



Dogs For Life

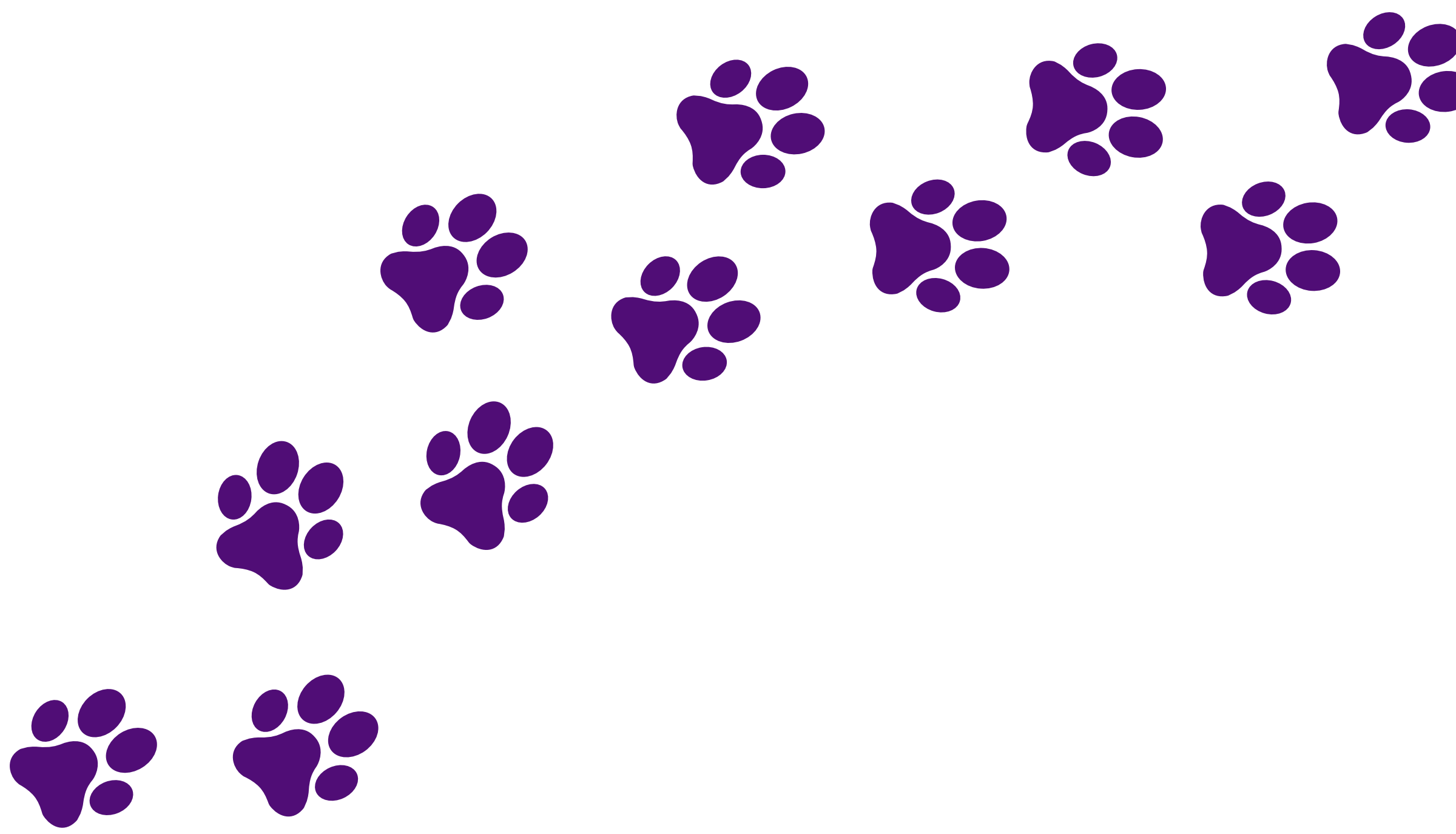
*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*

Scrapbook

2008-2007

Scrapbook

2008



The background of the entire image is a repeating pattern of light purple paw prints. The paw prints are stylized with four toes and a larger pad, and they are scattered across the white background in a non-uniform, repeating manner.

NOVEMBER

Annual Meeting



**Annual Meeting
November 8, 2008**

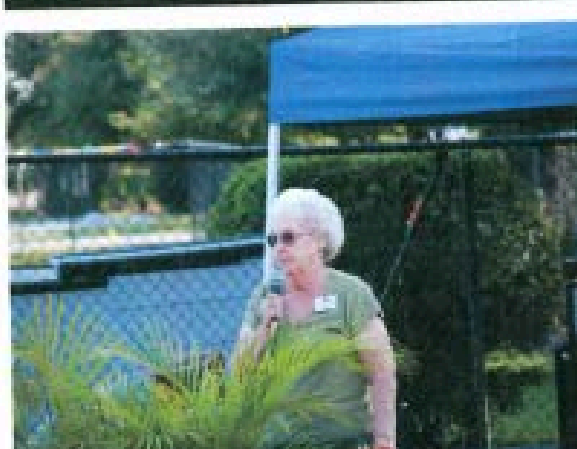
**Member and Volunteer Appreciation
Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue
Vero Beach, Florida**

**Dogs for Life, Inc.
PO Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
www.dogsforlifevb.com
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net**

Mission Statement

**"A non-profit organization devoted to improving the
quality of life for people and dogs through training
assistance dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs and
owning & operating an off-leash dog park"**

2008 Annual Meeting Nov. 8



Howl-O-Ween

Friday, October 24, 2008

www.HometownNewsOL.com

A howling good time

Nearly 100 dogs and their owners gathered at the dog park last Saturday for the seventh annual Dogs For Life Howl-o-ween Parade. Patti Schell, left, and Elanor Bengyak pet Mitzi, a pet assisted therapy dog rescued from Noah's Arch last year.



Cliff Partlow
staff photographer



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
Nicco Galanto of Vero Beach does his part to help keep the dogs cool and hydrated during the Dogs For Life Howl-o-ween Dog Parade last Saturday at the Off Leash Park on 12th Street.

These cowboy dogs are 'ruff' riders



FRANK KIMMEL • Correspondent

Ed Boatwright of Vero Beach and Tetley and Rusty, his Airedale Terriers dressed as a sheriff and deputy, wait their turn Saturday at the Dogs for Life Off the Leash Dog Park seventh annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade in Vero Beach. More than 70 dogs were dressed in their Halloween costumes for the parade.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR • TCPALM.COM

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008

SATURDAY

Animals
AKC Canine Good Citizen
 Classes: Good members, obedience, agility. Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 18th Avenue, Vero Beach, 9 a.m. Register: (772) 567-8969.
Dog Park Orientations: Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 18th Avenue, Vero Beach. By appointment. \$250 annual fee. (772) 567-8969.
Dog Training: Basic Dog Obedience, AKC Canine Good Citizen, Agility and Rally Obedience. Assistant Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th St. and 18th Ave., Vero Beach. Saturdays, four weeks, \$50. (772) 567-8969.
Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade: Dog Park, 12th St. and 18th Ave., Vero Beach, 4 p.m. Free. (772) 567-8969.
The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Clubs Member Recruitment at the 7th Annual Canine Costume Parade: Dogs for Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park, Vero Beach, 4 p.m. (772) 567-8969.

4

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2008

BRIGHTLIGHTS
 A REG CARPETS
Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

OCT 2008

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

18

7th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade
 to benefit Dogs for Life. Off-Leash Dog Park, Vero Beach. 772 567-8969.

84 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2008

Howl-O-Ween

Get your doggies dressed and head to the 7th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade presented by Dogs for Life, Inc. The parade will be held at 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Off-Leash Dog Park in Vero Beach. The event is free and open to all dogs in costume. For more, call (772) 567-8969.

Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade: Dog Park, 12th Street and 18th Avenue, Vero Beach, 4 p.m., Oct. 18. Free. (772) 567-8969.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2008 • TCPALM.COM

The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Clubs Member Recruitment at the 7th Annual Canine Costume Parade: Dogs for Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park, Vero Beach, 4 p.m. Oct. 18. (772) 567-8969.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2008

BRIGHTLIGHTS

A RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County



Howl-o-ween

Too cute! Bring your pooch dressed in costume for the 7th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade to be held at the Off-Leash Dog Park at 4 p.m. on Oct. 18. You can also join the Dog Park and help support Hearing-Service Dog & Pet-Assisted Therapy Programs. The Off-Leash Dog Park opened as a result of fundraising efforts by The Dogs for Life, Inc., and costs \$250 for annual and \$200 for semi-annual memberships. Dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social and owners must attend an orientation. Call Shelly at (772) 567-8969.



Dogs for Life

Live, Love, Learn

A non-profit tax deductible organization

DOG PARK

12th Street & 16th Ave

Howl-O-Ween

7th Annual Canine Costume Parade

Free to the Public & Dogs in Costume

Saturday, October 18, 2008 - 4 PM

Join the Dog Park

And help support Hearing - Service Dog & Pet Assisted Therapy Programs



The Dogs for Life, Inc. Off Leash Dog Park is open for annual (\$250) and semi-annual (\$200) memberships. Second dogs from the same household are 1/2 price. Dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social.

Owners must attend an orientation by appointment.

PO Box 650023 • Vero Beach • FL • 32965

(772) 567-8969

D4 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2008 • V

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade: Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 4 p.m., Oct. 18. Free. (772) 567-8969.

YourHub.com | **CALENDAR**

Tell everybody about your event by posting it online at YourHub.com



V • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2008 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • A3

WHAT A WEEKEND! INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Canine costume parade: 4 p.m. Saturday, Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave., Vero Beach; (772) 567-8969.

TOM SMOYER • Posted on YourHub.com
This "little devil" participated in a past Canine Costume parade.

Dogs for Life will host its 7th Annual Canine Costume Parade at the "Best Friends" off-leash dog park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach at 4 p.m. Oct. 18. The event is open and free to the public. All dogs participating in the canine costume parade will be awarded a prize. For more information, call (772) 567-8969 or e-mail dogsforlife@bellsouth.net.

YOURHUB.COM • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2008

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

SEPTEMBER

Golf Tournament

20
7, 2008

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

4 Karen Mann, Chuck Bateman and Sharon Marshall, all of Chuck Bateman State Farm Insurance Agency, attend the Dogs for Life, Inc. 1st Golf Tournament at Sandridge Golf Club in Vero Beach.

PREVIEWS

Dogs for Life Golf

The first annual **Golf Tournament** to benefit Dogs for Life will be held September 27 at Sandridge Golf Club. The scramble format tournament will begin with registration and a continental breakfast at 7 a.m., shotgun start at 8 a.m. and lunch, prizes and awards presentation following golf. Entry fee of \$75 per golfer includes golf, cart, breakfast and lunch.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
TO BENEFIT DOGS FOR LIFE
SEPTEMBER 27, 7:00 AM
SANDRIDGE GOLF CLUB
GOLF ATTIRE
567-8969

Committee Chairmen are Karen and Russell Mann and Sharon and Duane Marshall.

For golf information, reservations or sponsorship opportunities, call 567-8969.

Dogs for Life will also be holding its annual **Canine Costume Parade** October 18 at 5 p.m. at the Off-Leash Dog Park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue. The parade, beginning at 6 p.m., will feature dogs dressed in Howl-o-ween costumes. Event Chairmen are Eleanor Bengyak and Sharon Marshall.

There is no cost for the event. For information, call 567-8969.

C2 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 • V

DOGS FOR LIFE TOURNEY

Don't forget the Dogs for Life golf tournament on Sept. 27 at Sandridge in Vero Beach. The four-person scramble on the Dunes Course will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. The entry fee is \$75 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Dogs for Life is a Vero Beach organization that trains dogs to assist the hearing impaired and physically challenged. Plus, they train therapy dogs.

For information, call Karen Mann at (772) 567-1107 or log onto www.dogsforlifevb.com.

Bill Hilbig can be reached at billhilbig@scripps.com or (772) 221-4900.

