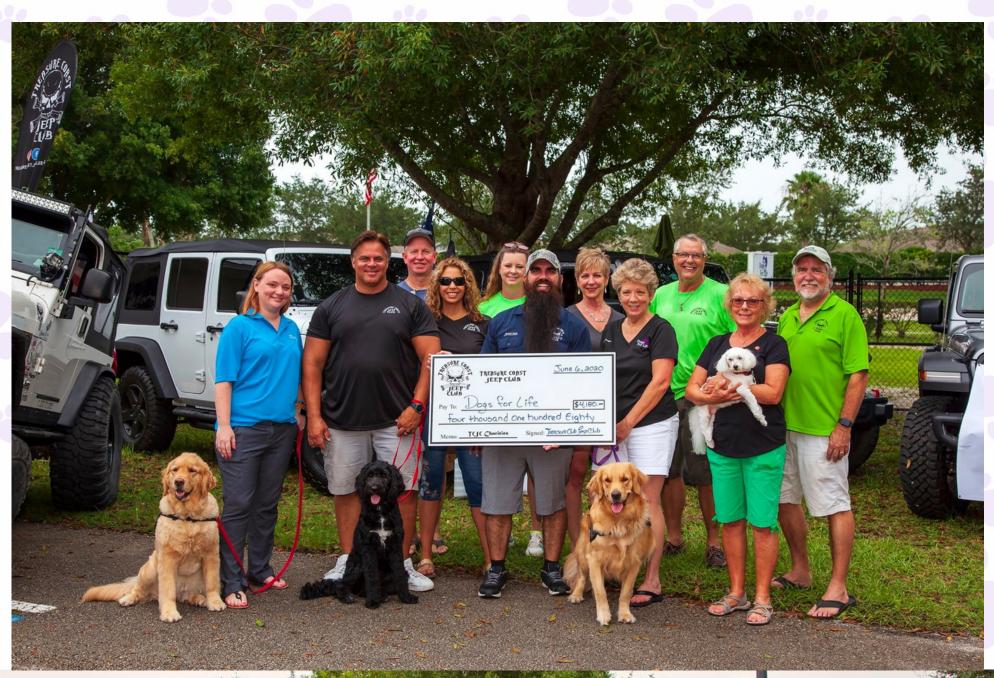
The Bonz

Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories. To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

JUNE

Treasure Cost Jeep Club





MAY

MOJO, a lovely and lively Lab, charms the Bonz

Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I yapped with a super pretty Chocolate Lab, MOJO Kouns, who has a very intresting job: She's a sorta Big Sister/Teacher for puppies in training at Dogs for Life to be service dogs for disabled veterans.

MOJO was right at the door, waggin' am jumpin' (up, NOT on), like she was on springs. She came right over for the Wag-an-Sniff. Her coat was like chocolate velvet an she had big golden eyes.

"Good morning! Miss MOJO. It's a pleasure," I said in my suave poochof-the-world voice.

"Likewise, Mr. Bonzo," she replied. "This is my Mom, Linda. My Dad (I call him Colonel Sam), is elsewhere." She led the way to the sunny paddy-o.

"I'm excited to learn about your Very Important Job, but first, I'm curious about your unusual name."

MOJO laughed. "Lotsa humans an pooches think I'm a boy, cuzza my name. Ackshully, I was named after

"Wait. Wha-at? Did you say you were named after golf balls?"

"It's true," she said. "See, my Mom's a golfer: they're humans who like to tromp around long, funny fields with fellow humans. They carry bags fulla long sticks, or get other humans to carry 'em. They whop a liddle bitty ball with one of the sticks an then they walk (or ride in special carts) to wherever it lands, and whop the ball again. An keep whoppin' it till they get to the end. There's ditches full of sand and liddle ponds scattered around, and

"I KNOW, right? Anyway Mom's golf balls all had the same name, MOJO, an she always thought it'd be a Cool Kibbles name for her next dog. Which was ME."

"Good story! So, how'd ya find your Forever Famly?"

"Almost seven years ago, when was only 8 weeks old, Mom was Dog Shoppin' on The Net an saw my pickshur. Needles to say, I was an irresistible chocolate fluffball. I was living on an Amish farm in Pencil- VANE-yuh and they hadda ship me inna PLANE to here. When Mom an Colonel Sam came to pick me up at the airport,

the humans in charge told 'em they'd never seen a happier puppy than me. Most pooches get all concerned and nervous, but I thought it was a Crispy Dog Biscuits ad-VEN-shure!

"I've always been a cheerful grrrl, never chewed shoes or anything. I did have a bit of Separation Anxiety, tho. When Mom and Colonel Sam were going out for the first time after they got me, they put me in my nice crate. WELL, I Totally Freaked OUT. Was I going back to Pencil-VANE-yuh? Were they going away forever? What if I had to Do My Doody?

"Colonel Sam said, 'Let's let her outta the crate and see how she does.'

"Mom said, 'OK, but if she tears stuff up, ITS ON YOU!'

"Well, I was positively, absolutely NEVER goin' back in that crate, so I decided I'd be the Best-Behaved Dog EVER. Now I have the run of the house, an there's NO WAY I'm gonna mess

easy-going personality, they thought I'd be great at helpin' new trainee puppies learn the ropes (I don't know why they call it that. There weren't any ackshul ropes), and learn how to get along with each other, before startin' official Service Dog training."

"What does that In Tail, EXACTLY?"

"Well the puppy trainees come stay with me here, usually for about 10 days. I'm kinda like a Big Sister. We play, I show 'em about swimmin' so they won't be scared of it, an I explain about gettin' along with humans an fellow pooches, which is real important. Not every dog makes it. If you snap at stuff or get nervous and distracted, you won't pass. Bein' a Service Dog is a Great Honor, anna Great Responsibility.

"So, I have a buncha liddle fluffballs runnin' all over, nibblin' my ears, tumblin' around. I love 'em but it's eck-ZA-WST-ing. An those pointy liddle puppy teeth are SHARP. My first puppy trainees were Golden Retrievers, Big Sis an her convertible, the wind in my fur, ears flappin'. It's ex-ZILLA-rating! Travelin's cool, too. Once we drove up to Savannah an stayed inna Very Fancy, Dog Frenly place. Mom says it was GORE-jus. There was a place for pooches to play, an dog biscuits for us, anna Happy Hour for us an our humans. The restrunts are pooch-frenly too.

"An I have tons of pooch pals: My pooch posse is Kelli, a mini-Golden Retriever; Chico, a Bichon Frise from across the

street; Maggie's a Standard Poo; an Annie's a Chihuahua. I like to watch the birds an squirrels. Once I saw this big ol' turtle. An there's GADORS in the water, so we hafta be CAREFUL. Specially my smaller, Snack-Size frens.

'Speakin' of snacks, any favrites?"

"If I eat my dinner all up I get a Frosty Paws. Soon as my dish is empty, I run to the Fridge and stare. I also enjoy the occasional marrow bone."

Woof, did the time go by fast! Headin' home, I was thinkin' about MOJO's Very Important job helpin' turn silly, eager pupsters into Service Dogs, standin' by their veteran partners no matter what. I was also thinkin' about Frosty Paws. I'm sure there'd be room in our freezer.

Till next time,

The Bonz



Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™

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I shook my head. "Humans! Go figure."

i ve aiways been a cheeriui griffi, never chewed shoes or anything. I did have a bit of Separation Anxiety, tho. When Mom and Colonel Sam were going out for the first time after they got me, they put me in my nice crate. WELL, I Totally Freaked OUT. Was I going back to Pencil-VANE-yuh? Were they going away forever? What if I had to Do My Doody?

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Well, I was positively, absolutely NEVER goin' back in that crate, so I decided I'd be the Best-Behaved Dog EVER. Now I have the run of the house, an there's NO WAY I'm gonna mess THAT up."

"Wise move. So, tell me about your job, an your off-work time."

"Mom's a volunteer with Dogs for Life, and Colonel Sam's a director of the Veterans Council. Cuzza my cheerful,

official Service Dog training.

"What does that In Tail, EXACTLY?"

"Well the puppy trainees come stay with me here, usually for about 10 days. I'm kinda like a Big Sister. We play, I show 'em about swimmin' so they won't be scared of it, an I explain about gettin' along with humans an fellow pooches, which is real important. Not every dog makes it. If you snap at stuff or get nervous and distracted, you won't pass. Bein' a Service Dog is a Great Honor, anna Great Responsibility.

"So, I have a buncha liddle fluffballs runnin' all over, nibblin' my ears, tumblin' around. I love 'em but it's eck-ZA-WST-ing. An those pointy liddle puppy teeth are SHARP. My first puppy trainees were Golden Retrievers, Big Sis an Liddle Sis. An Savannah, a white Lab. Now they're with their own veteran partners. I like knowin' I helped make 'em successful Service Dogs.'

"An when you're off work ...?"

"I love going for rides with Mom in

"Speakin' of snacks, any favrites?"

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Till next time,

The Bonz



Covid Lockdown

6 • MAY 7, 2020 • VETERAN VOICE

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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Dogs For Life's operations will continue with the following precautions:

- -Group training classes will be held outside
- -In-home training is postponed
- -Wednesday's Trainers Workshop classes are postponed until 4/8
- -The Off-Leash Dog Park will remain open.

Be Smart!

- -Keep gatherings to 10 people or less and stay 6 feet apart
- Wash your hands or sanitize before and after pressing buttons to dog park access gates
- Soap pumps are provided at water stations as always
- Be aware that germs can stick to your dog's fur

If you're sick, stay home!

6 · APRIL 16, 2020 · VETERAN VOICE

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Dog training deemed essential by Indian River commissioners

Dogs For Life

On April 1, Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, closed its doors and dog park to all operations when Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis declared a quarantine "stay at home" order due to COVID-19. DFL employees were prepared and began working from home.

On April 20, after the Indian River County Commissioner's office — in conjunction with the Indian River County Sheriff's Office — deemed DFL's Service and Hearing Dog Training essential, training began for two service dogs and two veterans at a time, twice a day. Trainers were able to accommodate all 25 dogs and clients back in training the first week!

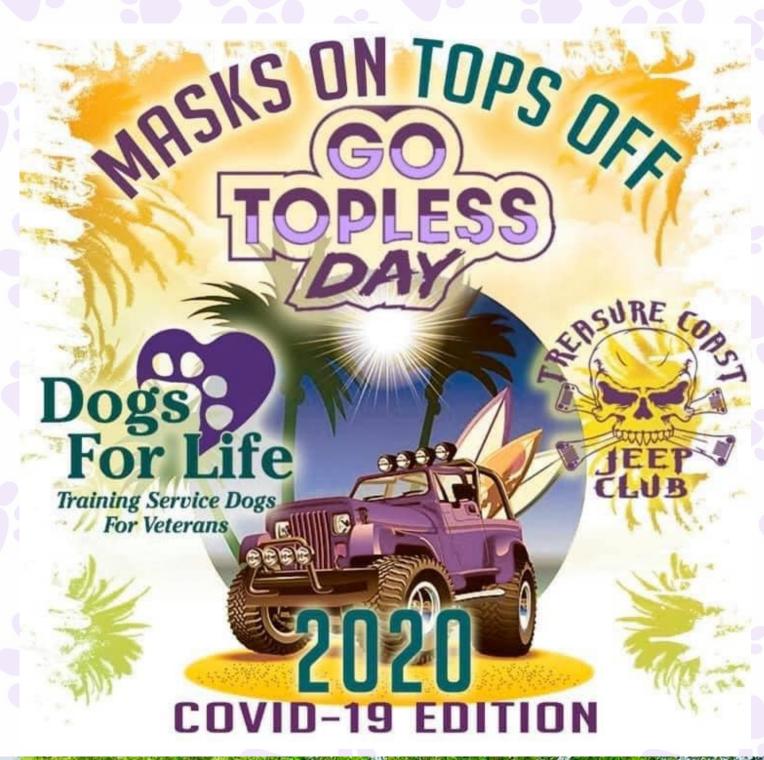
While at the Training Center records are kept of attendants and their temperature. Hands are washed and masks are worn. Dog on dog interaction is kept to a minimum, and all training sessions are limited to less than an hour.

DFL looks forward to being able to get our Veterans Training Veterans Workshops under way again and opening our off-leash dog park, just as soon as we get authorization from the State and County.

PTSD Support Groups that had been accessible on a virtual platform, are now in session again at the DFL Training Center. Please contact our office for additional information at (772) 567-8969.

In the meantime, we want all of our members, clients and volunteers to maintain social distancing, wear a mask and stay strong.

Treasure Coast Jeep Club Fundraiser







Letter to the EDITOR

Dogs For Life update ready to allow service dog training, need supplies

To the Editor:

At this point during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dogs For Life has been deemed essential by the Indian River County Commission and the IRC Sheriff's Office to open within safety guidelines, i.e. wearing face masks, washing hands and social distancing for Service and Hearing Dog training only.

Currently we are not allowing the dogs to mix. Dogs and owners are distancing in separate areas of the park.

The DFL Off-Leash Dog Park will open to our members absolutely as soon as possible. This will be when we receive authorization from IRC and have adequate disinfecting supplies.

In the meantime, so that we are able to open the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park within safety guidelines we're asking, if possible, our members to donate any of the following items:

- · Hand Sanitizer
- · Disinfecting Soap
- · Lysol
- Bleach Cleaning Products
- · Paper Towels
- · Toilet Paper



Training Service Dogs For Veterans

Please drop off supplies Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 2-4:30 p.m.

Our hope is that when the county is

ready, we'll be ready!

Additionally, the Annual Hearing and Service Dog Graduation Ceremony and Donor & Volunteer Awards, originally scheduled for April 4, has been postponed until further notice. Until we can celebrate in person, we will be featuring and congratulating our Graduates and Award Winners through social media and email.

Dogs For Life Vero Beach

PTSD Support Group Meetings

PTSD Support Group Meetings

Veterans Only Mondays 7:00 PM

Veterans & Non-Veterans Saturdays 11:00 AM

> Families Saturdays 9:30 AM

> > Facilitators:

Thomas R. Metzinger, USMC, LCSW, Therapist Michael Wright, USA, (Ret.), RCSWI/MCAP





Dogs For Life
Service Dog Training Center
1230 16th Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960
(772) 567-8969
www.dogsforlifevb.org



(Vero Beach)



(772) 564-8616

211'S MYFLVET 1-844-MYFLVET or 2-1-1 Veteran to Veteran Support, Linkage to Services & Suicide Prevention ... 24/7

COUNSELING/MENTAL HEALTH

Behaviorial Health Center	(772) 563-4666
Mental Health Association (MHA MHA "Our House" Drop In	(772) 569-9788 (772) 778-4444
Mental Health Collaborative Connections Center	(772) 217-3663
NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)	(772) 532-5554
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast (Vero Beach)	(772) 778-7217
Suncoast Mental Health Centers	S

HEALTH CLINICS/HOSPITALS

TC Community Health (772) 257-8224

VETERANS/CRISIS LINE 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

IRC Veterans Service Office (Sebastian)	(772) 589-6597
IRC Veterans Service Office (Vero Beach)	(772) 226-1499
VA Medical Center (WPB) & women's programs	(800) 972-8262
VA Outpatient Clinic (Vero Beach)	(772) 299-4623

211TreasureCoast.org

*Also ask your VA Social Worker & Whole Health Coordinator

Robert Bowman Memorial

In Loving Memory



Robert Bowman

May 28, 1921 - April 18, 2020

The smile you wore, the way you talked and a thousand more things we remember.

With admiration, respect and love, All of your "Girls"

Impact 100 Grants

C TCPALM.COM I TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 I SA

Impact 100 awards grants to Indian River County nonprofits

Janet Begley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

VERO BEACH — Big Brothers Big Sisters, Camp Haven, Children's Home Society, The Source and the Treasure Coast Food Bank are the five winners of \$100,000 grants from Impact 100.

Three other nonprofits each will receive \$6,827 merit grants, including the Ocean Research & Conservation Association (ORCA), The Arc and the visiting Nurse Association of the Treasure Coast.

For the first time, awardees were selected via a virtual membership meeting April 23, where 44% of members attended via Zoom.

Members viewed 5-minute videos from each of the eight finalists and then cast votes online or by mail. Overall, 75% of Impact 100 members cast ballots in the 2020 grant process.

Impact 100 was founded in 2008 with the idea 100 women each donating \$1,000 could make a transformational difference in the community. The group now includes more than 500 members.

Since its inception 12 years ago, Im-

pact 100 has distributed more than \$4.6 million to nonprofit organizations.

"Our nonprofits need these grant dollars more than ever," said Amy Acker, Impact 100 president. "Of course, I was disappointed that we could not be physically together to celebrate the amazing year we have had. But right now, that is secondary to the urgency felt by all of us on the board to keep our process going and find an innovative way to award our grant dollars this year."

The choice this year was harder than ever, with many worthy organizations applying for funding, said Suzanne Carter, who chaired the 2020 grants process

"In these challenging and uncertain times, the need among those served by our nonprofit community is greater than ever," she said.

Winners of \$100,000 Impact 100 grants are:

■ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Indian River County, The BIG Mission: This project will recruit veterans and service professionals to mentor and engage struggling, disadvantaged youth in Indian River County.

1 Camp Haven: Grant will help funda

new multipurpose services and programs building that will be the meeting place for training, psychological counseling, AA meetings and more.

Children's Home Society, Dodgertown Elementary Community Partnership School: Creates a program that will assess and address school community challenges and implement a school improvement program that will provide behavioral health services, after-school enrichment program and parent engagement services.

■ The Source, Dining with Dignity Food Truck: An employment skills training program that offers culinary training to help resolve the greater issues of hunger, homelessness, poverty, underemployment and chronic unemployment. The food truck offers a mobile extension of this program to the greater Indian River County community.

■ The Treasure Coast Food Bank, Mobile Mercado, Indian River County: Treasure Coast Food Bank will introduce a self-contained roving grocery store on wheels and food access point that will meet Indian River residents where they live, work and play.

Winners of \$6,827 Merit Grants in-

aluda.

I Ocean Research and Conservation Association, Inc., ORCA Center for Citizen Science: The Citizen Science Program will educate and engage community members in solving the problems that are leading to the degradation of the Indian River Lagoon.

The ARC and Atlantic Classical Orchestra Collaborative Music Program: This program will allow people with varying degrees of ability an opportunity to learn about musical genres, how to play instruments and perform with the Atlantic Classical Orchestra.

I Visiting Nurse Association of the Treasure Coast, VNA Home Health Music Therapy Program: This is a music therapy program specifically for VNA Home Health Patients with chronic conditions

To be considered for Impact 100 funding, grant requests must fall into one of four categories: family; health and wellness; education; and enrichment and environment.

Of the nonprofit organizations applying for 2020 funding, more than a dozen became quality grant applications, with eight finalists selected in March.

Covid Updates

4 . APRIL 2, 2020 . VETERAN VOICE

Letter to the EDITOR

Important graduation ceremony postponed for Dogs For Life

To the Editor:

It's with a heavy heart that Dogs For Life has decided to postpone our Service/ Hearing & Veteran Dog Graduation BBQ and Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony originally slated for April 4.

Everyone has worked so hard and is so deserving of recognition, but with the current state of affairs surrounding the COVID-19 we feel it is the safest thing to

We will, however, look forward to holding this special event as soon as possible and will keep you posted.

Dogs For Life's operations will continue with the following precautions:

Group service and hearing dog training classes are being held outside

In-home training is postponed until further notice

Wednesday's Trainers Workshop classes are also postponed

The Off-Leash Dog Park remains open

Be Smart!

Keep gatherings to 10 people or less and stay 6 feet apart

Wash your hands or sanitize before and after pressing buttons to dog park access gates

Soap pumps are provided at water stations as always

If you're sick, stay home!

Shelly Ferger Founder/CEO Dogs For Life



Courtesy photo

Dogs For Life CEO/Founder Shelly Ferger is keeping important missions going during the coronavirus crisis.

VETERAN VOICE • APRIL 23, 2020 • 5

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

6 · APRIL 9, 2020 · VETERAN VOICE

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PTSD Support for Veterans moved to a virtual platform

Shelly Ferger Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

VERO BEACH -- Due to the crisis facing some military veterans, Michelle Dale, president of American Gold Star Mothers of IRC and Jason Patzer, Commander of Next Generation Veterans of IRC, have moved the PTSD Support Group Meetings to a virtual platform.

The meetings will be held on Monday nights at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 11 a.m., and Families of Veterans on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m..

Through a grant received by Dogs For

Life, Inc. PTSD Support for Veterans who are facing financial strain will receive telephone support with therapist Tom Metzinger, USMC, (772-321-6998 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Michael Wright, USA, (Ret.) (912-332-0271 form 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Veterans can join the Zoom meeting

by pasting link into your browser: https://us04web.zoom.us/

j/932594097 - Meeting ID: 932 594 097; One tap from mobile device: 9292056099; 932594097 #US (New York) or by phone at +1 929 205 6099 US; +1 253 215 8782 US; +1 301 715 8592 US.

Vero Beach Magazine

Listen and Learn

HEARING DOGS ARE ALWAYS ON THE JOB, PROVIDING PEACE OF MIND WITH A WAGGING TAIL



BY AMY ROBINSON

okie the labradoodle pauses over the chew toy she is worrying. She cocks her head at the sound, motionless. The sound repeats and Cokie quickly stands up and paws her owner. "Good! Good girl," says her owner, Judy, who acquired the apricotand-white puppy from a breeder in Colorado who assured Judy that the dog would make a good service dog when she matured. We are teaching Cokie to alert to a handful of sounds: the doorbell, a door knock and Judy's cell phone ring tone.

Cokie has some big paws to fill; her predecessor. Bailey, also a labradoodle, was trained at Dogs for Life in Vero Beach to become Judy's hearing dog.

"Private persons have the right to train their own dog per the Americans with Disabilities Act, but temperament is everything." says Shelly Ferger, CEO of Dogs for Life. Although Bailey graduated from its certification program, Dogs for Life declined to take Cokie on, citing her shyness as a potential roadblock to performing her duties when out in public. Ferger did encourage Judy to start the training herself using the same task-oriented approach that worked with Bailey.

Teaching Cokie to alert Judy to selected sounds involves task training, just



Despite initial signs that she may not have the ideal temperament to succeed as a service dog. Cokie has exceeded all expectations.

like obedience training in which the dog performs a task that is owner-directed. For Cokie to learn to hear on behalf of her owner, we want the sound itself to motivate the task; no command is forthcoming. Judy has lost some hearing in one ear and anticipates some diminished ability in the other ear, so teaching Cokie now is good planning.

To begin, we encourage a "touch" behavior by
placing a piece of painter's
tape on Judy's pant leg. Judy
points to this spot, says
"Touch," and when Cokie
investigates, praise and
a treat follow. The dog is
quite happy to do this easy
task and sits expectantly in
front of her owner.

After a few repetitions, we add the sound of the cell phone, which has a distinct, shrill ring. At first, Cokie looks around the room and out the window, but when Judy offers a little help by pointing to the tape on her leg, the dog paws the spot, nearly tearing the tape. Extra treats follow to mark the behavior we like. Next time the phone rings, the dog should recall the happy fuss we made when she alerted to the sound.

Stress is certainly a factor when working toward this kind of task, since Cokie will need to alert to sounds at home, out on walks and in new places when Judy and her husband travel with their dog in the summer.

As a young puppy, she displayed a cautious nature, and we embarked on a socializing program that had us practicing easy commands at the Village Shops, in pet boutiques and at the Farmer's Market, where she could see plenty of people and other dogs.

While not a desirable trait in a service dog, Cokie's shyness may contribute to her dedication to Judy. "When a young child is shy, she might cling to her mom, hiding behind her," says Judy. "Fortunately, Cokie seems to have homed in on me in the same way. I am the one who feeds her, plays with her, walks her and talks to her."

Today we will test Cokie's confidence and sound alert skills at a large pet supply store, where plenty of tantalizing scents and new experiences will compete for her attention. I ask Judy to casually browse an aisle with Cokie while I dial her cell phone number. To our surprise, the dog eagerly paws Judy's leg. She is showing none of the shyness that plagued her first months with Judy. We allow Cokie to greet another shopper, eye the birds and rabbits in their enclosures and sniff the treats in their display bins. all while intermittently ringing the cell phone. Cokie consistently performs with a well-placed paw.

In the search for Cokie,
Judy had specified to the
breeder that she was looking for a puppy that would
have the temperament to
be a service dog, but after a
long journey from Colorado
that included a car ride
through the mountains
before flying nearly five
hours in the baggage compartment, Cokie arrived in
Orlando full of trepidation,
the opposite of the confident puppy Judy was hoping
to see.

Chris Diefenthaler is the executive director of Assistance Dogs International, a worldwide accrediting body for service dog organizations like Dogs for Life.

"Looking for a puppy that
will later excel at service
is a high-risk proposition,"
she says. "The puppy may
not have or develop the
temperament to handle
the stress that comes along
with working in public.
It takes a special dog for
that," she adds. "For someone who wants to go that

resting on the desk and sits in front of it. Judy grins and praises her lavishly. I ask how this happened so quickly, since I had anticipated several more weeks before we met this goal. "When the phone rang, as soon as she touched me, I would say, 'Where is it?' and stand up," she explains. "I waited to treat her until

"Looking for a puppy that will later excel at service is a high-risk proposition."

- CHRIS DIEFENTHALER

route, it is critical they check on dogs from previous litters: How many are working service dogs? What tasks do they perform? Were the dogs certified by an accredited group?"

After a two-week break from training, Judy and I get back together. As soon as I arrive, she asks me to ring her cell phone. Cokie immediately alerts Judy and then does something she has not yet been trained to do: The dog trots purposefully toward the phone she began to move toward the sound." Judy would then put a treat directly onto the cell phone like an hors d'oeuvre on a tray, and slide it right into Cokie's waiting mouth. "She also can distinguish between my cell phone and the land line or my husband's cell phone."

At Dogs for Life, trainers have experienced some miracle moments, too, when dogs begin to alert to new sounds without the benefit of prior training. "One of our dogs alerted to a new baby's cry, which we did not teach," says lead trainer Cassie Ford.
"We also had a sheltie who had just learned to alert her owner to a door knock, which is the first sound we teach. At home one day, the dog showed alert behavior, but when the owner investigated, it turned out to be the tea kettle whistling."

Judy is looking forward to nurturing Cokie's progress. "I know a lot of this is training me, how I react to her alerts and staying vigilant myself," she notes. Now that the dog is taking her to the door and the phone. Judy wants to teach a new alert skill. Her neighborhood has no sidewalks, so they walk against traffic, but a car coming from behind them is only 15 feet or so away. "Now, she'll turn her head and look and I always praise her for that, but I'd like her to formally alert me, not just to notice it herself."

While Cokie will have an important new job, her prior role as beloved family pet is still intact, a point illustrated when she jumps into Judy's lap and doles out kisses at the mention of her name. While this particular dog was not all Judy had expected, Cokie has embraced her dual role with love and lovalty. *

MARCH

Veterans & Family Picnic

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY # YOUR NEWSWEEKLY # WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020 # 5Y

Community News

Veterans and Family Picnic celebrates community

Michele Peters

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

SEBASTIAN -- A little rain could not keep more than 250 veterans and their families away from the recent Veterans and Family Picnic at Riverview Park.

A community of volunteers and veterans' organizations came together to plan and host the 2020 picnic. The American Legion Posts 189, 181 and 39, along with members of the Veterans Council, Vero Beach Veterans, VFW, and Next Generation Veterans all pitched in to execute a fun-filled day for the veteran community.

"We are so grateful for the participation and support of the members of our community who rallied together to make this picnic a success" said Marty Zickert, board chair of the Veterans Council of



IRC. "Countless volunteers and businesses stepped up from beginning to end to create this event for the veteran community. Wes's Barbeque donated his smoker and the Salvation Army provided their canteen for food prep. It is so amazing what can be done when people come together. We are so proud of that."

The Honor Guard presentation of the colors kicked off the event and Father Dave Newhart shared the invocation. Telly Antona sang the National Anthem and

Michelle Dale lead attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

More than 65 gift cards were donated by local businesses and were distributed to lucky local veterans who entered a free drawing.

Area veteran organizations such as Military Officers Association of America, the Space Coast honor Flight, Dogs for Life, American Gold Star Mothers of IRC, Wreaths Across America and more were among the many organizations on site offering group and membership information.

To find out more information on the Veterans Council of Indian River County, the more than 25 veteran membership organizations affiliated with the council or for veterans in need of services, call the Veterans Council at 772-410-5820 or visit www.HelpIRCVets.org.

Veterans Council of IRC Annual Gala



FEBRUARY

Treasure Coast Kennel Club Talk





Bridge Tournamennt



Cane Presentation

Dogs for Life

From:

Dogs for Life

Sent:

Monday, February 10, 2020 8:15 AM

To:

Cheryl & Ted Gorczyca

Cc:

Dogs for Life

Subject:

RE: Ted and Kona

Dear Ted.

Thank you so much for the heartwarming account of your relationship with Kona. We are so happy she is continuing to work for you. Sometimes, all we can do is one day at a time.

Congratulations on your cane presentations.. I'm sure that was a rewarding experience for you.

All our best, Sincerely, Shelly

From: Cheryl & Ted Gorczyca <ctgorczyca@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, February 8, 2020 7:51 PM

To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Ted and Kona

Hi Shelly

It has been a while and I sincerely would like to thank you for all you did for Kona and I. Kona has come along and doing very well for what I need on a day to day basis. Dr. Horn suggested that I email you about Kona.

In fact a few months ago she saved my life. I was in a very dark place and seriously planning on taking my life in the car. Kona was in the back seat and picked up on my feeling, mood or mental attitude and starting licking my neck, my ear, crying, whimpering and licking me more. She even barked a couple of times and this went on for fifteen minutes or more. I pulled over and she came between the seats and continued licking and started to wag her tail.

She still wakes me up when I have my dreams and stays with me until I calm down. At the dentist or doctors she stays in the corner laying down or sitting until we are done. The other day the dentist commented on how good she is while I am being worked on. If the procedure is long she has come over to check on me.

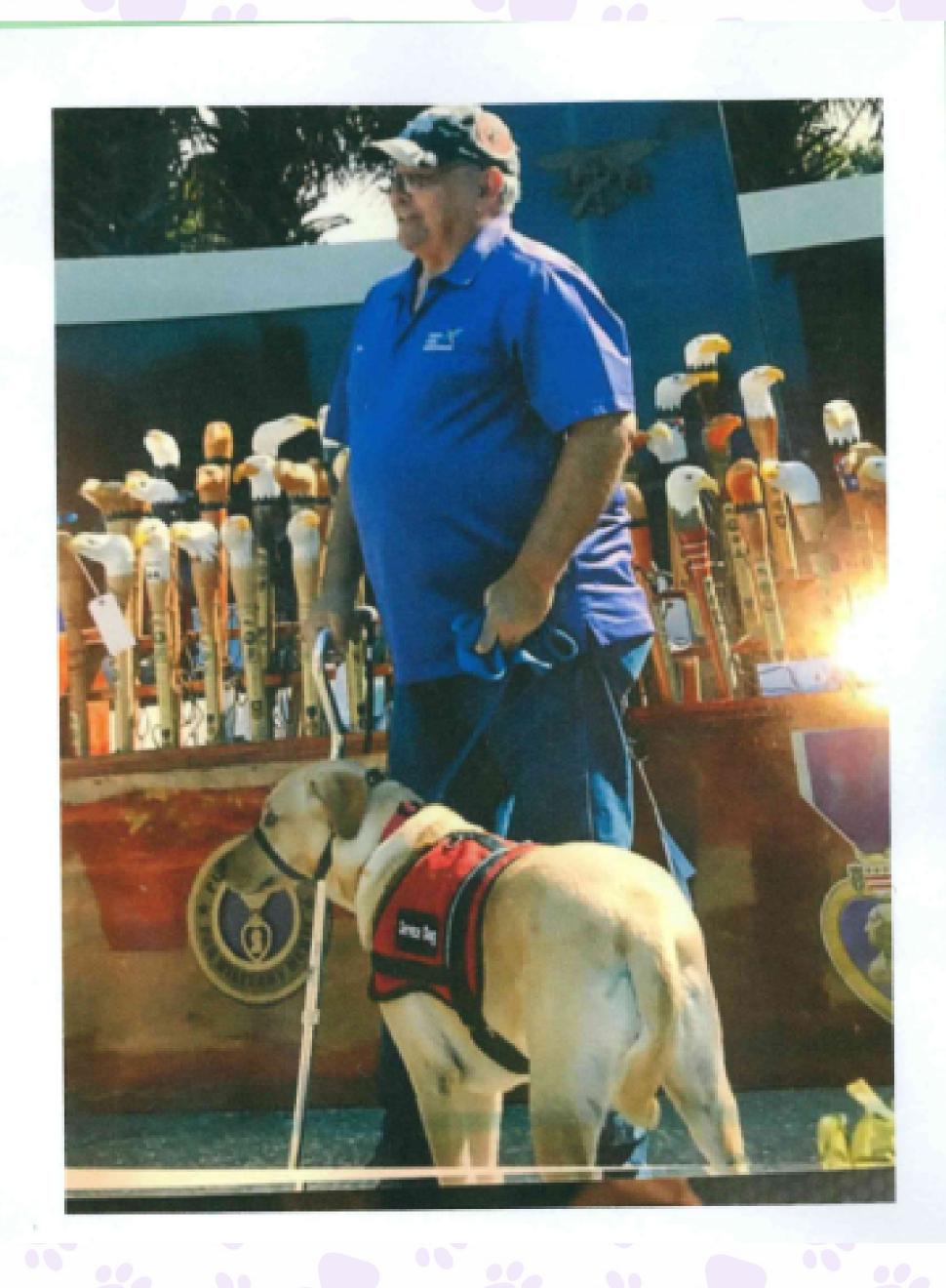
She still has her moments but she is right there for me. I walk with a cane now and when I stumble and fall she helps me get up or learning to go get Cheryl. We are doing this on our own.

Kona and I even handed out four Purple Heart Eagle canes to my fellow Navy squadron brothers at our ceremony

The incident about Kona saving my life is documented in my file at the V. A.

Thank you again Shelly for connecting the two of us together and showing us some of the training.

Ted Gorczyca and Kona



Thank You Letters

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON, DC 20500



Stys For Life ego Mrs. Kathi G. Schemann 1230 16th Avenue Vero Brach, Florida 32960

ուլանինների անվիրի թարթակներ իր հետ իր ին անականի ա



THE WHITE HOUSE

Thank you for your kind wishes. During this special time of year,
our hearts are filled with gratitude as we reflect on the blessings
of faith, family and freedom that shape our great Auton.
May the peace and joy of the Christmas season be with you
and your family now and throughout the New Year.
Lineerely,

mulderengh





Thank You!

amanda

Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County Walk-A-Thon Donations

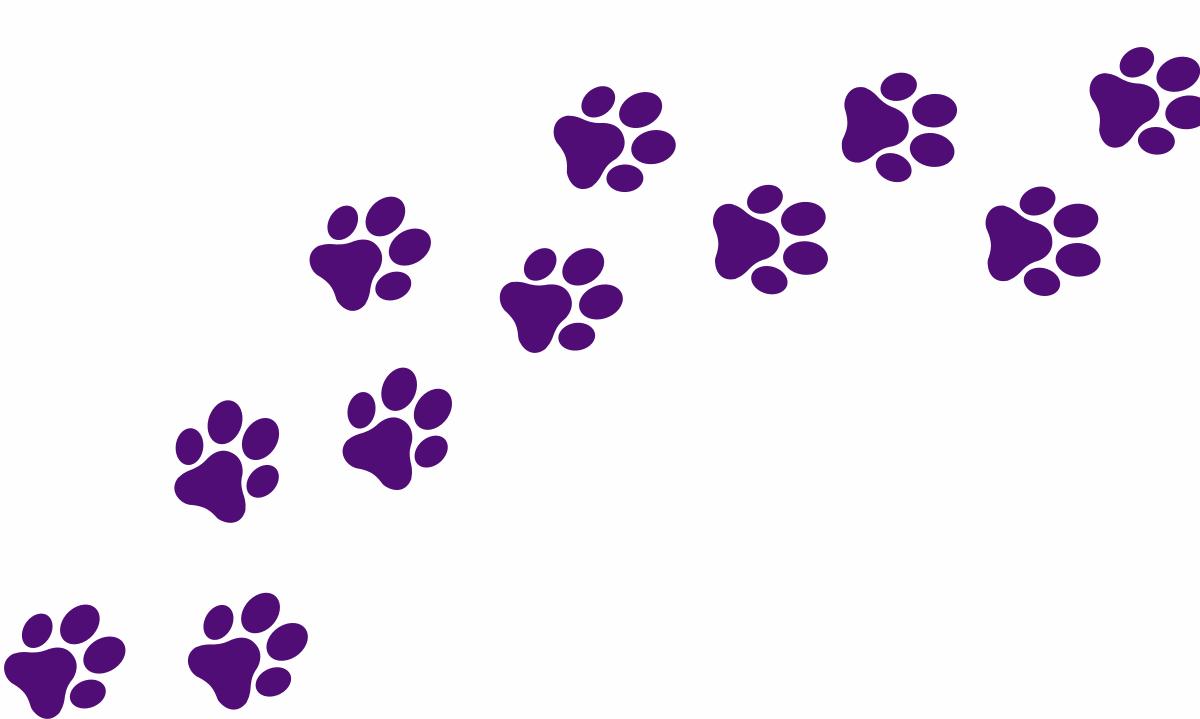








Scrapbook 2019



DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Party







PAWS Act Support



News

Benefits

Veteran Jobs

Military Life

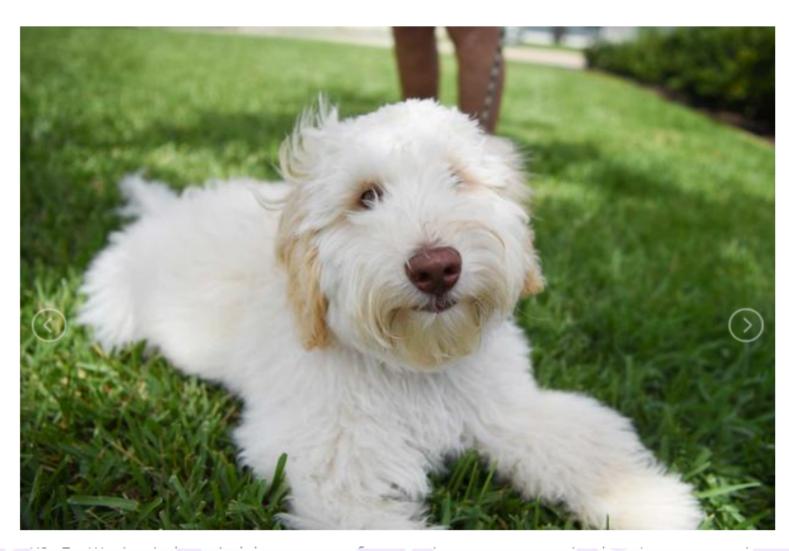
Discounts

Join the Military

♠ > Military News

Bill Would Cover Cost of Service Dogs for Veterans with PTSD





Packing Christmas Boxes for Troops







Santa Visits Dogs For Life







Giving Tuesday

Why should you give?