Golf



Dogs for Life
Live, Love, Learn
A non-profit tax deductible organization

DOG PARK
12th Street & 16th Ave

Howl-O-Ween
7th Annual Canine Costume Parade
Free to the Public & Dogs in Costume
Saturday, October 18, 2008 - 4 PM
Join the Dog Park
And help support Hearing - Service Dog
& Pet Assisted Therapy Programs



The Dogs for Life, Inc. Off Leash Dog Park is open for annual (\$250) and semi-annual (\$200) memberships. Second dogs from the same household are 1/2 price. Dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Owners must attend an orientation by appointment.

PO Box 650023 • Vero Beach • FL • 32965
(772) 567-8969

Hurry!
Only 8 team spots left!

DOGS FOR LIFE 1ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
SEPTEMBER 27, 2008
Shotgun Start at: 8:30 a.m.

SANDRIDGE GOLF CLUB DUNES COURSE

ENTRY FEE: FOUR PERSON SCRAMBLE \$75.00 PER PERSON

INCLUDES: Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Dogs for Life
Live, Love, Learn

WIN
\$10,000 hole-in-one
1st, 2nd and 3rd places in two flights
longest drive and closest to pin
plus other great raffle prizes

KAREN MANN (772) 299-6505 • (772) 567-1107
JOIN US FOR A FUN DAY OF GOLF TO SUPPORT DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

Golf Tournament: Prizes, raffle, Sandridge Golf Club, Vero Beach, 8 a.m., Sept. 27, \$75. Benefits Dogs for Life assistance dog and pet therapy dog programs. (772) 567-8969.

Golf

DOGS FOR LIFE EVENT

Dogs for Life, a Vero Beach organization that trains dogs to assist the hearing impaired and physically challenged, plus therapy dogs, is having a golf tournament on Sept. 27 at Sandridge in Vero Beach.

The four-person scramble on the Dunes Course will have an 8:30 a.m. shotgun start. The entry fee is \$75 per person, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Call Karen Mann at (772) 567-1107 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.com for info.



AUGUST

Guide to Giving

THE FIRST, THE ONLY™

Vero Beach

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

Magazine

2008-2009 CHARITABLE REGISTRY

Guide to Giving

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO VERO BEACH MAGAZINE

*We must not, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference,
ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time,
add up to big differences that we often cannot foresee.*

—Marian Wright Edelman



Executive Director
Shelly Ferger

Dogs For Life

Devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet therapy dogs, owning and operating an off-leash park.

BOARD OFFICERS: President Richard Leflew, Vice President Sharon Marshall, Treasurer Kelly Colmey, Secretary Eleanor Bengyak
MAIN EVENT: Annual Canine Costume Parade, in October

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net • www.dogsforlifevb.com



AFP members gather in the spirit of philanthropy

YOURHUB.COM • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008

BY CYNTHIA FALARDEAU
Posted on YourHub.com

The members of Association of Fundraising Professionals, Indian River Chapter proved that they had something special to offer when a group of members gathered to support Indian River Habitat for Humanity, one of its member organizations, during a "summer social work day."

Eleven members and their spouses from various nonprofit organizations joined together in the spirit of philanthropy to help build a home in Indian River Habitat for Humanity's Grace Woods.

Together, the group flexed their carpentry muscles as they worked for four hours to build walls, raise trusses and install a new roof alongside the Habitat for Humanity homeowner.

"The mission of the AFP-IR is to advance philanthropy through the Fund Development Profession," explained President Lenora Ritchie. "Today is a great example of what we can accomplish when we all work together to serve our community."

Participants enjoyed the sense of satisfaction they received from working together in the spirit of philanthropy. A fellowship lunch followed the outing during which the group enjoyed the chance to reflect on their day's accomplishment. Despite a few sore fingers and joints, members agreed it was a rewarding experience.

The group is discussing making this AFP member-to-member work day an annual event.

The AFP-IRC membership is made up of pro-

CYNTHIA FALARDEAU • Posted on YourHub.com

AFP-IR Members enjoyed a Summer Social Work Day at Indian River Habitat for Humanity.

fessional fund development leaders in Indian River County. The Association of Fundraising Professionals is a national organization that exists to foster the development and growth of fundraising professionals and the profession, to promote high ethical behavior in the fundraising profession and to preserve and enhance philanthropy and volunteerism.

Members of AFP are motivated by an inner drive to improve the quality of life through the causes they serve. To learn more about AFP-IR contact Pam King, (772) 567-3202, or membership@afpindianriver.com.



YOURHUB.COM • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2008

Canine Country Club owner becomes certified

BY LISA CORSON
Posted on YourHub.com

Vero Beach Canine Country Club, Inc. has announced Lisa J. Corson, president and owner, along with Marcia Adache and Patty Schell, pet care assistants at Vero Beach Canine Country Club, have been awarded Certified Pet Care Technicians

by the Pet Care Services Association.

PCSA is formerly known as the American Boarding Kennels Association.

In addition, they were recognized as completing the Pet First-Aid And CPR Training conducted on-site by the American Red Cross.

"This demonstrates to our clients of our continuing commitment to their pets and ensuring the best care possible. Every year the company attends educational classes, seminars and trade-shows as part of their on-going education," Corson said.

TLC LETTERS

VERO BEACH

Dog park appreciated by four-legged friends

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the anonymous person that gave Dogs for Life a most generous donation! That gift along with other faithful donors has enabled Dogs for Life to purchase the Off-Leash Dog Park property at the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue. It means our companion dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs, hearing guide dogs and mobility-assistance dogs have a safe, fenced, happy place to run and play or just have a good belly rub. Four and a half acres of precious green space and the beautiful mature oak trees have been saved. I cherish this wonderful gift to all Vero Beach residents not just us "dog-huggers."

Patricia Schell
Vero Beach

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF JULY 14, 2008

INTHELIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River Habitat for Humanity True grit

Members of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Indian River Chapter endured the summer heat when they gathered to support Indian River Habitat for Humanity during its Summer Social Work Day.

Members and their spouses, representing various nonprofit organizations, joined together in the spirit of philanthropy to help build a home for the Wheeler family.



(Kneeling) Cynthia Falardeau, (first row standing) Shelly Fenger, Jennifer Jones, Ginny Blossom, Lenora Ritchie, Habitat homeowner Beverlynn Wheeler, Leslie Spurlock, Kerry Bartlett, Kelly Brown, (back) Ralph Ostero, Bob Lawton and Dennis Bartholomew enjoy the Summer Social Work Day at Indian River Habitat.

MAY 28, 2008

Vero
Beachside
News

14 Party, Party, Party

"A TROPICAL NIGHT" BENEFITS YOUTH GUIDANCE
SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS ON SATURDAY, MAY 17



20 • WEEK OF MAY 12, 2008 • LUMINARIES

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com



CONTENTS PREPARED BY THE SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Indian River County

4

Read to Dogs volunteer Chris Spälinger and dog Abby work with Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County members Katie Roddenberry and Darcia Bronson.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

APRIL

Animal Therapy

Indian River County

SECTION B • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 2008 • TCPALM.COM



SAM WOLFE • sam.wolfe@scrippsco.com

"She's beautiful. Just beautiful," said Christine Phillips, right, while being visited by Emmy, a 3-year-old golden retriever, at Sebastian River Medical Center recently. Emmy's owner Barbara DePutron, left, the wife of Dr. David Putron at SRMC, has started bringing the certified therapy dog to the hospital every other Wednesday to visit with patients that wish to see her. Registered nurse Denise Kaszkowsky stands at back center.

Therapy animals bring more than smiles to patients

"Indian River Medical Center is a success story. I like supporting success..."

When I was asked to be interviewed for this ad, I declined. I felt my contributions were small. Others had given more than I...more of their time, talents and financial support to Indian River Medical Center. But when I thought again, it occurred to me that it is not the amount that we give but the reasons why we give that are so important. So I agreed to participate.

Indian River Medical Center is a success story. I like supporting success. Recently voted "Company of the Year" in Indian River County, our hospital is the second largest employer in the county. I feel any support I give promotes not only the health and well being of everyone living here, but also the economic life of Indian River County. It's what makes our city special.

The hospital directors aim for the best. They had the foresight to affiliate with Duke University, one of the top 10 cardiac programs in the country, when they opened The Heart Center, bringing in the best doctors and latest equipment right here to Vero Beach. As an 80 year old, it comforts me to know that I have a top health facility at my front door.

In the grand scheme of things, I give because it feels good to do so. If I am able to contribute a little, the Foundation will combine those funds with others to sustain and build a magnificent

hospital for us now and in the years to come. Personally, it is a pleasure to see my donations put to good use in my lifetime. Fortunately, our government still agrees and acknowledges my donations on my tax returns, both now and in the future with estate planning.

There is a prayer, "The Final Analysis" by Mother Theresa, that sums up my feelings on charitable giving and part of it reads:

What you spend years building,
someone could destroy it overnight:
Build anyway.

If you are honest and frank,
people may cheat you:
Be honest and frank anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness,
they may be jealous:
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today,
people will often forget tomorrow:
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have,
and it may never be enough:
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see in the FINAL analysis,
it is between you and God:
It was never between you and them anyway.

For more information about *The 21st Century Campaign for Indian River Medical Center*, please call us at 772.226.4960 or visit us online at www.irmcfoundation.org.



This message funded in part by STANFORD www.stanfordfinancial.com

BY JAMES KIRLEY
jim.kirley@scripps.com

People saw patients smile when Barbara DePatron and her 3-year-old golden retriever, Emmy, visited Sebastian River Medical Center.

Registered Nurse Denise Keskowsky noticed more than grins. She saw heartbeats and blood pressure drop in patients recovering from heart attacks in the hospital's critical care unit. She saw people literally reach toward healing.

"Stroke patients who haven't moved will move to pet this dog," Keskowsky said. "I saw this today. It was amazing and it was a beautiful thing."

The hospital began a program of animal-assisted therapy Feb. 13, making it the latest of three Treasure Coast hospitals to offer dog visits to patients. Martin Memorial Medical Center offers such visits to patients being treated for cancer and dogs sometimes visit the children's ward of the Stuart hospital.

The Behavioral Health Center, the psychiatric hospital at Indian

"Animals have that effect on humans, releasing all the healing hormones."

Dr. John Graham-Pole, professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Florida

River Medical Center, has been getting regular visits by pet therapy teams from Dogs for Life in Vero Beach for nearly one year. Nurses report that patients who are withdrawn and distrusting of medical staff become more open after the visits.

"They see the staff is not that bad if the dog likes them, too," said a nurse at the center, where clinicians ask their names not be published for safety reasons. "It opens up lines of communication, and they will tell us about their needs and what they are afraid of."

While no statistics are available, offering visits by dogs to hospital patients is becoming more accepted.

"There seems to be an increase in the use of animal-assisted therapy in hospitals," said Michelle Cobey, resource specialist with

the Delta Society. The Washington-based organization publishes guidelines used to certify therapy animals and their handlers.

"We register dogs and cats and llamas and pigs and birds," Cobey said. "Once people are registered with us, they're covered by our insurance. Every two years, teams have to be re-evaluated. Animals change and people change."

Karen Frick of Stuart coordinates Sunshine on a Leash, which uses Delta's guidelines for its teams that visit patients at Martin Memorial.

Frick said dogs need a special temperament to visit hospitals.

"Think about what these animals encounter — all the different smells and sights and all the different ways they are being petted," Frick said. "To have this many variables and still enjoy it takes an extraordinary dog."