There are 22 military/veteran suicides a day; one every 66 minutes.

A service dog can help alleviate suffering from a mental or physical disability with trained tasks.

A dog also gives his or her handler a reason to get out of the house and keep living.

#GivingTuesday 12/3/19

Why should you give?

People affected by a traumatic event will have reactions that include shock, anger, nervousness, fear and guilt. For people with PTSD, these feelings commonly become so intense that some individuals cannot lead a normal personal, professional or social life.

Dogs For Life hosts PTSD support groups for veterans and non-veterans every Saturday at 11:00 am.

#GivingTuesday 12/3/19

Why should you give?

PTSD affects 5.2 adult Americans.

A veteran suffering with PTSD may feel isolated and not accepted.

A service dog helps build trust again and a person suffering with PTSD can begin to incorporate more wholly back into life.

#GivingTuesday 12/3/19

Why should you give?

A person that suffers from PTSD may be re-traumatized by a nightmare triggered by a traumatic event.

A service dog can interrupt that nightmare by pulling off the person's blanket or by turning on lights.

The dog will then help the person recover by remaining calm and quiet to give confidence and solace that there is no threat.

#GivingTuesday 12/3/19

NOVEMBER

Graduates









American Goldstar Mothers of IRC Walk-A-Thon







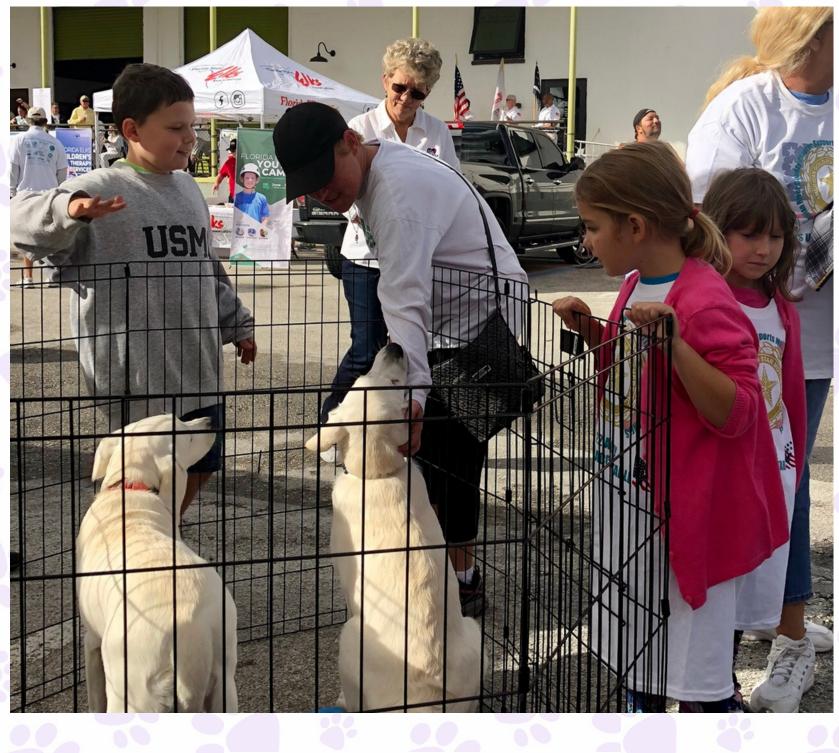














WALK-A-THON MILITARY **SUCCIDE AWARENESS**



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2019

> Presented by American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Indian River County Chapter

Patriotic Art Auction!

WALKING Walking Tree Brewery 'ERY 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

For more information contact Michelle Dale or Kim Palazzolo at michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com or visit our Facebook and web pages at @ircgoldstarmoms and www.ircgoldstarmoms.org

Proceeds to Benefit:







East Harbori

FOOD TRUCKS!

Legacy Ladies







OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween Article

Vero Beach 32963 / October 31, 2019

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™



PEOPLE



Costumed canines delight at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

BY MARY SCHENKEL

It began raining cats and dogs just as the recent Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade was about to start, but in true show-mustgo-on fashion, Shelly Ferger, DFL founder/CEO, decided to hold the whole event indoors.

Thanks to tropical storm Nestor, Ferger had already moved the informational vendors and raffle items inside but now even the parade of adorably costumed pooches would be an indoor affair. Patient pups stood nose to tail as the Next Gen Color Guard led the way, before making their way around the room to the delight of the packed crowd.

Lion manes were the costumes of choice for DFL-trained service dogs Coco and Arrow. Al Cabral said Coco was trained for hearing and PTSD, and JoAnn Tindol said Arrow was trained to help husband Earl by opening doors, picking up and retrieving items and helping him to stand up.



Earl Tindol with Arrow.





Cassie Ford with Savannah.



Amanda Krieger with Frito.



Kevin Rockwell with Honey.

Rex the 'Wookie-doodle,' prancing alongside Helen Gaillard as 'Princess Leia,' needed only a carbine collar to complete his look; the 9-month-old golden doodle already had a coat as curly as Chewbacca.

"You made a bad event better," Ferger told the crowd. "I just want to thank everyone who came out in spite of the weather to make this event successful."

DFL, certified by Assistance Dogs International and recognized by the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs, provides specialized training for service and hearing dogs.

There are currently 50 service dogs being trained, half of those for

Board president Kathi Schumann said they actually support 100 dogs, because certifications need to be renewed yearly, and they also provide medical insurance for all of the dogs to ensure they're well cared for.

For more information, visit dogsforlifevb.org. .

18th Howl-O-Ween Pet Expo









Veterans Helping Veterans Show





IRC Sheriff's Office Radio Show



Eleanor's Birthday



PTSD Panel



SEPTEMBER

ADI International Conference



AUGUST

Veterans Voice Radio Show



Service Dogs Outings







Vero News



NEWS

✓ OTHER SECTIONS

✓ BLOGS

✓ 32963

✓ OTHER PAPERS

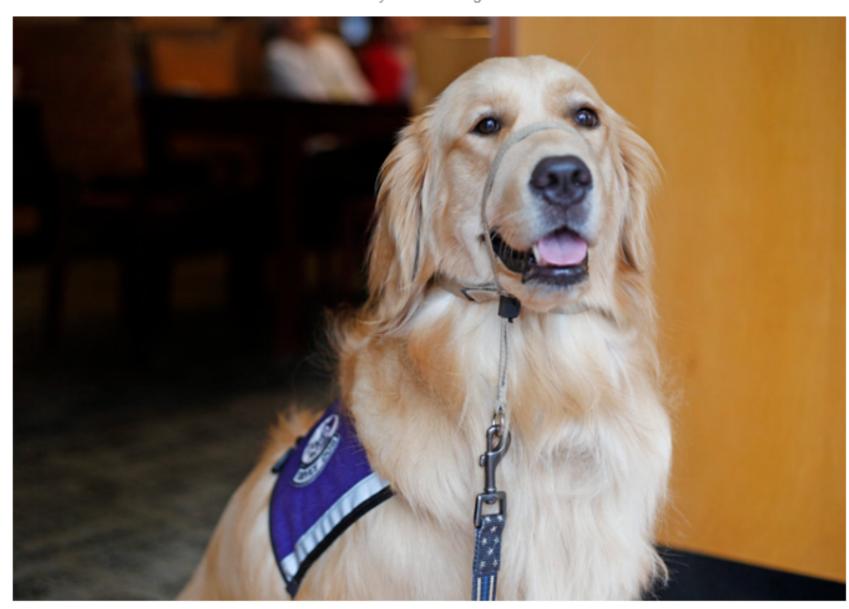
✓ CALENDAR

✓ Q

Vero News > Blogs > Bonzo > Bonz holds this golden Good Girl in high esteem

Bonz holds this golden Good Girl in high esteem

Written by: Bonzo August 01 2019





Veterans Council of IRC Donation

DFL Board President Kathi G. Schumann extends her generosity to the Veterans Council of Indian River County. "We are stronger together." ~ Kathi G. Schumann



JUNE

The Sound of String Mentoring





Ruck for Our Veterans March

arch For & Place Classifieds

TCPalm.

Indian River St. Lucie Advertise **eNewspaper**

LUMINARIES

Do you give a 'ruck' about veterans? Join June 29 march in Vero Beach

Nicole Haagenson Special to TCPalm Published 5:33 p.m. ET June 25, 2019 | Updated 5:47 p.m. ET June 25, 2019









On June 29, the Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County is hosting a Ruck for Our Veterans march to raise money for local veterans and for the "Words From War" monument that will be built near Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach.

A ruck march in the military is way to move personnel and their gear from point A to point B in an expeditious fashion. The Ruck for Our Veterans event is a 5-mile brisk walk with weighted backpacks. The group is asking the community to bring non-perishable food items to wear in their rucks for the march. Afterward, those food items will be collected and donated to the Indian River Charitable Association Food Pantry in downtown Vero Beach.

"This is our fourth ruck march for Indian



Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County's first Ruck March in 2017. This year Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County is hosting a Ruck for Our Veterans march on June 29 to raise money for the "Words From War" monument that will be built near Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary in Vero Beach. Bruce Cady/Special To TCPalm





Sponsors hips All sponsors will be announced at the event

and mentioned on our social media.



Water Sponsor

Provide water bottles for particpants Sponsor provided sign hung at event 4 Ruck registration fees





Food Sponsor

Provide food at then end of the Ruck Sponsor provided sign hung at event 4 Ruck registration fees



Event Sponsor

\$200, \$500, or \$1000 donation Sponsor provided sign hung at event # of Ruck registration fees based on amount





Sponsor a Veteran

\$20 registration fee for a Veteran

Contact Nicole Haagenson for more details. 904-607-9424 or nicole.haagenson@gmail.com

Shelly's Birthday



MAY

Memorial Day







American Gold Star Mothers of IRC Installation Ceremony





2019 Awards Ceremony and Graduation







Red White and Blue Concert





MARCH

Veterans Training Veterans Workshop



TCPalm Philanthropy Article

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Vero Beach Centennial: Dogs for Life flourishes with support of Vero Beach philanthropist Kathi Schumann

Shelly Ferger Special to TCPalm
Published 1:16 p.m. ET March 13, 2019 | Updated 1:48 p.m. ET March 13, 2019





<u>Dogs for Life Inc.</u> is indebted to Vero Beach philanthropist Kathi G. Schumann for her generosity toward this nonprofit organization founded to improve the quality of life for people, especially veterans, and dogs through the training of service and



Elevator and Stairs Training at Vero Beaach Regional Airport





FEBRUARY

Bridge Tournament





Publix Training Outing





JANUARY

Indian River Woodcarver's Annual Presentation







Vero Beach Book Center Public Training





Practice in Public Spaces





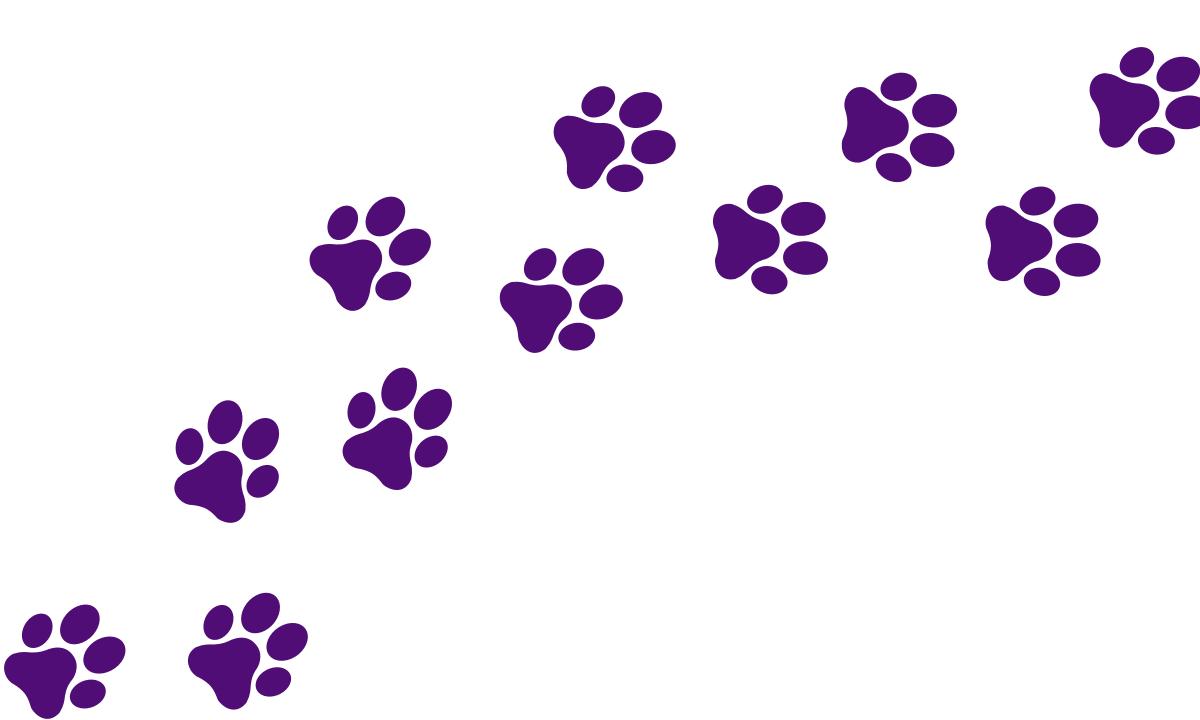


Bark in the Park





Scrapbook 2018



DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Luncheon

YOU ARE INVITED

Dog's For Life, Inc.

Annual Christmas Luncheon



Please join us

Sunday, December 9th, 2018 11:30 am

Pointe West Country Club 7500 14th Lane SR 60 West Vero Beach Vero Beach, FL 32966

Please RSVP to office@dogsforlifevb.org or call (772) 567-8969

No Gifts Please ~ Christmas Cards Appropriate







Veterans Voice

VETERAN VOL 7/ISSUE 7 • THURSDAY • DECEMBER 20, 2018

VETERAN VOICE • DECEMBER 20, 2018 • 5

CALENDAR

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Dogs For Life Holiday Schedule

Dec. 25: In observance of Christmas Day our office will be closed Tuesday Jan. 1: In observance of the New Year's Day our office will be closed Tuesday

If you have a dog, bear in mind that the holidays can be stressful on everyone, including our dogs. Be aware of how much activity your dog is being exposed to and the differences in his or her environment if you will be having guests. Make sure your dog has a way to get away from the holiday "fun" in your home.

The DFL Off-Leash Dog Park will remain open as usual. Enjoy the holidays and stay safe!

President Bush Tribute

Getting Social

Even In Passing, George W. H. Bush's Service Dog Sully Stays By His Side



"Mission Accomplished," Bush Spokesperson Jim McGrath said when he posted the photo to Twitter.

Dogs For Life Celebrates Veterans Day At Memorial Island



USMC Veteran Richie Keller Represents Dogs For Life At Marine's Ball



Veteran Marine Richie Keller, along with his amazing service dog Gigi, represented Dogs For Life at the Marine's Ball Last month.

Dogs For Life Service Teams Visit Lowe's



Each month, Dogs For Life service teams take the show on the road, practicing their training in a public environment.

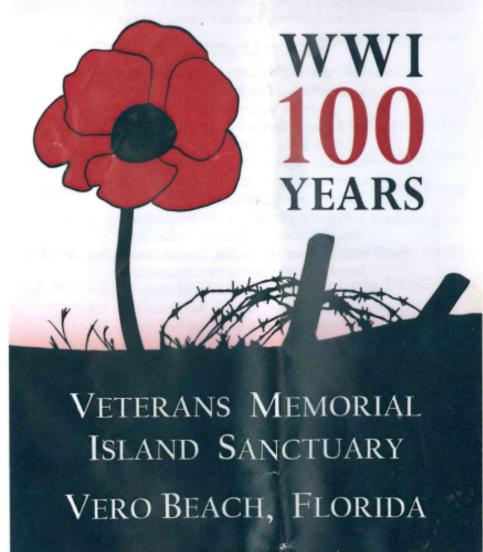


Dogs For Life is feeling grateful for our Foster Dog Families. Thank you Tyler. We see St. Cloud is in good company!

NOVEMBER



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





They were there when WENEEDED THEM. We are here when THEY NEED US.

We thank our community partner



Your donations serve veterans in Indian River County.

WWW.HELPIRCVETS.ORG

Veterans Council of IRC is a non-profit organization pursuant to Section 501(3)(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.





Dogs For Life attended the United States Marine Corps 2018 Birthday Ball this past weekend on Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Vero Beach Elks Lodge. Thank you Richie & Gigi and Bernice Keller for representing DFL.

Visit Our Facebook Page For More

President George H. W. Bush Took His Service Dog "Sully" To The Polls To Vote!

President George H. W. Bush took his service dog "Sully" to the polls with him as he placed his votes.

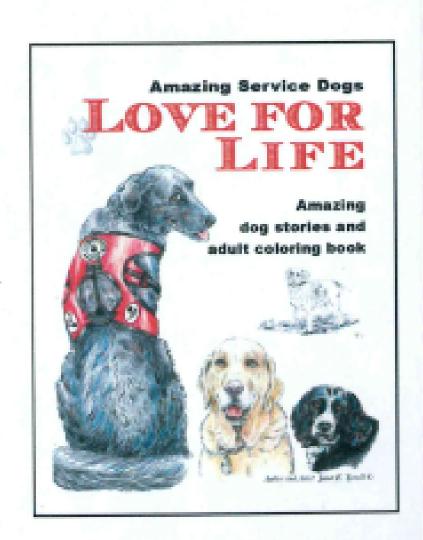
Read More Here



Artist Janet Tyrell Creates Amazing Adult Coloring Book Featuring DFL Service Dogs

Janet Tyrrell, artist and friend to Dogs For Life, created this beautiful adult coloring book, featuring DFL Service Dogs.. Available on AMAZON with proceeds to Dogs For Life, Inc. ~ enjoy.

Read More Here





THANK YOU to everyone who came out in support of Dogs For Life's Howl-O-Ween Pawrade, and to those who sponsored the event as well.

It was such a fantastic event, and we're already looking forward to see what costumes you guys cook up for next year's Pawrade!

Getting Social

Dogs For Life Attends United State Marine Corps.2018 Birthday Ball



United States Marine Corps 243rd Birthday Ball



November 3, 2018
Indian River Detachment
Marine Corps League

Dogs For Life Mission

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and veterans, through training hearing/service dogs, and owning an off-leash dog park.









Dogs For Life's Veterans Training Veterans program introduces veterans to what is involved in training service dogs to assist other veterans with hearing, mobility, or psychiatric disabilities. Dogs For Life is preparing the veterans in our program to help pave the way for the next generation as well as past generations that have served our country and are now looking for faithful dogs to fill their needs.

Training Center and Off-Leash Dog Park 1230 16th Avenue - Vero Beach, FL 32960 (772) 567-8969



December 3, 2018

Dogs for Life 1230 16th Ave Vero Beach FL 32960

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 for 2018. December 15, 2018 will be our next National Wreaths Across America Day, when we coordinate with groups all over the country to Remember those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom, Honor all who serve, and Teach future generations about their heroism.

This generous contribution will allow us to carry on our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.

Wreaths Across America is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization tax ID# 20-836-2270. Your charitable deduction can be counted to the full extent allowed by law. Always consult your tax professional. No goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.

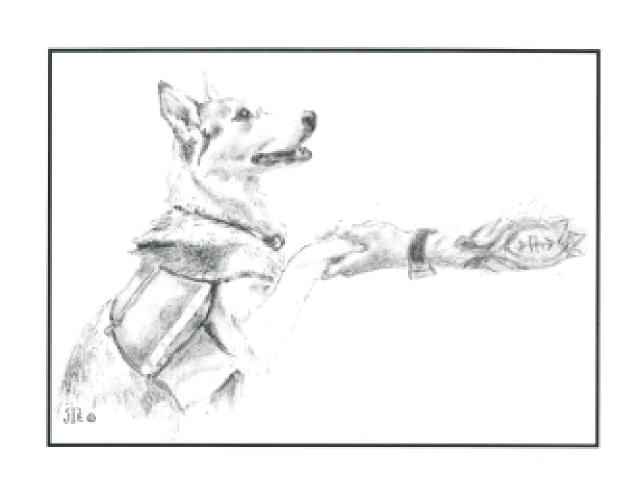
I welcome you to explore our website to learn more about the many ways Wreaths Across America works to fulfill our mission: Remember. Honor. Teach. Find us at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org.

Thank you again for your caring tribute to America's fallen heroes.

Sincerely,

Karen Worcester Executive Director

- Karen Warcester



Dear Mr. & Mrs. Schemen,

Thank you very much for your generous 200, or plack donation to Dogo For Life. Shelly in Istactic; to well as ptry and proved members!

With your generosity and the determination and drine of Dogo For Life, many lives will continue to be paned.

God bless bath of you.

Michells Dale



JOHN AND KATHI,

I'M SURE YOU ARE AWARE THAT

DEL COULDN'T CONTINUE ITS ONGOING

MISSION WITHOUT YOUR FINANCIAL

SUPPORT.

T JUST WANTED TO TAKE A MOMENT
TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS

DONATION THIS MONTH AND FOR

EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR D.F.

BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT, DELCLIEUTS

HAVE A BIGGET WORLD AVAILABLE TO THEM

AND RICHARLLIVES. ALLTHE BEST TO YOU AND

YOUR FAMILY! MARK

Treasue Coast Pilots Club

P.O. Box 7280 Vero Beach FL 32961-7280

Dogs for Life 1230 16th Ave. Vero Beach FL 32960

Dear Pilot Friends:

On behalf of the numerous organizations and individuals served by Treasure Coast Pilot Club, I would like to thank you for your recent donation to sponsor Autumn in the Park.

The October 6 - 7, 2018 event at Riverside Park, Vero Beach, will mark the 31th anniversary of this juried arts and crafts show that features jewelry, plants, crafts, pottery and fine art. As one of two major fundraisers for Treasure Coast Pilot Club, the proceeds are used to fund memory care bracelets for the Alzheimer & Parkinson Association, college scholarships, and financial assistance for homeless services, postage to ship homemade cookies to deployed troops, early childhood education, Special Equestrians and others. Your generous donation will touch the lives of many.

Your commitment to helping our local community is sincerely appreciated.

Cordially,

Wendy Freshley, President

In accordance with IRS policy, please note that this correspondence is also to inform you that we have not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for this contribution. The Treasure Coast Pilot Club is a 501(c)(3) organization under the Internal Revenue Service Code, EIN #51-0242733. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling (800) 435-7352 within the state.

Howl-O-Ween Coverage

Vero Beach 32963 / November 1, 2018

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly™

PETS



Bonz howls at pooches' priceless Pawrade duds

Hí Dog Buddies!

One of the most Cool Dog Biscuits events on my busy social schedule is the Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade. I look forward to it cuz I get to yap with a buncha you poocheroos, and check out your pawsome costooms. Me, I always attend cleverly disguised as a Springer Spaniel.

This year, like always, you pooches brought your costoom A-game. Dogs for Life is inna shady, leash-free dog park with a special building where humans train rescue dogs for Very Important Jobs: helping humans, 'speshly sol-jures, with Serious Problems, like if they can't hear too well or get around too well, or if they're duh-pressed or sad and need a Faithful Companion. Stuff like that.

Anyway, there were a couple hundred humans, an 45 costoom pawrade entries. First off was a demonstration by a Sheriff's K-9 team, a big, serious pooch officer an his human partner, which aling red antlers was hanging out in the shade with a black Standard Poo. I introduced myself.

"I'm Angel Showberger," she replied.
"This is my pooch pop, Roger. We're
named for a coupla human TENus
players, Anglique Kerber an Roger Federer. We don't play tennis ourselves,
though. We just chase TENus balls."

"Cool Kibbles," I replied, making a mental note to get her number.

"Guess what, Mr. Bonzo," a teeny Chiweenie piped up. (That's what a Chihuahua-Dachshund's called. Who knew?) "I'm Isabella Chapman. I'm a PIErat. See? My Mom, Sunny, made our costooms. Aren't they Crispy Dog Biscuits?"

"The crispiest!" I said. Isabella was head to toe pie-rat, with red headscarf, pie-rat hat, gold hoop earring, cutlass at her side, a peg leg, and her "signature" sunglasses.

I was happy to see several rescue pooches an service dogs in the bunch. One of 'em, a brindle greyhound rescue named Lacy Reynolds, was all decked out in red, white an blue. Golden Retriever GeeGee was trained as service



cidently drooled on my notebook while watching GeeGee the hot dog.

Then there was Rasta Robbie Rossie, a rescue Border Collie from St. Kitts, dressed up like Bob Marley. "Hey, Rastadog, Live Up!" he called.

"Keepin' that pooch culture," I replied, with a Paws-Up.

Another Yellow Lab, Good Girl, managed to look totally graceful in a white tulle skirt. "I'm a princess," she told me.

lo, Mr. Bonz. I'm Oscar. Can I ask your opinion about something?"

"Sure thing, Oscar." I noticed Oscar was dressed as an elephant. Big ears, trunk an all. It was adorable an hilarious.

"Well, since I look like an elephant," he said seriously, "I'm afraid I might accidently scare somebody. I don't want anybody to think I'm gonna squash 'em or anything."

"That is very conscientious of you, Oscar, but, honestly, I wouldn't worry," I assured him. "I think your friendly, nonthreatening doganality definitely shines through. Just resist the urge to trumpet and you'll be fine."

The costume that made me laugh most was Woody the dashchund, dressed up like a Tootsie Roll. He was the perfect shape, an he was Totally Workin' It, havin' a ball, summoning up his Inner Tootsie Roll.

A big Woofout goes to the humans who always make the Paw-rade fun: The Human In Charge, Miss Shelly, inna witch costoom, zoomed around in a liddle cart thingy, makin' sure everything was pooch-perfect. Lotsa

me. Their Very Important Job is mostly to catch Bad Guys. If you've ever seen 'em work, you know what I mean when I say I'm glad I'm not a Bad Guy.

I even had a brief yap with K-9 Officer Falko, a German Shepherd/Malinois mix an, guess what? He says we can schedule an INNERview. I'm stoked!

'Yoohoo, Mr. Bonzo, check us out!" called a liddle Yorkie/terrier mix wearin' a pink cowdog hat. "I'm Riley! a Cowdog! An this is Nicolas. He's 11 in human. He's Rocket Raccoon, a Guardian of the Galaxy, an I'm his Faithful ComPANyun. Whaddya think?"

"Pawsome!" I said.

Roxie Fermato, a Golden Retriever, also wore a cowdog costoom, an also looked Super Adorable.

A pretty, white Standard Poodle wear-

dog right there at Paws For Life. She was wearin' a hot dog costoom, complete with bun, mustard an relish! It ackshully made me a liddle hungry.

Another cool kibbles Golden was JACC, who was dressed as a lifeguard. I asked about his inner-sting name.

"You say it like 'Jack,'" he explained. "I'm named for a big sports center at a school in Indiana called No-der Dame. The center's named for a human called Mr. Joyce. One of the sports there is swimming."

"Woof, JACC, that does sound impor-

The Dynamic Duo was there, also: Batman was Terry Spencer, an his faithful sidekick Robin was service-dog-intraining Bentley, a Yellow Lab. I think I wrote the names down right, but I ac"I hafta walk real straight an careful to keep my pretty skirt on."

"Well you look super nice!" I told her sincerely.

Trained service pooch Fritz, a Jack Russell/Beagle combo, was also dressed like a PIErat, an had one of those way cool, three-corner hats. "I help my Mom, Judy, with lotsa stuff. I even know how to push a Special Button to dial 911, if there's an eeMERgency."

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A liddle chihuahua trotted up. "Hal-

volunteers did Real Important Stuff, like keepin' the water bowls filled; the Sheriff's K-9 team and Color Guard made everything extra special; Hobo Jim played music; and Troop 513 Boy Scouts helped the humans park.

Till next time,

The Bonz



Don't Be Shy

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories. To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

ONE have ON arm Flearts for Cold Of loses! ● Dr. Randy Divine ● Dr. Patty Shockency ● Dr. Robert Alonso ●

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Vero Beach 32963 / October 25, 2018

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly

PEOPLE

Costumed canines charm at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

BY SAMANTHA ROHLFING BAITA Staff Writer

Cool water was the beverage of choice among participants in the 17th annual Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo last Saturday afternoon at the fouracre DFL Off-Leash Dog Park and Training Facility. Human volunteers kept the many water bowls continually









WE'VE GONE SOUTH

JUST FOUR BLOCKS • 2905 CARDINAL DRIVE

NEW SPACE AND NEW ARTISTS

filled during the popular, free event; the nonprofit's signature fundraiser, which draws hundreds of humans and their pets.

For 364 days a year, the facility serves a serious, important purpose - training certified service dogs for the hearing- and mobility-impaired, including veterans with PTSD and other challenges. Instructors also teach veterans how to train other service dog

But Saturday it was all about fun and a whole lot of creativity.

Pawrade participants ranged from retrievers and greyhounds to handy,



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Thank you for your membership!



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1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960-3769

OFF-LEASH DOG PARK



Hí Dog Buddies!

One of the most Cool Dog Biscuits events on my busy social schedule is the Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade. I look forward to it cuz I get to yap with a buncha you poocheroos, and check out your pawsome costooms. Me, I always attend cleverly disguised as a Springer Spaniel.

This year, like always, you pooches brought your costoom A-game. Dogs for Life is inna shady, leash-free dog park with a special building where humans train rescue dogs for Very important Jobs: helping humans, 'speshly sol-jures, with Serious Problems, like if they can't hear too well or get around too well, or if they're duh-pressed or sad and need a Faithful Companion. Stuff like that.

Anyway, there were a couple hundred humans, an 45 costoom pawrade entries. First off was a demonstration by a Sheriff's K-9 team, a big, serious pooch officer an his human partner, which always impresses the Dog Biscuits out of me. Their Very Important Job is mostly to catch Bad Guys. If you've ever seen 'em work, you know what I mean when I say I'm glad I'm not a Bad Guy.

I even had a brief yap with K-9 Officer Falko, a German Shepherd/Malinois mix an, guess what? He says we can schedule an INNERview. I'm stoked!

"Yoohoo, Mr. Bonzo, check us out!" called a liddle Yorkie/terrier mix wearin' a pink cowdog hat. "I'm Riley! a Cowdog! An this is Nicolas. He's 11 in human. He's Rocket Raccoon, a Guardian of the Galaxy, an I'm his Faithful Com-PANyun. Whaddya think?"

"Pawsome!" I said.

Roxie Fermato, a Golden Retriever, also wore a cowdog costoom, an also looked Super Adorable.

A pretty, white Standard Poodle wearing red antlers was hanging out in the shade with a black Standard Poo. I introduced myself.

"I'm Angel Showberger," she replied.

"This is my pooch pop, Roger. We're
named for a coupla human TENus players, Anglique Kerber an Roger Federer.
We don't play tennis ourselves, though.
We just chase TENus balls."

"Cool Kibbles," I replied, making a mental note to get her number.

"Guess what, Mr. Bonzo," a teeny Chi-weenie piped up. (That's what a Chihuahua-Dachshund's called. Who knew?) "I'm Isabella Chapman. I'm a PIErat. See?



My Mom, Sunny, made our costooms. Aren't they Crispy Dog Biscuits?"

"The crispiest!" I said. Isabella was head to toe pie-rat, with red headscarf, pie-rat hat, gold hoop earring, cutlass at her side, a peg leg, and her "signature" sunglasses.

I was happy to see several rescue pooches an service dogs in the bunch. One of 'em, a brindle greyhound rescue named Lacy Reynolds, was all decked out in red, white an blue. Golden Retriever GeeGee was trained as service dog right there at Paws For Life. She was wearin' a hot dog costoom, complete with bun, mustard an relish! It ackshully made me a liddle hungry.

Another cool kibbles Golden was JACC, who was dressed as a lifeguard. I asked about his inner-sting name.

"You say it like 'Jack,'" he explained. "I'm named for a big sports center at a school in Indiana called No-der Dame. The center's named for a human called Mr. Joyce. One of the sports there is swimming."

"Woof, JACC, that does sound import-

The Dynamic Duo was there, also: Batman was Terry Spencer, an his faithful sidekick Robin was service-dog-in-training Bentley, a Yellow Lab. I think I wrote the names down right, but I accidently drooled on my notebook while watching GeeGee

the hot dog.

Then there was Rasta Robbie Rossie, a rescue Border Collie from St. Kitts, dressed up like Bob Marley. "Hey, Rastadog, Live Up!" he called.

"Keepin' that pooch culture," I replied, with a Paws-Up.

Another Yellow Lab, Good Girl, managed to look totally graceful in a white tulle skirt. "I'm a princess," she told me. "I hafta walk real straight an careful to keep my pretty skirt on." "Well you look super nice!" I told her sincerely.

Trained service pooch Fritz, a
Jack Russell/Beagle combo, was also
dressed like a PIErat, an had one of
those way cool, three-corner hats. "I
help my Mom, Judy, with lots a stuff. I
even know how to push a Special Button to dial 911, if there's an eeMERgency."

Babycakes, a bulldog mix, was wearin' a Breast Cancer Awareness vest. "I'm a rescue from the Vero Beach Humane Society," she told me. "I believe in paying it back by supporting an important cause."

I was impressed. "Woof, Babycakes, that is so socially aware of you!!"

A liddle chihuahua trotted up. "Hallo, Mr. Bonz. I'm Oscar. Can I ask your opinion about something?"

"Sure thing, Oscar." I noticed Oscar was dressed as an elephant. Big ears, trunk an all. It was adorable an hilar-

ious.

"Well, since I look like an elephant," he said seriously, "I'm afraid I might accidently scare somebody. I don't want anybody to think I'm gonna squash 'em or anything."

"That is very conscientious of you, Oscar, but, honestly, I wouldn't worry," I assured him. "I think your friendly, non-threatening doganality definitely shines through. Just resist the urge to trumpet and you'll be

The costume that made me laugh most was Woody the dashchund, dressed up like a Tootsie Roll. He was the perfect shape, an he was Totally Workin' It, havin' a ball, summoning up his Inner Tootsie Roll.

A big Woofout goes to the humans who always make the Paw-rade fun: The Human In Charge, Miss Shelly, inna witch costoom, zoomed around in a liddle cart thingy, makin' sure everything was pooch-perfect. Lotsa volunteers did Real Important Stuff, like keepin' the water bowls filled; the Sheriff's K-9 team and Color Guard made everything extra special; Hobo Jim played music; and Troop 513 Boy Scouts helped the humans park.

Heading home, I was thinkin' about how fun the Pawrade had been, an how much Dogs for Life helps pooches AN humans. An picturin' a coupla juicy hot dogs. An droolin' on my notebook again. Rats!

TIII next time

The Bonz



OCTOBER



17TH ANNUAL HOWL-O-WEEN-DOG COSTUME PAWRADE & PET EXPO

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park • 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach



1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 [] (772) 567-8969 office@dogsforlivevb.org M www.dogsforlifevb.com





INDIAN RIVER COUNTY I YOUR NEWSWEEKLY I WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018 I 11Y



COMMUNITY EVENTS

■ Dogs for Life presents its 17th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade on Saturday, October 20 at 4 pm at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Over 100 dogs will be dressed in all kinds of fun costumes and everyone will get a prize! This year's raffle items will be better than ever! Hobo Jim will provide live entertainment, and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit will present an exciting demonstration. Bring your dog, lawn chairs and be prepared to have FUN! For information call Shelly Ferger at Dogs For Life (772) 567-8969.



Howl-O-Ween





SEPTEMBER

Get Fido's glad rags on for 17th Howl-O-Ween Pawrade to help match vets with service dogs

Mary Kemper

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

You will not want to miss the chance to have your pampered pooch strut their stuff at the 17th Howl-O-Ween Pawrade fundraiser at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, Oct. 20.

Held from 2-5 p.m., with the Pawrade held at 4 p.m., it's a chance to dress up your dog and have an afternoon of fun to help DFL team up service dogs with deserving veterans, and train them at no cost to the veteran.

CEO and Founder Shelly Ferger said in her announcement email:

"Come and celebrate our 17th year!

"Over 100 dogs will be dressed in all kinds of fun costumes and everyone will get a prize! This year's raffle items will be better than ever!

"Hobo Jim will provide live entertainment, and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit will present an exciting demonstration.

"This event is FREE to the public. Bring your dog, lawn chairs and be prepared to

have FUN!"

Dogs For Life is a certified facility for conventional dog training, as well as service-dog training for the sight, hearing and mobility impaired.

But its veteran service dog program not only trains for conventional disabilities, but also for PTSD. The training is extensive and personalized to each veteran.

There have already been so many grateful veterans who have graduated the program, many have chosen to volunteer at DFL, and some have even become employed.

But the program can't be done for free, and fundraisers like the Pawrade help enormously. If you can't make it, consider making a donation any amount is appreciated.

The fun-filled afternoon will be held at the DFL compound located at 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, in the Off-Leash Heidi, whose owner is Corina Turner of Vero Beach, came to the 16th Dogs For Life 'Howl-O-Ween' fundraiser Oct. 21, 2017, at the DFL complex in Vero Beach. The 17th annual fundraiser will be held Oct. 20 this year to help the DFL match up service dogs with

veterans at no cost.

File photo by Mary Kemper

Dog Park also maintained by DFL. And what the heck dress up yourself, or come in matching outfits with your

if you have any questions or would like additional information please call Shelly Ferger at Dogs For Life at (772) 567-8969, or email office@dogsforlife-wb.org, or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.





Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

17TH ANNUAL HOWE DOG COSTUME PAWRAD

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park • 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach October 20, 2018 • Registration 2PM - Pawrade 4PM • FREE & Open to the Public

2R II MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2018 II LUMINARIES • IR II TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Indian River County

Dogs for Life's 'Pawrade' to include K-9 demonstration

pecial to Treasure Coast Newspa SA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

For 17 years, Dogs For Life has hosted a Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade on its four-acre off-leash dog park at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

On the cover

Lynn Porter and her rescue dog, Baby. at the 2016 Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade in Vero Beach. Photo by Brenda Sposato/For Luminaries

This year's event, which is free and open to the public, is Oct. 20. Registration will start at 2 p.m. with the pawrade at 4 p.m.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office

conducting a K-9 demonstration, and there will be live entertainment by Hobo Jim and raffle prize drawings.

The mission of Dogs For Life is to improve the quality of life for veterans and non-veterans through the training of

hearing and service dogs. Dogs For Life was founded in 2002 by Shelly Ferger and has since been assisting clients with disabilities and managing its off-leash dog park. Programs take place at a 2,400-squarefoot training center adjacent to the perk, available by membership to the public for \$100 annually. Dogs must be



Retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. James Taylor, left, and his PTSD service dog Pia-Pia, with Dogs for Life supporter Kathi Schumann and Dogs For Life CEO/Founder Shelly Ferger holding her dog, Sunny, at the 2016 Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade in Vero Beach, FILE PHOTO BY BRENDA SPOSATO

Dogs For Life turns lives around by providing independence and self-reliance for people who need task-trained service and hearing dogs.

Dogs For Life is certified by Assisbody for organizations training by Assistance Dogs International and edges and is one of five service entifying organizations in Florida bized by the U.S. Department of the Veterans Affairs.

According to the Veterans Affairs, there are more than 1.8 million veterans and portantly, to feel noperus again.

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger, founder/CEO and director of training programs, at 772-567-18969 or www.office@dogsforlifevb.org. tance Dogs International, the accreditation body for organizations training service dogs and is one of five service dog certifying organizations in Florida

Veterans Affairs.

Dogs For Life began its first formal veteran dog training program in 2014, when there was a 50 percent jump in inquiries for the program. Many of those inquiring were veterans referred

living in Florida with 415,000 under the age of 65. Over 880,000 live with a disability, and 65 percent are dealing with mental health issues.

In Indian River County, where Dogs For Life is located, there are over 15,000 veterans of whom 2,600 have a service-related disability.

The dogs are trained to assist their owners with challenges such as hearing deficits by alerting to a door knock, a ringing telephone, a smoke alarm, or an alarm clock. Mobility service dogs are task trained to provide stability to a erson who has trouble balancing, rising from a chair, picking up a phone, or retrieving a fallen object.

Service dogs transform the lives of their veteran partners by performing specialized tasks their owners cannot perform without assistance, such as g night terrors and providing comfort; helping a veteran acclimate to crowds and other social situations by creating a "buffer" between the veteran and other people; alerting to panic and anxiety attacks and promoting a sense of calm; and easing safety concerns.

Veterans say their dog helps them to reduce or eliminate medications, abandon suicidal thoughts and, most importantly, to feel hopeful again.







Join us for a "howling" good time!

In the VIP Tent

17th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade

> October 20, 2018 2:00 p.m. Pawrade at 4:00 p.m.

> > Dogs For Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

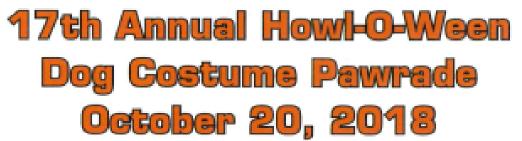
RSVP to 567-8969 or email: office@dogsforlifevb.org

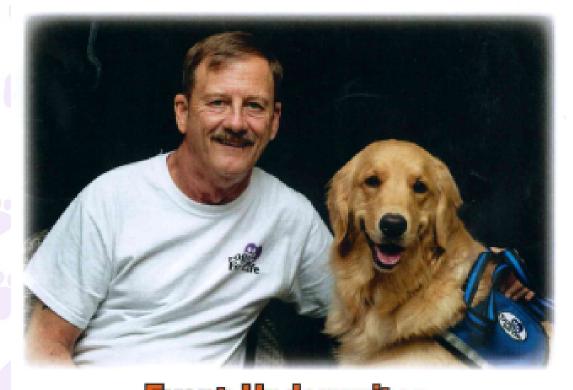
A Special Thank You to this Year's Event Underwriter Sassy Martin





Training Service Dogs For Veterans





Hobo Jim

Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit Demonstration

Indian River County
Sheriff's Office
Color Guard

Fabulous Raffle Drawings

Event Underwriter
Perry J. Martin and Kathi's Golden Girl Sassy



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Thank You!

You are making a difference in the quality of life for people and dogs right here in Indian River county!



AUGUST



Assistance Dogs International, Inc.

A non-profit coalition of programs training Assistance Dogs

August 30, 2018

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info@assistancedcosinternational.org

Dogs for Life, Inc. Shelly Ferger, Executive Director 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Shelly,

On behalf of the Assistance Dogs International Board of Directors, ADI would like to extend our deepest appreciation and thank you to you, your donor, and your board of directors who enabled Dogs for Life to be one of the Title Presenting Sponsors to the 2018 ADI Conference. As you know, the conference was a huge success with over 280 attendees from 13 countries. This conference was the largest in attendance in ADI history!

The education sessions offered were outstanding. ADI was fortunate to have eight guest speakers and 49 ADI members sharing their best practices and experience. The number of ADI members participating demonstrates the commitment to help all our programs provide the best possible service to our clients by providing high quality assistance dogs to give them the independence they deserve.

The enthusiasm and energy generated at the conference has motivated our members to be more engaged and involved with the issues that affect the assistance dog industry around the world. Three work groups have been formed that follow the pillars of our organization: Education, Standards and Awareness. These work groups will continue to work throughout the year to develop action plans with the priorities set by the members.

ADI could not have done this without your support.

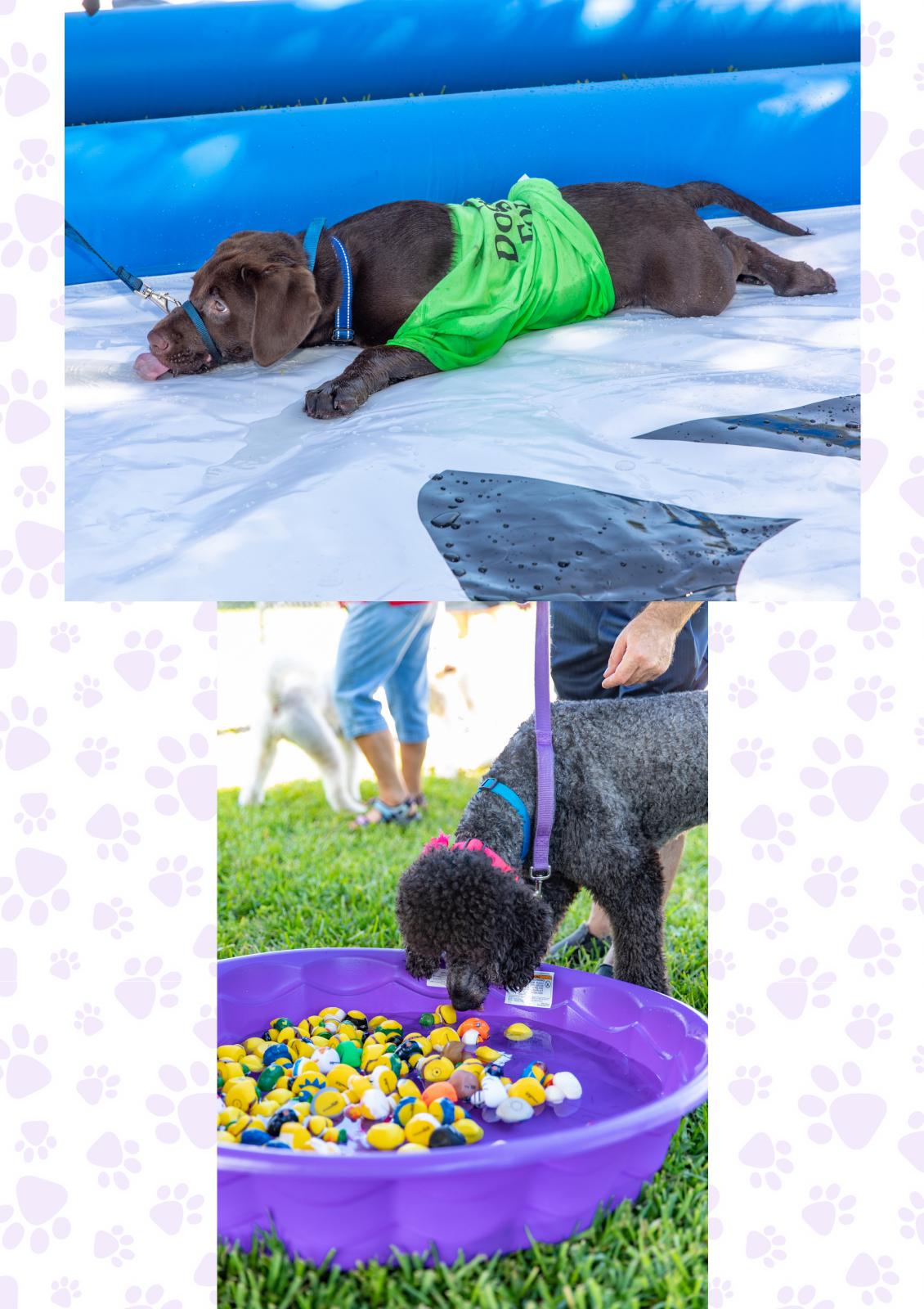
Thank you!

Best regards,

Chris Diefenthaler Administrator SEP 4 2018

Dog Days of Summer





Mulligans









July 10, 2018

Dogs For Life, Inc. Attn. Ms. Shelly Ferger 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, Fl. 32960

Dear Shelly,

Thank you for your very generous contribution of \$5,000.00 on March 9, 2018 for sponsorship in our annual Veterans Outreach Golf Tournament which raised over \$27,000.00. Sponsorships such as yours enable this success! You stepped up in a meaningful way to assist those who have answered our Nation's call. For that we are truly grateful.

The Veterans Council exists to serve the 15,000 veterans living in Indian River County. Our very first mission was to provide medical transportation to the Veterans Administration Medical Hospital in West Palm Beach. 31 years later we now serve 2,300 riders annually. With such daily use we are reaching the end of life for our two 25 passenger buses with wheel chair access.

All this we can do only because of the excellent support from people like you.

On behalf of the Veterans and the families we serve, thank you for your generosity.

Singerely

Curtis Paulisin, Tournament Chair

First Vice President

Veterans Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Info@Veterans CouncilIRC.org

Office: 772-410-5820

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Disclosure: A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling troll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Call1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) or go to www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com for more information. Our registration number is CH12904.

Tax Exempt EIN: 59-2970832 PO Box 1354, Vero Beach, FL 32961 www.VeteransCouncillRC.org www.facebook.com/VeteransCouncillRC

772-410-5820

JUNE



Join us for a Jubilee in June!

"A No Gift Birthday Lunch"

(Donations to DFL Veteran Dog Training Program)

Celebrating the Birthdays of ...

DFL Founder Shelly Ferger

DFL Director Mark Poziomek & Service Dog Ranger

DFL Assistant Trainer Tracey Higginbotham USMC Retired & Service Dog Tucker

Service Dog Demonstration

Pet a Service Dog Puppy

Good Boy & Good Girl (Golden Retriever Puppies)

Dogs For Life, Inc. Training Center

1230 16th Avenue

June 21, 2018

Noon - 1:30 pm

Please RSVP 772-567-8969 or office@dogsforlifevb.org









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Dogs For Life, Inc. was founded to improve the quality of life for people and dogs through the training of service dogs and operating an off-leash dog park.





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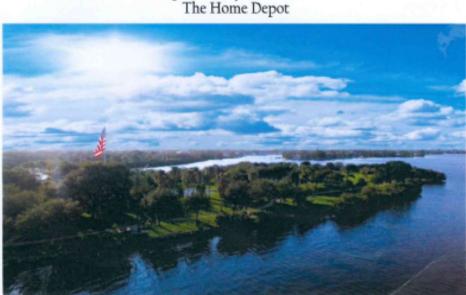
Woman of the Year



Acknowledgements

Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Committee
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Military Moms Prayer Group
Palm Garden of Vero Beach
Quail Valley Golf Club



MEMORIAL DAY



May 28, 2018 9:00 AM
Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary
Vero Beach, Florida



SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018 I TCPALM.COM

Dealing with PTSD

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, post-traumatic stress disorder can develop after traumatic events, including but not limited to sexual assault, natural disasters, accidents, combat or witnessing death or injury.

Although 7 to 8 percent of the general population will have PTSD in their lifetime, combat veterans are more susceptible, with an estimated 11 to 20 percent of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom veterans, 12 percent of Gulf War veterans and 30 percent of Vietnam War veterans developing PTSD.

Common symptoms of include reliving the event, avoiding situations that remind you of the event, having more negative beliefs and feelings, and feeling keyed up.

For more information and treatment options, visit the following websites:

American Psychiatric Association: www.psychiatry.org

National Alliance on Mental Illness: www.nami.org

PTSD Alliance: www.ptsdalliance.org

The VA's National Center for PTSD: www.ptsd.va.gov

Wounded Warrior Project: www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Service dogs for veterans

LOCAL

Avatar K-9 Training: www.avatark9.com

Canines 4 Hope Dog Training: www.canines4hope.com

Dogs for Life: https://dogsforlifevb.org

NATIONAL

America's Vet Dogs: www.vetdogs.org

Assistance Dogs International: www.assistancedogsinternational.org

Canine Companions for Independence: www.cci.org

Canines for Service: www.caninesforservice.org

Freedom Service Dogs of America: https://freedomservicedogs.org

Patriot Paws Service Dogs: http://patriotpaws.org

Power Paws Assistance Dogs: https://azpowerpaws.org

Warrior Canine Connection: https://warriorcanineconnection.org

About this story

In February 2016, photojournalist Leah Voss met Marine Lance Cpl. David Merrill on the day he rescued his service dog, Recon.

Over the next two years, as Voss followed along with a camera, David opened up about his life in the Marines and the challenges of marriage, fatherhood and living with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Semper Fi means "always faithful." For David, finding the constant support from a friendly PTSD service dog was what he needed to achieve peace.

VETS AND PETS

Indian River Community Foundation Grants Awarded

Both Dogs for Life and the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County were awarded \$50,000 grants from the Indian River Community Foundation's Community Enrichment Fund in February. Dogs for Life provides assistance dog training and certification and also pairs rescued dogs with local veterans suffering from one or more disabling conditions. Since 2015, the organization has served approximately 150 veterans and rescued more than 75 dogs. The Humane Society will use its grant money to purchase and operate a mobile trailer to be used in its efforts to extend its Pet Spot mobile adoption unit and clinic to underserved areas of the community.



Indian River Community
Foundation
5070 N. A1A, Suite 200
772-492-1407
ircommunityfoundation.org

Shelly Ferger of Dogs for Life holding Good Girl, Jeff Pickering of Indian River Community Foundation, U.S. Marine veteran Richie Keller and GiGi VERO BEACH MAGAZINE

> MAY 2018

44

Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 17, 2018 1:45 PM dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Your campaign Rables alert issued in I.R. Co. has been sent



Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'Rables alert issued in I.R. Co.' was sent on 5/17/2018 around 1:45 PM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: Rabies alert Issued in I.R. Co.



Rabies Alert Issued in Indian River County

TC Newspapers reports in today's paper that the Fl. Dept. of Health in I.R. County has issued a rabies alert.

Not to cause unnecessary panic, but a member suggested we notify our members in the event they do not receive the newspaper.

As long as your dog (pets), are up to date on their rabies vaccination, you should not have a concern.

However, if you notice an animal, domestic or wild behaving strangely, or if you are attacked or come in contact with fluids of a potentially rabid animal, you should seek help immediately and contact the Health Department at 772-794-7440.

Thank yeur. Do Haven 3 men)! Kathie, Thank you for you generous gift to allow this gift. Sensper Figureur Thank you Dan Walan Short you & Kathi, Media Schumanik Thank you so very ventruch much for your dedication to, Veterand and their courses. Thank you for your gentreity to help us surprise Estres and to help start up our new Thank Gan So much for ell you do Betty Soufren

Dearest Kathi,

Thank you from the bottom of our "Gold Star Hearts" for your generosity in sponsoring the cherished "Honor and Remember Flag" for our beloved friend and fellow Gold Star Mother, Esther Wolfer. Esther selflessly serves countless active duty military members, veterans, and fellow Gold Star families. This flag, honoring her fallen son, United States Army Major Stuart Adam Wolfer, who was killed in action in 2008, will have unfathomable meaning in her heart of hearts. Thank you, Kathi, for recognizing the need for this sweet mother to have the "one" flag that honors her son's ultimate sacrifice to our United States of America.

Kathi, please accept our deepest thanks, as well, for the additional funds you gifted to our new chapter! We were all truly touched by your kind and generous thoughtfulness! You have given us a foothold as we begin moving forward in our service to our nation's servants - her veterans, her active duty military, and to our fellow Gold Star Families. Thank you, Kathi, for believing in the efforts of our newly formed "American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., Indian River – St. Lucie County Chapter"!

You, Kathi, have our utmost sincere and deepest gratitude!

Respectfully, together, in service,

Linda Schumann, President – Mother of SPC Jordan C. Schumann, USA, KIA Afghanistan - 07/05/2011

Michelle Dale, Vice President - Mother of CPL Dale J. Kridlo, USA, KIA Afghanistan - 11/07/2010

Pam McNair, Secretary - Mother of SPC Andre' D. McNair, USA, KIA Afghanistan - 06/05/2008

Karen Zook, Treasurer - Mother of Cpl Ian T. Zook, USMC, KIA Iraq - 10/12/2004

Esther Wolfer, Historian - Mother of MAJ Stuart A. Wolfer, USA, KIA Iraq - 04/06/2008

Roma Anderson, Member - Mother of Lt. Col. Joseph T. McCloud, USMC, KIA Iraq - 12/04/2006

Mary Salerno, Member - Mother of LCpl Anthony Salerno, USMC, KIA Vietnam - 05/26/1967

Betty Soufrine, Assoc. Member – Grandmother of PFC Eric Soufrine, USA, KIA Afghanistan – 06/11/2011



A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER ABOUT VETERANS ISSUES, ORGANIZATIONS, EVENTS AND OUR MILITARY HERDES

VETERAN VOICE



Seven service dog teams graduate at DFL's Dogs, Donors and Awards Ceremony Seven dog teams graduate at ceremony

Shelly Ferger USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

More than 100 friends and guests gathered April 7 at the Dogs For Life Training Center to attend the annual Dogs, Donors & Awards Ceremony.

Richard and Jane Manoogian and Kathi G. Schumann, Dogs For Life board president, received Individual Philanthropist Awards. Corporate Philanthropist of the Year was presented to Jeff and Suzy Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping and the Media & Marketing Award was presented to Citrus Three Social Media Marking and Consulting.

Assistance Dog Team of Year went to Jessica Jacobs. Veteran Dog Team of the Year award was presented to Richie Kel-Jer and Perry J. Martin. The 2017 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to service dog foster family, Chris, Sheri, Sofie, Joe, Harry and Liberty Taylor.



Devon Williams with Quilts of Valor presents hand crafted, personalized Valor Quilts to each graduating veteran and their dogs. SHELLY FERGER/FOR LUMINARIES

Graduates: Jessica Jacobs and hearing dog, River; Army veterans: Al Cabral, and Coco; Joe Sperry and Chlowie; Marine Corps: Mark Eaker and Shadow; Tracey Higginbotham and Tucker; Richie Keller and GiGi; Air Force: Perry J. Martin and Sassy.

Dogs for Live FOR VETERANI VOICE

On April 7, more than 100 friends and guests accompanied seven service dog teams who graduated at the DFL Training Center. This was the largest graduating class ever, and it included six veterans and their service dogs.

Receiving the Individual Philanthropist Awards were Richard and Jane Manoogian and Board President Kathi G. Schumann The Corporate Philanthropist award was presented to Jeff and Suzy Gomes of Coast to Coast Landscaping.

The Media and Marketing award was presented to Citrus Three Social Media Marketing and Consulting.

Assistance Dog Team of the year award was presented to Jessica Jacobs and River. The Veteran Dog Team of the year award was presented to Richie Keller with Gigi, and Perry J. Martin with Sassy. The 2017 Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Chris, Sheri, Sofie, Joe, Harry and Liberty Taylor for their role

in fostering DFL service dog puppies in

In addition to DFL's mission of providing service dog training to the whole community, it offers specialized training to provide service dogs to veterans free of charge.

DFL's latest program is Veterans Training Veterans, which pairs up veterans with mobility, hearing or PTSD issue with veterans learning how to work with their new service dogs.

To learn more about DFL's missions, or to volunteer or donate, visit dogsforlifevb.org.

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™

Vero Beach 32963 / April 12, 2018

PEOPLE





Jessica Jacobs with River, Mark Poziornek, Kathi Schumann and Shelly Ferger.



Sheri and Chris Taylor with son Harry.



Col. (Ret.) Darryle "Sam" Kouns, Linda Lies and City Councilman Tony Young.



Kyndell and Kynlee with Good Girl.



Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

At the recent Dogs For Life Service Training and Awards ceremony, from left, are DFL CEO Shelly Ferger with Richie Keller, USMC veteran and Golden Retriever Gigi, Al Cabral, USA veteran and chocolate Labrador Retriever Coco, Mark Eaker, USMC veteran, Jessica Jacobs and Papillion River, Perry J. Martin, USAF veteran with Golden Retriever Sassy, Tracey Higginbotham, USMC veteran and yellow Labrador Retriever Tucker and DFL Assistant Trainer Cassie Ford.

Your Vere Beach Newsweekly "

Vere Beach 32963 / April 12, 2018

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PEOPLE



Learny impleans and Loie, Traces Higginbothern and Tacher, All Cabral and Coop, Penny Markin and Essay, and Henry Taylor and Coop Cod Outs will get her real name when she gets a partner).



Jasaica Jacobs with Pitrer, Mark Pealameh, Kethi Schumonn and Shelly Ferges.



Shart and Chris Taylor with oon Harry.



Col. (Ret.) Durryle "Saru" Koues, Limis Liss and City Countilman Tony Young.



Bysdell and Kystee with Good Girl.

PEOPLE

Paws-ing to honor many at 'Dogs for Life' awards fete



Mark and Lindsey Baken.

world see to be at

BY MARY SCHENOEL Stuff Television

"Today is a very special day for us at Dogs for Life," said Shelly Ferger, DFL founder. "It's a special day to recognize the devoted dogs, the dedicated donors, the valued volunteers and our special veterans, men and women who have given a part of themselves away fighting for our freedom."

Ferger said that the number of Indian River County veterans applying for service dogs has increased from 19 in 2015 to 59 in 2017. Since 2002 DFL has trained 133 service dogs; 44 of those for veterans. They are currently supporting 34 teams, 10 more than last year. and have a wait-list of 19; 18 who are

one year, applicants learn to commumicate with their dog, they learn how to obedience-train and to task-train their dog," said Ferger.

The dogs are eventually certified to perform an extensive variety of tasks, all geared toward helping people live independently. Examples include: alerting to a door knock, smoke alarm, alarm clock or telephone ringing; helping people balance on their feet or pulling them from a chair; tapping 911. emergency canine phones and handicap door buttons; helping owners suffering from anxiety, depression or panic attacks to feel safe in umpredictable environments; and waking owners from nightmanes.

"Bocause of you there has nover been a charge to our clients," Ferger told "Over a period from six months to the roomful of donors and supporters

packing the organization's Training Center, noting that the estimated cost varios but averages \$18,000 for one year of training.

Service team graduates were presented with ID cards, certificates of training and Service Dog vests, which were swapped out for the dogs' previour 'in-training' vests.

"I want to assure you that every thing

we're doing here is 100 percent by the book. We would not be accredited by Assistance Dogs International if we did not do it right," said Ferger. "When you have a dedicated person and you have the right dog, it works out to be a beau-

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, Devon Williams and CONTINUED ON PRICE 36





Dear Graduates; Sorry I can't be You've proven there to Congratulate you've got what it takes you all in person. to meet challenges, overcome obstacles, I am wishing all my and pursue excellence 2 legged and 4 legged to fulfill a dream. friends all the best of everything. Congratulations on your well-deserved success. HAPPY Days to all with affection (and Coonery Thanks for the invite

Quilts of Valor

Vero Beach 32963 / April 12, 2018



Richie Keller and GiGi with Casey Taksa and daughter Lilly.



Devon Williams and Christal Dedmon.

At the conclusion of the graduation ceremony, Devon Williams and

Christal Dedmon of the nationwide Quilts of Valor Foundation, which has donated close to 184,000 quilts to active service members and veterans since its 2003 founding, presented hand-made quilts to the veteran graduates and their dogs.

2017 DFL Awards were presented to: Richard and Jane Manoogian – Kathi G. Schumann Award; Kathi Schumann – Individual Philanthropist Award; Jeff and Suzi Gomez – Corporate Philanthropist Award; Curtis Carpenter & Dustin Tackett – Media Marketing Award; Jessica Jacobs and River – Service/Hearing Dog Team Award; Richie Keller and GiGi and Perry Martin and Sassy – Veterans Dog Team Awards; and the Chris Taylor Family – Volunteer of the Year Award.

The 2018 Team Graduates were:
Al Cabral, U.S. Army and Coco; Mark
Eaker, U.S. Marine Corps and Shadow; Tracey Higginbotham, U.S. Marine Corps and Tucker; Jessica Jacobs
and River; Richie Keller, U.S. Marine
Corps and GiGi; Perry Martin, U.S.
Air Force and Sassy; and Joe Sperry,
U.S. Army and Chlowie.

Graduation Ceremony









Clay Shooting Tournament

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY # YOUR NEWSWEEKLY # WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2018 # 13Y

Foundation holds clay shooting tournament

John McIntosh YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH -- The American Security Council Foundation recently held its first Sporting Clays Tournament at Blackwater Creek Ranch.

Sponsors of the event included MBV Engineering, Boston Private, Dogs For Life, George E. Warren Corporation, Linus Cadillac, Dill & Evans, P.L. Wilke's 14 Bones, Einstein Bagels, Donut Circus, and James W. Betancourt DMD PA.

Funds raised will benefit the educational program "Step Up America: A



Some of the winners at the American Security Council Foundation Sporting Clays Tournament. PROVIDED BY JOHN MCINTOSH

Call To Good Citizenship" which was created by the ASCF.

Shelly Ferger

From: Sent: Adrian Garcia <agarcia@ascfusa.org> Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:47 AM

To:

Shelly Ferger

Subject:

RE: SHOOTING FOR AMERICA

The date and time is perfect. We will see you then!

Best regards,

Adrian

Adrian Garcia Engagement Coordinator (Office) 772-388-2490 (Cell) 772-777-9726



Stone Shough Strongth

American Security Council Foundation

Promoting Peace Through Strength

www.stepupamericaprogram.com
facebook.com/StepUpUSA

From: Shelly Ferger [mailto:office@dogsforlifevb.org]

Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2018 9:44 AM

To: Adrian Garcia Cc: Shelly Ferger

Subject: RE: SHOOTING FOR AMERICA

Hi Adrian,

The President of our Board Mrs. Kathi Schumann is pleased to accept your plaque of appreciation at 2:00 on Tuesday March 20.

Please confirm this date and time is agreeable to you.

If you need directions or additional information, please do not hesitate to let me know.

MARCH

Indian River County

Indian River Community Foundation celebrates 10 years

Jeff Pickering
For Luminaries
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Indian River Community Foundation is 10 years old.

The organization celebrated this milestone with a 10th Birthday Luncheon at the Vero Beach Museum of Art.

Highlights of the luncheon included testimonials from Gifford Youth Achievement Center and St. Francis Manor; a Spirit of Philanthropy award presented to John and Kathi Schumann; keynote remarks from wealth legacy coach and author Kristen Heaney; birthday cake and some "school spirit" courtesy of the Vero Beach High School Band's drumline, also known as the "Pride of the Treasure Coast."

Since its establishment in 2008, the foundation has consistently ranked among the fastest growing new community foundations in the country. By the end of 2018, it will have recorded more than \$100 million in philanthropic contributions.

"While this may not be a surprise given the generosity of our community's residents, it is an impressive total for such a young community foundation that began with \$1 million in start-up capital from 52 founders," said Jeff Pick-



Indian River Community Foundation
President Jeff Pickering, left, with
John and Kathi Schumann, recipients
of the Spirit of Philanthropy award.
PHOTOS BY MAUREEN NICOLACE/FOR LUMINARIES



Pat Hemingway Hall, left, and Sandy Rolf.

ering, president and CEO.

Beyond growing, the Community Foundation has done a lot of good for the local community and beyond. In recent years, the organization has topped



Mary Graves, left, Kerry Bartlett and Shotsi Lajole.

the list of the most active grant-makers among all U.S. community foundations. By the end of 2018, the Community Foundation will have awarded more than \$50 million in grants, 80 percent of which support Indian River County charities.

"Since most of the Community Foundation's grants are awarded from donor advised funds, these statistics really demonstrate the generosity of our clients," said Pickering.

"I consider the Community Foundation as a valuable resource to living donors," said Neill Currie, the foundation's board chair. "We help our clients find comfort that they are making the wisest choices with their charitable dollars."

As a testament to how comfortable clients are with its mission and ser-



Bob Puff, left, and Rick McDermott.

vices, more than 40 individuals and families have already chosen to entrust Indian River Community Foundation with their charitable legacy by making a planned gift from their estates. The Community Foundation's Alma Lee Loy Legacy Society honors these generous commitments, and represents a sacred obligation to use this philanthropic capital for good, forever.

"As for the future, Indian River Community Foundation will continue to grow by helping generous people to simplify their donations and give to the causes they love through donor advised funds, "said Pickering. "If we do this job well, more people will be inspired to work with us to create and leave a charitable legacy to support the causes they care about forever through permanent endowments. We are off to a good start, and believe it can only get better."

Shelly, we are in owe of your commitment to helping our new Indian River-St. Lucie Country Chapter of american. Hold Star mothers, fore. With your help ine are able to fulfill the wish of our member, Ester Wolfer, to receive an Honor and Remember foog in remembrance of her son, Mag I thank a. Wolfer's, il timate sacrifice to our country; as well as, be able

Start our newly formed Clapter.
Thirt you from the bottom of our hearts.
Michelle Dale (Love Jou! XX00)
Karen Zook - Thank you so much!
Ohank You! Pan Markey
Linda Schumann Thank You!
Roma lenderson Many Charles &
Blessings of

Missing cat reunited with owner after 14 years

Maureen Kenyon
Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Have you ever wondered what 14 years equals in cat years?

(Hint: It's a really long time.)

For an orange tabby named Thomas Jr. — T2 for short — it's about 72 years, the time it's been since he last saw his owner, Perry Martin, of Fort Pierce.

But because of a microchip, T2 was reunited with Martin last week at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast.

"When I got the call and someone said, 'What if we told you T2 was alive?' I figured it was a mistake," Martin said. "It was too crazy to believe."

That phone call was from Martin's veterinarian, who, in 2002, had implanted T2 with a microchip. If T2 ever went missing, it would make him easier to identify once he'd been found.

Two years later, after Hurricane Jeanne hit the Treasure Coast, Martin, 60, moved in with a friend in Stuart.

Just a few days after settling there, T2 escaped.

"I looked for him, the neighbors looked for him, but no one could find him," he said.

Martin filed a missing-cat report with the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast.

"With him being microchippped, I figured someone would find him and call me," he said.

But that didn't happen and Martin assumed the worst: T2 had met his fate on Kanner Highway.

"I got done grieving and moved back home," Martin said.

Since T2's escape, Martin had moved twice, once to Ohio and then back to Fort Pierce.

"I just went on about my life," he said. "I guess T2 did, too, because who would have thought that after 14 years, you'd find your lost cat?"

But that's what happened March 9.

A Martin County Animal Services officer found the orange tabby as a stray and took him to the nonprofit shelter in Palm City. A simple wave of a wand near T2's shoulder blades quickly identified the microchip's unique ID, giving the shelter all the information it



Thomas Jr., or T2, sits with his owner, Perry Martin, of Fort Pierce, after being reunited after 14 years at the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO FROM DOREEN POREBA

needed to find the cat's owner.

Deidre Huffman, shelter adoption manager, said staff was shocked when it found out T2 had been missing for 14 years.

"It's a crazy amount of time for a cat to be gone," she said. "No one took him to a vet to be scanned and no one reported that they had found him.

"Thankfully, he finally was found and brought to us. He was chipped and his owner's information was up to date."

That's the best — and most important — part about T2's adventure.

"Having a collar with a tag is a great first line of defense, but they come off," Huffman said. "Chips do not. It links you to the animal for the pet's life."

For Martin, a retired canine officer with the Fort Pierce Police Department, making sure his animals working and personal — had microchips was second nature.

See CAT, Page 27A

Cat

Continued from Page 26A

"If you care about your pet, chip 'em," he added. "Update your phone number and address, because if you don't, it's all a waste."

Each microchip, typically implanted between an animal's shoulder blades, is embedded with a unique identification number, said Janet Winikoff, director of education at the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County.

When a chipped animal is scanned with a wand, the wand beeps and the ID number is displayed, she said.

The microchips are passive transponders.

"We can tell from the ID number who the manufacturer is and if the microchip is registered," she said.

If the microchip isn't registered, the manufacturer still can find out who purchased it, such as a veterinarian or an animal shelter.

Microchip's are inexpensive, usually \$15-\$40, and are implanted quickly, Winikoff said.

"To have that insurance that your pet will always be able to be ID'd is so important," she said.

Statistics prove microchips work,

The chances of a microchipped dog being found and returned to its owner rise from 25 percent to 50 percent, said David Lynch, Port St. Lucie shelter manager with the Humane Society of St. Lucie County. For cats, it's 2 percent without a chip vs. 25 percent with one.

"Pets are our family," he said.

"People sometimes spend months looking for their lost animal. Microchips make it so much easier for everyone."

The humane societies in Indian River, St. Lucie and Martin counties implant microchips and register them, but some shelters and veterinarians leave it up to pet owners.

That's why it's critical to register a microchip with its manufacturer and update personal information such as a new phone number or home address, Winikoff said.

Contacting the pet's veterinarian and local humane societies and shelters with updated information is a good idea, too.

It's also important that if someone finds a stray animal to take it to a lo-



T2 in 2002, the year Perry Martin, of Fort Pierce, found him as a stray in his neighborhood. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO BY PERRY MARTIN

cal shelter that has a universal scanner. Universal scanners have the most up-to-date technology to find and scan most microchips, Winikoff added.

"Pets don't carry wallets with ID, so anything you can do to get your pet home, you want to try everything possible," she said.

Martin is happy T2 is home, but wonders how the cat spent the last 14

"Could you imagine if he could talk for just 15 minutes to tell us what he's been through?" Martin asked. "He'd probably say, 'Why did you keep the door shut, Dad?"

Martin said he would like to think T2 lived with a family.

"I just can't imagine him living in the wild," he said. "But I guess it's possible."

T2 is still in rough shape.

At first, the cat wouldn't eat or drink and slept most of the day. But over the past few days, Martin said, T2 finishes his food and drinks water and is beginning to remember him.

"I will make sure he's comfortable for the rest of his time here," he said. "He's still skin-and-bones and he's 18 years old, but he's still T2."