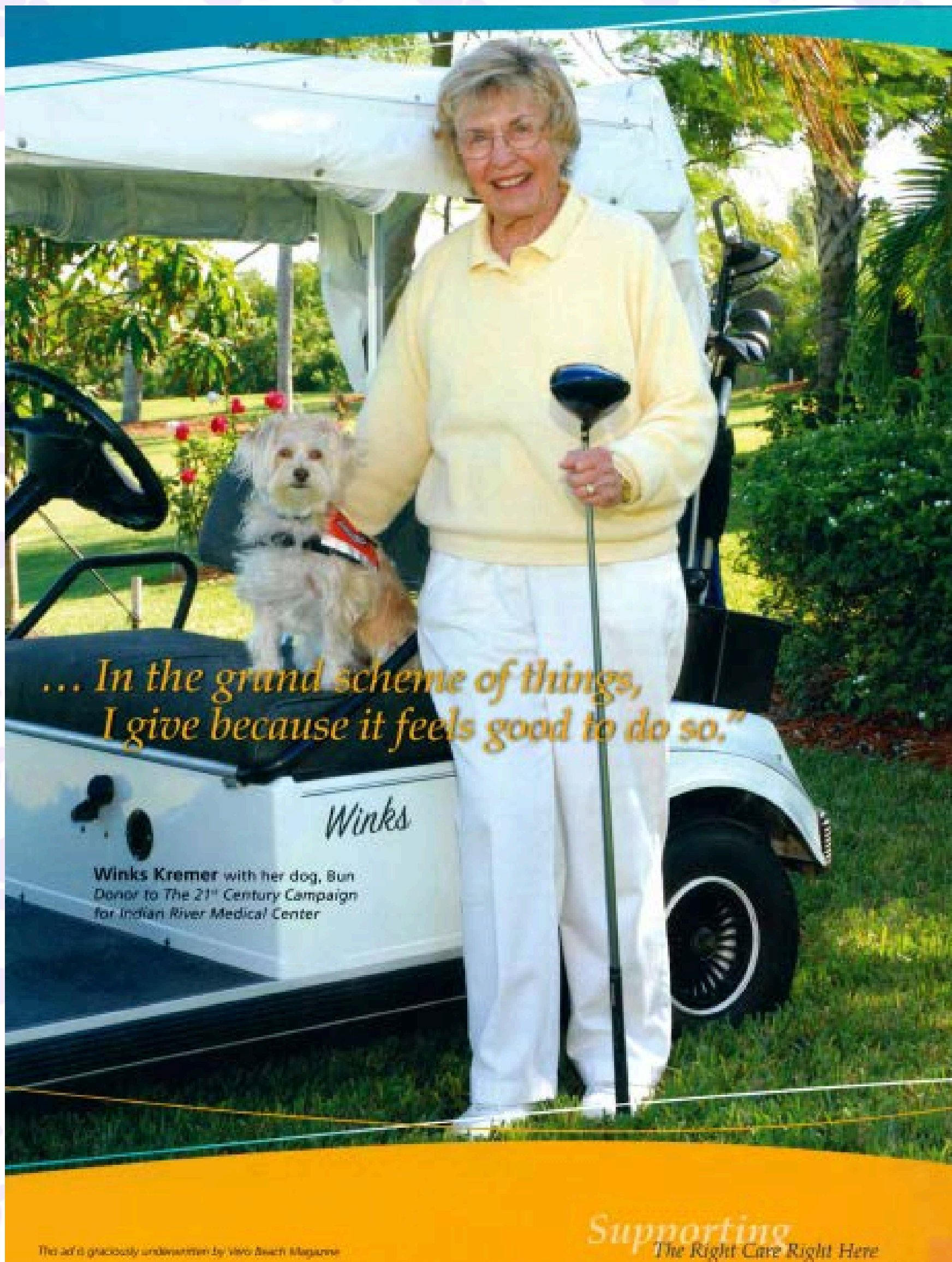
Dr. John Graham-Pole, professor emeritus of pediatrics at the University of Florida, helped introduce therapy animals at Shands Hospital in Gainesville about 15 years ago.

"We benefit by the presence of animals close to us," he said. "Philosophically, God made it that way."

The benefits can also be measured. Graham-Pole said studies show human bodies produce more endorphins — a feel-good chemical made by the pituitary gland — when they're around animals. Interacting with animals also lessens production of corticosteroids, hormones that jack up heart rate and blood pressure for the so-called fight-or-flight response to fear and stress.

"Animals have that effect on humans, releasing all the healing hormones," he said.

"Pet therapy dogs are trained to be compliant and placid and accepting towards all humans," Graham-pole added. "There are animals that go to every part of (Shands) hospital."



*... In the grand scheme of things,
I give because it feels good to do so."*

Winks Kremer with her dog, Bun
Donor to The 21st Century Campaign
for Indian River Medical Center

Supporting
The Right Care Right Here

The ad is graciously underwritten by Vivo Beach Magazine

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

MARCH

Imprisoned Marines Train Dogs

From Page One

THE NEWS & OBSERVER +
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2008

Imprisoned Marines train dogs to help wounded comrades



A Marine doing time in the Camp Lejeune brig hugs Eve, the service dog that he is training. The dogs in the program will perform tasks to help Marines badly wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan regain some independence.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS SENARD

Animals are expected to benefit inmates as well as Marines hurt in the war

BY JAY PRICE
STAFF WRITER

CAMP LEJEUNE — One day, the six dogs will do amazing things.

They will load laundry in washing machines, and they will pull it out of dryers. They will perform simple banking transactions.

They will even be able to open the refrigerator on command, select a cold beer — yes, just like that dream-come-true TV commercial — and take it to their grateful owner.

For now, though, the dogs are locked in the Camp Lejeune brig. And so are the young Marines who are training the dogs, which will eventually be donated to Marines badly wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan to

help them regain some independence.

Civilian prisoners have been used for the labor-intensive task of training service dogs to help disabled owners since 1981. The new program at Lejeune is thought to be the first in a military prison. Base officials said they were willing to do it because the dogs will help disabled Marines, and because studies have shown that working with dogs helps rehabilitate prisoners, calming them and improving their attitudes.

Prisoners in the program said in interviews that the dogs had turned days of tedium into lives with focus, allowed them to contribute at least a little to the country they let down, and even given them back self-

respect they left outside.

"I'd still be doing laundry and anything I could to keep my mind from dwelling on the past," said Mark, a compact 23-year-old who is halfway through a sentence of about two years. (Under the rules for interviews in the brig, prisoners could give only their first names and ages and weren't allowed to name their offenses).

As Mark talked, Dixon, a stocky, mellow English Labrador retriever that he and another Marine are helping train, lay calmly at his feet.

"People don't give them the respect they deserve," Mark said. "They think they're sto-

SEE DOGS, PAGE 4A



Joshua and other dogs in training stay with the prisoners who train them around the clock at Camp Lejeune.

STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS SHAWEN

DOGS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

pid, but dogs can really do some great things."

When he gets out, Mark said, he has decided he wants to try for a job training dogs.

A couple of bunks down, Chris, 28, and Gene, 23, sat with dark-haired Roxy, the star pup. She is the youngest of the six dogs, just 10 months old, but ahead of all the others in learning the early lessons.

Roxy will leave the brig before Gene, who has three years to go, but after Chris, who is down to just seven months.

INSIDE

IMPROVEMENT: Donna Shalala reports progress in veterans' health care. ▶ 10

Gene said parting with her would probably be harder on him than Chris, as he gets attached to animals easily.

Chris agreed. "The good thing is that Roxy will go on to help someone," he said. "Someone I know, most likely, because the Marines are a pretty tight community."

He bent as Roxy watched and pulled up the left pant leg of his orange jail suit, revealing a round white scar on each side of his calf where a sniper's bullet had entered and exited.

"There was a time I could have used a dog like this myself," he said.

Mark's convoys in Iraq were hit four times with improvised bombs, he said. Gene, like Chris, had done combat deployments, too, so they all knew men who could use service dogs.

Even the dogs — by chance, most were Labrador retrievers or Lab mixes — won something by being selected for the program: Most came from shelters, and Bailey, a yellow lab, was adopted the day he was scheduled to be killed. The civilian trainers who have been teaching the Marines how to work with the dogs were told Bailey was taken to the shelter by a young Marine who was going off to war.

Even those who weren't shelter dogs came out ahead. Dixon was donated by owners who used to show him. He had spent most of his life locked in a kennel. Now he has more spring in his step, more a feeling of purpose, Mark said.

Rick Hairston, who owns a Wilmington company called Carolina Canines for Service

that trains service dogs for civilians, proposed the training program to Lejeune leaders. He said that he hopes it will become a model for military prisons around the country and that it will help meet at least part of the huge need for service dogs among the thousands of troops wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The idea started when a local Veterans of Foreign Wars women's auxiliary group approached him to ask for help in getting a dog for an injured National Guard soldier, Hairston said.

Training a service dog is labor-intensive — it can take two years or more of daily work — and there was no other way his small company could increase its production, he said. It already had a two- to three-year wait for its dogs.

Paying costs, hoping for help

For now, he's paying the costs of sending two civilian trainers to the base several times a week, the vet bills and other expenses, but he's hoping that veterans' groups, businesses and others will eventually help and that perhaps one day the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs also will chip in.

The prisoners were enthusiastic about the idea, said Warrant Officer John Nolan, second in command at the brig, with more than 100 asking to be included.

The dogs bunk with their trainers in an austere, concrete-floored room, their cages

placed between the steel cots of their two trainers. Every four hours, one of the men has to take the dog outside to do its business, and the dog goes with them to meals and anywhere else they have to go.

Some of the training is done inside, some outdoors.

Prisoners behave better

The 11 prisoners picked for the program have only been in it a few weeks and weren't problem inmates before, but they clearly are better behaved, Nolan said.

More than 100 prisoners wanted to sign up for the program, Nolan said. A social worker helped screen the best choices.

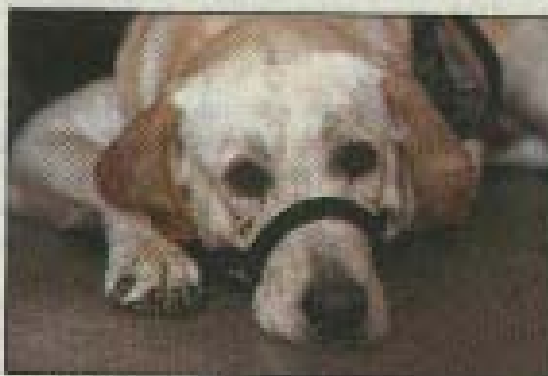
Those with discipline problems or major offenses were kept out. Those picked typically didn't have minor offenses, either, because the trainers wanted them to have at least seven months left on their sentences so the dogs wouldn't have to switch trainers too often. The men in the training program had been charged with things such as theft or drug offenses, he said.

When the dogs are ready, they will have learned more than 70 tasks, from "handling" laundry to pulling their owners' wheelchairs around and switching lights on and off. In some cases, the owners will literally lean on the dogs, relying on them to help with their balance as they do things such as getting in or out of a wheelchair, or climbing steps.

At the bank, they can do things such as take a withdrawal slip and identification card from an owner who can't reach up from a wheelchair, carry it to the counter, place their front paws on the counter and lean forward to hand it to the teller. Then, they can accept the cash and bring it to their owner.

Hairston said some of the things the dogs can do seem startling. But they aren't tricks.

"If it's something you can't do for yourself all of a sudden, it's not a funny trick any more," he said. "Some of them are fancy skills, and some are mundane, but if you can't do them, and you get a dog that can, it makes a huge difference. It gives you a measure of independence back."