Maureen Kenyon is TCPalm's trends reporter, keeping Treasure Coast residents updated on hot topics and happenings. Do you have a story to tell? Want to start a conversation? Send an email

maureen.kenyon@tcpalm.com, call 772-221-4249 or follow her on Twitter @_MaureenKenyon_.

Shelly Ferger

From:

Shelly Ferger

Sent:

Tuesday, March 13, 2018 2:39 PM

To:

chaplain@legionmail.org

Cc:

Shelly Ferger

Subject:

Hi Barry

Hi Barry,

Just wanted to say how happy we were with the turnout last night at the American Legion.

And, I hope we find some kind of opportunity to partner in the future. As I said, currently we only operate inside IR Co., but several Veterans come to us from St. Lucie county for training which can take up to a year. So it's a commitment.

Perhaps in the future as we grow we'll head north. We currently Partner with Brevard Co. Sheriff's Office paws & strips so there is hope.

Warmly,

P.S. I was very impressed with your presentation at Veterans Memorial Island. Very moving and inspirational.

Shelly

Shelly Ferger, Founder/CEO & Director of Training Programs



www.office@dogsforlifevb.org

Training Center • 1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans



March 13, 2018

Kathi Schumann 8225 5th Street SW Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Kathi;

Please accept my personal appreciation and collective thanks of the 15,000 military veterans of Indian River County for your very generous donation toward the future construction of a local monument honoring all those who have served in the ongoing Iraq & Afghanistan conflicts. It is long past due to make that project a reality. Our goal is to dedicate the monument on Veterans Day, November 11, 2019, and we hope you will be our honored guest at the ceremony.

Your actions over the past three years have proven that you have the welfare of our Indian River County Veterans at heart. We do have several ongoing programs to care for those in need, improving their quality of life and helping veterans take care of their families. If you wish to continue your outstanding support, I suggest that a great way to help us would be to host a small gathering of your philanthropic friends in your home. There two or three of our principal officers can present a brief overview on what the Veterans Council does, our future plans and the support we need. If you agree, we will be pleased to arrange for a catering service.

I look forward to our continued relationship; you can reach me reach directly at 772-978-6543.

Very respectfully,

Darryle "Sam" Kouns

Colonel (retired) US Army

President

Veterans Council of Indian River County

Tax Exempt EIN: 59-2970832

PO Box 1354, Vero Beach, FL 32981

772-410-5820

www.VeteransCouncilIRC.org

Indian River County

Community Foundation awards \$50K grants

Jeff Pickering

For Luminaries USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Indian River Community Foundation awarded two competitive grants of \$50,000 each to two animal-related charities serving Indian River County. Both grants were awarded from the Community Enrichment Fund.

The first \$50,000 grant was awarded to Dogs for Life to support the organization's Assistance Dogs for Veterans program. This program rescues dogs from local shelters, pairs them with local veterans suffering from one or more disabling conditions, and provides them with assistance dog certification.

"Since 2015, this program has serviced approximately 150 veterans and has rescued more than 75 dogs from local shelters," said Shelly Ferger, executive director of Dogs for Life. "Something special happens when these animals and veterans come together, and we are grateful for this support."

The second \$50,000 grant was awarded to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County to support the organization's Pet Spot Mobile Adoption Unit and Clinic. Grant funding will be used by the organization to pur- dation's grants are awarded by clients



Shelly Ferger, left, with Dogs for Life holding Good Girl, Jeff Pickering of Indian River Community Foundation, with client and U.S. Marine Corps veteran Richie Keller and his dog GiGi. PHOTOS BY MAUREEN NICOLACE/FOR LUMINARIES

chase and operate a mobile trailer, supporting the organization's work in under served areas of Indian River County.

"Last year, we facilitated thousands of pet adoptions in our community," said Michael Mandel, Humane Society executive director. "This mobile outreach program will extend our mission into parts of our community that we have been unable to reach in the past. We are very excited about the potential impact this will make."

While most of the Community Foun-



Humane Society Executive Director Michael Mandel, left, Jeff Pickering of Indian River Community Foundation, Humane Society Board President Mary Ryan, and Andy Sowers, board treasurer.

through donor advised funds, Indian River Community Foundation's competitive grant program is made possible through the generosity of anonymous donors to several grant-making funds. These valuable resources support the Community Foundation's mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy.

The Community Foundation was established in 2008 with a mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy. ircommunityfoundation.org for details.



March 1, 2018

Shelly Ferger Dogs For Life, Inc. 1230 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960-3769

Dear Ms. Ferger,

Thank you so much for donating a one-year membership to the off-leash dog park for our 2018 Cause for Paws auction.

Your support of the auction directly affects the animals under our care. The funds raised help us to rescue abused animals, take in abandoned and surrendered animals, and give each one of them the love, care and comfort they so need. Ultimately, after they receive the proper medical treatment and behavioral care, they are ready to be adopted into a loving home. We do this for thousands of animals every year, thanks to friends like you.

On behalf of our entire staff, our Board of Directors, volunteers and especially the animals, thank you for your generous commitment to the welfare of the animals of Indian River County!

Thank you, Shelly

Sincerely,

Sara E. Smith

Director of Development

Jawsmot 2

Shelly Ferger

From:

Shelly Ferger

Sent:

Thursday, February 22, 2018 9:58 AM

To:

Jennifer Downes

Cc:

Shelly Ferger

Subject:

Gift Certificate & Completed form Attached RE: Cause for Paws

Attachments:

HSVB.pdf; gift certificate HSVB 2.18.doc

Hi Jennifer,

I apologize for being tardy. Attached is our Gift Certificate for a 1 year membership to our off-leash dog park and the completed acquisition form.

Please let me know if you need anything else from me.

Warmly,

Shelly

Shelly Ferger, Founder/CEO & Director of Training Programs



(772) 567-8969 www.office@dogsforlifevb.org

Training Center • 1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans











Community News

Foundation awards \$100K to animal charities

Jeff Pickering

VERO BEACH -- Indian River Community Foundation awarded two competitive grants of \$50,000 each to two animal-related charities.

Both grants were awarded from the Community Enrichment Fund. The first \$50,000 grant was provided to Dogs for Life to support the organization's Assistance Dogs for Veterans program. This program rescues dogs from local shelters, pairs them with local veterans suffering from one or more disabling conditions, and provides them with assistance dog certifi-

"Since 2015, this program has serviced approximately 150 veterans and has rescued more than 75 dogs from local shelters," said executive director Shelly Ferger. "Something special happens when these animals and veterans come together, and we are grateful for this support."

The second \$50,000 grant was awarded to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County to support the organization's Pet Spot Mobile Adoption Unit and Clinic. Grant funding will be used by the or-



Dogs for Life employee/client and Marine veteran Tracey Higginbotham with his dog 'Tucker,' Jeff Pickering of Indian River Community Foundation and Shelly Ferger with Dogs for Life. MAUREEN NICOLACE

ganization to purchase and operate a Indian River County. mobile trailer, supporting the organization's work in under-served areas of of pet adoptions in our community,"

"Last year, we facilitated thousands

said executive director, Michael Mandel. "This mobile outreach program will extend our mission into parts of our community that we have been unable to reach in the past. We are very excited about the potential impact this will make."

While most of the Community Foundation's grants are awarded by clients through donor advised funds, Indian River Community Foundation's competitive grant program is made possible through the generosity of anonymous donors to several grant making funds.

These valuable resources support the Community Foundation's mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy. Indian River Community Foundation was established in 2008 with a mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy.

With assets of more than \$145 million in 160 charitable giving accounts, the Community Foundation and its clients have awarded more than \$47 million in grants, mostly to nonprofit charitable organizations located in Indian River County, Florida.

Visit ircommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

Bridge Tournament











Eleanor Bengyak, Kathi G. Schumann and "Prinz"
Invite You To Support
The 8th DFL "Build A Bridge"
Bridge Tournament
To Help Raise Funds
To Train Service Dogs For Veterans In 2018

Vero Beach Country Club

800 30th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

Registration ~ 11:00 A.M. Luncheon ~ 11:30 A.M. Bridge ~ 12:30 P.M.

Masterpoints and Prizes Exciting Silent Auction Items! 50/50 Drawing

SANCTIONED DUPLICATE

Master Points / First Overall Flight A, B & C OR PARTY BRIDGE

> \$85 Bridge/Lunch (\$60 Tax Deductible)

~ Limited Seating ~ Please reply by February 5, 2018

Committee Members:

Eleanor Bengyak
Kathi G. Schumann
Linda Liss
Betty McCalister
Sharon McCalister



RSVP MAIL-IN CARD

Please complete and return in enclosed envelope and mail to: Dogs For Life, Inc. 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960



Build A Bridge **Bridge Tournament**

February 20, 2018

\$85 Per Person (\$60 Tax Deductible)

Please make checks payable to: Dogs For Life, Inc. Reservations Limited ~ RSVP by February 5, 2018

Name		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Phone	ms Call Eleanor Bengyak: (77	2) 532-2708
or Do	os For Life at (772) 567-8969	(Continued on back

Dogs For Life, Inc. **Bridge Tournament** 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Duplicate Registration Duplicate Partner: Party Partners:	☐ Party Registration
Amount paid for player(s): Please consider a donation: Total enclosed:	\$ \$ \$

I am unable to play this year, but want to help Build A Bridge for DFL with the following tax-deductible donation:

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE DETAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (BDD-03-75S)) WITHIN THE STATE, REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, AFFROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE, RECISTRATION I CHESSII

Eleanor Bengyak, Kathi G. Schumann and "Prinz" Invite You To ...

SAVE THE DATE!

Monday, February 12th, 2018 11:00 a.m.





Dogs For Life, Inc.

HAVE A HEART

& Help Build A Bridge

Bridge Tournament

SANCTIONED DUPLICATE OR PARTY BRIDGE

Masterpoints and Prizes Exciting Silent Auction Items 50/50 Drawing

Please mark your calendar for Monday, February 12th, 2018

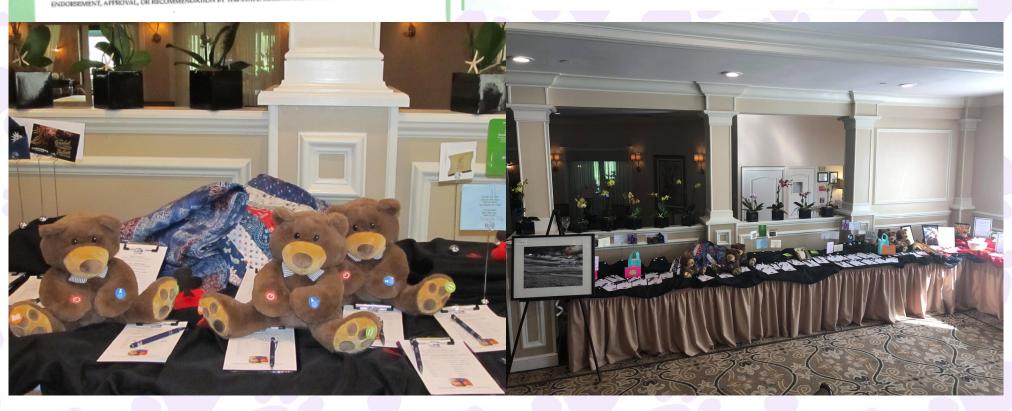
Vero Beach Country Club Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Bridge at 12:30 p.m.

Invite your bridge friends to come help Eleanor Bengyak, Kathi G. Schumann and "Prinz" raise funds to train Assistance Dogs in 2017

For more information call (772) 567-8969



FIRST CLASS US POSTAGE PAID VERO BEACH, FL PERMIT NO. 79



Sheriff Deryl Loar Indian River County Sheriff's Office

February 15, 2018

Dogs for Life, Inc. 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Sponsor:

I would personally like to thank you for being a Helping Hand Sponsor of the 24th Annual Youth Ranches BBQ. Enclosed you will find your tickets to the BBQ. If you haven't done so, I hope you will be able to visit one of the Ranches or visit them on-line at www.youthranches.org to see the wonderful work that is being done with these young people.

Thank you again for your support and I hope you will come out and enjoy the barbecue on March 7th.

Sincerely,

Deryl Loar, Sheriff

DL/nmj

Enclosures



By Veterans for Veterans











February 17, 2018

The Victory Center Military Store would like to thank Dogs for Life's for your generous financial contribution of \$400.00 in support of our Bowling Event to raise additional monies for our local Veterans. Your gift will be included in our annual distribution of profits to our local Veterans. Again Thank You!

Sincerely

Pete Sayles President

Victory Center Military Store



AMERICAN LEGION- POST 39

1535 OLD DIXIE HIGHWAY, VERO BEACH, FL 32960 Lounge (772) 562-9726 / Office (772) 562-9049

Dogs For Life 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

RE: 2018 Annual Post 39 Golf Tournament

Dear Sir(s)/Madam(s):

On behalf of the Veterans and members of American Legion Felix Poppell Post 39, I would like to express our gratitude for your support for the 2018 Golf Tournament. The event was very successful, and we expect an even more rewarding one next year.

It is contributions like yours that keep our community strong. With your help, Felix Poppell American Legion Post 39 can continue to provide aid to our Veterans who need assistance and the community programs with which we support.

Once again, thank you very much for supporting The American Legion with your assistance.

Sincerely,

P. Jay Tuller

Commander. Post 39



Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate of appreciation is gratefully presented to Bogs For Life

In recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding service and assistance which contributed to the advancement of The American Legion programs and activities dedicated to God and Country.

Felix Poppell American Legion Post 39

Department of Florida

Attest:

10 February 2018

Date

Commander

Adjutant

Community Foundation Awards \$50,000 Grants to Dogs for Life, Humane Society

FEBRUARY 15, 2018 LEAVE A COMMENT





ndian River Community Foundation awarded two competitive grants of \$50,000 each to two animal-related charities serving the Indian River County community. Both grants were awarded from the Community Enrichment Fund.

The first \$50,000 grant was awarded to Dogs for Life to support the organization's Assistance Dogs for Veterans program. This program rescues dogs from local shelters, pairs them with local veterans suffering from one or more disabling conditions, and provides them with assistance dog certification. "Since 2015, this program has serviced approximately 150 veterans and has rescued more than 75 dogs from local shelters," said executive director Shelly Ferger. "Something special happens when these animals and veterans come cogether, and we are grateful for this support."

The second \$50,000 grant was awarded to the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County to support the organization's Pet Spot Mobile Adoption Unit and Clinic. Grant funding will be used by the organization to purchase and operate a mobile trailer, supporting the organization's work in underserved areas of Indian River County. "Last year, we facilitated thousands of pet adoptions in our community," said executive director, Michael Mandel. "This mobile outreach program will extend our mission into parts of our community that we have been unable to reach in the past. We are very excited about the potential impact this will make."

While most of the Community Foundation's grants are awarded by clients through donor advised funds, ndian River Community Foundation's competitive grant program is made possible through the generosity of anonymous donors to several grantmaking funds. These valuable resources support the Community Foundation's mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy.

nttps://ircommunityfoundation.org/community-foundation-awards-50000-grants-dogs-life-humane-society/

3/2/2018



February 12, 2018

Dogs For Life Attn: Shelly Ferger 1230 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960

To Shelly,

Thank you for your generous support of Indian River County veterans for 70's Prom Night at Walking Tree Brewery. You have stepped up in a meaningful way to assist those who have answered our Nation's call. For that we are truly grateful.

The event was a great success for us as we were able to engage with our community in a positive and fun way, while still raising funds for local veteran support. We filled Walking Tree with participants in costume and the music and events went extremely well.

Your donation of \$500.00 on 1/22/2018 will be used to support the mission of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, a registered 501(c)(3). Our Upward American Veterans Program provides veterans with emergency basic living expenses, often keeping veterans from getting evicted or having the lights shut off. Our Transportation Program gets them to and from medical appointments locally and at the V.A. Medical Center in West Palm Beach. Additionally, our Veterans Outreach Program utilizes a wide network of veterans' organizations and auxiliary members allowing us to connect veterans to resources throughout the county. All this we can do only because of the excellent support from people like you.

We are proud of our county and all that our community does for our local veterans and we are proud to be in contact with you. On behalf of the veterans and the families we serve, thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Capt. Doy Demsick Program Manager

Veterans Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Info@Veterans CouncilIRC.org

Office: 772-410-5820





Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

Dogs For Life, Inc. was founded to improve the quality of life for people and dogs through the training of service dogs and operating an off-leash dog park.

(772) 567-8969 1230 16[™] Avenue | Vero Beach, Florida 32960

WWW.DOGSFORLIFEVB.ORG

Gigi & Sassy Birthday





JANUARY

Purple Heart Canes

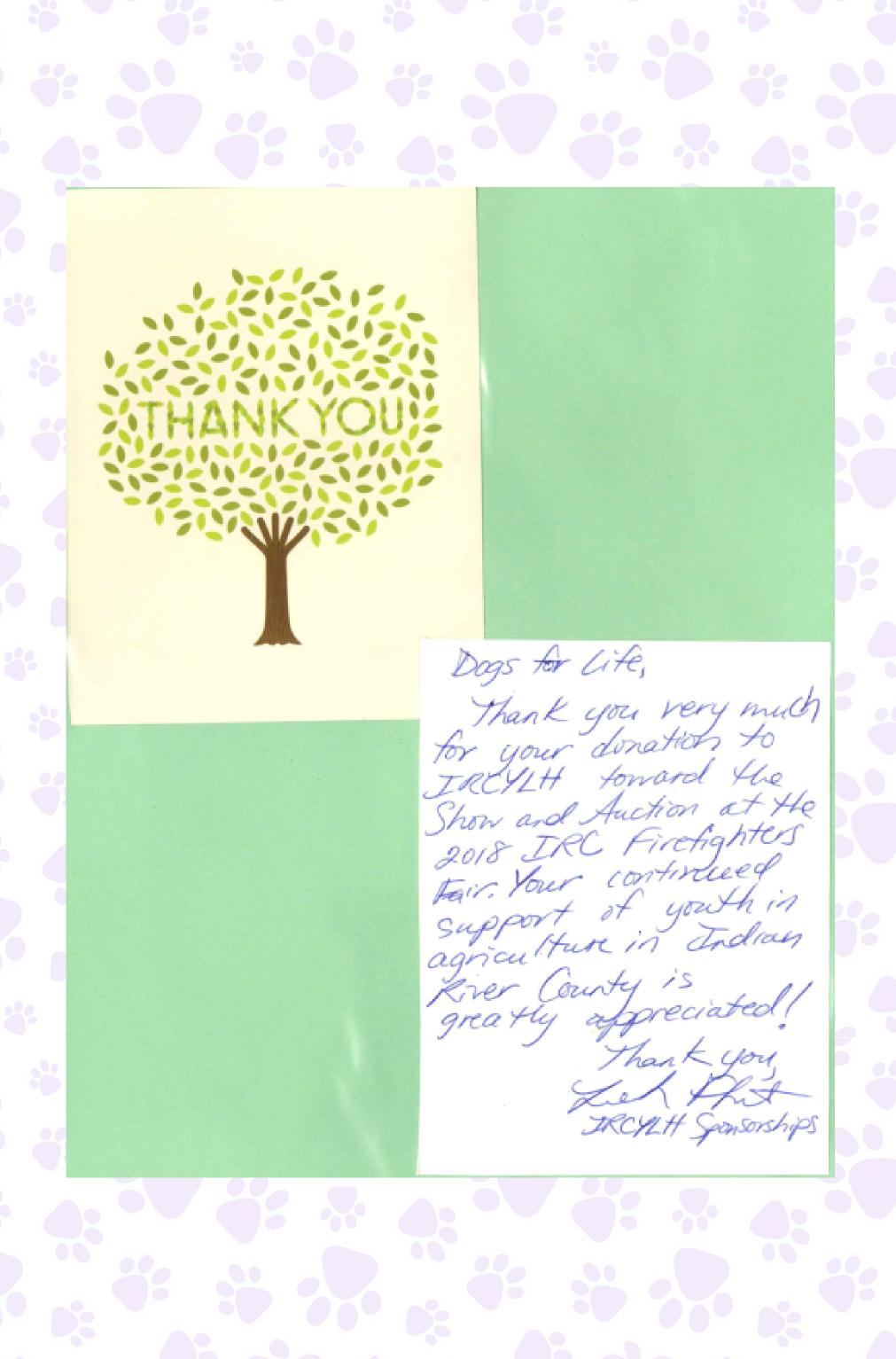


Navy Seal Museum











772.589.7297 710 Jackson Street, Sebastian, FL 32958 www.HaloRescueFL.org

January 11, 2018

Dogs For Life 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Angels,

HALO's 1st Chase Your Tail 5K was a huge victory!

First thank you to our runners and walkers who braved a cold and early morning and came out to support no kill rescue!

A special thank you to the City of Sebastian and the County for allowing this event to have its own, new track along Sebastian's beautiful Indian River. Thank you to our law enforcement officers who came out, showed their support, and did a great job at keeping the roads clear and everyone safe. Thank you to our incredible volunteers that woke up bright and early and pitched in wherever it was needed... stuffing bags, putting out tsigns, picking up food, being directional guides and more! Thank you to Bruce McCullers with Reliable Septic for providing the Porta Potties for additional bathroom breaks. Thank you to ABC Printing for designing our logo and thank you to Jim Vanveen with Run Vero for being so helpful our first time around and facilitating such a wonderful event!

And... we could not have done any of it without our incredible sponsors: Ryan A. Jones & Associates, Page 2 Design, Backwoods Farm, Dogs For Life, Cielo Blu Barn, Trusted Insurance Professionals, Bayfront 5K9, Intercoastal Interiors, The M&M Group, Keller Williams Realty, Indian River Exchange Packers, Sylvan Learning Center, Re/Max Crown Realty Ronnie Preuss, Re/Max Crown Realty, Carla Klein Insurance Services, Arnold Air Conditioning, Collins Brown Barkett Garavaglia & Lawn Attorneys At Law, Maxwell & Son Plumbing, White Glove, Yoga Barre, Rodan & Fields, Pets & Pans, Orchid Island Dog Spa, Mulligans, Orange Theory, Countryside Citrus, Earls Hideaway, Crab-E-Bills, Einstein Bagels, Panera Bread, Winn Dixie, OTG Liquidation, & TD Bank!

Thank you for continuing to support our dreams with your sponsorships, donations, and attendance.

Please save the date for next year January 2019 and follow our FB page at https://www.facebook.com/HALOchaseyourtail5k/

Believing in Miracles,

acque

Jacque Petrone, Director & the animals!

HALO is a 501c3 and all donations are tax deductible under

id # 20-8466866.

TC TCPALM.COM # SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018 # 11A



"It's a great honor. It's a beautiful deal you have down here," said Marine Corps Master Sgt. Dennis Lee of Texas, a Vietnam veteran, after receiving his hand-carved wooden cane Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, made by the Indian River Woodcarvers Club during the Purple Heart Cane Ceremony at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce. To see more photos, go to TCPalm.com. JEREMIAH WILSON/TCPALM

Sear Shelley,

Thank you so much for

taking your time to give a

great talk and demonstration

great talk four the Life Song

for the folks from the Life Song

Learning at Indian River State

College. Much appreciated!!

College. Much appreciated!!

Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>

Sent: Monday, January 15, 2018 4:03 PM dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Your campaign DFL PAT Re-Certifications On-Hold has been sent



Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'DFL PAT Re-Certifications On-Hold' was sent on 1/15/2018 around 4:02 PM EST.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: DFL PAT Re-Certifications On-Hold



Dogs For Life, Inc.
Pet-Assisted Therapy Program
On-Hold
January 31, 2018

Dogs For Life, Inc., would like to thank our Pet Assisted Therapy (PAT) Teams from the bottom of our hearts for you and your dogs service to our community.

Due to the time and resources needed to train, monitor and re-certify teams and facilities we have made the decision as of February 1, 2018 to put our PAT Program on hold.

If you are receiving this email Dogs For Life (DFL) has you listed as an active PAT Volunteer. Although we may not have received a PAT Facility Report from you in some time, to avoid confusion, you are being included in this email.

If you wish to seek certification through another program, we will be happy to give you a referral as long as you and your dog are currently a DFL team in good standing.

If/when DFL decides to re-start this program you will be notified. We will notify all of the facilities in our program that certification for our teams will end January 31, 2018.

Again, we thank you for your selfless service, and are happy we were able to offer this program since 2002.

In appreciation of your service, you and your dogs names will be added to our Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteer recognition donor bone in the off-leash dog park.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Shelly at DFL (772) 567-8969 or Email office@dogsforlifevb.org

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. | 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Unsubscribe dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Update Profile | About our service provider

Sent by office@dogsforlifevb.org in collaboration with



CUSTOM CANES FOR AMERICAN HEROES

5th annual ceremony honors Purple Heart recipients courtesy of dedicated woodcarvers

Mary Kemper

STAFF WRITER

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Army veteran Lloyd Lasenby made no bones about it.

"Every veteran writes a blank check to our country up to and including their life," he said to a crowd of hundreds Jan. 20 at the National Navy UDT SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce.

It was a day to honor those whose "checks" included receiving the Purple Heart Medal for combat wounds. For the fifth year, the Indian River Woodcarvers Club awarded 60 heroes with their own custom-made, hand-carved wooden canes to recognize their sacrifices.

Lasenby, who enjoys cracking a joke or two, stepped in as master of ceremonies when the original nominee was hospitalized. Lasenby himself has recently battled a serious health issue, but he braved through the ceremony with no one the wiser.

Announcing a Marine recipient, he said, "Well, he's a Marine, and he's late." Everyone recognized the joke, as Marines are always first. It was this spirit that gave the ceremony a unique flavor, not to be duplicated.

Each recipient was called to the lectern to receive his or her cane. Each cane gave the individual details of the Purple Heart recipient who was awarded a cane.

Many recipients were Vietnam veterans.

Others were Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

Each received enthusiastic applause, and some — a Gold Star father, and a Medal of Honor recipient — got standing ovations.

Two veterans fought at the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Wayne Jackson was the keynote speaker, and he gave a brief history of the Purple Heart Medal.

SEAL Museum executive director Rick Kaiser also gave remarks, saying how honored he and his team were to host the annual ceremony. Several members of the Indian River Woodcarvers Club were there as well, both civilians and veterans. Club members craft a variety of items in addition to the Purple Heart canes. To learn more about the club, which is located in Vero Beach, visit indianriverwoodcarvers.weebly.com.

Vietnam Veterans of America Michael Bradley Chapter 566, Port St. Lucie, provided the Color Guard.

JROTC cadets from Westwood High School, Fort Pierce, and Lecanto High School, Vero Beach, served as ushers.

U.S. Rep. Brian Mast was scheduled to give remarks, but had to stay in Washington, D.C., due to the government shutdown.

After the ceremony, attendees flocked to congratulate the cane recipients, and visit sponsors like Vero Beach's Dogs For Life, Nino's Italian Restaurant (which provided lunch for the cane recipients), Road Runner Travel Resort, Florida Eye Institute, Trusted Insurance Professionals, AMVET Riders Post 92, and DAV Chapter 113.

www.VeteranVoiceWeekly.com

VETERAN VOICE • JANUARY 25, 2018 • 5



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Two Army World War II Battle of the Bulge veterans, who were awarded the Purple Heart for their combat wounds in service, received custom-made canes crafted by the Indian River Woodcarvers' Club Jan. 20 in a ceremony at the National Navy UDT SEAL Museum, including, pictured, former Army tank crewman George Fisher, who is shown heading back to his seat after receiving his cane.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

A veteran examines a rack of custom-made canes crafted for Purple Heart recipients by the Indian River Woodcarvers' Club at a presentation ceremony Jan. 20 at the National Navy UDT SEAL Museum.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

At the Indian River Woodcarvers' Club presentation of custom-made canes for Purple Heart recipients Jan. 20 at the National Navy UDT SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce, a father — former Navy Cmdr. Michael Suldo — and a son — Army veteran Jonathan Suldo — both received Purple Heart medals for combat wounds, and both received his own cane in recognition of their service.



INDIAN RIVER WOODCARVERS

PURPLE HEART CANE PROJECT

DOGS FOR LIFE 1230 16TH AVE VERO BEACH, FL 32960

We at the Indian River Woodcarvers, Purple heart cane project would like to thank you for your generous donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). It will help us to continue making hand carved canes and giving them to wounded veterans who are so deserving. These individuals have answered their nations call in times of strife, to preserve our way of life, and we are greatly appreciative.

Indian River Wood Carvers

Purple Heart Cane Project

Craig Holtermann President

C/2/502 101st Abn 70/71



Indian River Woodcarvers Club indianriverwoodcarvers.weebly.com

Purple Heart Cane Project 2018



National UDT/SEAL Museum 3300 North A1A Ft Pierce, FL 34949 (772) 595-5845



Ashford T T

PRESENTATION OF CANES



A veteran - Whether active duty, retired, discharged, national guard or reserve, man or woman - is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to the "United States of American" for an amount "up to and including their life"

Hagen, M. H Gonzales, F. G. Ashford, T. T. Dadabo, Michael Maxwell, R. E. Sanders, F. R. Hudson, B.D. Geisler, D. J. Lencioni, R. M. Shaffer, D. G. Roberts, M. W. Langley, W. L. Lee, D. R. Rood, G. W. Votrobek, D. C. Billings, R. H. Toma, M. L Martin, R. L. Pack, R. A. Hart, R. L. Fisher, George Flores, Jonathon Birmingham, J. J. Zackman, L. H. Cindric, C. A. Kruspe, M. T. Dottin, F. O Ahronheim, Eric McCaw, W. R. Brophy, J. J. Suldo, M. R. Mitchell, G. G. Pacowski, R. Cunningham, S. J. Suldo, J. P. Bircher, J. E. III Schmidt, J. D. Hacman, Ruben Toomey, G. W. Grappe, B. I. Davis, H. L. Wynn, P. C. Norris, C. L. Vera, M. A. Labbe, P. L. Kost, P. F. Millstein, A. S. Caballero, C. A. Granitur, H. L. Holtz, J. F. Ryan, R. T. Nicholson, J. W. Rice, M. H. Gasche, R. T. Hillegas, W. F. McCleery, D. E. Schaller, Jim

Taylor, D. W

Rasnake, R. H.

SPONSORS

Diamond Donor

Dogs for Life

1230 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960 (772) 567-8969

Nino's Italian Restaurant

5018 Turnpike Feeder Rd., Ft Pierce, FL 34951 (772) 466-7644

Gold Donor

Road Runner Travel Resort

5500 St. Lucie BLVD, Ft Pierce, FL 34946 (800) 833-7108

Silver Donor

Florida Eye Institute

Trusted Insurance Professionals

Bronze Donor

AMVET Riders #92

Disabled American Veterans - Chapter #113









11:30 - 1:00 Luncheon for recipients 1:00 Opening Ceremonies

Posting of colors---Vietnam Veterans of St. Lucie County

National Anthem---Tom Patrick

Invocation-----Chaplain Steve Trinkle

Indian River Woodcarvers President--Craig Holterman

SEAL Museum Director--Master Chief Rick Kaiser (ret)

History of the Purple Heart--Major General Wayne Jackson (ret)

Presenting of canes

Congressman Brian Mast

Closing statement

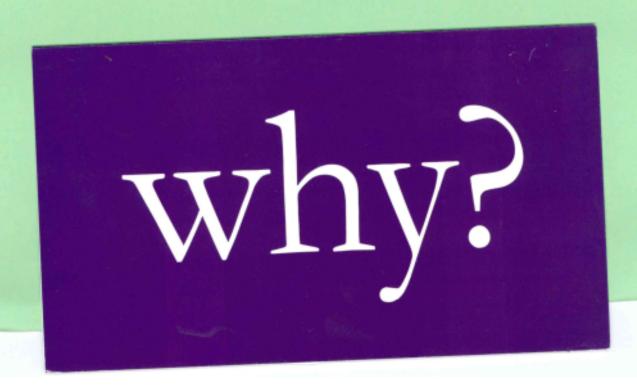
Retiring of colors

MUSIC PROVIDED BY THE 13TH ARMY BAND



May God bless America and all those who have served her!





because

There are more than 1.8 million veterans living in the State of Florida, with 415,000 under the age of 65. Over 880,000 live with a disability and 65% are dealing with mental health issues.

Indian River County has over 15,000 resident veterans, of whom 2,600 have a service-related disability.

95% of veterans who have a DFL certified service dog will report having greater choices and opportunities in social and recreational activities in our community.

According to the VA Mental Health 2018 Updated Suicide Prevention Report, Florida lost 530 veterans to suicide, the most in the country.

Dogs For Life, Inc. has a proven record of helping over 443 people with disabilities including over 100 veterans and train over 20 dogs per year.

Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era. Three in ten will have service-related disabilities. $20\pm\%$ will suffer from the effects of post-traumatic stress. 50% of those with post-traumatic stress will not seek treatment. 19% will report post-traumatic stress symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment".

wh?

Treatment via medication is 50% effective. Talk Therapy is 50% effective.

Service Dogs are 84.5% effective.

Our dogs provide emotional stability that veterans and first responders, suffering from post-traumatic stress, need to restore peace in their everyday lives.

Service and hearing dogs instill the confidence necessary for owners to leave the house or enter a confined space, such as an elevator.

This critical help enables veterans to lead a life of self-reliance and independence.

Your gift will save lives.





2018 ADI International Conference Sponsorship Pledge Form

level (you a	to sponsor the 2018 ADI Internat re welcome to sponsor more than	ional Confe one level):	rence at the following sponsorship	
X Title	Sponsor: \$10,000		Audiovisual Sponsor: \$5,000	
Platin	num Sponsor: \$7,500		Conference Bag & Program: \$3,000	
Gold	Sponsor: \$5,000		Lunch Sponsor: \$2,500	
Silver	r Sponsor: \$2,500		Speaker Sponsorship: \$2,000	
Bron	ze Sponsor: \$1,000		Welcome Reception Sponsor: \$1,000	
Sponsor Na Organizatio	on: Dogs For	tife.	Inc.	
Address: _	Email	:_07410	ece ausstar wy . a Con	
	SELECT ONE OI	THE FOL	LOWING:	
Enclosed is my sponsorship check in the amount of: \$				
Please charge my credit card the following amount: S				
	□ VISA □ MASTERCARD		STERCARD	
Credit card 1	number:		Expiration date:	
Name on car	ne on card:Security Code:		Security Code:	
			•	
			International, PO Box 276, Maumee, OH 4353	
Please email le	ago in EPS and JPEG format to chris@a	ssistancedogs	international.org no later than June 1, 2018	

for inclusion in promotional materials. Assistance Dogs International tax ID# 93-0993471

For any questions, please contact Chris Diefenthaler, ADI Operations Administrator at (419) 350-5788

In an effort to continue partnerships with other organizations that support likeminded organizations, veterans, first responders, and law enforcement Dogs For Life, Inc. was awarded a grant to sponsor the following fundraising events.

	January 20, 2018	Indian River Woodcarvers - Purple Heart Cane Ceremony
\$100	February 10, 2018	American Legion Golf Tournament
\$500	February 10, 2018	Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation – 70's Prom Night
\$400	February 17, 2017	Victory Center Military Store - Bowling Tournament
\$500	February 24, 2018	American Security Council Found - Meat, eat & skeet Tournament
\$250	March 7, 2018	I.R. Co. Sheriff's Office – Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch
\$1,000	March 10, 2018	Vero Beach Veterans Next Generation - Ruck March
\$250	April 12, 2018	Vero Beach Dog Park – Cocktails at Costa
	May 20, 2018	Humane Society Vero Beach & I.R. Co. Cause For Paws
\$500	April 12, 2018	Indian River Co. 4-H Foundation –
\$350	March IRCo Fair	Indian River Co. Youth Livestock
\$5,000	June 16, 2018	Veterans Council of Indian River County - Golf Tournament
\$1,000	•	IRC & SLC Gold Star Mothers Honor & Remembrance Flag \$350

Dear Shelly,

On Ibshalf of the Mental Aralth
Association's Board of Mirectors, I
want to thank you for your
Senerous gift to the MHA.

Your support enables us to
provide valuable services to those
with mental trealth issues in
our community.

Thank you for halping us
enhance and save lives.

Sincerety,

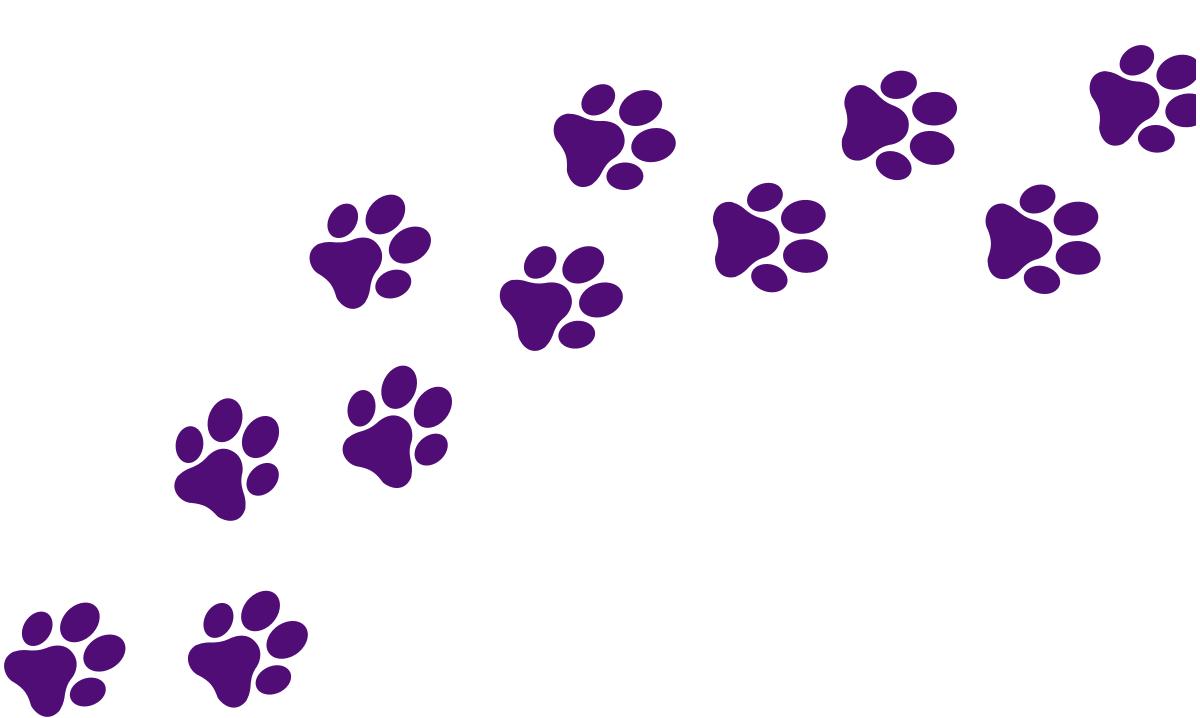


2017 - 2018 PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Interesting People of Vero Beach
January 24, 2018
8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Field Trip)
Meet in the Richardson Center, Strategic
Planning Center (C-103)
Member: \$25 | Non-Member: \$50
Peer Leader: Joan Edwards

Join us for a fun-filled day visiting with some of the interesting people of Vero Beach. Our group will meet at the Richardson Center and spend the day traveling to locations including Dogs for Life, Vero Beach City Hall, Young Park, and a private home to view an art collection which highlights Florida Women Artists. Participants should bring a packed lunch. Car-pooling is encouraged.

Scrapbook 2017



DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Luncheon





THANK YOU LETTERS

Thank you to the 'Treasures' on the Treasure Coast

The Florida Trail Association (FTA), Tropical Trekkers Chapter, hosted the South Regional Conference at Tanah Keeta Scout Reservation in Tequesta on Oct. 13-15.

We are fortunate to have so many TREASURES, generous businesses, in our community that support the Florida Trail Association and we are truly grateful

Thank you to Bass Pro, Port St. Lucie; Bonefish Grill, Stuart; Chick-fil-A, Stuart, Dick's Sporting Goods, Stuart; Dominos, Palm City; Duffy's Sports Grill, Stuart; Florida Oceanographic Society (FOS), Stuart; Fresh Market, Stuart; Home Depot, Port St. Lucie; Hurricanes, Palm City; Lowes, Stuart; New England Fish Market, Jensen Beach; Office Depot, Stuart; Osceola Street Café, Stuart; Outback, Stuart; REI, Orlando; South River Outfitters, Stuart; St. Lucie Inlet Preserve State Park, Stuart; Staples, Stuart; Starbucks, Palm City; Tequesta Brewery, Tequesta; Trader Joe's, Palm Beach Gardens; Vine & Barley, Stuart; Walgreens, Palm City: Winn Dixie, Stuart; and ZPack, Melbourne, for your donations to Florida Trail Association South Regional Conference.

Thank you again to the amazing businesses in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties that contributed and helped to make the Florida Trail Association South Regional Conference a great one.

Audrey Minnis, Palm City

So many helped make golf tournament a success

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast wishes to thank everyone who made this year's 10th annual Golf Tournament the most successful ever! Held at the Club Med Sandpiper Bay Golf club on Oct. 14, the tournament. thanks to the help of our 60 golfers, raised a much needed \$9000. These funds will go to help support vital programs like the Children's Hearing Aid Fund and the Dangerous Decibels Program. The team of Joey Storck, Billy McQuillan, Robbie Donavan and Jon Yun, sponsored by Treasure Coast ENT took home 1st Place honors. The secondplace team, sponsored by A&G Concrete Pools, included Travis Leonard, Charlie Lumpkin, Jason Baran and Rich Del Toro.

We wish to thank our friends at Treasure Coast Indian Motorcycle for providing a 2017 Indian Scout motorcycle for our hole in one prize. Also, thanks to all the local golf courses and restaurants that provided gifts for our raffle. Further we wish to thank our Silver Sponsors: Zachry Industrials, Publix Supermarket Charities and ENT of South Florida, and our Bronze Sponsors: Trilogy Home Healthcare, Treasure Coast ENT, Mercedes Benz of North Palm Beach, A&G Concrete Pools and Absolute Critter and Pest Control. Also a special thank you to the Cohasset Golf Club for their kind donation in honor of Dick, Betty and Mark Forrest.

We also wish to thank all those who participated as our hole sponsors, who included: Stimmell's Sport Shop, Seacoast Bank, Dogs for Life, Sherri Jones, Tate Design, Rosarian Academy, Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun, LLP, Jeff Corley, Gregory G. Fasula PA, My Color-Full Florida, Wallace Chevrolet, Vine and Barley, Daniel and Martha Jones, Ted and Mim Dunn, Deaf Communications Specialists, Aycock Funeral Homes, Three Legged Wildebeest, Koplas and Company, United Way of Indian River County and Atlantic Environmental Services.

Rick Kottler, executive director

The community again helps make health fair an amazing event

Once again, the community came together in a spirit of love and understanding for the 13th annual Health Fair that was sponsored by Gertrude Walden Child Care Center/East Stuart Partnership and held on Oct. 7 at the East Stuart Community Center.

Among the community partners who made it work were Martin Health Systems, Florida Community Health Department, Treasure Coast Food Bank, Treasure Coast LINKS, Great Expressions Dental, Stuart branch of NAACP, Michael and Patricia Baum, Volunteers in Medicine, Martin County Health, WIC, City of Stuart, Stuart-Sunrise Rotary, Gertrude Walden Staff and Erneston Pro-

Without all of you, this amazing day would not have been possible.

Thelma Washington, executive director, Gertrude Walden Child Care Center; president, East Stuart Partnership

Dead battery didn't dampen anniversary celebration

My husband and I went out to Carrabbas Italian Grill Saturday night for our 30th anniversary. After dinner we discovered that we had left the car's lights on and the battery was dead. The delivery driver, I believe his name was Bryan, kindly gave us a jump start and we got home safely. We thank Bryan and we will definitely be going to Carrabbas Italian Grill again!

Joan Clark, Vero Beach

Yes! I want to help veterans!

Dogs For Life, Inc. Annual Appeal

5 Other		one special and sp	i certificati
\$ 5,000 -	\$10,000	Silver Benefactors provide 1 Year of specialized task training and	
		for 1 veteran service dog team	

\$ 2,500 - \$ 4,999 Bronze Benefactors provide 6 Months of specialized public access obedience training for a veteran service dog team

\$ 1,000 - \$ 2,499 Major Benefactors provide specialized, task training for 1 veteran hearing dog team

\$ 500 - \$ 999 Benefactors provide basic training for 3 veteran dog teams

Enclosed is my donation

\$ 250

\$ 100

\$ 50

__\$ 25

Any amount is appreciated.

Please enclose you

Or for your co

at ww

Full Name:____

Address:_____

City:_____

Email address: _

Telephone num

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We are grateful for your support. Should you have any questions, please email office@dogsforlifevb.org or call (772) 567-8969.



Hongar such sof not subyI





2018 Annual Appeal



Dear Dogs For Life Team Member,

The statistics are alarming: every day 22 veterans commit suicide. That's almost one an hour, every day. Our veterans return with physical injuries, some with injuries less easy to see, but few come home from active combat and military duty untouched.

Specialized task trained service dogs help them recognize their symptoms, often before the symptoms even begin. They transform the lives of their human partners; they are the ears that hear smoke alarms, or knock at a door, paws that tap a 911 button to call for an emergency, legs that provide mobility, assistance rising from a chair, and retrieving fallen objects as well as comfort to those suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress. Tasks that can be daunting to a person with a physical or psychiatric challenge and that most of us take for granted.

You are helping Dogs For Life touch the lives of veterans – whether they are facing a hearing, mobility or psychiatric issue, all come to Dogs For Life seeking to improve their quality of life. Our veterans know they'll be treated like a real person, by dedicated, compassionate professionals in a warm, caring, safe environment.

Dogs For Life is committed. We have existed since 2002 assisting you and your loved ones – to provide hope, healing and recovery. With your help over 325 of our friends and neighbors, 135 of which are veterans, have received a trained assistance dog. Not only are we devoted to improving the life of people but are committed to their companions as well; 70 of are lifesaving assistance dogs have been rescued from local shelters.

Your generous contributions have helped make Dogs For Life the leading regional provider that it is.

Accredited by Assistance Dogs International (ADI), Dogs For Life is one of only five organizations in the State of Florida to hold this distinction.

Your gift is extremely important because it offers immediate resources that are directed to current needs and opportunities at Dogs For Life.

Please send your gift today toward our 2018 Annual Appeal. Our Veterans are counting on your support. Your donation is helping to make our veteran community to be healthier. Right here. Right now!



Sincerely,

Shelly

Shelly Ferger Founder/ CEO

New Golden Pups





NOVEMBER

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Veterans share experiences, devotion to nation at luncheon for appreciation

DIANE SAUNIER

FOR LUMINARIES
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

VERO BEACH - More than 100 veterans came together Nov. 10 for the inaugural Champions of Freedom Appreciation Luncheon at the Vero Beach Country Club, sponsored by Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach.

Pillars within the Indian River County veteran community shared their stories, including Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Martin Zickert, Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Carroll Oates, and Retired U.S. Navy Rear Adm. James M. Hart, veteran coordinator with Space Coast Honor Flight and the day's keynote speaker.

A special performance was given by the Master's Academy Fife & Drum Corps.

Guests also were encouraged to bring service memorabilia to display. Admission was free and open to all local veterans and their families. Drawings for door prizes also were conducted.

The Champions of Freedom Appreciation Luncheon is part of many activities and events conducted throughout the year by Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach, a program of Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home.

For information on free community events intended to enhance the overall well-being of the Indian River County community contact Community Outreach Coordinator Diane Saunier at 772-562-2365.

Photo gallery

Go to TCPalm.com/Luminaries for a gallery of photographs from the Champions of Freedom Appreciation Luncheon at the Vero Beach Country. Dear Shelly and Staff for Dogo For Life,

Shank you for the beautiful floral arrangement. It was a reminder to me that friends care. Dogs For Life has a special place in my heart. We are ald friends.

Continue your great work helping people in need with the love of a dog.

Tour,

...are appreciated beyond words.

min Dunn

Veteran's Day Luncheon

Acknowledgements

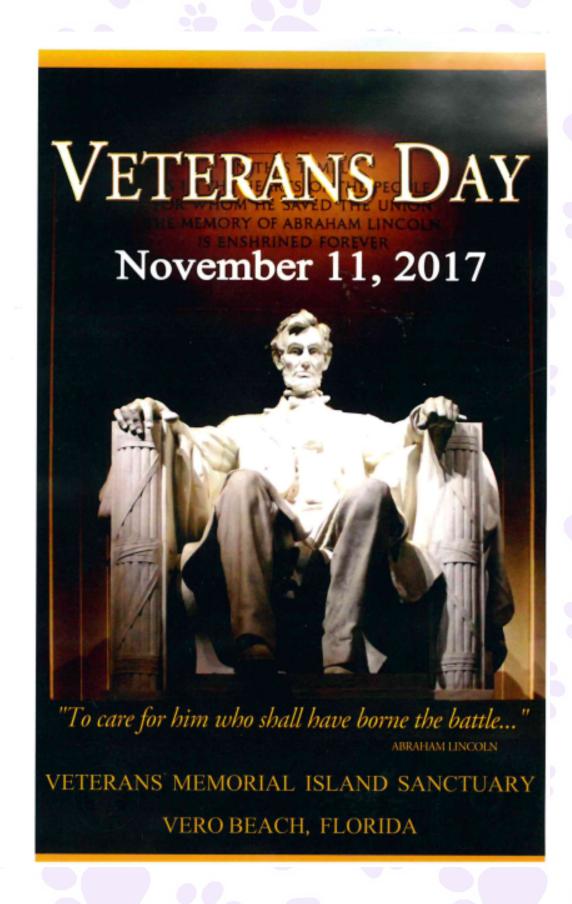
Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Committee

John Michael Matthews, Chair Barbara Fallon Curtis Paulisin Sylvester McIntosh (Alt.) Joel Herman, Vice-Chair Don Wickstrand Peggy Lyon McCoy (Alt.)

Boy Scouts of America, Troops 513 and 551
City of Vero Beach City Council
City of Vero Beach Public Works Department
City of Vero Beach Recreation Department
City of Vero Beach Police Department
Daughters of the American Revolution
Gold Star Mothers
Indian River County Commission
Indian River County Fire Rescue
Indian River County Sheriff's Office
Indian River County Tax Collector's Office
Indian River County Veterans Service Office
International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2201
Lowe's

Masters Academy Fife & Drum Corps Mike's Garage & Wrecker Service Military Moms Prayer Group Palm Garden of Vero Beach Quail Valley Golf Club The Home Depot







WELCOME
PRESENTATION OF COLORS
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
LUNCH
DESSERT
SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
SPECIAL RECOGNITION
MEMORABILIA EXHIBIT
DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS

An event photo album of today's luncheon will be available online on or before Nov 20

View the album by visiting our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/CoxGiffordSeawinds



Cox-Gifford Seawinds Community Outreach is a program of: Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home & Crematory 1950 20th Street ~ Vero Beach, FL 32960 (772) 562-2365 coxgiffordseawinds.com

Complete version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" from Francis Scott Key's manuscripthe Maryland Historical Society collection:

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?

And the rocket's red glare, the bomb bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines in the stream, 'Tis the star-spangled banner - O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore,
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a Country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footstep's pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.
O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their lov'd home and the war's desolation!
Blest with vict'ry and peace may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the power that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto - "In God is our trust,"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.





Sheriff Deryl Loar Indian River County Sheriff's Office

November 9, 2017

Ms. Shelly Ferger Dogs For Life 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, Fl 32960

Dear Ms. Ferger:

Thank you for your letter expressing appreciation of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit for assisting with the 16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade. I am pleased that the event was a success.

I am proud of the men and women who serve this agency and I appreciate the letters I receive concerning our employees. I will make sure they are made aware of your kind comments and a copy of your letter will be placed in their personnel files.

If we can be of any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Deryl Loar, Sheriff

DL:nmj

Eleanor's Birthday



To Celebrate Eleanor Bengyak's Birthday & Legacy Society Luncheon

November 7, 2017 at 11:30 AM

Dogs For Life, Inc. Training Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Birthday Donations to Bengyak Legacy Society Support operations at the Off-Leash Dog Park

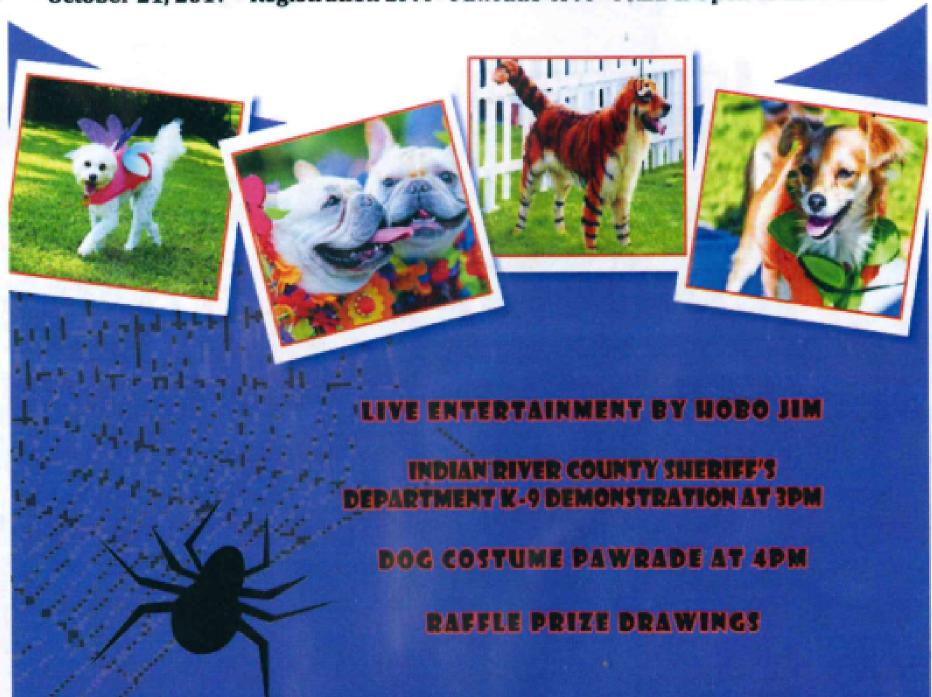
RSVP 772-567-8969 or office@dogsforlifevb.org

OCTOBER



16TH ANNUAL HOWL-O-WEEN DOG COSTUME PAWRADE & PET EXPO

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park • 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach October 21, 2017 • Registration 2PM - Pawrade 4PM • FREE & Open to the Public



iday October 13 2017

Hometown News - VERO BEACH - www.HometownNewsIRC.com

Community calendar

SATURDAY, OCT. 21

- Making Strides of Indian River: 5K
 walk to raise funds and awareness of breast
 cancer; a fundraiser for the American Cancer
 Society. Held in Riverside Park, 350 Dahlia
 Lane, Vero Beach. Registration/check-in at 7
 a.m., program begins at 8 a.m., followed by
 the walk at 9 a.m. For more information, call
 (772) 562-2272, Ext. 2406, or email jenny.
 davis@cancer.org.
- IGNITE Wrestling: 1 p.m., Walking Tree Brewery, 3209 Dodger Road, Vero Beach.
 For more information visit www.ignitewrestling.com/tickets.
- "Howl-O-Ween' Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo: 16th annual event will be held in the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. Registration is at 2 p.m., costumed 'pawrade' follows at 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Live entertainment by Hobo Jim, Indian River County sheriff's department K-9 demonstration at 3 p.m. For more information, email office@ dogsforlifevb.org or visit www.dogsforlifevb. com

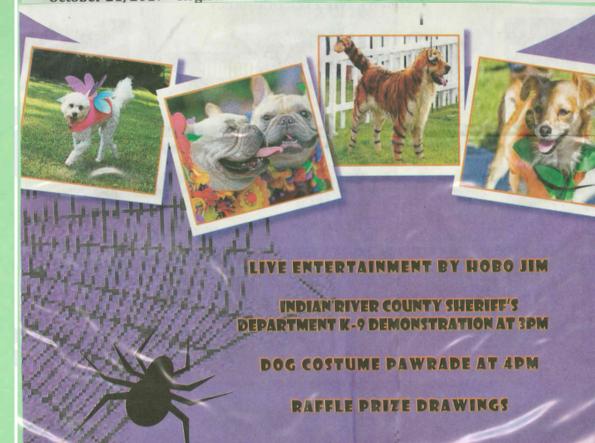


A GLOBAL COMPANY with a local heart.

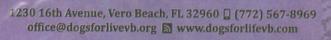


16TH ANNUAL HOWL-O-WEEN DOG COSTUME PAWRADE & PET EXPO

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park • 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach October 21, 2017 • Registration 2PM - Pawrade 4PM • FREE & Open to the Public



You are making a difference in the quality of life for people and dogs right here in Indian River County!







"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill



Senior Bulletin Board

A newsletter covering the City of Vero Beach and all of Indian River County



OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

See Inside for Bulletin Boards on ...

 Community & Social Events
 1 & 12

 Health Education
 2-5

 Exercise and Fitness
 5-6

Happy Halloween



2-1-1 Elder Help Line 1-866-684-5885

Call when you need information, guidance, or resources available to seniors or their caregivers.

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL EVENTS

59th ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE & COSTUME CONTEST

Saturday, October 28th - Line-up begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Vero Beach
Women's Club Parking Lot (1534 21st Street)



Parade begins at 10:00 a.m.

Prizes for best costume ages 0-17. Everyone is encouraged to dress up, however, the free goody bags & contest are for the children.

Sponsored by: Mulligan's Beach House Bar & Grill | George E. Warren Corp.

For more information, call Gaby Dwyer at (772) 231-4787

HOWL-O-WEEN DOG COSTUME CONTEST PAWRADE & PET EXPO

Saturday, October 21st at Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park

The 16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo will be held at the DFL Dog Park, 1230 16th Avenue. Registration begins at 2:00

Registration begins at 2:00 and the Pawrade starts at 4:00.

Information: 772-567-8969 or visit the website www.dogsforlifevb.org Dogs For Life

Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

The following service providers and inside page advertisers have made this newsletter possible.

We appreciate their support and commitment, and encourage our readers to patronize their businesses





Larry Landsman, M.D., P.A. DERMATOLOGY







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Your Online Newsline Vero Beach FLASH Anything About Everything

Saturday Cotober 24th

Saturday, October 21th

8:00am - 12:00pm - F - The Farmers Market Oceanside @ Ocean Drive

8:00am - 1:00pm - F - Jazz Society Craft Market @ Fort Pierce Downtown Waterfront

8:00am - 4:00pm - FALL 2017 Gymnastics Registration @ Leisure Square Fitness Center

9:00am - 2:00pm - F - Annual Fall Bazaar / Craft Show @ St Augustine of Canterbury Ch.

9:00am - 8:30pm - 36th Annual Crown Jewel Marching Band Festival @ VBHS

9:30am - 11:30am - Pelican Island Pontoon Boat Excursions - RSVP Reg/d @ ELC

10:00am - 6:00pm - Pumpkin Patch & Festival Days @ CBTS 3755 Hwy A1A, Vero Beach

10:00am - 5:00pm - Com Maze @ Countryside Citrus, 6325 81st Street, Vero Beach

10:00am - 4:30pm - Exhibition-50 Years, 50 Works, 50 Reasons @ Museum of Art

11:00am - 12:00pm - ELC EcoTALKS - Myths & Amazing Facts About Manatees @ ELC

1:00 - 4:00pm - Teen Writers Workshop ~ Blogging Basics @ Laura Riding Jackson Fdn.

1:30pm AND 5:30pm - LEO A Ghost Story @ Riverside Children's Theatre

2:00pm - 4:30pm - F - Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade @ Off-Leash Dog Park

6:00pm - 7:00pm - Frightening 4K @ South Beach Park

6:00pm - 9:30pm - F - Oktoberlest Nights ~ Live Music @ The Riverside Theatre

7:00pm - 10:00pm - HALO's Hoedown! @ Indian River County Fairgrounds

7:30pm AND 9:30pm - The Comedy Zone @ The Riverside Theatre

Sunday, October 22nd

10:00am - 4:00pm - F - Art in the Park @ Humiston Park

1:00pm - 5:00pm - F - Nashville Singer/Songwriters Thom Shepherd & Coley McCabe @ Summer Crush Vineyard & Winery

10:00am - 5:00pm - Com Maze @ Countryside Citrus, 6325 81st Street, Vero Beach 4:30 - 8:30pm - "That's What Friends Are For" Go Round Dinner Theatre @ Quitted Giraffin

PUMPKIN PATCH



Please visit us at Christ by the Sea for our Annual Pumpkin Patch!
PUMPKINS - GOURDS - LOCAL HONEY - BAKED GOODS

3755 Highway A1 772.231.166

October 14th - 31st, 10am - 6pm

FESTIVAL DAYS

Saturday 14th, 21st and 28th - Visit us for our Festival Days! Costume factory, face painting, bounce house and photo booth!



16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade

Saturday ~ Oct. 21, 2017 - 2:00-4:00

Bring your lawn chairs, your dogs and children in costumes and be prepared to have fun!

IRC Sheriff's office K-9 Demonstration 3:00 PM

Hobo Jim Entertainment
 Pawrade @ 4:00PM

Off-Leash Dog Park ~ 1230 16th Avenue ~ Vero Beach, FL. ~ PH (772) 567-8969

Howl-O-Ween

16th annual Howl-O-Ween dog costume 'pawrade' set for Oct. 21

SHELLY FERGER

Dogs For Life's 16th annual Howl-O-Ween dog costume "pawrade" is set for 2-5 p.m. Oct. 21, with the "pawrade" at 4 p.m. at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach. The public is welcome to come and

celebrate the club's 16th year.

More than 100 dogs will be dressed in all kinds of fun costumes and everyone will get a prize. This year's raffle items will be better than ever. Hobo Jim will provide live entertainment, and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit will conduct a demon-

This event is free to the public. Bring your dog, lawn chairs and be prepared to have fun!

If you have any questions or would like additional information, call Shelly Ferger at Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969, or email office@dogsforlifevb.org.



A contestant in the 15th annual Howl-O-Ween dog costume "pawrade." Dogs For Life's 16th annual "perwrade" is set for 2-5 p.m. Oct. 21, with the "pawrade" at 4 p.m. at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

0 | Wednesday, November 8, 2017 | Your Newsweekly | Indian River County | Treasure Coast Newspaper

Puppy love and Halloween come together

The only thing unusual at the 16th Howl-O-Ween parade at Dogs For Life was Executive Director Shelly Ferger not running around coordinating the

Perger was stuck on the back of a golf cart with a roken leg, but she was far from broken-hearted as er passion for her four-legged friends was on full leader.

display.

For the past 16 years, Dogs For Life has hosted the fall parade to raise awareness for the dog park and the work it does on behalf of those in need of service

the work it does on behalf of those in need of service dogs.

"It's always been our mission to improve the quality of life for people and dogs, whether it's allowing a safe environment to run free or training service dogs to help our local citizens," said Ferger.

The K-9 Division of the Indian River Sheriff Operations demonstrated how a bloodhound or German Shepherd can not only be a great companion, but a fierce law enforcement officer available to hunt down illegal drugs or violent criminals.

For more information about Dogs 4 Life visit www.dogsforlifevb.org or call 772-S67-8969. The park is located at 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach.



Wednesday November 8,2017 Your News weekly Indian River County Treasure Coast



At right, crime fighters Diana Flores, Isabella Myers and



The K-9 Unit shows how powerful the canines can be to protect and serve residents in the county.



Daisy and Holly clowning around.



Pooches play dress-up at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade















october 27, 2017

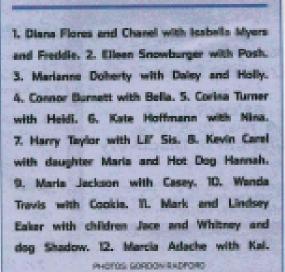
Vero News / Sebastion River Lews







From fancy to fanciful, T-rex to Tinkerbelle, hot-diggity dogs to super dogs and fairy hounds -Vero's four-legged friends strutted their stuff last Saturday afternoon at the 16th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park. Vero Beach 32963's very own Bonzo was there to woof with his pooch pals and report back on the day's very best costumes (see page A18). The lighthearted event raises awareness of the specialized assistance dog training programs offered by Dogs for Life to military veterans and others with a variety of needs, including hearing, emotional mobility and/or impairments. dogsforlifevb.org =











THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole.

-Roger Caras

Dear Friends,

We honor our Veterans and Supporters with photos from our 2017 Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade. Please join us for this year's Pawrade on October 20, 2018. Everyone in costume wins a PRIZE! See you there!

Dogs for life

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole."

-Roger Caras



Halloween Parade

for Veterans and Supporters on the grounds of Dogs For Life, Inc., Vero Beach, Florida, 2017.

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE

















purpose,
my whole life,
had been
to love
him and be
with him,
to make him
happy."



dog is
the only thing
on earth that
loves you more
than he loves
himself."

—Josh Billings



















The greatest fear dogs know
is the fear that you will
not come back when you go out
the door without them."

—Unknown











If you think dogs can't count,
try putting three dog biscuits
in your pocket and then give him
only two of them."

—Phil Pastoret











Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade October 21, 2017

Registration - 2 pm • Pawrade - 4 pm



Event Underwriter Kathi's Golden Girl Gigi

Fabulous Raffle Drawings

Hobo Jim

Indian River County
Sheriff's Office
K-9 Unit Demonstration

Sebastian Area Veterans Honor Guard



Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 • (772) 567-8969



A Special Thank You to this Year's Event Underwriter

Kathi's Golden Girl (Gigi)



BEST IN SHOW SPONSORS \$2,500 and over





BIG DOG SPONSORS \$500 and over

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Hobo Jim
Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit
Indian River County Sheriff's Office Volunteers
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VCA Florida Veterinary League
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Vero Beach Flash
Vero Beach Country Club
Vero Beach Golf Carts
Veterans Council of Indian River County

GOOD DOG SPONSORS \$250 and over

Bogosian & Power Chartered David Long Lock Service Tony's Carpets

In the VIP Tent

16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade

October 21, 2017 2:00 p.m. / Pawrade at 4:00 p.m.

> Dogs For Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

RSVP to 567-8969 or email: office@dogsforlifevb.org

TOP DOG SPONSORS \$1,000 and over







WINDSOR



Thank You!

You are making a difference in the quality of life for people and dogs right here in Indian River county!





Bonz digs dogs' amazing Howl-o-ween costumes

Hí Dog Buddies!

A few times a year, I get to cover a pooch-related special uh-VENT. One of my favorites is the Dogs-for-Life Howl-oween Paw-rade, which was this past Saturday over at the Dogs-for-Life off-leash park and training facility. Dogs-for-Life does a lotta significant stuff, especially training pooches to be Service Dogs for human military veterans – a Very Important Job. My pal Sunny Ferger an his Mom, Shelly, are in charge.

So anyway, the 16th Annual Paw-rade was Totally Cool Dog Biscuits! Lotsa humans were there, most of 'em with pooches, and some just cuz it's always a fun time. There were veterans with their Service Dogs, too. We all got real serious an stood still an quiet when some veterans brought in the American Flag and everybody said the Pledge.

There were drawings an prizes, an a human named Hobo Jim was singing and playin' music. He did this one song called "Why Don't You Love Me Like My Dog Does?" which all the humans were laughin' at, but I thought it was pretty good advice.

The Sheriff's K-9 Unit pooches an their human partners did some real impressive demonstrations. Those pooches are uhMAZing, and they're in Great Shape. It makes me wanna go home and work out. Almost.

There were, like, at least a hundred pooches wearin' all kindsa costumes. I saw pooches dressed up like bees an witches an bats, skeletons, a race horse with a jockey, that Taco Bell Chihuahua, a shark, a Jack-O-Lantern. One pooch, her name was Nina, I think, was dressed as a Chinese acupuncturist. I KNOW! Right?

Two pretty pooch pals, Ivy, a Mini Goldendoodle, an Stella, an English Cream Golden Retriever, were dressed like baseball umpires, with those black-and-white stripey shirts. I myself came dressed as a Famous Journalist.

This bee-utiful curlee-haired black Standard Poodle with legs up to there was rockin' a stylish red Devil Girl costume. "I'm Margo Snowberger, this is my big sister Posh and our Mom, Eileen," she told me. Posh was a long-haired chihuahua wearin' a satiny purple-with-black-lace ballerina dress with black dangly things.





ST. LUCIE WOICE

"I'm a bug!" she said firmly. I think it was a spider.

"I'm not really into dressin' up, an looks like you're not either, Bonz," said Andaleigh Leroi Bogin, a snazzy little shepherd-lookin' pooch. "I'm an Aussle and I know how to herd sheep. This is my Mom

and Dad, Wenda and Mike."

When I explained I was, in fact, cleverly disguised as a Famous Journalist, Andaleigh just laughed. I gave her my card.

"Do you like my witch costume? I'm a Tibetan Spaniel. Me an my Mom match. See, I even have green hair an I'm keepin' my hat on, too," said Heidi Turner, all in one breath. Heidi an her Mom Corina were both in purple. Very Cool Kibbles, I

Chihuahua Chanel Flores was super cute in her black and yellow Bat Dog costume, an she even got her humans Nathan Cote and Diana Flores to dress up as Batman and Bat Girl. Spiffy!

Elsa Cavanagh, a white English bulldog, trotted over. She was wearin' lavender fairy wings. "Mr. Bonzo, I love your column!" Her liddle human sister, Teagan Cavanagh, also had lavender wings an a fluffy liddle skirt. "Teagan's my best friend. She's just 2 people years. We share her Cheerios. This is our Mom. Jen." said Elsa.

"A pleasure, Miss Elsa," I said. "Those lavender wings are lovely against your white coat."

I introduced myself to a coupla liddle poocheroos wearin' bright ruffly red, yellow and green clown outfits with pointy hats. Pawsome. Holly and Dalsy Doherty were hangin' out with their Mom Marianne and her friend, Sylvia Fenn. "I'm a Maltese. I'm 8," Holly said. "Dalsy's my older sister, she a Cockapoo. She's 11."

When I told Rusty D'Auria, a Mini Pinscher-Rat Terrier mix, that I thought his outfit was Cool Dog Biscuits, he thanked me an introduced his Mom, Susan. Rusty was dressed like a dinosaur, one of those Stegosauruses, with two rows of sticky-uppy things down the back, an October 27, 2017

he was prancin' around, really workin' it. Then he admitted, "I didn't wanna wear this goofy costume at first, but a buncha other pooches have been tellin' me they like it, so I'm feelin' much better."

Shadow Eaker is one of those Service Dogs we all admire: a good-lookin' poocheroo, big, sturdy black lab. He was chillin' with his Dad, Mark, an his Mom, Lindsey, and Wooff did he have a nifty costume. He wasn't wearing extra clothes or a hat or anything. His Mom had painted white spots all over his shiny black coat. Easy Peasy. "I'm a reverse Dalmatian," he said. "Am I cool or what?"

"Totally, Dude!" I said.

"Mr. Bonzo. Lookit ME. I'm a hot dog. See!" I looked down an there was this liddle bitty fluffy gold-colored pooch wearin' a hot dog costume, with mustard, even. "I'm Cookie Travis. I'm a Yorkie-Pom. This is my Mom, Wanda. Lookee, see my hairbows? One's red for catchup an one's green for relish!"

Another simple but effective costume was worn with the appropriate swagger by Kai Adache, a Belgian Malinois. Kai was dressed as a lion, wearing a big golden King-of-the-Jungle mane, which matched his golden coat. He told me he's a rescue, an introduced me to his forever Mom, Marcia.

Heading home, I was thinking about the fun time I had at the Howl-O-Ween event, an wishin' I'd had time to yap with all you cool poocheroos who were there.

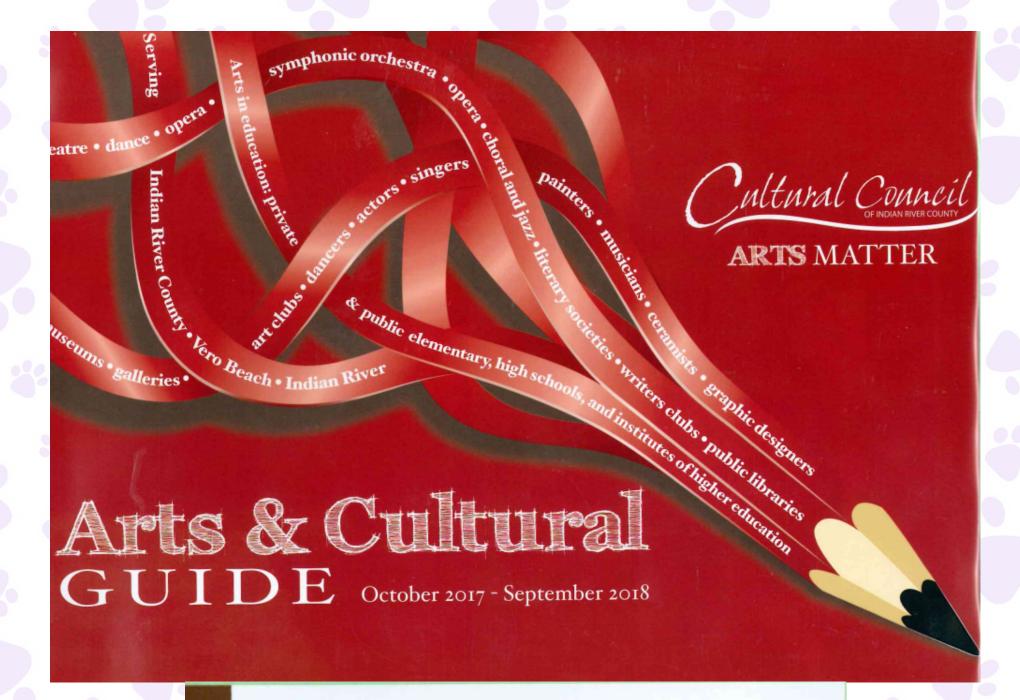
Till next time,

The Bonz



DON'T BE SHY!

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories. To set up an interview, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.



Festivals

September 29

Celebrate the Arts Festival at Riverside Park

Art of Networking:

January 9

at Quilted Giraffe, hosted by Theatre-Go-Round

April 10

at Wild Thyme Catering

July 10

at TBA

September 28

at Riverside Theatre

Dogs For Life

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960 772-567-8969 www.dogsforlifevb.org

October 21

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade 2017 at Off-Leash Dog Park

Environmental Learning Center

255 Live Oak Drive Vero Beach, FL 32963 772-589-5050 www.DiscoverELC.org

Free admission first Saturday of the

See also: Speaker Series, Lectures, 36 Literary & Film

Tuesday-Sunday

Touch Tank Encounters

Every Saturday

Pelican Island Pontoon Boat Trips

Every Sunday

Treks & Track Guided Nature Walks

1st & 3rd Saturdays

Treks & Tracks Guided Nature Walk

2nd & 4th Saturday

Canoe Trips

3rd Saturday of the Month

Master Gardener

October 27

Half-Haunted Halloween

November 2-May 31

Walking Qigong Every Thursday

November 16 & 17

ELC Golfin for the Lagoon Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner

November 30 & December 1

Sunset Holiday Lights Canoe Trip

December 2

WinterGreen Night Lights

December 7

Volunteer Open House

January 13

ELC Annual Fundraising Gala at Oak Harbor Clubhouse.