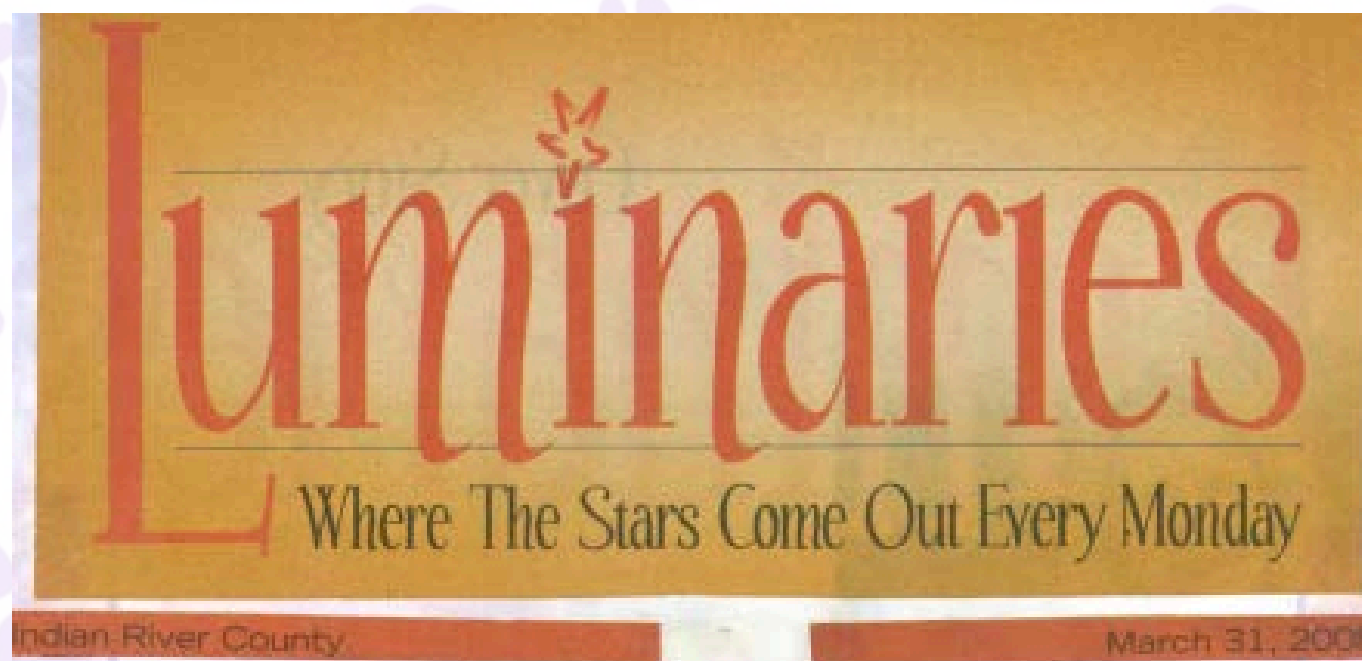
Bailey is a lucky service dog; he was selected on the day he was to be killed.

WANT TO HELP?

You can call Carolina Canines for Service toll free at (866) 910-3647.

jay.price@newsobserver.com or (919) 829-4526

Anonymous Donation



4 Gary Wheeler with Chewy, Shelly Fergat, founder of Dogs for Life, Sharon Marshall and Rhett Palmer with Beni celebrate as they accept an anonymous donation of \$275,000 for the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog park in Vero Beach.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

FEBRUARY

PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

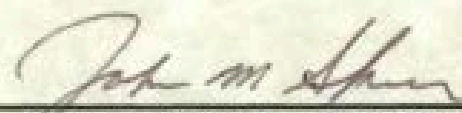


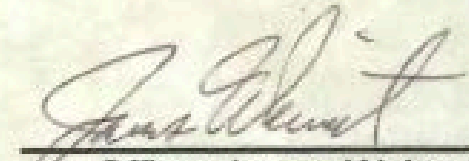
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO

DOGS FOR LIFE OF VERO BEACH, FLORIDA

FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE PORT ST. LUCIE POLICE K-9 UNIT
"BULLETPROOF VESTS FOR K-9 DOGS" ON THIS DAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008




John M. Skinner, Chief of Police


Officer James Weinert



JANUARY

Humane Society



HUMANE SOCIETY HOOKUPS



Joan Bourrell has gained happiness and better health through her relationship with Monty, a 2-year-old Jack Russell terrier provided to her by the Humane Society as part of a new program that pairs seniors with animal companions and provides \$400 per year to assist in the care of their new friends.

FURRY HOME COMPANION

Pets matched with seniors provide friendship, vitality

By SARAH MURRAY
THE GAZETTE

Monty, a three-year-old Jack Russell terrier, didn't exactly save Joan Bourrell's life, but he sure made it better. Since getting the dog last spring, the 77-year-old Colorado Springs woman has lost 32 pounds and her diabetes has stabilized, thanks to the six daily walks she takes around her apartment complex with Monty.

And, she says, "I'm not lonely anymore."

The arrangement is made even sweeter by the fact that Bourrell — a retired dry-goods seamstress who lives on Social Security — doesn't have to pay for most of Monty's upkeep. She got Monty compliments of the new Senior Citizens Pet Companionship Program, which is administered by the Humane Society of the Pike Peak Region.

The program not only gives free pets to qualifying low-income seniors 60 and older, it provides a subsidy of \$400 per dog or \$600 per cat each year of the pet's life. The money comes from a special donation fund and covers health care and food for the pets.

The subsidies aren't usually enough to cover the entire cost of pet ownership, but for many low-income seniors, it can make the difference between having a pet or not.

"I could not have afforded to get him and keep him if it wasn't for the program," Bourrell says.

The program was started with funding from Dan and Sue Rieger. Dan Rieger, a retired banker and college economics teacher, says he knows how pets can keep a person going. His wife's sister was lonely after her pet died, and when they

got her another, she perked up. And at 77, he still lives with his Labrador retrievers, even though he's had two hip replacements and back surgery.

The Riegers' donations will cover the care of 10 animals over three years, but the Humane Society hopes to get more donations to cover 60 animals for their lifetimes.

"With help, this program could even grow to provide 300 pets a month to seniors," Dan Rieger says. "That would be 1,200 animals a year. That's a lot of loving homes and happy seniors."

The seniors are shown mostly older, well-trained and sometimes more-sedentary dogs or cats that fit in better with their lifestyles. Once the seniors get their pet, they have to demonstrate that it's getting its vaccinations and twice-a-year health exams. If their pet dies, they can get another one under the program. If the owner dies, the subsidy is transferred to a family member. If the seniors don't want the pet, it's returned to the shelter.

"It's not only great for senior citizens but also for older pets that deserve a good home," says program director Jeanette Pohl.

The benefits to the owner accrue physically, mentally and emotionally.

"The program is a great idea," says Larissa Stalness, a professor of epidemiology at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

Stalness is an expert on the effect of companion animals on human health. She says pets can help lower their owners' blood pressure and create a comforting routine for people whose lives have been disrupted by aging or the death of a spouse.

Those who have pets also end up having more social interaction with others, primarily because when they take the pet for a walk, people talk to them, Stalness says.

That's what Bourrell discovered after she got Monty, shortly after her 18-year-old miniature poodle, Buffy, died in the spring. She and daughter Loriel Bourrell learned about the program when they took Buffy to the Humane Society to handle burial arrangements.

Joan Bourrell wandered up and down the aisles looking at dogs and cats, not really intending to get one. But then, she saw Monty.

"It was love at first sight," says Bourrell, who has been a widow for seven years. She completed the qualifying paperwork and took Monty home.

"I don't worry so much about men now," says her daughter, who works and can't visit her mother during the day.

Bourrell says the little dog has become a hit with her neighbors, some of whom bring him toys.

"I get up earlier now to walk him. And he knows everybody and everybody knows him," she says.

"And I talk to a lot of other people walking with their dogs."

Bourrell got her first dog when she was 11 years old. But Monty is extra-special, she says, because he came along at a time when she is not as active as she used to be. She also feels safer because Monty lets out soft little barks when he hears something unusual.

She, in turn, is teaching him that people can be kind. She believes he might have been abused because he trembles when he sees a newspaper.

"I tell him not to worry about it."

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

• The Humane Society is accepting 10 seniors to the Senior Citizens Pet Companionship Program, but need of the openings are still available. Visit www.humanesociety.org for more information about the program, call Pohl at 474-0446, or 1201 N. Central Ave. at 474-0446.

Park Saved

Indian River County

SECTION B • SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2008 • TCPALM.COM

Vero dog park will stay open

Large, last-minute donation, from anonymous benefactor gives the space a new leash — er, lease — on life

BY BARBARA YORESH
Correspondent

VERO BEACH — A local dog park that was set to close by the end of February may have gotten a new lease on life thanks to an anonymous donor.

Dogs for Life Inc. has leased the 4¼-acre park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue from owners who wish to sell the property.

Running the park has strained the financial resources of the nonprofit organization, which trains assistance dogs for the hearing impaired and others, said founder Shelly Ferger.

Benefactors developed and funded

the off-leash park in 1999, and Dogs for Life has run it since 2002, allowing dogs to mingle and exercise under the watchful eyes of their owners. Users have paid membership fees or \$10 pay-as-you-go fees to offset costs.

When the group tried to raise the \$275,000 necessary to buy the property at a bargain price, they fell short, and the park was slated to close in February. However, following several newspaper articles about the park and its shaky future, Ferger received a call from a donor who wished to help save the park.

"I got a phone call one day from a woman who read the articles and felt

sorry for us. She said she had some stocks that she wanted to give us and she did. And now we only need an additional \$50,000 to buy the park," Ferger said.

According to Ferger, the donor wishes to remain anonymous.

"We will not close the park at the end of February. We're moving ahead with a membership drive and raise the additional \$50,000 needed to buy the property.

"We've now formed a dog park foundation board to continue helping us raise money, and we're planning an event in February at the dog park to launch a membership drive," Ferger said.

The goal is to "get memberships up to 200 members," Ferger said. In the future, the group plans to add a building to the property with an on-site park manager.

WANT TO JOIN?

- Annual dog park membership fees are \$300, or about \$25 per month
- Pet owners must make sure the dogs are up to date on their vaccines and have been spayed or neutered.
- Pet owners must also make sure their dogs and get along with other dogs.

For now, the donor's philanthropy will allow the park to "operate status quo," Ferger said.

"This lady is someone who recognized the good of the Dogs for Life organization, as well as the dog park, and who appreciated our assistance dog program," Ferger said.

For information, call Ferger at (772) 567-6969.

INDIAN RIVER Press Journal

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Saturday, January 12, 2008

Sebastian sniffing around for new site for dog park

Location at south side of Sebastian
Stormwater Park probably best
alternative to Schumann Drive

BY ED DIERSCHENK
ed.bierschenk@scripps.com

SEBASTIAN — Reacting to the howls of protest from dog owners about the small size of a proposed dog park along Schumann Drive, Sebastian officials will begin revisiting other potential sites for the pooch playground.

City Manager Al Minner said a location at the south side of the Sebastian Stormwater Park is probably the No. 1 alternative. He said officials will look at trying to get a site of perhaps one to two acres.

"I don't know if we'll get to two, but we'll definitely try to get more than half (an acre)," said Minner.

He declined to give a date as to when a park could be open, but said the issue was "on the front burner" and city staff would be working hard to get one opened.

Some people, including City Councilman Eugene Wolff, were critical of the Schumann Drive site from the beginning because of its relatively small size. Wolff voted against the site when it was selected by the City Council in August.

After hearing from residents again Thursday,

See DOG PARK, page A14

After hearing from residents again Thursday,

See DOG PARK, page A14

DOG PARK

FROM PAGE A1

the city's Planning and Zoning Commission voted to table taking action on a site plan for the proposed park along Schumann Drive near the railroad tracks.

At the August council meeting, some residents already were pushing for a 1-acre site within the 166-acre stormwater park, saying it would be preferable to the Schumann location. Councilmember Dale Simchick, however, cited safety concerns with what she said was a fairly desolate area. She also said there could be conflict because scrub jays are in the park.

Minner said there are also cost factors to consider. While the council budgeted \$30,000 for the dog park, Minner said the one at the stormwater park could cost about \$30,000. A major expense will be the additional fencing needed.

After the August meeting, Minner said a survey re-

vealed a portion of the Schumann site where a parking lot was to be located did not belong to the city. Consideration was given to filling in a 15- to 20-foot wide strip along the edge of a pond to provide access to another area that could be used for parking, but Minner said that was deemed to be too expensive.

Instead, the number of parking spaces at the park was reduced from 20 to eight. While the park itself would still have remained at about a half-acre, Minner believes the reduction in parking was "the straw that broke the camel's back" when it came to people's feelings about the park.

While he said creation of a dog park may seem like a simple thing, it has proved to be more difficult than he imagined. In addition to cost, size and accessibility, factors such proximity of nearby residences, number of shade trees and availability of water have to be considered, Minner said.

While the creation of a dog park may seem like a simple thing, it has proved to be more difficult than he imagined. In addition to cost, size and accessibility, factors such proximity of nearby residences, number of shade trees and availability of water have to be considered.

Guide to Giving



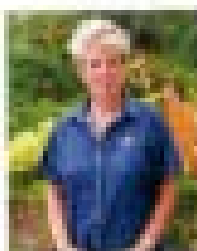
2008-2009 CHARITABLE REGISTRY

Guide to Giving

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO VERO BEACH MAGAZINE

*It's not just, in trying to think about how we can make a big difference,
ignore the small daily differences we can make which, over time,
add up to big differences that we often cannot ignore.*

—Marion Wright Johnson



Executive Director
Shelly Fager

Dogs For Life

Dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet therapy dogs, serving and operating an off-leash park.