March 4

ELC's Annual EcoFest

From: Constant Contact [mailto:support@constantcontact.com]

Sent: Thursday, October 19, 2017 1:56 PM

To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Your campaign Join us Sat for DFL 16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade has been sent

Constant Contact' A

Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'Join us Sat for DFL 16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade' was sent on 10/19/2017 around 1:56 PM EDT.

1

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: Join us Sat for DFL 16th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade

92

So many helped make golf tournament a success

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast wishes to thank everyone who made this year's 10th annual Golf Tournament the most successful ever! Held at the Club Med Sandpiper Bay Golf club on Oct. 14, the tournament, thanks to the help of our 60 golfers, raised a much needed \$9000. These funds will go to help support vital programs like the Children's Hearing Aid Fund and the Dangerous Decibels Program. The team of Joey Storck, Billy McQuillan, Robbie Donavan and Jon Yun, sponsored by Treasure Coast ENT took home 1st Place honors. The secondplace team, sponsored by A&G Concrete Pools, included Travis Leonard, Charlie Lumpkin, Jason Baran and Rich Del Toro.

We wish to thank our friends at Treasure Coast Indian Motorcycle for providing a 2017 Indian Scout motorcycle for our hole in one prize. Also, thanks to all the local golf courses and restaurants that provided gifts for our raffle.

Further we wish to thank our Silver Sponsors: Zachry Industrials, Publix Supermarket Charities and ENT of South Florida, and our Bronze Sponsors: Trilogy Home Healthcare, Treasure Coast ENT, Mercedes Benz of North Palm Beach, A&G Concrete Pools and Absolute Critter and Pest Control. Also a special thank you to the Cohasset Golf Club for their kind donation in honor of Dick, Betty and Mark Forrest.

We also wish to thank all those who participated as our hole sponsors, who included: Stimmell's Sport Shop, Seacoast Bank, Dogs for Life, Sherri Jones, Tate Design, Rosarian Academy, Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun, LLP, Jeff Corley, Gregory G. Fasula PA, My Color-Full Florida, Wallace Chevrolet, Vine and Barley, Daniel and Martha Jones, Ted and Mim Dunn, Deaf Communications Specialists, Aycock Funeral Homes, Three Legged Wildebeest, Koplas and Company, United Way of Indian River County and Atlantic Environmental Services.

Rick Kottler, executive director

DEAF & HARD OF HEARING SERVICES of the Treasure Coast, Inc. 1016 NE Jensen Beach Blvd. Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Shally,

Shally,

Thanks AGAIN for Swpporting

Thanks AGAIN FOR MENDAMENDY.

OWR Golf Town DAMENDY.

TRUNKY APPRICIATE 14!

BILTMORE

and receives no government funding; therefore, your purchase assists in the renovation and preservation of Biltmore® as a private, profitable, working estate. For mail order information please call 800-968-0558

Lusta moto to say Hi.

Itape all is well. Hape
Shelly is Feeling Bathe
See Yer San

Deny, Hape

Zynne

on the Billings Company.

Led & Distributed in the U.S.A. Printed in China.

Shelly tenan.

Shelly tenan.

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HIS AREA FOR OFFICIAL POSTAL USE ONLY

SOY INK

10/16 վիկարիկիրիկիրինիկիրկրիրիկությիակիներկ

Joan

From: Shelly Ferger

Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 1:09 PM

To: Jos

Subject: Please print for scrapbook :) FW: Carol Hartwig DFL Dog Park Member Memorial

Services

From: DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. [mailto:shelly.ferger@dogsforlifevb.org]

Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 2:08 PM To: Shelly Ferger <office@dogsforlifevb.org>

Subject: Carol Hartwig DFL Dog Park Member Memorial Services



Dogs For Life, Inc. and our members are saddened by the loss of our long time supporter and dog park member Carol Hartwig.

Many of you know Carol as Baxter's Mom from the small dog section of the park.

Carol, her husband John, and Baxter her Pekingese have been members and supporters since 2007 and we have grown to love and admire them.

Many of you know that Baxter was trained by DFL as a service dog for Carol who was successful in calling for help on his K-9 emergency phone more than once.

In addition, the family has requested we notify our members of Carol's Memorial Service which will be held Monday, October 30th, at 10:30 AM at Tomas S. Lowther Funeral Home

> 1655 27th Street in Vero Beach 772-778-3233

Because of Carol's loyalty to our programs, her children have requested that donations be made in her memory to Dogs For Life.

We are honored to add a memorial donor bone in Memory of Carol at the park.

If you have any questions, please contact Shelly Ferger at Dogs For Life, Inc. (772) 567-8969 or Email office@dogsforlifevb.org

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. | 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Unsubscribe {recipient's email}

Update Profile | About our service provider

Sent by shelly.ferger@dogsforlifevb.org in collaboration with





ASSISTANCE DOGS INTERNATIONAL PRESENTS

PTSD TRAINERS' SYMPOSIUM OCTOBER 28-30, 2017

HOSTED BY





In APPRECIATION by a generous donor of



October 30, 2017

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Mobility Service Dog Project and

Dog of Record

10:00 a.m. How to Help Your Teams Qualify for

Dog of Record

10:30 a.m. VA Study and Challenges

Heather Luper and Joyce Edmondson VHA Office of Compassionate Innovation

Sheila O'Brien

Dr. Michael Fallon

Chief Veterinary Medical Officer Department of Veterans Affairs

11:30 a.m. Recap: What Have You Learned?

12:00 p.m. Close of Symposium

Joan

From: Shelly Ferger

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 8:43 AM

To: Diana Mancini; Joan; Jeff; Michael Hawkins

Subject: FW: Beau

Shelly

----Original Message----

From: Linda Liss [mailto:linmar75@bellsouth.net]

Sent: Friday, October 20, 2017 1:01 AM

To: Shelly Ferger <office@dogsforlifevb.org>; Shelly Ferger <office@dogsforlifevb.org>

Subject: Beau

Thank you so much for the beautiful card that you all signed and sent. It's so funny that I love DFL so much and yet we have no dogs of our own. In fact, I just submitted an application to the Siamese Rescue Foundation Group in Florida in the hope of adopting of two who want to be adopted together. We'll see! Much love to you all and thank you again for your thoughtfulness. Linda & Marv

Sent from my iPhone

Dogs
come into our
lives to teach us
about love.
They depart
to teach us about loss.
A new dog never
replaces
an old dog,
it merely
expands the heart."





THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

We honor

Reginald farr

The Vietnam War (1966-1969),
Captain, Platoon Leader, 25th Infantry Division,
Awarded the Bronze Star for Valor.



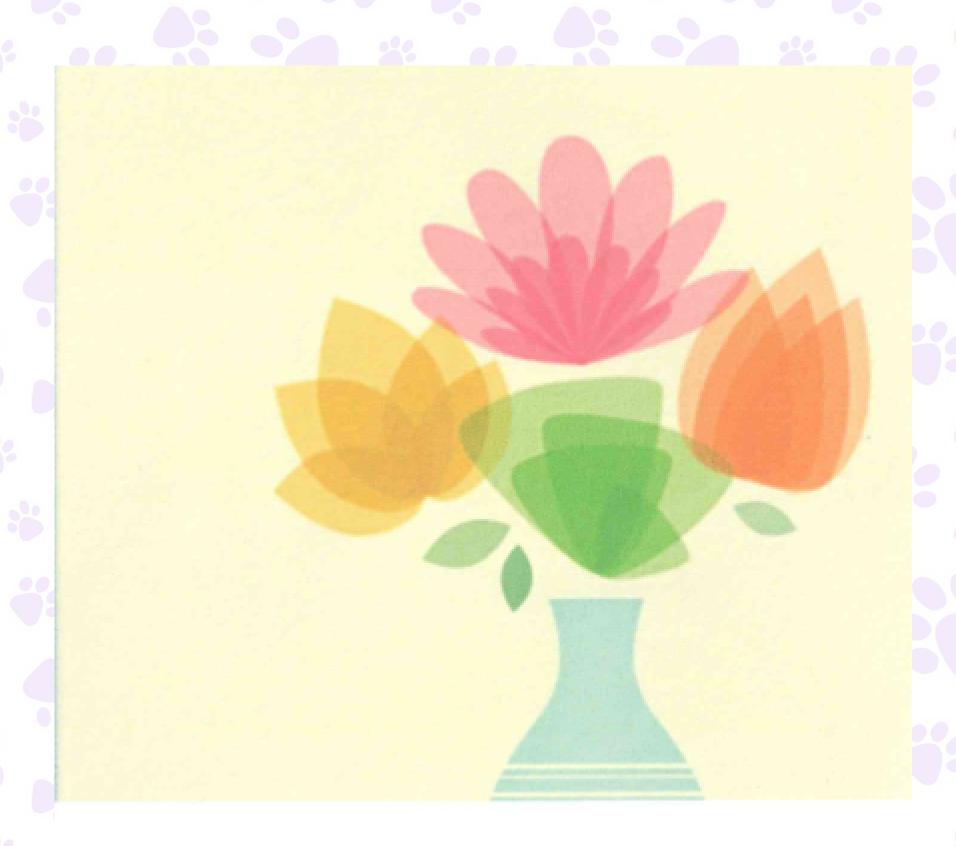
Mr. Hamilton proudly dressed in his Bumble Bee costume.





Derign & Photography
Alma Phipps Design.
(left) Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Phipps's service dog.

GFWC Treasure Coast Women



Thank You!

Hi Shelly - GFWC Treasure Coast Women wishes to thank you for the wonderful program last night. You can always tell it went well when there are so many questions. We were all amazed at how much help the dogs give their owners. They certainly are our best friends.

We appreciate you taking the time to let us know about your organization.



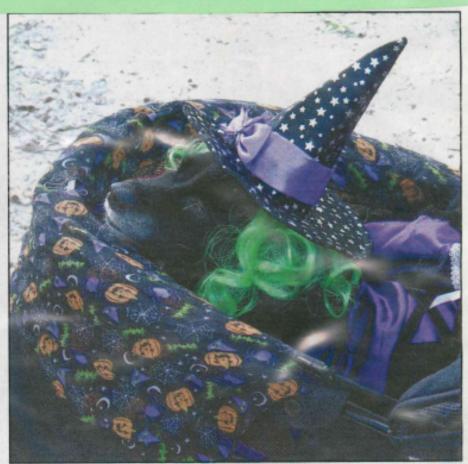


Jose Acevedo, of Port St. Lucie, brought his three poochy 'children' to the 16th annual Dogs For Life 'Howl-O-Ween' 16th annual fundraiser event in Vero Beach Oct. 21 to help the DFL match up service dogs with veterans at no cost. With him are Mollie (blue outfit), Evy (bumblebee outfit) and Nicci (green tutu).

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

DOGGONE IT!

Pooches show up for 16th annual fundraiser to help veterans



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Heidi, whose owner is Corina Turner of Vero Beach, came to the Dogs For Life 'Howl-O-Ween' fundraiser Oct. 21 at the DFL complex in Vero Beach.

8 Odeber 26,2017 Velegan Voice

Mary Kemper

STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

You're a veteran who has come off of multiple deployments around the world, where you've been asked to do more than you've ever done. You've been shocked, suffering PTSD or other injuries. Your life is changed forever. How do you go forward?

The answer: Man's best friend, a dog. And not just any dog.

Dogs For Life in Vero Beach has been dedicated to matching veterans with helper dogs for many years. On Oct. 21, it held its 16th annual fundraiser in Vero Beach to match up veterans with helper dogs — at no cost to themselves — and it turned out to be a fun day for Halloweeners who wanted to make a difference.

"Hobo Jim" provided music, and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office gave a K-9 demonstration. Hundreds of dollars' worth of items were raffled off.

Dogs For Life has made a huge difference in the lives of many people. People who can't hear properly — people who can't see. Its training programs give people access to emergency services that they never would have had before. Alert them when someone knocks at the door. Dial 911 if need be. Their contributions are unmatched.

So, it's not only veterans — but if you're a veteran, and anyone can help you, even if it's a dog — especially, in many cases — it is a lifeline.

That's where Dogs For Life comes in.

For many years, now, Dogs For Life, by hooking up veterans with dogs who are specially trained, has provided veterans with the literal lifeline. Iraq and Afghanistan veterans come back home with psychological worries such as "spaces." Their dogs help them evaluate their "spaces" to make them feel safe. The trained dogs can calm a person after nightmares, and create boundaries in

Sometimes it's the difference between being completely withdrawn or being a functioning person in society.

It's not only PTSD that Dogs For Life trains for. Hearing, mobility and sight issues can be taken care of as well. The dogs even have a special phone they can use to dial 911, if necessary.

All that highly specialized training takes money, as might be expected. That's why the Howl-O-Ween fundraiser is so important (besides being a lot of fun). It ensures that veterans can receive the dogs and training they need, at no cost to themselves.

To learn more about the Dogs For Life's mission, or to donate, visit dogsforlifevb.org.

SEPTEMBER

Shelly Ferger

From:

Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>

Sent:

Friday, September 15, 2017 4:05 PM

To:

dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject:

Your campaign DFL Dog Park Opens after hurricane clean up has been sent



Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'DFL Dog Park Opens after hurricane clean up' was sent on 9/15/2017 around 4:04 PM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: DFL Dog Park Opens after hurricane clean up



9/15/17 4:00 PM

Dogs For Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park Opens After Hurricane Clean up!

All six sections of the Off-Leash Dog Park are clean of debris, hanging limbs and open for use.

Thank you to Jeff Gomez and Coast To Coast Landscaping for cleaning up as soon as possible.

Have a great weekend and enjoy.

MARTIN COUNTY



Top, dogs and owners both enjoy the annual Howl-O-Ween Parade at Dogs For Life. Right, the annual Samaritan Center Soup Bowl helps to raise funds for the Samaritan Center for the homeless in Indian River County, SAM WOLFE/TCPALM

Are you ready for 'Season'? Submit your events for preview calendars

STAFF REPORT

"Season" on the Treasure Coast is chock-full of events, fundraisers and special

Make sure people are in the know by submitting information about your upcoming events from October to June.

Luminaries will publish the season events calendar listings online and in print.

Go to tcpalm.com/Luminaries

Or go to tcpalm.com/submit

Look for "Specialty Publication Submissions" and find "Luminaries." Select the "Calendar Listing" form.

Deadlines for event submissions:

October and November events: submit by Sept. 15

December and January events: submit by Oct. 15

February and March events: submit by Nov. 15

April, May and June events: submit by Dec. 15



1st Responders Tribute





DHHTC Presentation



Presentation at Edna's Church





Presentation at MS Society





AUGUST

Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>

Sent: Monday, August 07, 2017 3:21 PM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Your campaign DFL Calling you to Serve has been sent



Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'DFL Calling you to Serve' was sent on 8/7/2017 around 3:21 PM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: DFL Calling you to Serve



Dogs For Life, Inc.
Is Calling You to Serve
Veterans Training Veterans Program Committee

Organizational Meeting Augst 25, 2017 - 3:00 P.M.



Volunteer Committee Focus:

- Research for Veteran benefits and legislation that benefit veterans and their service dog training
- DFL Future Phase Class Outline Veterans Training Veterans
- Foster Dog Outline/Guidelines for Puppy Raising
- Fund Development & Special Events
- Educational Demonstrations & Presentataions on public access rights for service dogs

Please call Shelly at DFL (772) 567-8969 or Email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net



AMERICAN LEGION POST 39 1535 OLD DIXIE HWY VERO BEACH, FL. 32960 772 562-9726 772 562-9049

Dear Director,

My name is Bob Boob and for a long time have been the contact for the Honor Guard for Vero Beach.

Time has come for me to retire this position.

Please contact the following persons should you require the services of the Honor Guard.

Mr. Matt Cresta 610-937-0905 or

Mr. Hap Allston 305-395-1090

I have enjoyed association with all of you.

Sincerely.

Bob Boob

Kathi's Birthday

You are Invited

Kathi Schumann and The Golden Girls Birthday Party





Join the Celebration!

Kathi Schumann and The Golden Girls Birthday Party

August 18, 2017 11:30 DFL Training Center 1230 16th Avenue

No gifts please ~ donations welcome in honor of Kathi Schumann & The Golden Girls

> Please RSVP 772-567-8969 or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net







Shelly Ferger

From: Sent: To: Subject: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com> Monday, August 07, 2017 9:50 AM

dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Your campaign Sign Language Class has been sent



Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'Sign Language Class' was sent on 8/7/2017 around 9:49 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: Sign Language Class



Sign Up Now for Sign Language Classes



There is an exciting opportunty at DFL to begin learning basic sign language

A Four-Week, Free Sign Language class beginning August 15, Tuesdays at 10 AM - Noon With certified instructor Marion Minette.

Additional classes to be determined based on participation level.

Call 772-567-8969 to RSVP!



Quarter Auction



Volunteer Workshop





INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Veterans Council awarded \$5,000 grant

CATHERINE CADDELL

In June, the Veterans Council of Indian River County received a \$5,000 grant from the Indian River Community Foundation's Community Enrichment Fund.

The \$5,000 grant will be used by the Veterans Council to develop a comprehensive communications strategy to reach veterans residing in Indian River County, with specific focus on veterans returning from active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Employment and housing are the among the challenges facing our returning military veterans, and these difficulties are compounded when veterans seek to house and support their families. The Veterans Council assists returning heroes and seeks to facilitate their transitions to civilian life. Employed by the Veterans Council, the Indian River Community Foundation's Grant will make Veterans Council programs, including free transportation to medical appointments at the VA Hospital in West Palm



Pictured (from left): Veterans Council program manager Doy Demsick, Veterans Council
President Col. Sam Kouns, and Indian River Community Foundation chairman Scott Alexander.

Beach, employment and financial assistance, more visible and more accessible,

to qualified veterans. The Veterans Council of Indian River County, incorporated in 1987, is a nongovernment 501(C)(3) that came into existence due to the generous donations of private citizens. Today, potential donor may not be aware of the Veterans Council's assistance programs.

Retired Air Force Colonel Mart Zickert, past president and current de velopmental officer for the Veteran Council, has been fundraising for th Council and has been an advocate fo veterans for many years. Zickert said "... on more than one occasion, donor have stated they never knew there wa need for the Veterans Council and it programs."

The Indian River Community Foun dation Grant will certainly raise community awareness to the needs of our loca veteran population. This new awareness will hopefully inspire future contributions and donations to strengthen existing Veterans Council programs.

Learn more about the Veterans Council at http://www.veteranscouncilirc.org

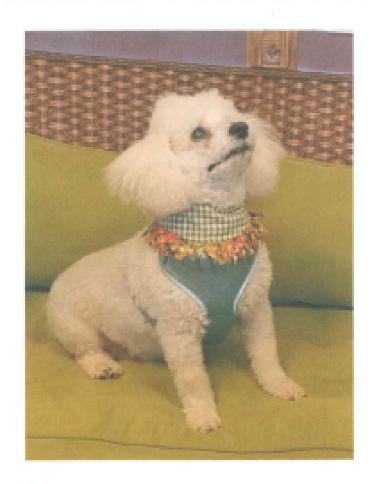


Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Members of the Veterans Council of Indian River County conducted a successful 3rd Annual Golf Tournament June 17 to raise funds for their many missions. They include, om left, Theresa Fletcher, Kryse Manson, Kathy Geeston, co-chair, Gary James, Pat Geyer, co-chair, Kim Pilger, Curtis Paulisin, 1st Vice President, and Linda Paulisin, co-



Teddy Needs a Forever Home in Vero Beach!



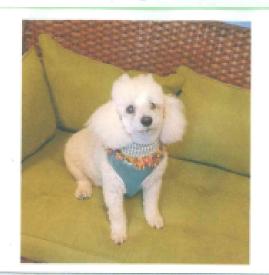
Teddy is a lovable miniature poodle!

He's 10 years young and needs a new home. He is blind in one eye, but that does not slow him down one bit.

He LOVES to swim and of course going for walks is always fun and he is good on a leash.

Call DFL at 772-567-8969 to make an appointment to meet Teddy!





Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 10:09 AM

ent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 10:09 AM dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Subject: Your campaign Dogs For Life Featured in City Guide has been sent

Constant Contact A

Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign 'Dogs For Life Featured in City Guide' was sent on 7/13/2017 around 10:08 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the message your subscribers received. See how your campaign is doing by visiting Reports in your account to get real-time results and stats.

Subject: Dogs For Life Featured in City Guide



Training Assistance Dog For Veterans

Thank You David Moshier for featuring DFL in the City Guide of Sebastian & Vero Beach!



Abandoned Dogs Trained to Help Local Veterans

Since 2001, Dogs For Life has been turning lives around by training service dogs for veterans and individuals.

At the same time, we also provide a renewed purpose for abandoned dogs through our specialized training. Dogs are trained with their owners to be the ears that hear smoke alarms; paws that tap 911 emergency telephones; legs that provide stability and to be a life-long partner to recognize and ease the effects of post-traumatic stress.



PaiPai taps a 911 emergency telephone

PTSD symptoms such as hyper-vigilance, anxiety attacks and perceived threats trigger what is known as the "flight or fight" mode, which served these soldiers well when they were in combat. However, if untreated, PTS can become a life sentence of mental illness that affects the ability to sleep, interact socially, and maintain a job or a meaningful relationship.

Veterans account for 20% of suicides in the U.S. and 1/3 of the homeless population in the state of Florida; and 45% suffer from mental illness. Add to this



Harmony with her service dog Gunny

the number of veterans with hearing and physical disabilities, and the numbers are staggering. Men and women who have served our country deserve an opportunity to live a self-reliant, productive life and to pursue the American dream.

Currently, the need for assistance dogs far outweighs the availability, and this is an unacceptable situation. If you also find this unacceptable, you can help our local veterans by donating through our Facebook page, website, US mail or we can process donations with your credit card at our front desk.

Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO, welcomes tours of the campus and 4 acre Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. To arrange an appointment or request more information, please call (772) 576-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net. You can also learn more about Dogs For Life on our website: www.dogsforlifevb.org.



Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

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Harmony with her service dog Gunny

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July Birthdays





y Birthday Happy Birth



JUNE

Community News

Top donors, volunteers recognized

SPECIAL TO YOUR NEWSWEEKLY

Shelly Ferger, CEO/Founder of Dogs For Life, along with board members, staff, donors, and friends celebrated 2016 top donors, volunteers, and assistance dog team graduates.

Kathi G. Schumann, board president, expressed her ongoing dedication to DFL and its focus to assist the veterans of Indian River County. During the awards presentation, she also cited the criteria for the Kathi Schumann Award, which was presented for the first year and given to L.A. Bykowsky.

2016 Award Recipients:

» Assistance Dog Team.....Larry Ingham and

» Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Program.....Laura Beebe and Sadie

» Volunteer of the Year Award.....Sherry Ingham

» Individual Philanthropist Award...........Kathi G. Schu-

» Corporate Philanthropist Award......Coast to Coast

» Corporate Philanthropist Award......VCA Florida Veterinary League

» Media Marketing Award......Treasure and Space

Assistance Dog Team Graduates: Mark and Ranger; Pamela and Skye

Devon Williams with Quilt of Valor presented a beautiful custom made quilt to Jim Taylor, US Army (Ret.) and a smaller version to his service dog PiaPia. Shelly Ferger stated, "Dogs For Life can never say just how much we appreciate our donors and volunteers or how proud we are of our service dog team graduates."

If you are interested in learning more about Dogs For Life and our service dog training for veterans in Indian River County, call 772-567-8969.



Kathi G Schumann and Shelly Ferger.



Shelly Ferger and Larry Ingham accepting his Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award



Pamela and her service dog Skye

PROVIDE

Veterans Council Golf Fundraiser

Veteran Voice Weakly.com

June 22, 2017.9

'Even better this year'

Veterans Council of Indian River County holds successful golf fundraiser for 3rd year running

Mary Kemper STAFF WRITER

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

"Well, I've been here since 6 a.m.," said a weary but cheerful Gary James, a member of the Veterans Council of Indian River County. "But it was very much worth it."

It was close to 1 p.m. at the Sandridge Golf Resort in Vero Beach, and the 140 generous golfers who signed on to the 3rd Annual Golf Tournament began coming in off the links to enjoy a barbecue buffet and vie for raffle prizes and other drawings.

James had arrived early because a severe storm knocked down equipment on the golf course, and it all had to be replaced. The storm also left very wet conditions, but it didn't deter the golfers, many of whom even considered it an additional challenge.

There were so many golfers this year, the Council is opting to expand next year's tournament from one golf course to two. "Yes, it was even better this year," said Curtis Paulisin, 1st Vice President of the Council.
"Last year we made \$15,000, but this time around I'm estimating we've made at least \$20,000." (As of press time, the full count had not yet been made.)

"We even had to stop advertising at one point and turn people away," Paulisin said.

Dedicated members of the Council registered golfers, set up the prize tables, took golfers' scores and decorated the premises, among many other tasks.

Linda Paulisin hand-made chocolate pops in the shapes of golf clubs, tees and the like, and stood them up in baskets covered with green "grass" for each table — many people remarked on them and the care taken by Mrs.

More than 100 prizes were donated, ranging from \$10 to \$50 gift certificates at restaurants, supermarkets, hotels and the Victory Military Store, maintained by the Council at the Indian River Mall, all the way up to a residential home inspection, worth \$350, and a

Career Management Program, worth \$900. In an email to Veteran Voice, Paulisin said:

"The monies, which is more than we made in the last two golf tournaments added together, will go to (our) Veterans Outreach program, which helps mostly Desert Storm, OEF and OIF veterans in transitioning back to society as they await the long VA process (regarding) emergency services, educational assistance and job counseling classes.

"We will also be using some of the proceeds for the Community Picnic that we have for the whole county in Gifford (slated this fall).

"And finally a portion will go to our savings account we have to buy new buses that we use to transport our veterans down to West Palm Beach, Monday through Friday, and our local routes within our county."

The Veterans Council of Indian River County meets the first Monday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at the County Administrative Complex in Vero Beach.

To learn more about the Council and its many initiatives, visit veteranscouncilirc.org.



President Bush Book

Tour





Board of Directors

Kathi G, Schumann
President
Eleanor M, Bengyak
Vice-President
Toni Gibson
Treasurer
Shelly Ferger
Founder & Secretary

Honorary Board Members

Robert G. Bowman Anthony J. Donadio Ann W. Ford Marie Gookin Darrell Horn, DVM Richard & Jane Manoogian Marjorie Owens Janet F. Riley Jocelyn Woodruff

Staff

Shelly Ferger, CEO & Director of Training Lisa Lopez Administrative Assistant & Volunteer Coordinator L. A. Bykowsky, (USAF) Veteran Project Development John Biondo (USMC) Trainer, Program Development Lisa Snycerski Training Coordinator Joan Freeman Program Specialist



Member International Association of Assistance Dog Partners



June 14, 2017

Office of George W. Bush Attn: Mr. George W. Bush PO Box 259000 Dallas, TX 75225

Dear Mr. Bush,

Vero Beach is looking forward to having you in our community while on your book signing tour. You and Dogs For Life have an important common interest – veterans. With that commonality in mind, we are hoping that you will come to our facility for a tour and meet a few of our veterans with their service dogs.

This philanthropic community has allowed our small non-profit organization to thrive and benefit our most valuable assets: our veterans and their life-saving dogs. Dogs who become ears, arms, legs and psychological support. Our specially trained dogs have proven to be life-changing for service men and women, helping them navigate the transition from military to civilian life and regain their independence.

"We didn't realize all the benefits of having Bo trained by Dogs For Life to be Bob's service dog," said Bob's wife Lynn. "Since Bo has gone through their program and is now fully involved in our lives, many aspects of my and Bob's day-to-day living are much easier to manage."

Bo is Bob's hearing and mobility dog and is trained to do many things for him. She gets the newspaper in the morning, picks up his keys or cane when needed and knows how to alert him for a smoke alarm and lead him to safety.

Dogs For Life continues to help even more veterans to live more confident lives ...every day. It's not just the veterans who benefit, but as Lynn said, the family members do also. "I'm comforted just knowing that Bob is safe and under the watchful eye of a most loyal partner...his service dog."

We sincerely hope that you will be able to plan a visit while in Vero Beach. We have enclosed our most recent newsletters and brochures that provide an overview of our programs and client testimonials.

Respectfully,

Shelly Ferger

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 567-8969 E-mail: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net • Website: www.dogsforlifevb.org



June 12, 2017

Dear Kathi,

Enclosed is a copy of the June 7th edition of "Community News" from the Treasure Coast Newspapers. I thought you might enjoy having an extra copy of the featured article on the Dogs for Life organization.

Congratulations on being honored with the Outstanding Individual Philanthropist Award. I know your heart is committed to this wonderful organization.

Kleber)

Please give my warm regards to John.

Again, congratulations.

Sincerely,

Ann L. Decker

Enclosure

Office of the Executive Director

MAY

Memorial Day at Memorial Island





2017-2018

VeroBeach Guide to Giving

56

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE'S GUIDE TO GIVING

Find information about your favorite nonprofits at a glance

Nonprofits From A To Z

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE'S GUIDE TO GIVING

Dasie Bridgewater Hope Center

772-589-3535 www.dasiehope.org. CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Dogs For Life Inc.

772-567-8969 dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.doasforlife.org

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin, and Okeechobee Counties Inc.

772 567-7480 www.elcirmo.org EDUCATION

Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County

772-562-4177 www.eocofirc.net HOME AND FAMILY

Education Foundation of Indian River County Inc.

772-564-0034 director@edfoundationirc.org www.edfoundationirc.org EDUCATION

Environmental Learning Center

772-589-5050 info@discoverelc.org www.discoverelc.org LAND CONSERVATION

Epic Missions Inc. 772-569-7089

info@epicmissions.org CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Every Dream Has A Price

772-713-6883 www.everydreamhasaprice.com HOME AND FAMILY

Exchange Clubs of Indian River County

Sebastian Exchange Club Foundation 772-473-4353

Exchange Club Foundation of Indian River www.exchangeclubofindlanriver.org

Exchange Gub Foundation of the Treasure Coast

www.tcexchangeclub.org COMMUNITY SERVICE

Feed the Lambs Enrichment Program Inc.

772-501-2617, 772-925-8715 www.feedthelambsep.com CHILDREN AND YOUTH

2017 Graduation Ceremony





Dogs, Donors & Awards

For Veterans

Assistance Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony

Event Schedule

12:00	BBQ Lunch & Social
1:00	4-H Dog Masters Dog Agility Show
1:30	Assistance Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony
2:00	DFL Donor & Volunteer Awards Ceremony

2016 Award Recipients

Kathi G. Schumann Award	L.A. Bykowsky
Assistance Dog Team Award	Larry Ingham and Lola
Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Award	Laura Beebe and Sadie
Volunteer of the Year Award	Sherry Ingham
Individual Philanthropist Award	Kathi G. Schumann
Corporate Philanthropist Awards	Coast to Coast Landscaping
	VCA Florida Veterinary League
Media Marketing Award	Treasure and Space Coast Radio

Assistance Dog Team Graduates

Mark with Ranger and Pamela with Skye

You are cordially invited to our

Dogs, Donors & Awards

Assistance Dog Teams Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, May 13, 2017 12:00 P.M.

Dogs For Life Training Center 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please RSVP by May 5, 2017 by calling: 567-8969 or emailing: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Quilts of Valor will be presented to veterans

More than just friends

Donors, graduate veterans and service dogs celebrated at Dogs For Life event

Mary Kemper

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

"Dogs For Life has been a godsend," said Larry Ingham, Vero Beach, a veteran with hearing issues. His canine companion Lola helps him know when someone rings the doorbell or when the phone rings.

Ingham and Lola were honored as the Assistance Dog Team of the Year May 13 at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach event that paid tribute to generous donors, sponsors and many others who make it possible for service-disabled veterans to pair up with their own dog and train with them to become certified - at no cost to themselves.

In 2016, 30 teams underwent certification, 15 of which were veterans, according to Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO.

One of the most common issues for veterans is PTSD. Dogs For Life trains veterans and their dogs for such occurrences as waking from nightmares, "watching their back," navigate crowds and many, many other tasks. "We're still learning about

PTSD," Ferger told the audience. "That's why it's so important for us to help our heroes heal." Eight teams were set to be recertified, and two new teams were

> r and board president Kathi ann gifted Dogs For Life



with two golden retriever puppies, and a contest was held to name them (not done by press time). Two fortunate veterans will one day pair up with the pups to become bonded companions.

A barbecue lunch sated the appetites of at least 100 attendees, followed by an agility display by members of the 4-H Masters

of Quilts of Valor presents veteran James Taylor and his service dog, Pla-Pia, with special hand-made quilts to honor their service at the Dogs For Life administrative complex in Vero Beach May 13 as part of the Dogs, **Donors and Awards** Assistance Dog **Teams Graduation** Ceremony. Taylor, who suffers from PTSD, is a staunch advocate for Dogs For Life, and frequently gives speeches on its behalf.

Devon Williams

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

The teen members ran their pooches through their paces on the agility course, which included jumping fences, going up and down steep ramps, jumping through tires and finishing by running through a long tube.

Back inside the training building, several plaques were

awarded for Volunteer of the Year (Sherry Ingham) and Individual Philanthropy (Schumann), as well as the Kathi G. Schumann Award (L.A. Bykowsky, who was unable to attend), Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Award (Laura Beebe and Sadie) and Corporate Philanthropist Awards (Coast to Coast Landscaping, Jeff and Susie Gomez) and the Florida Veterinary League (Dr. Darrell Horn).

Among those being certified and recertified was James Taylor, Vero Beach, and his pug Pia-Pia (pronounced "pay-pay"). "I wouldn't be here, if it wasn't for Dogs For Life," he said. The veteran, who suffers from PTSD. was gifted with a special quilt handmade by Quilts of Valor, a non-profit foundation that has made it a mission to present active duty and veterans with something special to thank them for their service.

Foundation representative Devon Williams also presented Pia-Pia with her own small quilt.

"There are more than 10,000 quilters nationwide," she said. We have made more than 152,000 quilts - we present them at hospitals, send them overseas, you name it."

To learn more about Dogs For Life and their mission to match up veterans with service dogs, visit their website at dogsforlifevb.org. Stop by their premises at 1230 16th Avenue, give them a call at (772) 567-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Dogs For Life Mission

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people, veterans and dogs through training assistance dogs and owning and operating an off-leash dog park.

Assistance Dog Training: DFL specializes in task training hearing and mobility service dogs to help their owners lead a life of independence and self-reliance.

Assistance Dogs for Veterans: This program is dedicated to providing dogs to the brave men and women who honorably served our country, many of whom suffer from the effects of posttraumatic stress, hearing and/or mobility loss.

Hearing Dogs are trained to alert their owners to a knock at the door, a telephone ring, a smoke alarm or an alarm clock. Many other sounds can be added to meet a client's individual needs.

Service Dogs assist with mobility challenges and psychological support. They can be trained to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, assist with balance and tap a specialized K-9 emergency phone for help. The dogs can also create a safe zone around their human partner, provide pressure for a calming effect or reduce stress and hyper-vigilance through specialized task work.









"Sissy Girl" hits door opener for Fred



"Precious" taps

Pet-Assisted Therapy: Our certified volunteer dog teams have been providing unconditional love and support to children and seniors in Indian River county since 2002. DFL teams also bring warmth and comfort to people at assisted living facilities.



Average Cost to Train a Service Dog

Because of your support, Dogs For Life is able to

train dogs for our clients free of charge.	
Team Evaluation Process Client Application Review Interview; Home Visit, Trainer Assignment Record Keeping Shelter Visits & Dog Temperament Test Cost to Adopt Dog	\$120 \$175 \$75 \$175 \$175 \$180 \$725
Training Supplies ID Card, Jacket & Patches Equipment (DFL manual, leashes, collars, treats) Canine 911 Emergency Phone	\$130 \$300 \$280 \$710
Basic Obedience/Behavior Training - 3 months Individual and Group Obedience Training Assigned Trainers and Record Keeping AKC - Canine Good Citizen Training	\$800 \$1,825 \$1,225 \$3,850
Specialized Training - 3 months Task Training: 3 Task Minimum Assigned Trainers and Record Keeping Public Access Training Additional Costs for Hearing Dog	\$1,225 \$1,825 \$400 \$2,500 \$5,950
6 Month Certification ID Card, Jacket & Patches Assigned Trainers and Record Keeping Public Access Testing	\$130 \$1,825 \$300 \$2,255
Sub-Total	\$13,490
Annual Recertification - Over 10 years Assigned Trainers and Record Keeping Obedience, Task and Public Access Training Replacement ID Card, Vest & Patches Sub-Total	\$1,000 \$3,000 \$650 \$4,650
GRAND TOTAL for Client Owned Dog	\$18,140
Additional Costs for Rescued Dogs: Veterinary Exams and Vaccinations Preventative Care	\$300 \$240 \$540
6 Month Transition Training/Housing for Rescur Training, Boarding and Record Keeping Food and Treats Crate, Bed and Training Equipment	\$15,000 \$600 \$900

four donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax supposes under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code, Registration if 0+15831. You will receive a written receipt and regular updates through the Dogs for Life, Inc. Paw Prints Newsletter.

GRAND TOTAL w/Additional Costs

\$16,500

\$35,180

We are grateful for your support. Should you have any questions please call our office at (772) 567-8969.

copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained fron vision of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 within the st

Community Outreach Programs

Off-Leash Dog Park memberships for owners of dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social. Dog behavior and park orientations are scheduled by appointment and an orientation fee is required. Walking trails, water and shaded oak trees are all a part of this safe and controlled environment.



4-H Dog Masters Club promotes responsible pet ownership, self-confidence and leadership skills. This program is sponsored by DFL at no cost to the club and is available to youths between the ages of 8 and 18.



Donations are needed, appreciated and fully tax

Assistance Dog Training Center

In response to growing needs in our community and beyond, Dogs For Life constructed a 2,400 sq. ft. air-conditioned Assistance Dog Training Center at our 4 acre Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Avenue.

The building houses administrative and training areas, with the larger space and central location allowing us to better support the people who need our specialized services. We now have a simulated home environment and can train dogs year round, which helped expand our assistance dog program and increase the reach of our community based programs.



Administrative Offices, Training Center and Off-Leash Dog Park



Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans Email: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit, tox-esempt organization as described under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Federal IDV 31-1800397

5-2017



Improving the Quality of Life for People and Dogs

AT NO COST TO OUR CLIENTS



Harmony, U.S. Army Veteran and her service dog "Gunny"

Assistance Dog Training Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have task trained their service dogs:

Federal laws which protect individuals with disabilities include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, revised 2010); the Fair Housing Amendments Act (1988); Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973); and the Air Carrier Access Act (1986).

The ADA is the federal law that governs access rights to buildings, businesses and public accommodations for people with service dogs. For more information, visit www.ada.gov or call 1-800-514-0301.

The ADA and Florida law both define a service animal as any dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a physical or psychological disability; the work or task must be directly related to the individual's disability. The disabled person must have a diagnosed impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Service dogs are working animals, not pets. A dog used only for crime deterrence, emotional support, comfort or companionship does not qualify as a service animal under the ADA or Florida law.

These laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service dogs in taxis, buses, trains, stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, schools, parks, hotels and other public places. Florida State Statute 413.08 defines the rights and responsibilities of an individual with a disability, use of a service animal and prohibited discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing accommodations. The law also provides for criminal penalties in the following circumstances:

Any person, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person, firm or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to, or enjoyment of, a public accommodation, or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual with a disability or the trainer of a service animal while engaged in the training of such an animal, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. (SS 4)

A person who knowingly and willfully misrepresents him or herself as using and being qualified to use a service animal or as a trainer of a service animal commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. (SS 9)

Reasons to Deny Access

Under Federal Law, SS 36.302 (c)(2) of the ADA, access can be denied for two reasons: (1) the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or (2) the animal is not housebroken.

Under Florida Law, FSS 413.08 (3)(f) access can also be denied if the dog's behavior poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others. Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to an individual with a service dog. If a service dog is properly excluded or removed, the public accommodation must provide the disabled individual the option of continuing access to the establishments without having the service dog on the premises.

Summary of Law:

Physically or psychologically disabled persons have the legal right to be accompanied by a specially trained dog in business establishments, housing and accommodations where the general public has access and on all common carriers. No extra charge can be levied because of the dog's presence, but the dog user is liable for any damage the dog might cause to the premises.

Businesses

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are permitted. Business owners or employees may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability; (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to do.

Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

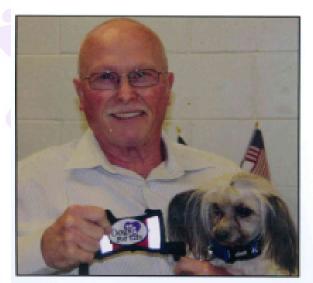
Service dogs can be any breed or size and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. Certification or registration of the dog as a service animal is not required under federal or Florida law. It's the training to do work or perform tasks that makes a service dog legal, not the ID or "clothes" they wear.

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOGS

Guide Dogs assist their blind or visually impaired partners to independently and safely negotiate the environment by guiding them around obstacles, safely across streets and stopping at curbs and steps.

Hearing Dogs assist their deaf or hearing impaired partners by alerting them to sounds such as a smoke alarm, telephone, alarm clock, door bells, sirens, stove, or dryer timers.

Service Dogs assist with mobility challenges and psychological support. They can be trained to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, assist with balance and tap a specialized K-9 emergency phone for help. The dogs can also create a safe zone around their human partner, provide pressure for a calming effect or reduce stress and hyper-vigilance through specialized task work.



Larry, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and his service dog "Lola"



Mark, U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and his service dog "Shadow"

Our dogs also help provide the emotional stability that veterans suffering from post-raumatic stress need to restore peace in their everyday lives. They instill the confidence necessary to be able to leave the house or to enter a confined space like an elevator. This critical help enables their owners to lead a life of elf-reliance and independence.



SOME PEOPLE DO NOT "LOOK" DISABLED. WHY DO THEY NEED AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

When you see an assistance dog "on duty," be assured there is a good reason for it, even if the human partner does not use obvious equipment like a wheelchair or a cane. The human partner undoubtedly has something known as a "hidden disability" such as balance issues, a hearing impairment, traumatic brain injury, or psychological challenges.

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Most assistance dogs wear a tag, vest, harness, or backpack, however, these forms of identification are not required by law. You should never pet an assistance dog when it is working as this could distract the dog's focus from its human partner. You can talk to the person, not the dog, if they are not busy and are able to see or hear you.



Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

> Assistance Dog Training Center

1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

5-2017

Other Dogs For Life Programs and Services

Assistance Dogs are task trained to assist their disabled owners, enabling them to lead a life of independence and self-reliance. Ears that hear smoke alarms; paws that tap a 911 phone; legs that provide stability, and a lifelong partner to recognize and ease the effects of post-traumatic stress.

Pet-Assisted Therapy: Our certified volunteer dog teams have been providing unconditional love and support to children and seniors in Indian River county since 2002.

Community Outreach Programs feature our 4-acre off-leash dog park that has served the community since 2002.







Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

Email: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization as described under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Federal ID# 31-1800397

5-2017



Legal Rights for People with Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs, and Service Dogs



Assistance dogs are "task trained" to mitigate the disability of the people who own them.





Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans



James Taylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.) Iraq War Veteran and his hearing/service dog "Pia Pia"

Assistance Dog Training Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

Service Dogs for Veterans

Dogs For Life, Inc., (DFL) is one of only six organizations accredited by Assistance Dogs International in the state of Florida to certify service dogs for veterans, allowing them to receive additional VA benefits.

Service Dogs are task trained to assist people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Dogs For Life specializes in training hearing, mobility and psychiatric support dogs at no cost to our clients. Dogs can also be cross-trained to perform other tasks depending on the needs of their companions.

Dogs For Life Mission

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people, veterans and dogs through training assistance dogs and owning and operating an off-leash dog park.



Public Access Training for Veterans in Vero Beach

Bill, (USN) and "Freyja" Larry, (USMC) and "Lola" Cheré, (USAF, Ret) and "Stella" Bob, (USN, Ret) and "Bodacious" The fastest growing **need** for service dogs is in Florida, especially for the brave military men and women who served **our** country!

231,000⁺ veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already call Florida as their home of record¹.

80,000° Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years².

Extrapolating national VA numbers, the news is grim for our new residents:

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 20*% will suffer from the effects of posttraumatic stress
- 50% of those with post-traumatic stress will not seek treatment
- 19% will report post-traumatic stress symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era³

Other studies show4:

Treatment via medication 50% effective 50% effective Service Dogs 84.5% effective



L.A. Bykowsky, (USAF) and K-9 "Darel"

Service Dogs Can Help Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress

Our program is dedicated to providing service dogs to the brave men and women who honorably served our country, many of whom suffer with the effects of post-traumatic stress, in addition to hearing and/or mobility loss. Dogs For Life has been training service dogs since 2010. These dogs specifically help veterans by:

- 1. Waking them from nightmares
- Creating a "safe zone" around them to allow distance from people in a crowd
- "Watching their back"
- 4. Turning lights on in a darkened room
- Creating a distraction or finding an exit to leave a stressful situation
- Calling for help on a special K-9 emergency phone
- Providing deep pressure for calming effect
- Reducing hyper-vigilance through task work

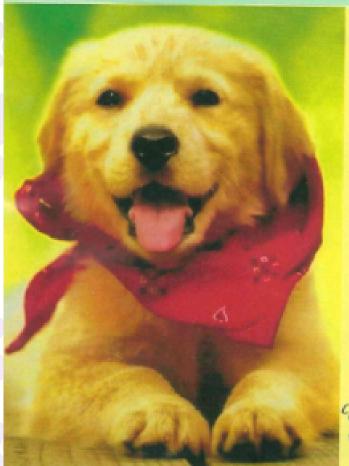
On September 5, 2012, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) amended its regulations concerning veterans in need of service dogs. Under this final rule, VA will provide to veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility impairments, benefits to support the use of a service dog as part of the management of such impairments. The benefits include assistance with veterinary care, travel benefits associated with obtaining and training a dog, and the provision, maintenance, and replacement of hardware required for the dog to perform the tasks necessary to assist such veterans.

¹ Florida Department of Veterans Affairs

2 According to local Veterans Groups

Walter Reed Army Hospital estimate

*Operation Wolfhound



Dear Staff & Columbers, exceptional foregour continued exceptional foregour continued support. How are fathick Schuman.

Your remerkable

Send of support of DFL is remarkable.

I wont to though all of your for your dediction.

Thouse and beyond "the college and beyond" the

Dogs, Donors & Awards/Graduation Ceremony

Shelly Ferger, CEO/Founder of Dogs For Life, along with the DFL board members, staff, donors, and friends celebrated their 2016 top donors, volunteers,

and assistance dog team graduates.



ndividual Philanthropist Award Kathi G. Schumann

Kathi G. Schumann, board president, expressed her ongoing dedication to DFL and their consolidated focus to assist the veterans of Indian River County.

During the awards presentation, Kathi also cited the criteria for the Kathi Schumann Award, which was presented for the first year and given to L.A. Bykowsky.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious BBQ lunch and then the agility dog show by the 4-H Dog Masters Club. All the young club members did an excellent job talking about their 4-H involvement and then all showed their dog's skills during the

There was much socializing and engaging introductions with new donors, volunteer award recipients, 2 graduating service dog teams and 7 re-certifying team members.

Shelly Ferger presented well deserved awards. She stated, "Dogs For Life can never say just how much we appreciate our donors and volunteers or how proud we are of our service dog team graduates."



Corporate Philanthropist Award Susan Horn



Dogs For Life

Training Assistance Dogs For Veterans

To wrap-up the afternoon everyone gathered in the Training Center for desserts and more celebration.



Assistance Dog Team Graduates Mark and Ranger



Assistance Dog Team Graduates Pamela and Skye



Corporate Philanthropist Award Jeff Gomez

Assistance Dog Team Award Larry Ingham

If you are interested in learning more about Dogs For Life and our service dog training for veterans in Indian River County, please call us at (772) 567-8969 and we will gladly arrange for a tour of our campus, which includes an Off-Leash Dog Park.









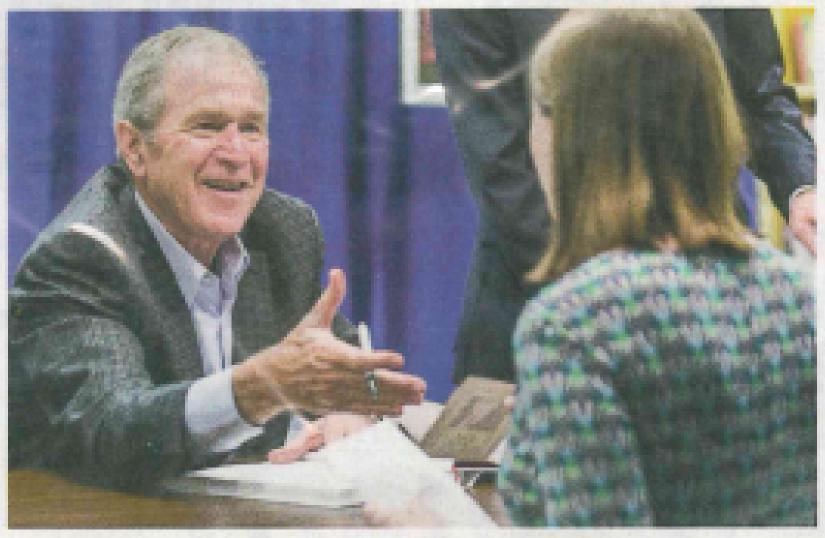
President Bush Book Signing



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 18

YOUR INDEPENDENT LOCAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2017



Former President George W. Bush greets a fan at a Vero Beach book-signing appearance. Proto-control sectors

GOTTA HAND IT TO BUSH

Last week's
book-signing in
Vero Beach was a
triumphant return
to 'Bush Country'
for former President
George W. Bush, a
popular figure on
the Treasure Coast.
See story, Page A4.

WELL-RECEIVED RETURN TO 'BUSH COUNTRY' FOR 43

BY RAY MCNULTY | Columnist

The line inside the Vero Beach Book Center last week weaved throughout both levels of the building, where more than 700 people waited patiently for the opportunity to meet the 43rd president of the United States.

Outside, in the sun-baked parking lot, a second wave stood dutifully in an equally long line, enduring some of the warmest, most humid conditions of the season and waiting to clear a Secret Service security checkpoint.

All of them wore wristbands that cost \$37.50 apiece and guaranteed wearers an autographed copy of George W. Bush's new book = "Profiles of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors" = and a face-to-face moment with the former president.

Bush made his local book-signing event worth the price _ and the wait.

Though the line moved quickly, he made the effort to establish eye contact and engage in a mini-conversation with each person that appeared in front of leaned across the table to interact with people in wheelchairs.

He seemed to especially enjoy chatting with children who accompanied their parents.

"How're you doing, dude?" Bush said to one boy. "Thanks for coming out."

Bush smiled easily, joked occasionally and laughed often throughout the 2 1/2-hour session. He cared enough to ask about the length of the line and how long some had waited. He thanked the buyers and reminded them that all the appendix Book is a Friend from the

pressed concern about his 92-year-old father, our 41st president, who was in a Texas hospital recovering from a bout with pneumonia.

In fact, when one woman told him she had once met his dad, Bush replied: "That's the A-team. Now you've met the B-team."

There was no doubt Bush was among friends, and he knew it.

He has longtime ties to our community through his grandmother's wing of the family, and the barrier island has been ald Reagan for the Republican nomination for president in the late 1970s.

"This is Bush country," said Indian River County Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan, former chairman of the Republican Party of Florida. "The Bush family has been coming to Vero Beach for years, and they're such a wonderful family. They care about each other, and they care so much about this country.

"I know politics, and I know people get attacked and criticized, but the country is so divided now that we too often get so when they're maligned."

"We're in a different world now," Jordan said. "There's not the same civility."

Perhaps that's why Bush received such a warm, enthusiastic welcome.

Three years ago, Bush sold our both sessions as a speaker at the Riverside Theater's Distinguished Lecturer Series. Last week, he did the same with his appearance here.

"This is one of the largest book-signings we've had," said Cynthia Callander, May 5, 2017

GEORGE W. BUSH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A4

the book center's marketing and publicity director. "We probably could've sold 2,000 wristbands."

Bush's book tour has taken him across America and included television appearances with Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today" show, ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" and the syndicated "Ellen Degeneres Show," where he danced his way onto the set to the 1970s hit song, "Mr. Big Stuff."

Bush previously authored "Decision Points," a memoir of his presidency, and "41: A Portrait of My Father," a personal biography of our 41st president. His latest book is a collection of oil paintings and stories honoring the sacrifices of America's military veterans, particularly those who served in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Proceeds from the book's sales will help fund the George W. Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative, which was created to help post-9/11 veterans and their families "make successful transitions to civilian life" by assisting them in finding employment and overcoming their combat-related injuries.

For those who don't know: Bush didn't learn to paint until after he left the White House.

"I want to help the veterans as much as I can," Bush told one person in line. "I'm proud to be here."

Demo with Harmony





Demo with Ingram







Armed Forces Week at Velde Ford



New Golden Pups







As much for people as it is for dogs!

Board Officers

Bob Joy - President Leah Muller - Sr. Vice President Jill Jones - Vice President Penny Chandler Norris - Secretary Clay Price - Treasurer Cindi Dixon - Director Mike Kanner - Director Christina Trammell - Director Jo-Anna Yvorchuk - Director

Committee Chairs

Christina Trammell - Ambassador Jo-Anna Yvorchuk - Facebook Leah Muller - Fundraising Penny Chandler Norris - Governance & Newsletter Christina Trammell - Incident Policies & Procedures

Event Chairs

Erin Kennedy & Jill Jones - Bark N Brew Christina Trammell - Canine Corner Leah Muller - Cocktails at Costa/Donor Appreciation Event Kim Whitehurst - Cocktails at Costa/Donor Appreciation Event Steve McDonald - Sales for Tails Christina & Tom Trammell - Sales for Tails Page Woodward - Sales for Tails

Consultants

Barry Segal - Attorney Coastmark Construction - Parking Lot Construction Robin Pelensky - Landscaping Tracy Roschach - Retail Merchandise Manager Mark Ballard - Web Site Graphic Designer Westrom Software - Web Site Host

Event Sponsors

Best In Show

Champion Dog

Gold Coast Landscape Lighting Leah Muller Interiors Maison Beach Robert F. & Eleonora W. McCabe Ryan Jones & Associates

Top Dog

Abbate Creative Tile & Marble Alex MacWilliam Real Estate Clay Price & Associates PA Croom Construction Dr. Dan's Animal Hospital Hometown News Irvin & Toni Cherashore John's Island Real Estate Company Morgan Stanley Orchid Island Dog Spa & Resort Portfolio Vero Beach Russell Payne Painting Styles & Rails Woodworks The Land Corporation of Florida

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Donor Appreciation at Costa d'Este Beach Resort & Spa

April 13, 2017



Silent Auction **Donations**

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Taylor Tiles

The Tides

Treasure Coast Jewelers & Music

Vernon Scott

Vero Beach Dog Park

Waldo's Restaurant

Walking Tree Brewery Wave's Auto Spa



April 17, 2017

Dogs For Life, Inc. 1230 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960

To Shelly Ferger,

Thank you for your generous support of Indian River County veterans for 80's Prom Night at Walking Tree Brewery. You have stepped up in a meaningful way to assist those who have answered our Nation's call. For that we are truly grateful.

The event was a great success for us as we were able to engage with our community in a positive and fun way, while still raising funds for local veteran support. We had over 150 participants in costume and the music and events went extremely well. Additionally, we raised nearly \$4,200!

Your donation of \$250.00 on 3/24/2017 will be used to support the mission of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, a registered 501(c)(3). Our Upward American Veterans Program provides veterans with emergency basic living expenses, often keeping veterans from getting evicted or having the lights shut off. Our Transportation Program gets them to and from medical appointments locally and at the V.A. Medical Center in West Palm Beach. Additionally, our Veterans Outreach Program utilizes a wide network of veterans' organizations and auxiliary members allowing us to connect veterans to resources throughout the county. All this we can do only because of the excellent support from people like you.

We are proud of our county and all that our community does for our local veterans and we are proud to be in contact with you. On behalf of the veterans and the families we serve, thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Capt. Doy Demsick

Program Manager

Veterans Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Info@Veterans CouncilIRC.org

Office: 772-410-5820

Monte your shelly.

Coan't wait or or next year.

event or or or

Veterans Council fundraiser goes old school

FRAN FOSTER THE NEWSWEEKLY

When Walking Tree Brewery's Amanda Saunders and Doy Demsick, program manager of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, came up with hosting a fundraiser to help local veterans, they wanted to do something different.

So they went old school - a 1980s

"Walking Tree Brewery always is so good to our veterans," said Demsick. "We view the brewery as our second home, so it was no surprise that they wanted to host the 1980s Prom Night on our behalf. What really was impressive is they did such a great job getting the community together for a worthy

The community did show up March 25 in their best 1980s costumes, ranging from Madonna look-a-likes and a Pac-Man suit, former President Ronald Reagan, big hair and punk rockers. Even a Spicoli character showed up from the cult film "Fast Times at Ridgemont

The event included a costume contest, a break-dancing competition, silent auction and the crowning of the King and Queen of Prom Night.

Keeping the attention on local veterans, votes were cast to honor Col. Marty Zickert as Prom King and Veterans Council volunteer Kryse Manson as Prom Queen. Marine Corps veteran Jason Patzer and wife Marcie won the costume competition dressed as "Teen Wolf" and date, complete with a choreographed dance with all the 1980s moves.

Col. Tony Young came dressed in uniform, but substituted his colonel rank with major and took off all the awards he received after the 1980s. The suit still fit perfectly.

The Break Dancing Competition featured solid floor work, free-styling, popping and locking, some impressive aerial maneuvers and even a head spin. John-Peter Demsick took home the trophy for the competition.

Families and individuals, whether in costume or not, enjoyed listening to 1980s cover songs by local band The Humdingers, as well as enjoying all that



Veterans Council of Indian River County supporters showed up in their best 1980s wardrobes ranging from Pac-Man to "Wayne's World" characters and competed in a best costume contest.



A sha Bast Costs was contact Jason and Marris Patzer and friend Bonnie Clark.



Dawn and Nick Piccione, along with Nikki Piombino, show their alternative side.



Chris Hampel, Erin Fagan and Renee Zickert show off their 1980s formal wear.



Shaun "Spicoli" Dibble and Brooke "Madonna" Malone embrace the 1980s while supporting the Veterans Council of Indian River County.



PHOTOS BY FRAN FOSTER / THE NEWSWEEKLY Scott and Amber Jenks show their '80s style while supporting the Veterans Council at its

image 360



Telly Antna, Doy Demsick, Richard Colston Jr. and Brooke Malone get the crowd involved to vote for the best costume contest.



fundraising event.







OFFUTT | BARTON | SCHLITT

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Events

Walking Tree Brewery had to offer.

Amanda and I couldn't have pulled this off without the help of General Manager Daniel Rey, owners Mike Malone and Alan Dritenbas, and volunteers Bi-anca Conway, Kryse Manson, Theresa Fletcher, Brook Malone, Richard Colston Jr., Sharon Young and Col. Marty Zick-

ert," said Doy Demsick.

CenterState Bank, John Michael Matthews Fine Jewelry, Dogs For Life, CJ
Cannon's, Bamboo Dojo, Angela Demsick Photography and Wild Thyme Catering helped support the event.

For more information about the Veterans Council of Indian River County, visit www.veteranscouncilirc.org. You can learn more about Walking Tree Brewery at www.walkingtreebrewery-



PHOTOS BY FRAN FOSTERTHE NEWSWEEKLY

Nikki Maslin nets a hun from retired U.S. Air Force Col. Marty Zickert.



Retired Col. Sam Kouns and wife Linda head up the raffle booth and guard the coveted trophies to be awarded for best costumes, Prom King and Queen and dancing competition.



April 13, 2017

DOGS FOR LIFE SHELLY FERGER 1230 16TH AVE VERO BEACH, FL 32960

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your donation to "Cause for Paws - 2017". Your contribution to this year's auction (as noted below) was very much appreciated.

The Humane Society receives and gives humane care and shelter to over 6,000 animals a year. No animal is ever turned away, regardless of health or temperament. "Cause for Paws" is the Humane Society's most important annual fundraiser. The proceeds from this event help support the operations, ongoing maintenance, and community outreach offered by the shelter and its dedicated staff.

Speaking 'for those who cannot speak for themselves', we value your friendship and generosity.

Sincerely,

Sara E. Smith

Director of Development

Auction item(s): One year dog park membership

In accordance with IRS requirements, the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County, Florida, Inc. acknowledge that no goods have been provided to you in return for your contribution.

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MARCH

Community News

Dogs For Life announces 2017 'Build A Bridge' Bridge Tournament winners

SHELLY FERGER

YOUR NEWSWEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR

Dogs For Life held its seventh annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament on Feb. 7 at the Vero Beach Country Club with 100 players.

Dogs For Life board Vice President Eleanor Bengyak has been directing bridge tournaments for 30 years and hosts several tournaments each year to benefit nonprofit organizations in Indian River County.

A 50/50 drawing and silent auction had the attention of the players, as well. Several Dogs For Life service dog teams also attended to answer questions about the DFL Assistance Dog Training Pro-

A special thank you to Bengyak, the Vero Beach Country Club, Kathi G. Schumann, Betty McCallister, Sharon Shelton and everyone who participated in the tournament.

Winners in each section received large, live orchids that were donated by Schumann.

This year's bridge tournament winners included:

Section A - North/South

- » 1st Place: Janice Ward and Nancy
- » 2nd Place: Leslie Phelps and Phyllis Fountain
- » 3rd Place: Anne Grealis and Pam

Section A - East/West » 1st Place: Merilee Cummings and Priscilla Lamond

- » 2nd Place: Billie Braun and Susan Wollesen
- » 3rd Place: Susan Feinour and Judith

Section B - North/South

- » 1st Place: Lyn Guiffrida and Louann
- » 2nd Place: Martha Hunter and Shir-
- » 3rd Place: Audrey Fetter and Jane

Section B - East/West

- » 1st Place: Ronni Wilkes and Marcia
- » 2nd Place: Marilyn Crocket-Marion and Sara Stoll
- » 3rd Place: Gerry Vaughn and Linda

Section C - North/South

- » 1st Place: Marilyn Cance and Elisabeth Sexton-Stryker
- » 2nd Place: Muriel Shaffer and Nan-
- » 3rd Place: Mary Ann Clayton Helen White

Section C - East/West

- » 1st Place: Judith Balph and Louise
- » 2nd Place: Connie Phypers and Sue
- » 3rd Place: Grace Hinkley and Betty Jacobsen Rubber Bridge Winners also re-
- ceived orchids

» Alice McCarthy and Doris Hall



Peek-a-Boo Pachyderms and many other items were donated by Kathi G. Schumann for the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bridge Tournament organizer and Dogs For Life Board Vice President Eleanor Bengyak stands with Dogs For Life Founder-CEO Shelly



It was a full house at Dogs For Life's seventh annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament on Feb. 7 at the Vero Beach Country Club.

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Dogs For Life announces winners of 2017 'Build A Bridge' bridge tournament

Lisa Lopez FOR VETERAN VOICE

Dogs For Life held its 7th annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament Feb. 7 at the Vero Beach Country Club, with 100 players.

DFL board vice-president Eleanor Bengyak has been directing bridge tournaments for approximately 30 years, and hosts several tournaments each year to benefit non-profit organizations in Indian River County.

A 50/50 drawing and silent auction had the attention of the players as well. Several DFL Service Dog teams also attended to answer questions about the DFL Assistance Dog Training Pro-

A special thank you to Eleanor Bengyak, the Vero Beach Country Club, Kathi G. Schumann, Betty McCallister, Sharon Shelton and everyone who participated in the Tournament.

Winners in each section received large, live orchids that were donated by Kathi G. Schumann.

This year's Bridge Tournament

winners included:

Section A - North/South 1st Place - Janice Ward and



Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

Peek-a-Boo Pachyderms were among many other items donated by Kathi G. Schumann for the silent auction held Feb. 7 at the 'Building Bridges' bridge tournament held by Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

Nancy Helm 2nd Place - Leslie Phelps and Phyllis Fountain 3rd Place - Anne Grealis and Pam Sailer

Section A - East/West

1st Place - Merilee Cummings and Priscilla Lamond 2nd Place - Billie Braun and Susan Wollesen 3rd Place - Susan Feinour and Judith Bracken

Jane Garr

Section B - North/South

1st Place - Lyn Guiffrida and Louann Yates

2nd Place - Martha Hunter and Shirley Davies 3rd Place - Audrey Fetter and

Section B - East/West 1st Place - Ronni Wilkes and Marcia Poutiatine 2nd Place - Marilyn Crocket-Marion and Sara Stoll 3rd Place - Gerry Vaughn and Linda Ferrari

Section C - North/South

1st Place - Marilyn Cance and Elisabeth Sexton-Stryker 2nd Place - Muriel Shaffer and Nancy Sayford 3rd Place - Mary Ann Clayton -Helen White

Section C - East/West

Betty Jacobsen

1st Place - Judith Balph and Louise Lambert 2nd Place - Connie Phypers and Sue Moritz 3rd Place - Grace Hinkley and

Rubber Bridge Winners also received orchids Alice McCarthy and Doris Hall stylphort (1960)



Dean Shelly,

I just wanted you to know how Thankfull I am for taking time to see "Preacher" ; all youne insight. "My so does Preacher":

Dogs for life is beautiful ; all you've done is a Blessing. Thankyou as well for helping with Denek ; bornowing create for his dog.

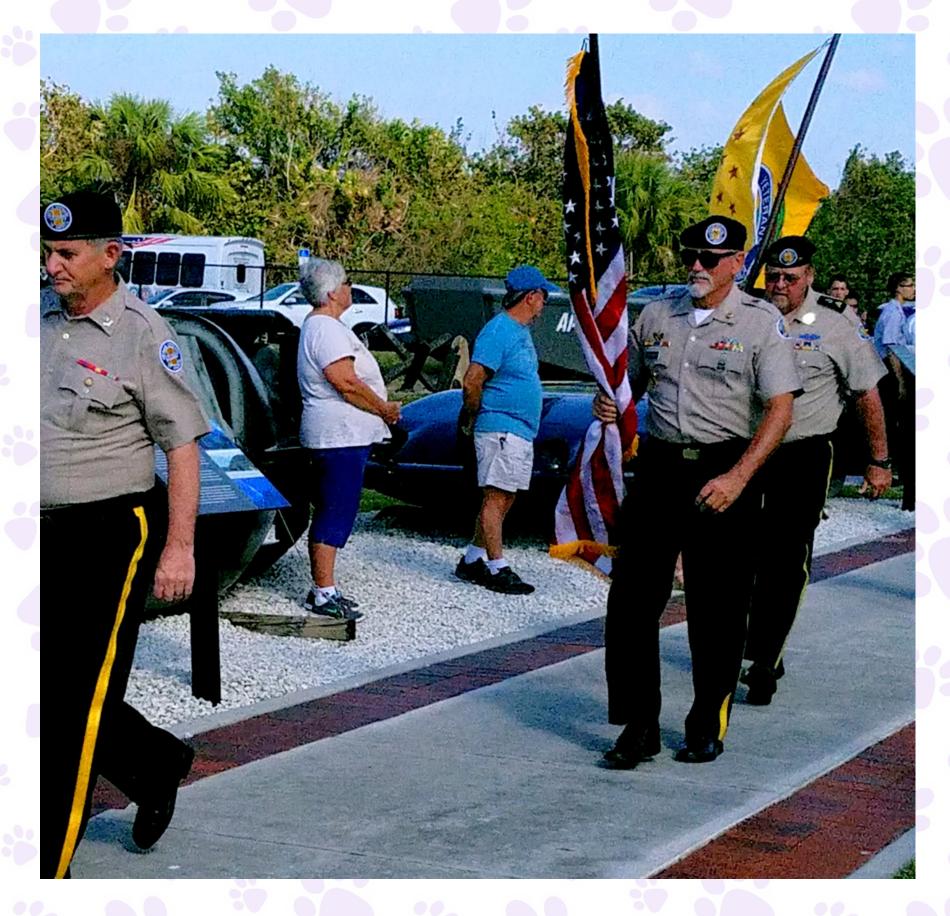
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU For the kindness you've shown.

Love you,

FEBRUARY

Purple Cane Event







Military Expo





Bridge Tournament



AD Speakers Meetings



News Articles

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Forum

Young veterans are serving each other, now



CAPT. DOY DEMSICK THE NEWSWEEKLY

While recently having lunch with another young Iraq War veteran, I told him about all the support programs available in Indian River County: the

emergency financial assistance, medical transportation, connections to local jobs and resources, etc. He was an Army infantryman and quick to grasp my situation report.

"So we have all of these programs, resources and benefits for local veterans currently being provided by older veterans," he said. "What happens next? In the near future, we are going to be responsible for all of them, aren't

It's great to have volunteers who get.

We are coming up on the anniversary of a very important landmark for our county. Just under a year ago, we started Vero Beach Veterans: Next Generation, our first Iraq/Afghanistan-era veteran organization on the Treasure Coast. For the county, this means pulling younger veterans into our network of support and operations.

The Next Generation group exists to provide a venue for social support, create a network of younger generation veterans, combat misconceptions about returning service members and represent our generation by positively en-

gaging the community.

It was clear from the moment we stepped off that the men and women of Next Generation, anyone who served between 1990 and the present, wanted to be a part of the county-wide effort. Instead of starting our own organization with a separate tax status, we chose to reinforce the already existing Vero Beach Veterans located in the old VFW Post Hall. We beefed up their membership and provided volunteers to the county-wide Veterans Council, Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County and VB Vets operations.

The term "Next Generation" was not picked to sound cool. We chose the name for continuity. The plan is to eventually assume leadership at Vero Beach Veterans and pass the baton to returning veterans as we continue our recruitment efforts, grooming our "boots" (new volunteers) as the next in line.

Too many volunteers and organizations initiate their own version of programs that already exist in the county, thereby duplicating efforts and causing confusion. Instead, the Next Generation veterans jumped onto the team and started learning from the older, more experienced volunteers.

Younger veteran volunteers cov-

ering down on the larger mission is just beginning. I'd say we are barely in the crawl stage right now and we have a long way to go. But just one year ago this effort wasn't happening at all.

In addition to the existing programs, we partnered with the Mental Health Association of Indian River County to establish a PTSD Support Group, led by Navy veteran and licensed clinical social worker Jim Ranahan. With suicide rates higher for veterans than our civilian counterparts, crisis management became something a few young motivators started doing.

Do these veterans have training in suicide response? Heck, no. But we know how to do a "buddy check" and we've seen the same things. A "battle buddy" can help prevent a suicide. And we've already had successes pulling at-risk veterans into our network.

Our Next Generation veterans have also started doing a lot of community engagement, providing volunteers to local events. In February last year, we partnered with Orchid Island CrossFit to conduct a 9.8 mile "hump" (a military ruck-march) to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary and back. Over 80 civilians, law enforcement officers and veterans marched under weight, conducting exercising and overcoming obstacles along the way.

Then in May, again with Orchid Is-

land CrossFit, we held Zero Dark Thirty, a 12-hour overnight fitness event with one workout every hour, each conducted in memory of an Indian River County service member who died in combat. The combination of these events raised approximately \$10,000 for the Veterans Council.

Last September, we participated in Keep Indian River Beautiful's International Coastal Cleanup Day. We asked for the location that needed the most work and cleaned up the Gifford Dock at the end of 45th Street. Eleven volunteers cleared 36 bags worth of trash and

a large, soggy rug.

Those are just the highlights. There has been a Next Generation presence at many more community events. These young veterans are not messing around. You are going to see more and more of them. It is vital we continue bringing them into the larger Veterans Council efforts, encourage their initiatives and ensure they all remain on our team. The future of county-wide veteran support depends upon it.

Capt. Doy Demsick is the program manager of the Veterans Council of Indian River County, supporting all IRC veterans through the collective effort of veterans' organizations, civic associations and the local community, thereby raising awareness of veterans' needs and of their contributions to society.

There's an abundance of pet-friendly sites throughout Indian River County

XAQUE GRUBER

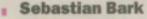
SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

When Penny Chandler, president of the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, adopted her fourth golden retriever from the Humane Society, she initially was unsure about the dog.

"He had been tied to a tree the first 10 months of his life and never developed social skills with other dogs or people," she said. "As a result, he was very aggressive, but then we discovered the Vero Beach Dog Park, which allowed him to adapt to other dogs and people.

"I fell in love with the park for what it did for my dog, and I have volunteered to be on the dog park's board of directors," Chandler added.

Indian River County's pet owners, especially dog owners, have an abundance of pet-friendly recreation, restaurant and lodging options. Check out the top spots in this #TCPalmSocial reader poll.



Dogs and their owners find much to celebrate in this facility at 245 Keen Terrace, including watering, sally-port en-



HOBIE HILER/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

The Vero Beach Dog Park in MacWilliams Park in Vero Beach is a favorite among dogs and their owners. The park has separate small- and large-dog areas, doggie drinking fountains and shaded seating area.

Sebastian's Bark Park boasts shady, covered picnic areas, drinking fountains, handicap parking and a scenic walking trail around the lake.

Parking is free and open to the public

Air Force Staff Sgt. Randall A. Miller has been bringing his dog, Ruby, to the Sebastian Bark Park for years.

"I love gathering with friends and let-

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WEEKEND

Pet

Continued from Page 1D

ting our dogs play here. It's a well maintained park," he said.

Vero Beach Dog Park

Hugging the lush shores of the intracoastal waterway, this green space is run by community volunteers with maintenance costs at about \$50,000 annually, all with private sector dollars. The park includes separate small and large dog areas, doggie drinking fountains, a shaded seating area and lots of space.

"I oversee the Vero Beach Dog Park newsletter which has 500 subscribers," Chandler said. "Recently, we had a fundraising event there, Bark & Brew, which brought over 2,000 people and over 800

"We also have fundraisers at our monthly Sales for Tails events and at a springtime soiree at Costa D'Este," he added. "I've met people who actually choose to winter here because of the dog park. It's a tremendous asset to our community."

Local resident Gus Curren walks his dog, Lucy, a hound mix, to the Vero Beach Dog Park daily.