BOARD/STAFF: President Richard Laffin, Vice President Sharon Marshall, Treasurer Kelly Colony, Secretary Glenna Briggs
RAISE EVENT: Annual Carter Costume Parade, 16 October

P.O. Box 650823, Vero Beach, FL 32963
(772) 567-8569
dogslife4life@bellsouth.net • www.dogslife4life.com



October 2008

2008-2009 CHARITABLE REGISTRY

Seasonal Calendar of Events

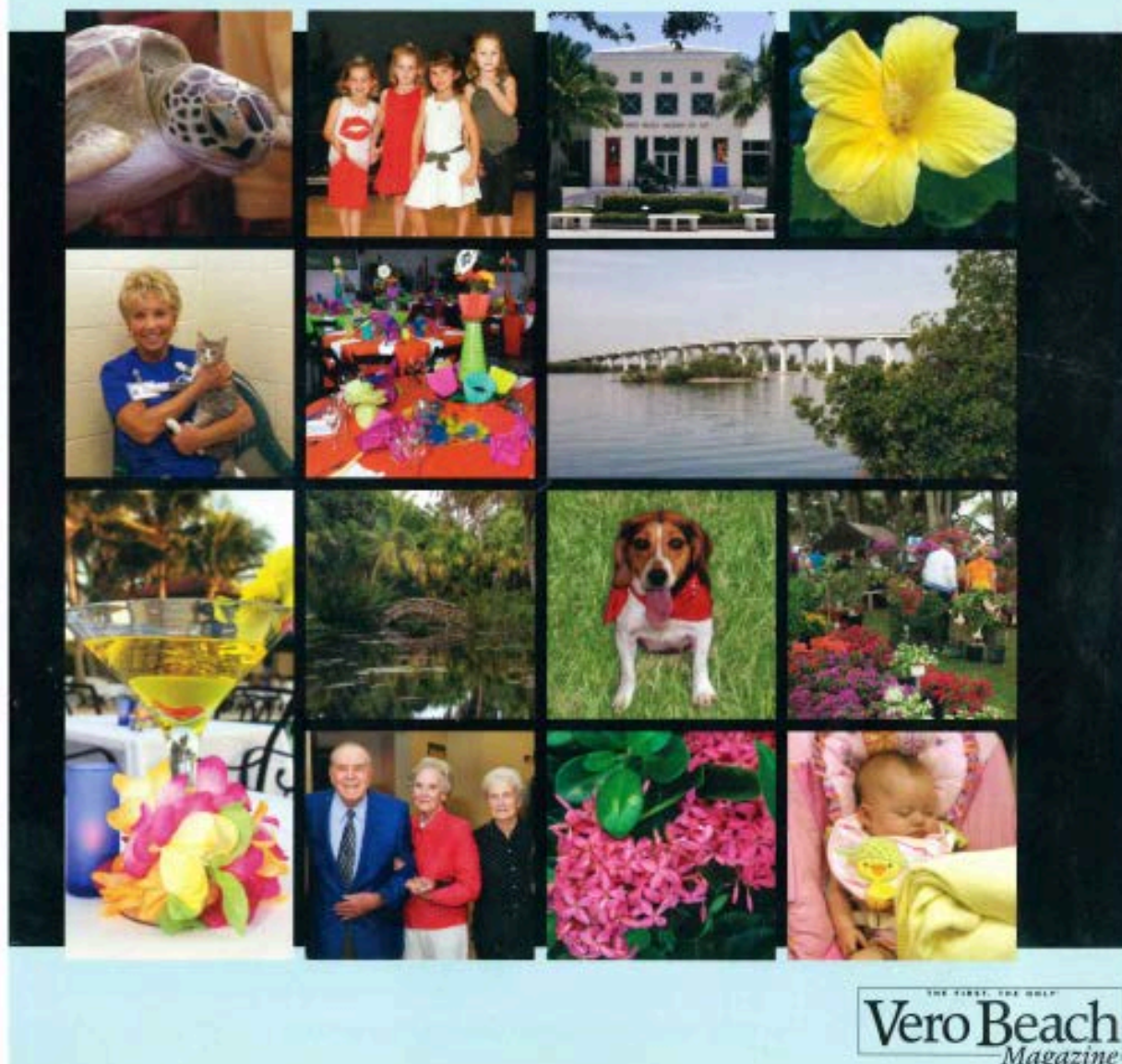
NOT INVOLVED: BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND HAVE FUN

NOVEMBER COSTUME PARADE

Dogs For Life annual parade at 5 p.m. at the off-leash dog park, Oak Street and 14th Avenue. 567-8569

Guide to Giving

A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO VERO BEACH MAGAZINE



THE FIRST, THE ONLY
Vero Beach
Magazine



Executive Director
Verna Wright

Dasie Bridgewater Hope Center

Offer a safe and nurturing environment where children can learn, dream and aspire to achieve by developing self-esteem and acquiring life survival skills.

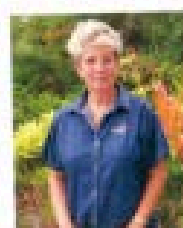
BOARD MEMBERS: Sharon Barrett, John Conafy, Maj. Gen. Eugene Cormier, Cassandra Hendley, Richard Hunter, Sen. Frank Kelly, Deryl Lee, Diane Mahan, Dr. Rebecca Basins, Warren Schwinn, Sue Timplins
MAIN EVENT: Legacy Celebration, in February

P.O. Box 701483, Wabasso, FL 32970
(772) 589-3535
vwright772@aol.com • www.dasiehope.com



Wish List

BOYS & GIRLS BUSINESS ATTIRE
DISPOSABLE CAMERAS
JOURNALS
SCRAPBOOKS
BOOKS & MAGAZINE SUBSCRIPTIONS



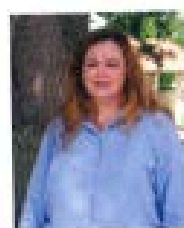
Executive Director
Shelly Fager

Dogs For Life

Devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet therapy dogs, owning and operating an off-leash park.

BOARD OFFICERS: President Richard Laffey, Vice President Sharon Marshall, Treasurer Kelly Colney, Secretary Eleanor Bengak
MAIN EVENT: Annual Costume Costume Parade, in October

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifefvb@bellsouth.net • www.dogsforlifefvb.com



Executive Director
Lisa Zahner

Dollars for Scholars

Scholarship opportunities for Indian River County students who demonstrate the desire, academic ability and financial need to pursue a post-secondary education.

BOARD OFFICERS: President Sandra Rasmick, Vice President/Secretary Karen Van De Voorde, Treasurer E. Michael Stutzle
BOARD MEMBERS: Mark Ashdown, Merrill Barber-Dick, Kathryn Black, J. Vincent Boyle, Carol Buchanan, Gwyneth Fournie, Daphy Gibbons, Traci Halpern, Jane Hudson, Mary Johnston, Harvey Karmick, David Koubish, Ruden Lane, Cope Landrig, Nancy Luther, Rene Pence, Jonathan Stenberg, Mary Ellen Stuttsen, E. Michael Stutzle
MAIN EVENT: Dollars for Scholars Kickoff Classic, in August

P.O. Box 1820, Vero Beach, FL 32961
(772) 569-9869
info@DFSIndianRiver.org • www.DFSIndianRiver.com



Wish List

OFFICE EQUIPMENT & SOFTWARE
WEB DESIGN

Happy New Year



Dogs For Life

PO BOX 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Website: www.dogsforlifevb.com

E-Mail: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

(772) 567-8969

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR
A NEW BEGINNING

Mission Statement

"A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet assisted therapy dogs and owning & operating an off-leash dog park"



Dear DFL,

Thank you for saving me. You fed me, made me worm free, gave me lots of toys and made me listen and do tricks.

Now you found me a good home. I will always love you!

Love Pup Pup
aka Jasmine Rose & Scruffles

Where We've Been & Where We're Going



Karen Mann, DFL Treasurer and Co-Chair of the DFL 1st Annual Golf Tournament with tournament sponsor Chuck Bateman of State Farm Insurance Company with DFL Vice President and Co-Chair Sharon Marshall at Sandridge Golf Club on Sept. 27, 2008. Proceeds benefited the Assistance Dog and Pet Assisted Therapy Program.



Shelly Ferger, DFL Founder and Sue Sternberg with Patti Schell DFL Assistance Dog Trainer at the Sue Sternberg Lecture on Canine Behavior Evaluation: How to tell a dog is going to bite before it does, Temperament Testing for the Ideal Dog, Dog-Dog Aggression & Compatibility Lecture and "Bite-O-Meter" Hands on Workshop held in Orlando, FL in June 2008.

Shelly, Patti Schell, and DFL Volunteer dog trainers Patty Ruble, Delphine Anderson and Paula Via will all attend the Assistance Dogs International Conference in Orlando, FL in January 2009.



Thanks to the awarding of the Association of Fundraising Professionals Chamberlain Scholarship, Shelly will attend the AFP International Conference on Fundraising in New Orleans, LA in 2009.

Eleanor Bengyak, DFL Secretary and Chair of the 1st Annual Bridge Tournament with "Tigger".

More DFL 2008 Annual Award Recipients



Jeff Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping, 2008 In-Kind Services Award



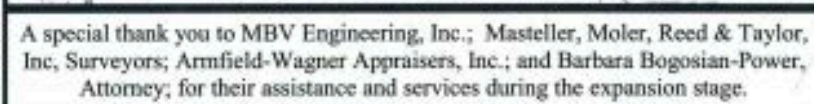
Barbara Yoresh, Scripps Howard, accepts the 2008 Media Award from DFL President Richard Leffew



Duane & Sharon Marshall
DFL 2008
Volunteers of the Year!

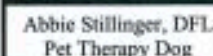
More Room to Run Dog Park Expansion Project

There have been some delays in the Indian River County permitting process because of IR County's plan to install a sidewalk along 12th Street and their need to purchase right-of-way.



As soon as possible, the irrigation and landscaping part of the project will begin on the north end of the property. Fence re-location and walking path expansion will follow. We are making every effort to keep the park open as much as possible during the expansion process.

You may have noticed the Doodycalls (dog waste pick-up station) at the dog park. This station is on loan in an effort to raise funds to purchase or lease this equipment as well as other items that will be needed such as benches and possibly gazebos to serve as additional shade in the newly established small dog area, training area and memorial garden.



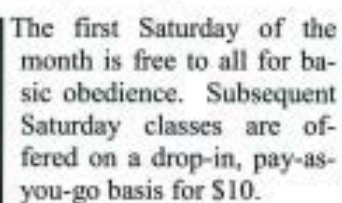
Jane B. King, Champion
for Dogs for Life, Inc.

For Scholars In Collars

DFL is applying for foundation grants to help with sponsorship and scholarship funding as well as operating costs. A Celebrity Dog Tales of Vero Beach 2nd edition is a goal as a fundraiser for 2009.

Canine obedience is a key focus for 4-H Master's Club and DFL. For the performance prone dogs who like to act instead of just act up, agility and rally obedience is part of the winter programs.

In addition to program founder Shelly Ferger, trainers Lynn Crawford, Marcia Adache, Delphine Anderson and Paul Via will join forces at the dog park on Saturday mornings.



AKC Canine Good Citizen tests are held regularly to prepare for participation in Pet Assisted Therapy Programs. The beasts go on.

Whew, Wow, Fantastic, Inspired and Blessed. These are just a few words that express some of the emotions felt since DFL's new beginning in February 2008 with the purchase of the dog park property. This new beginning is the theme that is driving DFL's vision, long-range and fund development plans.

The future of DFL depends on our continuing to offer services to our community through the philanthropy of our donors and the support of dog park members.

Every one of our donors, volunteers and members is an important part of this organization. I want to personally and sincerely thank you for your past and future involvement in its planning and success. It can not and will not happen without you.

Shelly Ferger with Wally & Sabrina

What Now? What's Next?

2008 has been a heck of a year. President Richard Leffew reported on the purchase of the dog park property, the establishment of a dedicated board of directors with committee program chairmen and urged all members to help secure the park's future with their own personal involvement.