"It's the most beautiful, clean, safe

place," he said. "At times, there are over 50 dogs at the park, and they all play happily together. The vibe there is very friendly."

Other dog parks

Along with the Vero Beach and the Sebastian dog parks, there are two other dog parks in the county.

A two-acre park affiliated with the Humane Society, 6230 77th St. in Vero Beach, costs \$50 annually to be a member, and the 4-acre Dogs For Life Park, 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach, which is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs and not the people and sessions.

Osceola Bistro

Osceola Bistro owner Christopher Bireley said he pays a permit each year to the city to be pet-friendly.

"It allows us a section on the restaurant patio, about four or five tables, where we welcome pet owners and their dogs," he said. "We've even had a cat or two the past few years. We do keep a few doggy treats on hand. Being pet-friendly helps the economy of our area."

Patio Seafood Tavern

Since people often vacation with their pets, Bill Brown, owner of Patio Seafood

Tavern, has an area designated at the restaurant's outside patio for diners and

"I think it's great when customers bring their dogs to the outside patio," he said. "If you're on vacation with your dog, we're a good place to dine."

The restaurant is about to become more friendly toward furry friends with

"It's going to be a fantastic menu," he said. "We're talking ground sirloin, some type of rib eye bone, grilled chicken. It will be fun."

Grind & Grape

Grind & Grape's co-owner, Ashlee Wykoff notes, "People love bringing their pets to enjoy the live jazz or blues music at night on our patio. It's good for Vero especially beachside because people walk their dogs around the Farmers Market on the weekend, and then come by our patio for a glass of wine or a cup of coffee."

Capt Hiram's Hotel

Restaurants aren't the only businesses to accommodate pet owners. In Sebastian, Capt Hiram's Hotel offers lodging for travelers and their dogs.

Hotel manager Karen Lufkin said the business takes one or two dogs per owner up to 60 pounds.

"We greet them at the desk and give them a little goodie bag," she said. "So even though the city won't allow dogs in Capt Hiram's restaurant, we've been a pet friendly hotel for about four years now."

More pet-friendly restaurants

In addition to these pet-friendly locations, the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce also recommends the following restaurants: Riverside Cafe; Mulligan's Beach House; Sammy's Mediterranean Restaurant; Waldo's; Casey's Place; Bamboo Patio at Costa d'Este; Chive Patio; The Barefoot Café; the patio at The Kilted Mermaid; Bungalow Bar; Sunset Café on U.S. 1; and Village Sandwich Shop in Sebastian.

About the top 5 spots

Sebastian Bark Park: 245 Keen Terrace, Sebastian; 772-228-7054 Vero Beach Dog Park: 3449 Indian River East, Vero Beach; 772-234-2824 Osceola Bistro: 2045 13th Ave., Vero Beach; 772-569-1299 Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County: 6230 77th St., Vero Beach; 772-388-3331 Riverside Cafe: 3341 Bridge Plaza Drive, Vero Beach; (772-234-5550

New Horizons placing service dogs with veterans since 1994

Patrick McCallister

FOR VETERAN VOICE

pmccallister@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Service dogs for veterans is all the rage lately.

Janet Severt was about 20 years ahead of that curve. Severt founded Orange City's New Horizons Service Dogs back in 1994. She's the executive director.

"We've been working with veterans since day 1," Severt said. "The second dog we placed was with a veteran."

At press time, veterans are among a handful of clients readying to take a two-week class that'll qualify them to get service dogs from New Hori-

"Two are veterans — Vietnam era," Severt said.

Severt knows a lot about service dogs. She's
been a C-6 incomplete quadriplegic since a childhood infection. Severt was 7 when she lost use of
most of her body.

"I grew up near Norristown, Penn., and I started puppy raising when I was 11," Severt said.
"When I wanted another puppy, my dad said only if it serves a purpose. That's how I got involved in (service) dogs."

Veteran Scott Calhoun got Bonsai, a golden retriever, from New Horizons last year. The Fort Pierce resident has mobility disabilities because of an Operation Desert Storm injury. He was pulling a comrade from a burning tank and didn't realize his boots had melted to the vehicle. When he maneuvered to get off, he injured his knees and fell.

"For me, it's stability," Calhoun explained.
"(Bonsai) leans into me when I'm off balance. He braces me up stairs. He acts like a cane, basically."

Additionally — "He retrieves anything. He can turn lights on and off, which I don't need myself, but a lot of people need that."

Bonsai can also open refrigerators, take out trash, remove shoes and socks, among other

See DOGS page 5



Fort Pierce veteran Scott Calhoun is one of innumerable veterans who've received free service dogs from Orange City's New Horizons Service Dogs.

Photo courtesy of Scott Calhoun

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DOGS from page 4

many things.

"All of (New Horizon's) dogs are trained to do more than 100 commands," Calhoun said.

Bonsai — who was trained without advance knowledge of who he'd be assisting for what — has a skill that turns a dog's normal emotional concern for his handler into a specific, helpful act. If Calhoun, who also has post-traumatic stress disorder, is feeling overwhelmed, Bonsai will act as a weighted blanket.

"He'll put all 90 of his pounds on me," Calhoun said. "That's a skill they teach for autistic children."

Most children and adults with autism spectrum disorder are comforted by feeling weight over their bodies. An increasing body of evidence shows the same is true for people with anxiety and mood disorders, such as PTSD.

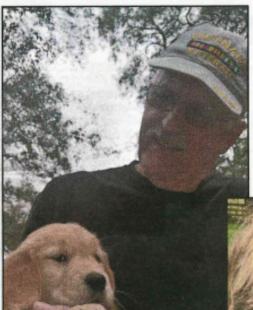
Bonsai, who's 4 years old, had to train for the first two and a half years of his life. Calhoun said he's disturbed that many programs matching veterans with dogs are giving the impression they're getting service animals. He said many veterans are getting "comfort dogs" that simply don't have the training to get certified by Assistance Dogs International, which includes the public access test. That test demonstrates that a dog is disciplined to be in public. Dogs For Life Inc., Vero Beach, is a certified organization also in the Veteran Voice readership. Another concern Severt has with some programs is exclusivity.

"They're getting very selective on only combat veterans since Desert Storm," she said. "I think anybody who has a disability should have equal access to a service dog."

New Horizons places about 45 dogs a year. Severt said there's never a charge. Calhoun said Servert has something that's priceless, however — an uncanny intuition for foreseeing relationship dynamics

"She's been doing this 25 years, I think, and she knows from meeting you and seeing your personality and knowing the dogs' — she knows which dog she's going to give you," he said.

New Horizons is online at www.newhorizonsservicedogs.



Vietnam-era veteran Robert Spake is one of numerous volunteers at New Horizons Service Dogs. He lives close to the Orange City not-for-profit that's been getting service dogs to veterans since the mid-90s.

Staff photo by Patrick McCallister



Staff photo by

Patrick McCallister



Memorial Wall brought people together

MARY ANN KOENIG THE NEWSWEEKLY

Thousands of Treasure Coast residents, including school-bus loads of students, came to pay tribute at the replica-Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall that was on display at the fairgrounds during the recent MilitaryHistory Expo.

The exhibit holds the names of a group with a special affiliation. It has a closed membership of 58,307 - the number of service members who died in the war and whose names, on the wall, represent that sacrifice.

Chilly late January temperatures and



Indian River County Veterans Council color guard pays tribute.

MARY ANN KOENIG

rain didn't keep the public from visiting and many were there to get a better understanding of what the wall signifies.

Vero Beach resident Des Barry located two friends, Marine officers, named

Edwin Keeble was a year ahead of Barry at Princeton. "He became a Marine helicopter pilot and was killed in the war in 1967. He was 22," remembers

Another friend, Morell Crary whose name is on wall panel 26E, line 1, went through ROTC and Officer Candidate

See WALL, Page 8

| Wednesday, February 8, 2017 | Your Newsweekly | Indian River County | Treasure Coast Newspapers

Veterans

Wall

Continued from Page 1

School with Barry. In the summer of 1966, Crary was deployed and killed within a month. He was also 22-years-

"We all were," said Barry.

He still remembers when he heard about Crary's death at the Marine Corps Ball, which commemorates the Marine's anniversary. "I found out that night he'd been killed. He'd just got married after OCS."

Barry was commissioned after graduation from Princeton, spent five months at Quantico, then went to Vietnam in March 1968. A platoon leader for 13 months and in 13 named combat operations, he was once stationed just 300 meters south of the DMZ.

The memories still seem vivid for him. "It was God's provenance that I memorial in front of him. "There are too many names here I could look up."



Above: Carol Marshall brought her son Wyatt and daughter Hailee to visit the wall. Inset: Part of the educational exhibit that accompanies the wall

GIVING IS GOOD. GIVING FOREVER IS BETTER.

Create your charitable legacy. Endow the causes you love.

John and Kathi Schumann love this community and have commemorated their long-term support by making a provision in their estate plan to establish a permanent endowment at Indian River Community Foundation to support the charitable causes they love.



Building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy.



Contact us today to create your own charitable legacy with an estate gift.
772-492-1407 | www.ircommunityfoundation.org

Cultural Council Online Calendar

Dogs for Life Build a Bridge, Bridge Tournament

Tuesday, February 7, 2017 | 11:00am

(Time Zone: US/Eastern)

Location: Vero Beach Country Club

Category: Community Events & Classes

Description

The 7th annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament is happening at the beautiful Vero Beach Country Club on February 7th. Registration begins at 11 am with a luncheon and silent auction. Bridge starts at 12:30. You can call Dogs For Life for additional information 772-567-8969.

More Info: http://dogsforlifevb.org

Location Details Vero Beach Country Club 800 30th St. Vero Beach FL 32960

Treasure Coast Newspapers Monday, February 6, 2017 9A



The Mental Health Association in Indian River County presents Music, Memories & Mouthwatering Morsels - A Journey with country music singer and Walk to Beautiful author, Jimmy Wayne, on Saturday, February 11 at at the Waxlax Center for the Performing Arts on Saint Edwards School's Campus begining at 6 pm followed by a "Back Stage" Student Meet & Greet and 7 pm Cocktails & Morsels. Tickets: (\$150 adults/\$35 students) call 772-569-9788.

■ The City of Vero Beach Recreation Department is hosting the 14th Annual Mother Daughter Tea Party at the Vero Beach Community Center on February 11th at 2 pm. The Princess-themed party will include crafts, dancing, food and tea, games and prizes. Advanced registration is required at Leisure Square. Cost is \$25 per Mother/Daughter pair and \$10 each additional

family member. Contact Angie Holshouser, (772) 770-3775.

Dogs For Life presents its 7th annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament at the Vero Beach Country Club on Tuesday, February 7th. Registration begins at 11 am with a luncheon and silent auction. Bridge starts at 12:30.

Call Dogs For Life for information 772-567-8969. The Sunrise Rotary VIP party, Blood Sweat & Beers, will be held on Friday, February 10 at the Walking Tree Brewery in Vero Beach from 6:30 to 9 pm. Enjoy craft beers paired with food by local restaurants. For tickets (\$75) visit

FloridaCraftBrewAndWingfest.com. ■ The Garden Club of Indian River County, 2526 17th Avenue in Vero Beach presents its 19th Annual Antique and Vintage Show and Sale on Saturday and Sunday February 11 and 12 from 10 am to 4 pm.

JANUARY

Indian River Woodcarvers Purple Heart Cane Presentation



life wrote a blank check made out to "The United States of America" for the amount "up to and including my life."

Purple Heart recipients receive special canes

Mary Kemper STAFF WRITER mkemper@veteramvoiceweekly.com

Hundreds gathered Jan. 21 at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce as 62 Purple Heart Medal recipients were given special, custom, hand-carved canes made for them by members of the Indian River Woodcarvers Club.

Each veteran who received a cane was wounded in combat at least once. Families, friends and sponsors were on hand as each was given his cane. In some cases, family members accepted the cane on their loved one's behalf.

Local dignitaries were also on hand. The keynote speaker was retired Army Maj. Gen. Wayne Jackson. The master of ceremonies was veteran Lloyd Lasenby, who is also a member of the Woodcarvers Club.

The canes all had as their grip the head of an American bald eagle. Each had decals affixed that named the dates and places of service for the particular veteran.

Each cane bore the following statement: "A veteran, whether active duty, retired, discharged, National Guard or Reserve, man or woman, is someone who at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount up to and including his or her, life."

After the posting of the Colors by members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 566, Port St.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Purple Heart Medal recipients wait at the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum in Fort Pierce Jan. 21 to receive special hand-carved canes (foreground) in recognition of their service by members of the Indian River Woodcarvers Club.

Lucie, the invocation was given by Chaplain Steve Trinkle. The national anthem was sung by Tom Patrick. Remarks were given by retired SEAL Cmdr. Mark Heilman.

The Purple Heart Medal recipients who received canes include:

- T.L. Mize
- · Nick Consalvo
- M.E. Hearndon
- · H.D. Brubaker
- · L.A. Redmond

- · S.L. Sweazev
- R.A. Meyer
- G.E. Nemitz
 C.W. Dykes
- · C.D. Brown
- W.D. Gulli
- · J.E. Davis
- R.M. Price
- · R.E. Luther
- T.J. Barden
 L.W. Saucier
- W.T. Butler
- David A. Kinser
- G.S. Black

- P.C. Jordan
- · Ron E. Gray
- · R.E. Lindberg
- D.F. Kiether Jr.
- W.N. Bruhmuller
- P.A. McLarnon
- Irving Booksin
- L.A. Boyer
- J.X. Crickett
- · F.H. Hertlein Jr.
- A.E. Stern
- · J.A. Holdorf
- J.E. Schneider
- · S.B. McIntosh
- T.M. Kosir
- R.L. Cellilo
- Adam Snyder
- D.K. MacIntosh
- J.A. Jacobi
 M.H.Hagen
- M.B. Lindhurst
- · Ken R. Snyder
- * Ken K. Snyder
- J.R. Walker
- C.R. Gayfield
 J. DiGiorgio
- M. Rusciano
- · O.D. Day Jr.
- P.S. King
- · R.H. Johnson
- J.L. Franklin
- R.E. Milhiser
- · R.P. Malesk
- L.J. Pratt
- James Mayes
- J.E. DeLuca
- N.E. Thornton
- · W.L. Dodd
- F.D. Conel
- F.F. Laster
- J.L. Rollins
 G.W. Naderman
- · J.A. Masson
- Wayne Jackson

For more information on the Woodcarvers Club, visit indianriverwoodcarvers.weebly.com/



News Articles

2 | Monday, January 23, 2017 |

Luminaries •

Treasure Coast Newspapers

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

On the Bright Side



BRENDA SPOSATO FOR LUMINARIES

Service dog training agency needs your help

Dogs For Life in Vero Beach cross train ani-

mals to serve in different capacities. A recent grant award will provide additional training space for their Veterans Training Veterans programs.

They are currently looking to sign a one to three-year lease on a property and house for two-three dogs, near their DFL Training Center & Dog Park in Vero Beach. Please call Shelly at DFL (772) 567-8969 if you know of any properties.

Dogs For Life "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament

Add to Calendar



Dogs For Life Build A Bridge Bridge Tournament



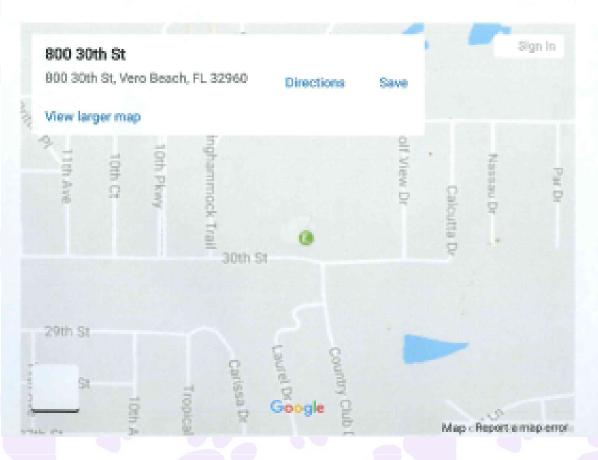
Eleanor Bengyak, Kathi G. Schumann and "Prinz"
Invite You To Support
The 7th DFL "Build A Bridge"
Bridge Tournament
To Help Raise Funds
To Train Assistance Dogs For Veterans In 2017





Eleanor Bengyak, Kathi G. Schumann and "Prinz"
Invite You To Support
The 7th DFL "Build A Bridge"
Bridge Tournament

To Help Raise Funds To Train Assistance Dogs For Veterans In 2017



Dogs For Life "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament

772-567-8969

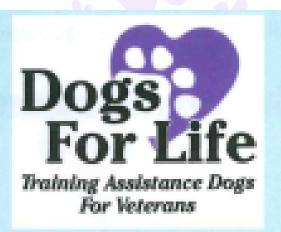
800 30th Street, Vero Beach, FL, United States

Starts: Tuesday 02/07/2017 11:00am Ends: Tuesday 02/07/2017 3:00pm

Dogs For Life's 7th Annual "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament to help raise funds to train assistance dogs for veterans in Indian River County. February 7th, 2017 Vero Beach Country Club Registration 11:00 AM Luncheon 11:30 AM Bridge 12:30 PM Exciting Silent Auction Items! 50/50 Drawing Master Points and Prizes \$80 (\$55 is tax deductible) LIMITED SEATING REGISTER BY 2/1/2017 Call 772-567-8969

Get More Details

	Name		
	Email		
	Comments		^
,			
			+



Dogs For Life, Inc. has been awarded a grant tofulfill our immediate need to house and pre-train service dogs for our Veterans Training Veterans programs.

This grant will allow us to sign a 1, 2 or 3-year lease.



The specific needs:

- Suitable property and house for 2-3 dogs in residence
- · 3 bedroom/2 bath
- Fenced yard
- Open concept floor plan if possible
- Prefer to be near the DFL Training Center & Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach
- Monthly rental \$1500 negotiable

Please call Shelly at DFL (772) 567-8969 if you know of any

properties that would fulfill our needs.

FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS INFORMATION



RANGER POZIOMEK

n June, 2015, a large but undernourished black dog was picked up by Animal Control and brought to the Humane Society shelter. Mark Poziomek had just lost a dog he had loved for 16 years, and when he heard about the big black dog he came to the shelter to see him.

Mark and his wife Lisa decided to add the nameless canine to their family, which already included three cats, a stray and two adopted from the Humane Society. Mark recalls that the new dog, who was about a year old, was skin and bones and had bad teeth. With good food, lovingly cooked by the Poziomeks, he developed into the 90-pound family member with good teeth now named Ranger.

Ranger is currently in training at Dogs for Life to become a service dog. As a service dog he will provide needed assistance to Mark, who has a balance impairment and depends on Ranger for support.

Ranger has also learned how to swim; his first time in the water was a challenge but now he does just great! A recent photo of Ranger practicing his new swimming skills won first prize in Vero Vines Best Dog Photo Contest.

Go Ranger! 🏘



Ranger and Mark Poziomek



(http://www.dogster.com/)

Home (/) » Lifestyle (http://www.dogster.com/lifestyle/)



Shelter Dog Turned Service Animal, Pia Pia Dials 911 to Save Her Human

James and Dawn Talyor adopted the Pug as a pet, but she has turned out to be much more to military veteran James.

Heather Marcoux (http://www.dogster.com/author/heather-

Walking through Disneyworld with her husband, James, by her side, Dawn Taylor was feeling the magic thanks not to a talking mouse, but to a Pug (http://www.dogster.com/dog-breeds/Pug). Eight-year-old Pia Pia (https://www.instagram.com/pia_pia_the_pug/) is the reason the couple can enjoy a theme park, or even trip to Target. Before this shelter dog turned service animal entered their lives, James — who served in Iraq — was retreating from public life, and from Dawn.



Dawn and James returned to Disneyworld thanks to Pia Pia. (Photo courtesy Dawn Taylor)

The couple's previous trip to Disneyworld seven years ago ended abruptly, with Dawn running after James as he fled the Great Movie Ride.

"It took a few minutes for me to catch up with him, and I asked him what was wrong. He said, 'I

can't do it anymore with the crowds.' He couldn't hear anyone. He kind of flipped out, " she recalls.

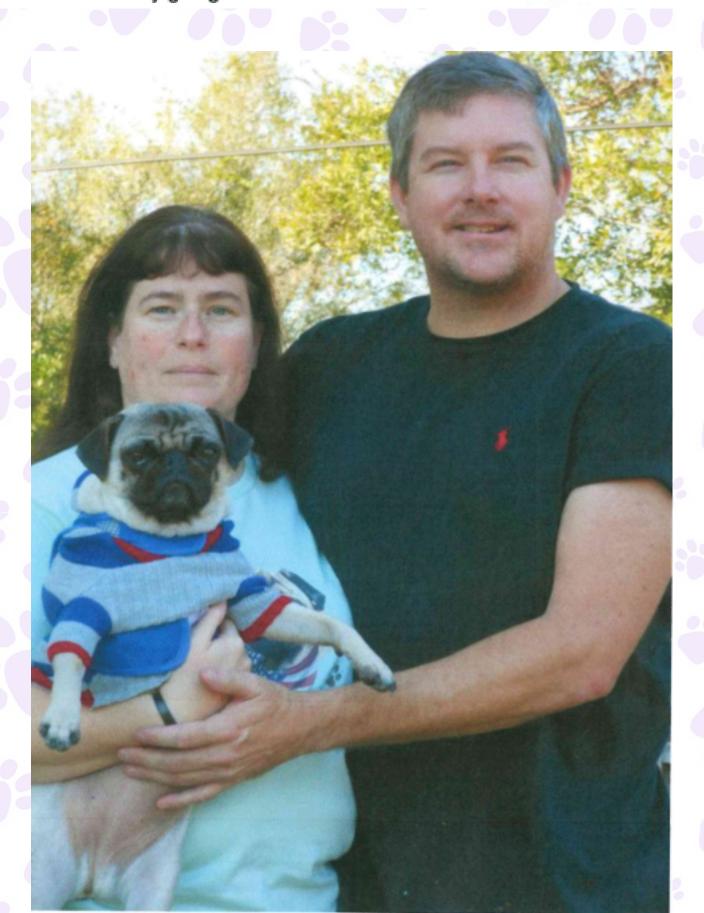
Dawn knew James had struggled with his hearing loss ever since an improvised explosive device blasted him into a wall in Iraq, but she says the Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) snuck up on them both. It didn't become obvious until the flurry of activity surrounding his retirement and the couple's move to Vero Beach, Florida, ended.

"We never stopped to realize the effects of anything until we actually got settled," Dawn explains. "He just stopped going out. In reality, he was homebound."

Dawn felt like her family was falling apart, but a nearly blind Pug was about to bring James back to her. Two months after the incident at Disneyworld (during what was a rare outing for James), the couple agreed to help deliver donated dog food to H.A.L.O. Rescue No-Kill Shelter (http://www.halorescuefl.org/mall) in Sebastian, Florida.

When the kibble was unloaded, James and Dawn peeked around a corner and saw Pia Pia, then known as Princess. The 6-month-old Pug had been surrendered a day earlier by her breeders, who were losing their home. The last of her litter, Pia Pia's eyes were damaged during her human assisted birth.

"They were trying to sell her, but they'd never fixed her eyes," Dawn explains. "They weren't able to shut and she was actually going blind."



After hearing her story from shelter staff, Dawn and James both wanted to adopt Pia Pia, but were told they couldn't take custody for two weeks as a home visit was required and Pia Pia still needed to get spayed. The couple used that time to make an appointment with a dog ophthalmologist in Miami. Shortly after her adoption, Pia Pia saw that doctor, who suggested it was possible to save her eyesight with surgery — but she would need to grow a bit first.

In the meantime, Dawn and James enrolled Pia Pia in obedience classes. The course got James out of the house, and Pia Pia proved to be an excellent student, even with her limited vision.

When she was 10 months old, Pia Pia finally had surgery to straighten her eyes and allow her to blink. When the doctor unwrapped her bandages two weeks later, she looked up at Dawn and James and tilted her head in typical Pug fashion.

"You could just tell she was seeing things — seeing us — for the first time," Dawn recalls.

With her eyesight saved, Pia Pia would become James' second set of ears, running to him and alerting him if Dawn called his name. Pia Pia's obedience trainer noticed her potential and introduced the family to Dogs For Life (http://www.dogsforlifevb.org/training-veterans.html), a non-profit dedicated to training assistance and service dogs for veterans.

Pia Pia finished advanced obedience before spending more than a year in service dog training. She learned to alert James to the doorbell and the fire alarm, and was trained to use a special 911 phone for service dogs. When James fell in the shower while Dawn was out, Pia Pia successfully called first responders, who she then led to an upstairs bathroom.



Pia Pia demonstrates how she uses her 911 phone. (Photo courtesy <a>@pia pia the pug
(https://www.instagram.com/pia pia the pug/)

Dawn believes Pia Pia's impact on the family's life outside the home is even more impressive. She says the Pug provides emotional support to James in public spaces and alerts him with a bark when he's getting overwhelmed, giving him a chance to to take a breather.

"She turned our lives around to the point that we can spend the whole day out and he'll be fine," says Dawn, who wrote a children's book (http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/Products/SKU-001051484/Who-Rescued-Who.aspx) about James and Pia Pia's mutual rescue. "She has just done wonders for our family."

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE'S GUIDE TO GIVING

Donate your time, money and energy to help others

Vero Beach Charity Registry

ur community is blessed with people and organizations that focus on the needs of others. They give of their time, energy and money to help those in need. In our Vero Beach Charity Registry, we present a comprehensive list of organizations to choose from, no matter where your interests lie. We have organized them into categories to help you make your choice. For each organization, we present the mission, main fund-raising event and volunteer opportunities. Make a donation or give of your time at one of our local nonprofits. If your favorite organization is not included, please email editor@verobeachmagazine.com with details to be included in the next issue.

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Animal Welfare

Dogs for Life Inc.

772-567-8969

dogsforlife/batbellsouth.net

www.dogsforlife.org MISSION: To Improve the quality of life for veterans and dags through training assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and owning and operating an

alf-leash dag park.

MAIN EVENT: Annual Howl-O-Ween Dag
Pawrade, October

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Front desk reception, office assistance, community outreach, events and fund-raising

VOLUNTEER CONTACT: Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969

FOUNDED: 2002



VERO BEACH MAGAZINE'S GUIDE TO GIVING

75

Chocolate, Champagne & Chefs

Big Brothers Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeachobee Counties Quali Valley River Club 2345 Hwy. A1A www.bbbsbigs.org 772-770-6000

Columbus Day Event

The Asc of Indian River County www.arcicorg 772-562-6854

Dan K. Richardson & William L. Marine Scholarship Golf Tournament

Scholarship Foundation of Indian River County www.sfindlar.rivetorg 772-569-9869

Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade

Dogs For Life Inc. www.dogsfor.ifevb.org 772-567-8969

High Stakes for Students

Education Foundation of Indian River County www.edfoundationirc.org 772-564-0034

Indian River Habitat's Bowl to Build

Indian River Habitat for Humanity Vero Bowl Lanes & Lounge 929 14th Ln. www.indianriverhabitat.org 772-257-0222

Legends Sports Banquet

Willis Sports Association www.willissportsassociation.com 772-370-5858

Lines in the Lagoon

Ocean Research Conservation Association Everglades Foundation A.E. Backus Museum & Gallery Indian River Lagoon www.linesinthelagoon.com 772-643-4616



Dogs For Life partners with Veterans Council of Indian River County

CAPT, DOY DEMSICK

YOUR NEWSWEEKLY CONTRIBUTOR.

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life, Inc. and the Veterans Council of Indian River County formalized their relationship Tuesday, Dec. 28, with a partnership program called Veterans Training Vet-

The program, which recruits veteran volunteer instructors to train local veterans and their service dogs, has already been implemented by Dogs For Life, but the growing need in the community caused them to reach out to the Veterans Council of Indian River Coun-

"The recent surge of veterans needing the life-changing assistance dog programs offered by Dogs For Life led their Board of Directors to commit resources to help local servicemen and women," said Dogs For Life CEO Shelly Ferger. "It was a natural progression to then join forces with the Veterans Council of Indian River County in expanding DFL's Veterans Training Veterans Program."

The partnership was the idea of Ferger and Dogs For Life Board President and philanthropist Kathi G. Schumann, who has contributed significantly to both organizations.

"It's encouraging to see people like Mrs. Schumann, who give so much of themselves to their communities," said Veterans Council Program Manager Doy Demsick. "We could not exist without their support."

According to Demsick, pulling from the veterans in the community will be a success for everyone."

veterans trust other veterans, so not only is it a win for the veteran service dog teams, but also it allows our volunteers the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters who are suffering. Knowing you're making a difference in someone else's life can make a big difference in your own."

The partnership between the two organizations has been a long time coming, with both previously working together on events and making referrals. "It's amazing to see all that Dogs For



Capt. Doy Demsick (from left), Veterans Council of Indian River County program manager; Col. Sam Kouns, Veterans Council of Indian River County president; Kathi G. Schumann, Dogs For Life Board president; Shelly Ferger, Dogs For Life CEO (holding Daisy); and Linda Liss, Dogs For Life treasurer pose at the Dogs for Life facility Dec. 28.



CONTRIBUTED BY DOGS FOR LIFE Veteran Mark sits with service dog Shadow.

Life can do for our veterans," said Demsick. "They train veteran service dog teams tackling physical disabilities as well as post-traumatic stress disorder. Now we can be a part of that effort by providing our veterans as volunteers."



CONTRIBUTED BY DOGS FOR LIFE Veteran Bob with service dog Bodacious.

Dogs For Life partners with Veterans Council

SUBMITTED

Dogs For Life and the Veterans Council of Indian River County formalized their relationship last month with a partnership program called Veterans Training Veterans.

The program, which recruits veteran volunteer instructors to train local veterans and their service dogs, has already been implemented by Dogs For Life, but the growing need in the community caused them to reach out to the Veterans Council of Indian River County.

"The recent surge of veterans needing the life-changing assistance dog programs offered by Dogs For Life led their board of directors to commit resources to help local service men and women," said Dogs For Life CEO Shelly Ferger.

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"We could not exist without their support."



LISA LOPEZ

From left to right: Capt. Doy Demsick, Veterans Council program manager; Col. Sam Kouns, Veterans Council president; Kathi G. Schumann, Dogs for Life board president; Shelly Ferger, Dogs For Life CEO (holding dog Daisy); Linda Liss, Dogs For Life treasurer

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LISA LOPE

Veteran Bob with Bodacious

4A Monday, January 9, 2017 Treasure Coast Newspapers IC

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

To submit your events, go to the TCPalm.com home page blue bar on the upper left-hand side and click "Submit Your Stuff" line.

OTHER

Can your dog be a task trained assistant dog?: 3 p.m. Dogs For Life Training Center, 1230 16th Ave., Varo Beach. Ages: 18+. Reservation: 772-567-8969.

'SCENE AROUND TOWN'

Send us your photo

email...VeroBeachFLASH@gmail.com

Dogs For Life partners with Veterans Council for Veterans Training Veterans Program





L to R: Capt. Doy Demsick, VCIRC Program Manager; Col. Sam Kouns, VCIRC President; Kathi G. Schumann, DFL Board President; Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO (holding dog Daisy); Linda Liss, DFL Treasurer



Veteran Bob with Bodacious

Veteran Mark with Shadow

Dogs For Life, Inc. and the Veterans Council of Indian River County formalized their relationship Tuesday Dec. 28with a partnership program called Veterans Training Veterans. The program, which recruits veteran volunteer instructors to train local veterans and their service dogs, has already been implemented by DFL, but the growing need in the community caused them to reach out to the VCIRC. "The recent surge of veterans needing the life-changing assistance dog programs offered by Dogs For Life led their Board of Directors to commit resources to help local service men and women," said DFL CEO Shelly Ferger. "It was a natural progression to then join forces with the Veterans Council of Indian River County in expanding DFL's Veterans Training Veterans Program."

The partnership was the idea of Ferger and DFL Board President and philanthropist Kathi G. Schumann, who has contributed significantly to both organizations. "It's encouraging to see people like Mrs. Schumann who give so much of themselves to their communities," said VCIRC Program Manager Doy Demsick. "We could not exist without their support." According to Demsick, pulling from the veterans in the community will be a success for everyone. "Veterans trust other veterans, so not only is it a win for the veteran service dog teams, but also it allows our volunteers the opportunity to help our brothers and sisters who are suffering. Knowing you're making a difference in someone else's life can make a big difference in your own."

Veterans Council of Indian River County, Inc.

Mail: PO Box 1354, Vero Beach, FL 32961 Office: 1360 28th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Regular Meeting January 4, 2017

The regular meeting was called to order at the Indian River County Administration Complex at 1:30pm, January 4, 2017, by President Sam Kouns. Father Dave Newhart gave the invocation and Rip Wieler led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sam welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Secretary: Kim Pilger presented the minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 7, 2016, for review and approval. Bill Beyerle moved the minutes be approved with minor changes. Vic Diaz seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer: On behalf of Eric Menger, Kim gave the financial report as of December 13, 2016. She reported Eric transferred approximately \$7,600.00 from the Restricted Account to the Operating Account. The report shows the balance is up just over \$1,600.00 from last month with a total balance in all accounts of \$88,053.06. The balance includes \$36,875.84 in the restricted account. There were three deposit transactions greater than \$1,000.00 and one deposit greater than \$1,000.00 for December. The deposit was from the Endless Summer Fundraiser, formerly Community Service Alliance (CSA).

New Business:

Discussion Issues:

- 1. Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial Campaign: Following a brief presentation by Doy Demsick, Bruce Cady briefed the Council members on the Next Generation organization and their proposal for an Iraq/Afghanistan Memorial fundraiser. He shared how the Next Gen Veterans came up with the idea, their budgeting concerns and the plans they have, the timing of this project, and the content of a memorandum of understanding established by Next Gen Vets. One aspect of the fundraising goal is that 50 percent of each dollar raised will be donated to the Veterans Council and 50 percent will be put in a fund for the memorial to be added to Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. Earlier today, this information was presented to the Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Committee. Members of the fundraising committee include Bruce, Doy, Marty Zickert, Patrick Williamson, and Telly Antona.
- 2. Dogs for Life "Veterans Training Veterans": Sam introduced Shelly Ferger, outgoing President of Dogs for Life. Shelly introduced the new President, Kathi Schumann. Kathi shared a little of her background, including the fact that several of her family members served in the military. Her brother was a Marine and her husband, John Schumann, was in the Army. Kathi said that a lot of things inspired the cooperation between Dogs for Life and the Veterans Council. At Shelly's request, Doy shared the joint Dogs for Life and Veterans Council press release. Shelly then outlined the plan to identify five veteran volunteers who will train to become dog trainers. Additionally, Dogs for Life management intends to offer two of the five volunteers an opportunity for employment with their organization. Sam announced that this opportunity is possible because of Kathi Schumann's generous donation of \$40,000.00. Shelly thanked the Council for the relationship the two organizations have had over the past 8 years and mentioned the two Dogs for Life staff members who have directly supported the Council, L. A. Bykowsky and Darrell Horn. Shelly also gave a special thank you to Tony Young, Father Dave, Marty Zickert, Eric, Sam, Doy, and Pat Geyer for all of their help and support.

Lisa Lopez

From:

Lisa Lopez

Sent:

Tuesday, January 3, 2017 2:26 PM

Too

Lisa Lopez

Subject:

Partnership formed between Dogs For Life and Veterans Council

Attachments:

20161227_105618.jpg; Mark Eaker - collar fixed.jpg; Veteran Bob with Bodacious.jpg; Veterans

Council PR - Dogs For Life - 2016 (002).docx

Good afternoon,

The attached Press Release is to announce the newly formed partnership between Dogs For Life, Inc. and the Veterans Council of Indian River County.

Please be sure to note that the Press Release was written by Doy Demsick of the Veterans Council.

The photos are provided by Dogs For Life.

Photos Attached:

161228 DFL - VCIRC: Taken at Dogs For Life Dec 28, from left to right: Capt. Doy Demsick, VCIRC Program Manager; Col. Sam Kouns, VCIRC President; Kathi G. Schumann, DFL Board President; Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO (holding dog Daisy); Linda Liss, DFL Treasurer

Vets Training Vets 1 – Veterans Mark with Shadow Vets Training Vets 2 – Veteran Bob with Bodacious

Thank you!

Lisa Lopez

Lisa Lopez

Administrative Assistance Volunteer Coordinator



(772) 567-8969

www.dogsforlifevb.org

Training Center • 1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, Florida 32960

Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans







Member International Association of





This certifies that

DOGS FOR LIFE

Is awarded special recognition for

PTA BUSINESS PARTNER

Mr.B

Teacher

Cynthia Emerson

Principal

VETERANS TRAINING VETERANS

DOGS FOR LIFE, VETERANS COUNCIL TEAM UP IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

FOR VETERAN VOICE

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Photos courtesy of Dogs For Life

LEFT: Veteran Bob goes shopping with his service dog, Bodacious. (For privacy reasons, the last names of veterans are not used in this story.)

TOP: Veteran Mark E. poses for a photo with his service dog Shadow. (For privacy reasons, veterans' last names are not used in this story.)



Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

Celebrating the Veterans Training Veterans partnership at Dogs For Life in Vero Beach are, from left, Capt. Doy Demsick, Veterans Council of Indian River County Program Manager; Col. Sam Kouns, VCIRC President; Kathi G. Schumann, DFL Board President; Shelly Ferger, DFL CEO (holding dog Daisy); and Linda Liss, DFL Treasurer.