Fundraising and membership recruitment are aspects we can all undertake. He also thanked all the donors and volunteers for the success of DFL programs over the past six years. He envisions more involvement of donors in DFL's upcoming feasibility study and strategy planning phase.

Vice President Sharon Marshall, chairman of the Pet Assisted Therapy Program, noted that the programs have expanded to include the Mental Health Association, Abilities Resource Council and Sun Up. The current programs with Boys and Girls Club in Sebastian the Senior Resource Association and Consulate Health Care of Vero Beach as well as the VNA Hospice continue with success and appreciation.

Membership in the Dog Park has more than doubled according to Secretary Eleanor Bengyak's report. Eleanor chaired the DFL 1st Annual Bridge Tournament and those proceeds were added to Dog Park Scholarship Fund. Eleanor challenged each dog park member to recruit an additional member in 2009.

The Assistance Dog Program Chaired by Kelly Colmey now boasts 12 certified or in-training dogs. New certifications were awarded in 2008 to Hearing Guide Dog Team Pat and Holly and Service Dog team Carol and Baxter. For 2009, the trainers will attend the Assistance Dogs International Conference and will work toward getting our organizations' accreditation.

Guest Speaker at the DFL 6th Annual Meeting was Kerry Bartlett, executive director of the Indian River Community Foundation, who applied her 18 years of fund development experience to advise DFL members of the many ways to invest in the park we all love. From government involvement to networking, to special events and donor and member recruitment, her advice is to get involved in some way and believe the sky is the limit—with hard work and dedication, resources can be found.

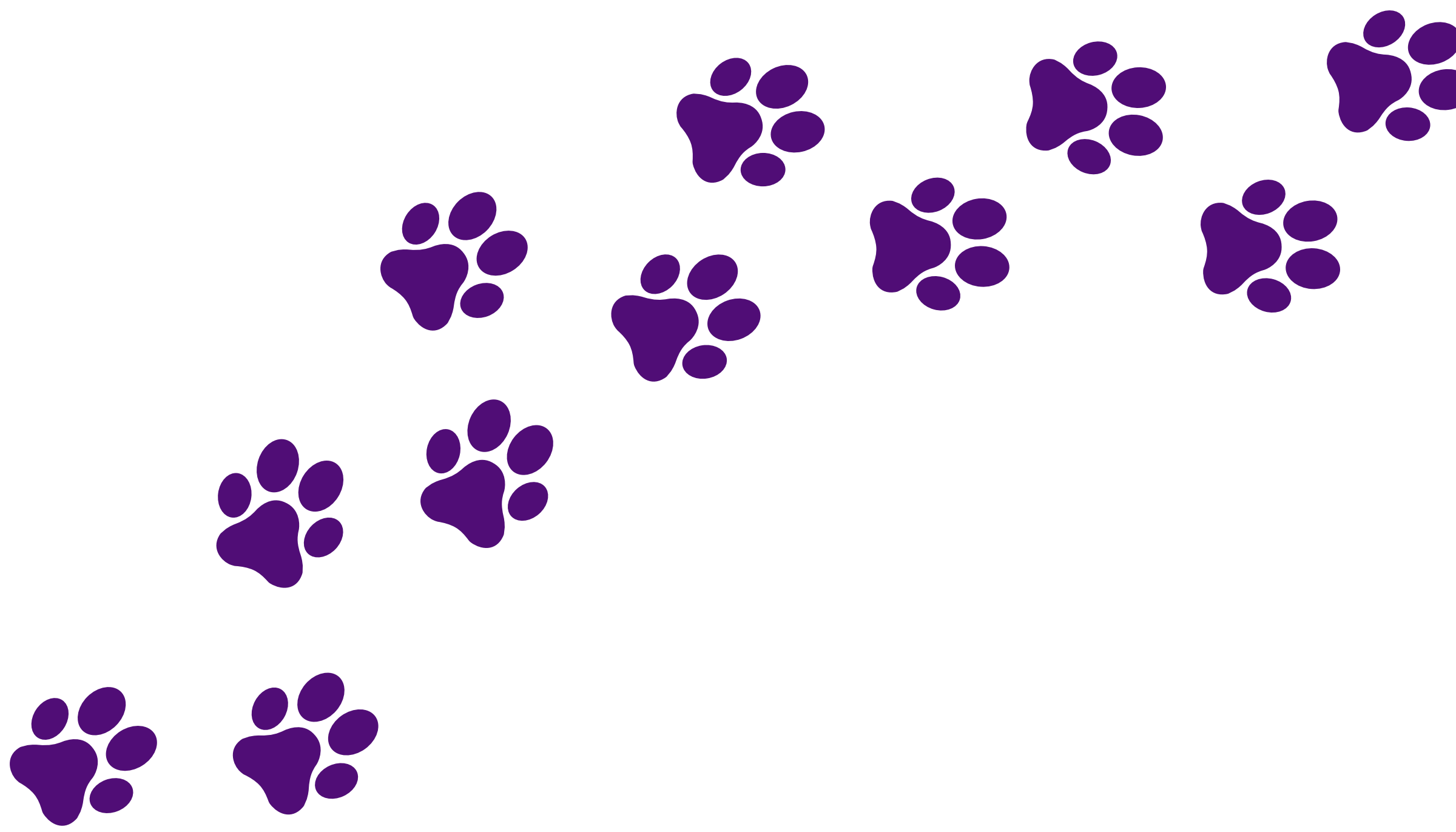


DFL Board of Directors L-R:
Richard Leffew, Sharon Marshall,
Al Turner, Karen Mann, Eleanor
Bengyak, Kelly Colmey and Max

Check Out DFL's Revamped Website Compliments Of
"WebDesign With Flair" www.dogsforlifevb.com

Scrapbook

2007





DECEMBER

Paw Prints



Paw Prints Newsletter

December
2007

Hearing Guide Dog Team Certified

By Hildegard

My husband Lawrence and I were in the mall during a senior health show when we saw a booth with a dog; it was about Dogs For Life and the hearing dog program. As I am deaf in one ear and hard of hearing in the other, and my husband is also hard of hearing, we became very interested in the program. One reason was because we recently had an incident where we had some smoke damage. The smoke alarms were sounding, but neither of us heard them until we saw the dog acting funny. My husband got up, saw the problem, and everything turned out OK.

After interviewing us and evaluating the dog (named Daisy Mae) Shelly Ferger decided to try training, even though the dog was not the breed normally used for an assistance dog.

The training was going well, but then we had a family disaster and had to go out of town for months. We finally got back home, settled down, and got back to training. With the expert training by Shelly and Patty Schell we went to work with Daisy.

The training was hard work and it took a while, but it was worth it. Now Daisy will get us up when the alarm clock goes off, alert us when the smoke alarm sounds, go get my husband when I need him, go get me when he needs me. They supplied us with a 911 phone which the dog can tap if one of us gets hurt and/or needs emergency care. Another good benefit has been that she has gone from an almost uncontrollable dog to a well-behaved dog.

This has been a wonderful experience and was handled very professionally. We would like to thank Shelly and Patty from the bottom of our hearts. This may save our life someday, and it certainly makes everyday living better. We also would like to thank all the people who have donated to Dogs For Life, without whom none of this would have been possible.



**Hildegard & Daisy Mae
Certified Hearing Guide Dog Team**



Inside This Issue

DFL Certifies Hearing Guide Dog Team Hildegard & Daisy	1
Pet Assisted Therapy Read to Dogs	2
6th Annual Howl-O-Ween Doggie Pawrade at the Off-Leash Dog Park	3
Consider DFL in your year-end Giving	4

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints. The prints are of two sizes and are scattered across the white background in a non-uniform, random-like distribution.

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

**6th Annual Doggie Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade
at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park 12 St & 16 Ave
A Howling Success – with 60 dogs in costume**



Photos by Tom Smoyer



Pet Therapy



"I Read to Eddie!"

Special Thank You to:
Exchange Club
Treasure Coast Pilot Club
Kiwanis of Vero Beach
Who awarded grants to DFL
toward our Pet Assisted
Therapy Program

School children love early dismissal days, but the students in Mrs. Norling's fourth grade class at Lakewood Park Elementary have an extra-special reason to look forward to "early out" days: That's when their friend Eddie comes to school. Eddie, a black and tan dachshund mix, loves to listen to children read. Students from all grades and reading levels sign up in advance to read to Eddie.

"If I mess up, I don't think he really cares at all," says Sonide, who is still learning to speak English, as well as to read, write, and to do math. More than half of Sonide's classmates are ESOL students, who speak Spanish or Haitian Creole at home. It's not easy to encourage a struggling ten year old reader to read aloud, but Eddie does exactly that, with his calm eyes and gently wagging tail.



Lakewood Park's Reading Coach, Judith Cimino, has watched the magic of *Read to Dogs* with much interest. "The expression on the faces of the child and the dog clearly shows the pleasure felt by both in the activity," she explains. "The trust and affection the children have for Eddie is transferred to the once hated activity of reading."

So reluctant readers eagerly sign up to read to Eddie, and can't wait for him to return. "I can't even sleep at night when Eddie is coming to school," exclaims Fredline. "I can't wait to read to Eddie and look in his sparkly brown eyes."



Read to Dogs was a favorite activity at the school's Family Reading Night, when Eddie listened to over 27 students from preschool age to middle schoolers read books about dogs while lounging on bean bag chairs in the library.

When a very sad kindergartner said, "I can't read to the doggie because I don't know how to read yet," she was encouraged to share the pictures in her book with Eddie. She carefully described every picture to the patient pup, who really appeared to be listening.



Darrae Norling and Eddie at the Vero Beach Book Festival

Mrs. Norling has another dog, Gus, who recently passed his AKC Canine Good Citizen test with Dogs for Life and is "in training" to become a *Read to Dogs* dog. Who is training him for this important job? Mrs. Norling's students, of course. After all, they consider themselves experts on the subject.



"The future is bright for these lucky children - as avid readers and dog lovers!"

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

SEPTEMBER

Park on Short Leash

Dog park may be on short leash



ELINOR CLINTON OF VERO BEACH HUGS LUCY, A BLOODHOUND, WHILE HANGING OUT SATURDAY WITH HER DOG, SCHNITZEL, NOT PICTURED, AT THE BEST FRIENDS OFF-LEASH DOG PARK IN VERO BEACH. THE PARK IS IN DANGER OF CLOSING DEC. 1 IF DOGS FOR LIFE, THE ORGANIZATION THAT RUNS THE PARK, IS NOT ABLE TO RAISE

SARAH GRILE • sarah.grile@scripps

SECTION B • SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2007 • TCPALM.COM

Indian River County

Facility may close if pet group can't raise funds

BY BARBARA ISENBERG
Correspondent

VERO BEACH — A popular off-leash dog park just beyond the municipal boundaries of Vero Beach will close Dec. 1 unless park supporters can raise \$275,000 to buy the 4½-acre park site and cover its \$30,000 annual operating budget.

According to Dogs for Life, Inc. founder Shelly Ferger, the organization is leasing the park from owners who wish to sell the land. However, the owners are willing to sell it to the group for well below its current market assessment of \$450,000.

"The property owner offered the park site to us for a bargain sale price good until Dec. 1," Ferger

said. "We don't know what will happen after that time."

"Best Friends" off-leash dog park, at 12th Street and 18th Avenue, was originally developed and funded by donors in 1999 and since 2002 run by DFL, a nonprofit that trains assistance and therapy dogs, and also promotes the needs of dog owners seeking exercise and socialization for their pets.

During the eight years the dog park has existed, pet owners wishing to use the facility have paid memberships or \$10 "pay-as-you-go" fees to offset park operating costs.

However, DFL says fees have been insufficient to cover the operating budget, and the pending sale of the park property further jeopardizes the off-leash program.

To save the park, the nonprofit sent a letter and brochure to dog park supporters outlining a plan to keep the park going.

Efforts to save the park include a request that DFL and dog park members "make an immediate and substantial tax-deductible pledge" toward the property's purchase price. An additional two-year pledge commitment to secure operating funds is also being sought.

Additional options include forming a co-op group to purchase the property, as well as seeking private investors to purchase the property as an investment opportunity.

Dog park supporters may also form a citizens' group to lobby Vero Beach and Indian River County elected officials to buy the park property and operate it as a free, open-to-the-public dog park.

Last month, Sebastian city officials pleased dog-owning residents by approving a half-acre municipal dog park. They are the only dog parks in the county.

TCPALM.COM
FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES
POOCHES ON PARADE
Is there a need for a dog park in Vero Beach?

BEST FRIENDS DOG PARK

- 12th Street and 18th Avenue
- Run by Dogs for Life, Inc., a non-profit organization that trains assistance and therapy dogs
- Paid memberships or \$10 "pay-as-you-go" fees to offset park operating costs
- There's a three-month "Free-for-Three" program in which qualified, pre-screened dogs are given free access to the park from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30.
- Dog screenings and dog park orientation for owners are required and may be made by calling Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

Vero Beach dog park may be on short leash

Facility may close if pet group can't raise funds

By BARBARA ISENBERG Correspondent

Sunday, September 9, 2007

VERO BEACH — A popular off-leash dog park just beyond the municipal boundaries of Vero Beach will close Dec. 1 unless park supporters can raise \$275,000 to buy the 4½-acre park site and cover its \$30,000 annual operating budget.

According to Dogs for Life, Inc. founder Shelly Ferger, the organization is leasing the park from owners who wish to sell the land. However, the owners are willing to sell it to the group for well below its current market assessment of \$450,000.

"The property owner offered the park site to us for a bargain sale price good until Dec. 1," Ferger said. "We don't know what will happen after that time."

"Best Friends" off-leash dog park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, was originally developed and funded by donors in 1999 and since 2002 run by DFL, a nonprofit that trains assistance and therapy dogs, and also promotes the needs of dog owners seeking exercise and socialization for their pets.

During the eight years the dog park has existed, pet owners wishing to use the facility have paid memberships or \$10 "pay-as-you-go" fees to offset park operating costs.

However, DFL says fees have been insufficient to cover the operating budget, and the pending sale of the park property further jeopardizes the off-leash program.

To save the park, the nonprofit sent a letter and brochure to dog park supporters outlining a plan to keep the park going.

Efforts to save the park include a request that DFL and dog park members "make an immediate and substantial tax-deductible pledge" toward the property's purchase price. An additional two-year pledge commitment to secure operating funds is also being sought.

Additional options include forming a co-op group to purchase the property, as well as seeking private investors to purchase the property as an investment opportunity.

Dog park supporters may also form a citizens' group to lobby Vero Beach and Indian

River County elected officials to buy the park property and operate it as a free, open-to-the-public dog park.

Last month, Sebastian city officials pleased dog-owning residents by approving a half-acre municipal dog park. They are the only dog parks in the county.

BEST FRIENDS DOG PARK

- 12th Street and 16th Avenue
- Run by Dogs For Life, Inc., a nonprofit organization that trains assistance and therapy dogs
- Paid memberships or \$10 "pay-as-you-go" fees to offset park operating costs
- There's a three-month "Free-for-Three" program in which qualified, pre-screened dogs are given free access to the park from Sept. 1 through Nov. 30.
- Dog screenings and dog park orientation for owners are required and may be made by calling Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.



© 2007 S

Winks and Bun Certify as Hearing Guide Dog Team with Dogs for Life, Inc.



Winks and Bun

**Your dog may
qualify as an
assistance dog,
contact
Dogs for Life, Inc.**

Bun Alerts Winks to:

- Someone knocking at the door
- A phone ringing
- The smoke alarm
- The alarm clock



**Dogs
for Life**

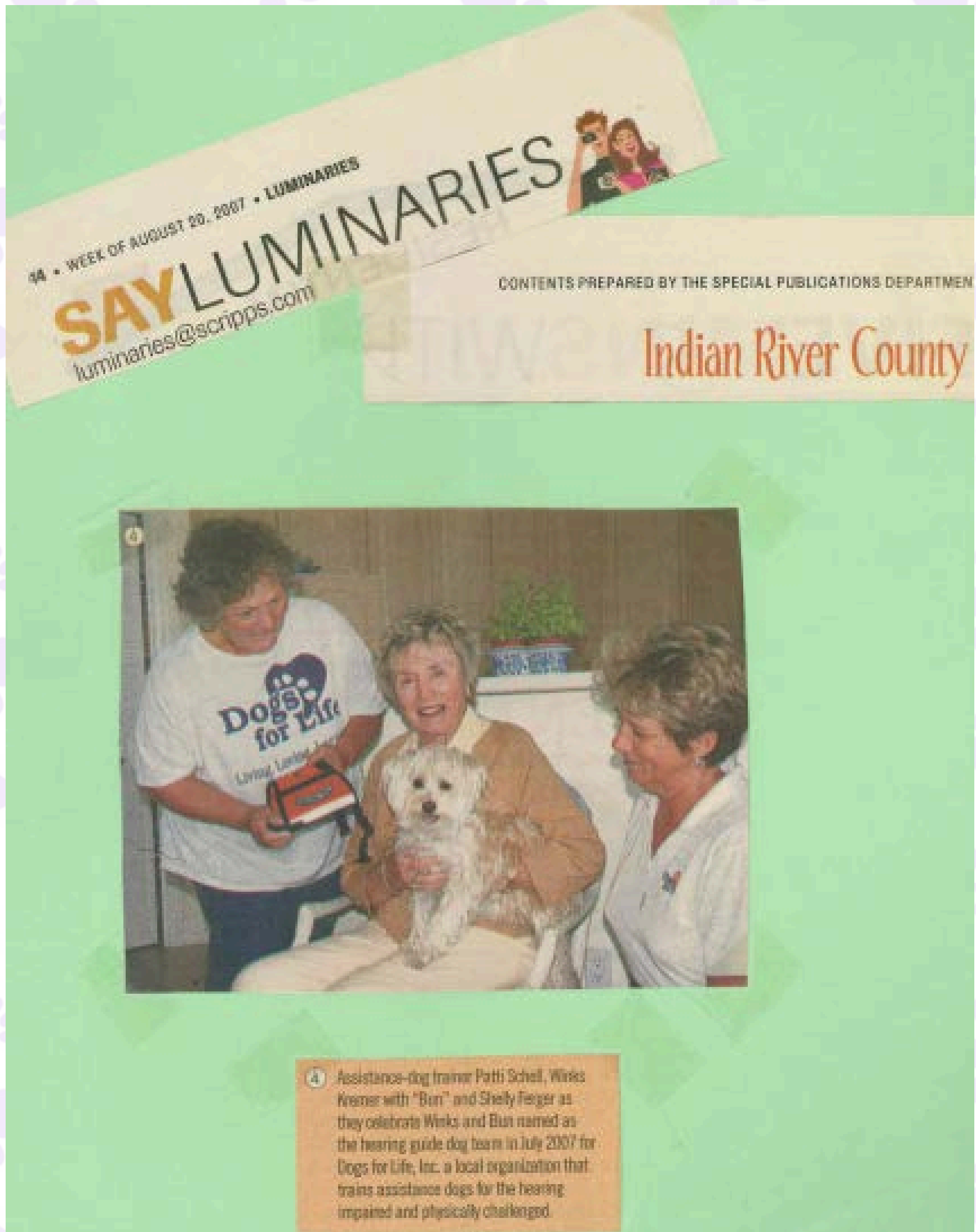
Living, Loving, Learning

www.tepalm.com

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
772.567.8969 • www.dogsforlifefvb.org
Off-Leash Dog Park located on 12th Street and 16th Avenue

nter=1/

Pet Assistance Therapy



YOUR DOG MAY QUALIFY TO TELL YOU:

- The phone is ringing
- Someone is knocking at the door
- The smoke alarm has sounded
- The alarm clock is ringing
- Something is making noise outside



Précious taps an emergency phone for Dan



Max picks up items Kelly dropped

YOUR DOG MAY QUALIFY TO BE TRAINED TO:

- Tap an emergency phone
- Pick up items you drop
- Help pull you up from a chair



Bun alerts Winks to a knock at the door.

DFL, the only agency on the Treasure Coast that trains assistance dogs, your dog in your home.

Dogs for Life
Live, Love, Learn

Contact Dogs for Life for additional information.

567-8969 • Vero Beach

18 • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2007 • LUMINARIES

BRIGHTLIGHTS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com



Indian River County

PET CALENDAR

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

MONDAY

Canine Dog Obedience/Behavior Classes, Village Pet Shop, 964 12th St., Vero Beach, 6:30 p.m. Registration: (772) 567-8968.

The importance of reading

Under the direction of volunteer board members Barbara Levere, Bob Bond, Matt McCain, Marty Zickert, Barbara Mohler, Christina Tascon, Judy Avril, Chris Bieber, Kerry Pirth and Joh Benmitt, the Literacy Services of Indian River County, Inc. has joined forces with the Vero Beach Book Center to create a Fun Family Literacy Festival from 2-4 p.m. on Oct. 13. The event is free and promises to have lots of fun activities at the Vero Beach Children's Book Center. Included will be a talk by popular children's author Leslie McGuirk about her latest Halloween book, a scavenger hunt, cooking with local chef and author Ann Devaney, plus various games, face painting and reading to the Dogs for Life Pet Therapy. Local Hibiscus Pageant winner Jessica Gable will kick off the scavenger hunt at 2 p.m. Call (772) 778-2223 for more information or visit www.literacyservicesinc.org.

Program helps returning veterans

BY JOE CRANKSHAW
joe.crankshaw@scripps.com

PORT ST. LUCIE — When Frank Howard came home from the Vietnam War, people spit on him in the street. "They didn't like the war and they didn't like me," he said. Howard did three tours of duty in Vietnam, his last at age 21 as a captain and military adviser to a South Vietnamese Army division.

Now he and his comrades in the American Legion Post 318 of Port St. Lucie, are working to ensure a different reception for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, especially se-

verely wounded men and women.

The post will join others across the country in a program called Heroes to Hometowns, to help communities and the severely wounded embrace one another and to provide a support network for the soldiers and their families. The help, Howard said, could be financial, legal, social services or just someone to talk to during the readjustment from the military to civilian life.

The Department of Defense notifies the post when a local veteran is wounded. It is kept informed of the hospitals to which the wounded war-

rior is sent, and when he may be sent home. The post members then find out the special needs of the service person and their family, then they prepare a welcome-home ceremony and try to meet as many of the family's needs as possible.

The AMVETS also are helping, Howard said.

One of their first efforts will be a fundraiser called Vets Fest, scheduled from 4 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Tradition Field in St. Lucie West.

"We hope to raise about \$15,000 for the fund, and then hold frequent fundraisers in the years ahead. These

VETS FEST

Where: Tradition Field, 527 NW Peacock Blvd., St. Lucie West

When: 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday

What: Live entertainment, classic car show, arts, crafts, food, soda

Admission: \$10 per car, \$5 per motorcycle and \$2 per passenger for buses

men and women are going to need help for a very long time," said Howard.

Treasure
SECTION 8 • MONDAY, 5

The guide TO YOUR WEEKEND

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

SATURDAY

Animals

Dogs for Life: Off-leash dog park; dogs play for free September-November; 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Owners must attend dog park orientation by appointment. (772) 567-8969.

4-H Dog Masters Club: For youth ages 8-18, organizational meeting. Dogs for Life Inc. off-leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, 10 a.m., Saturday. (772) 567-8969.
Agility/AKC Canine Good Citizens: Classes. Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 9 a.m. Registration: (772) 567-8969.

Dogs for Life: Off-leash dog park; dogs play for free September-November. 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Owners must attend dog park orientation by appointment. (772) 567-8969.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007 • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • YOURHUB.COM • 17

Little Buns gets certified for public access as hearing assistance dog

Dogs For Life trained the 2-year-old Yorkiepoo to perform many tasks for its owner.

BY SHELLEY FERGER
Posted on YourHub.com

Dogs for Life Inc., a local nonprofit organization that provides assistance dog training, has certified another hearing guide dog team.

In July, after eight months of training, Claire Kremer and Bun received full public access certification.

From temperament evaluation to basic dog obedience class to alerting to

four different sounds and tapping a 911 emergency phone, Kremer and her almost 2-year-old Yorkiepoo named Bun now hold certification for Bun to accompany her in public places.

After Bun passed her initial temperament screening, and received her AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate, DFL assistance dog trainers Patti Schell and Shelley Ferger met with Kremer and Bun each week in their home and about town for training sessions.

The first sound Bun was trained to respond to was someone knocking at the door. Bun makes contact with Kremer and takes her to the source of the sound.

The second command was teaching Bun to tap a (made for dogs) 911 phone

in the event of an emergency. Bun then moved on to the sound that is the most fun, jumping up and down on her, waking her when the alarm clock rings.

And, of course recognizing the life-saving sound of the smoke alarm was also perfected during the training process.

DFL trains volunteers and their dogs for pet-assisted therapy and manages the "Best Friends" off-leash dog park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

DFL also trains mobility assistance dogs for the physically challenged. Contact our office in Vero Beach at (772) 567-8969, dogsforlifefvb@bellsouth.net or visit our Web site www.dogsforlifefvb.org for additional information on our programs.



CAROL PENA • Posted on YourHub.com
Bun, with Claire Kremer, is a Certified Hearing Dog.

Pet Assisted Therapy Pet Partner Team



Wallace Ferger



Pet Assisted Therapy Pet Partner Team



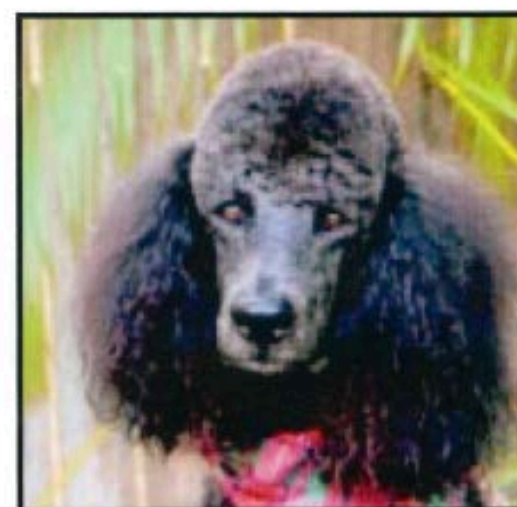
Sabrina Ferger

Service Dog
“Certified” In-Home



Duke

Service Dog
“Certified”



Max

Pet Assisted Therapy Pet Partner Team

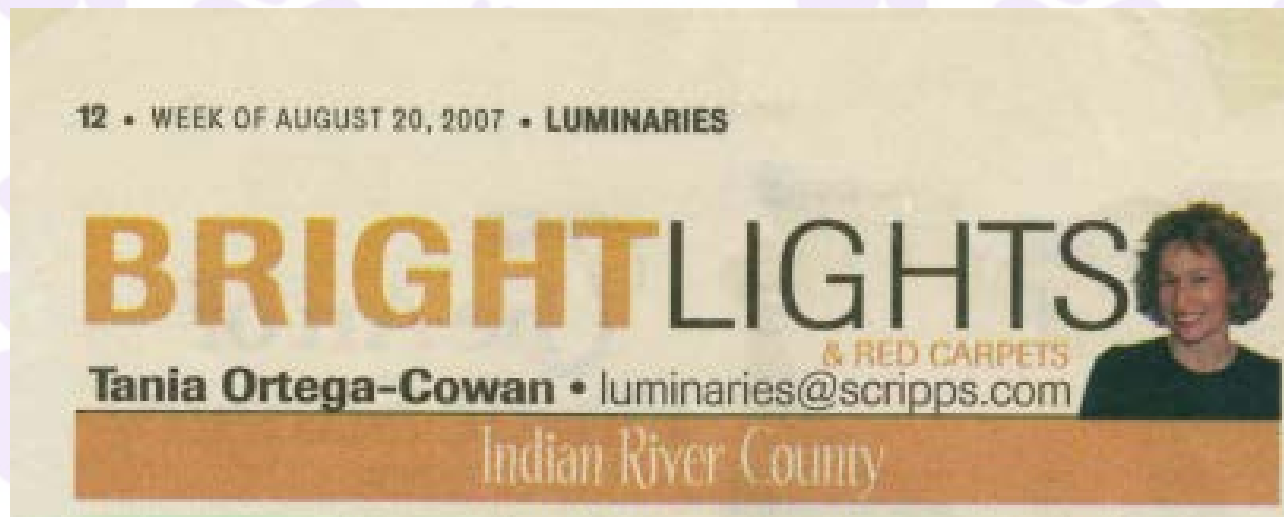


Sandy Plagens
& Shiloh

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

AUGUST

Service Dogs



Best friends for life

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) is a local non-profit organization that trains assistance dogs for the hearing impaired and physically challenged. President Susan Myers, vice-president Barbara Patten, treasurer Richard Leffew, past president Mim Dunn, Michael Clyne, Sharon Marshall, Lee Munsick, Darrae Norling and Dawn Redstone are the new officers and members for the 2007-2008 Season. They also train volunteers with their dogs for pet-assisted therapy for local schools and senior and children's centers. The group is currently operating the "Best Friends" off leash dog park in Vero Beach. Membership to DFL is open to all who wish to join, and membership to the off leash dog park is open to dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social. Contact them at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, or visit dogsforlifevb.org.

Service or balance dogs extend disabled person's five senses

The role of service dogs has become much more than as a guide for the visually impaired.

Some dogs are trained to assist people with hearing impairments, alerting them to door bells, telephones, baby cries and other signals.

Many people with disabilities other than vision or hearing are discovering the benefits of a balance or service dog.

Multiple sclerosis typically affects everyday activities such as getting out of bed or



dis-ABILITIES
ALLAN APPEL

using a chair. Fatigue is a common symptom of MS. These dogs can be trained to sense when a person is tired and gently nudge the handler to a chair or sofa.

Service dogs can perform other common tasks, including picking up dropped items, such as a pen or keys, or turn-

ing on or off lights in the house. They can be trained to push buttons in an elevator or guide someone from room to room.

The dogs can even be trained to discreetly hide under a table in a restaurant. Yes, these service dogs have every right to be anywhere a person can be.

Some of the more common breeds trained as balance dogs are golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers, but many other breeds have been found

to be suitable.

A number of important factors need to be considered when deciding about a balance dog. Most important is determining the handler's ability to care for the dog. Think seriously about whether the person's level of disability warrants the use of such an animal.

A thorough health screening of the dog must also be done, as well as considering the dog's temperament.

Balance dogs can be ob-

tained from several sources, including dog breeders, breed clubs or referrals from local veterinarians.

The cost to obtain such a dog can vary dramatically as well, depending on the source. Contact a local chapter of an organization serving people with disabilities (e.g., MS Society, Easter Seals, etc.) for information about financial assistance that may be available.

Assistance dog organizations are incredible sources of information about every as-

pect of owning this kind of special animal. Check out the Web sites of The International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (www.iaadp.org), Assistance Dogs International (www.assistedogsinternational.com) and The Assistance Dog Trainer's Network (www.thedogsite.org/new).

Write Allan Appel c/o Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, 1939 S. Federal Highway, P.O. Box 9009, Stuart, FL 34994, or e-mail at aappel223@yahoo.com.

Service animals alert humans to impending medical emergency



MATTHEW RATAJCZAK • matthew.ratajczak@scripps.com

Don Pichie and his dog Sam are greeted by waitress Betty Wasson at J.J. Plum's Cafe II in Fort Pierce on Friday morning during breakfast. Pichie, who has diabetes, takes Sam with him everywhere he goes after learning he can tell when his blood sugar is low.

ABOUT SERVICE ANIMALS

What is a service animal? Florida Law F.S. 413.08 defines service animals as those trained to assist humans covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act in seeing, hearing, detecting seizures and other medical conditions. A service animal may be a dog, but it could also be other species including monkeys. In one case, a miniature pony is classified as a service animal.

What do service animals do? They act as guide dogs (seeing eyes), pull wheelchairs, alert deaf people to sounds and detect medical conditions.

Who certifies service animals? There is no national certification, and disabled persons with service dogs may not be asked to show proof of a dog's training. The animals are covered by state law, which specifies guidelines for their behavior. Nonprofit organizations such as Service Animals Registry of America in Midlothian, Texas, will register animals in a national database.

LOCAL TRAINING

There is one agency on the Treasure Coast, Dogs For Life in Vero Beach, that provides in-home training for service dogs, after they have been screened for temperament. The nonprofit agency operates mainly in Indian River County. Call Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-6969.

BY JOE CRANKSHAW

joe.crankshaw@scripps.com

WHITE CITY — Sam is a smart dog, maybe smarter than most. At least that is what Don and Dawne Pichie of Dunn Road think.

Sam warns Don, 63, whenever his blood sugar level drops dangerously. For a diabetic, that can be an important warning.

"Before we had Sam," said Dawne, 55, "Don would have as many incidents as 20 times a year."

As an insulin-dependent diabetic, Don Pichie needs to keep a close watch on his blood sugar level, which can fluctuate on an hourly basis. If the level drops too low, he could go into a coma. If he happened to be driving, the results could be catastrophic. Diabetics normally test their blood sugar levels at least one to three times a day, but they can be distracted like anyone else, and forget to check.

Now Sam does the checking almost automatically. "And we haven't had one emergency since we got him," said Dawne.

Sam is a fluffy white bichon frise given to the Pichies by a Stuart friend who rescues dogs.

"We didn't do anything to

train him," said Don. "He showed us his talent. He started sniffing, licking and whining around me but it took a while to catch on that he was trying to warn me."

The couple took him to obedience school and had him certified as a service dog. Now Sam goes everywhere with Don. He rides along in the truck, goes into restaurants, bars and other places while Don works on chairs and bar stools.

Sometimes there are problems because store and restaurant owners don't want Sam inside. "They think only 'seeing eye' or guide dogs are covered by Florida's laws," said

Don, "but Sam and a lot of other dogs are included."

No one seems sure how Sam or other service dogs do what they do. Scientists at Auburn University's School of Veterinary Medicine in Alabama,

Florida State University's Sensory Research Institute and University of Florida's School of Veterinary Medicine are studying service dogs. But no one is certain whether they read body language or detect scents associated with medical problems.

Shelly Ferger, who operates

Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, said she thinks service dogs, such as Sam, use odors exuded by the patient as their cue.

In England, physicians say they are using dogs in the early detection of cancer but

they cannot explain how dogs accomplish their tasks.

Don Pichie isn't certain how Sam does his job, nor about the scientific debate over what dogs are doing.

Winks and Bun Certify as Hearing Guide Dog Team with Dogs for Life, Inc.



Winks and Bun

Your dog may
qualify as an
assistance dog,
contact
Dogs for Life, Inc.

Bun Alerts Winks to:

- Someone knocking at the door
- A phone ringing
- The smoke alarm
- The alarm clock



**Dogs
for Life**
Living, Loving, Learning

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965

772.567.8969 • www.dogsforlifefvb.org

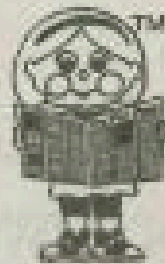
Off-Leash Dog Park located on 12th Street and 16th Avenue

Dog Park

BB • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2007



SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS
NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION



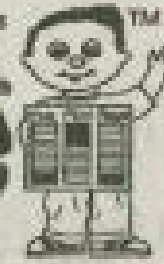
Especially

for

kids

and their

families



The Mini Page

Developed by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers
in cooperation with The Mini Page Publishing Company Inc.

Created by BETTY DEBNAM

From The Mini Page © 2007 Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

Hound Heaven

Dog Parks! Bow WOW!

Does your family own a dog? About one in every three households owns at least one dog, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Where does your dog get to play? Lucky dogs get to run in a backyard. But for big dogs, a backyard may not be enough space. Dogs that live in big cities may not even have a backyard.

Dog lovers have found a way to let their pets play. They are building special dog parks across the country.

What is a dog park?

A dog park is a public place set aside for dogs to run and play while off their leashes. It is also a place where humans can enjoy a parklike setting with other people and dogs.

Most communities today have leash laws, and dogs are not allowed to run free in the neighborhood. Dog parks offer a safe, open place for dogs to be off-leash.

Dog parks are often fenced-in parts of people parks where dogs can explore bugs, wild animals, grasses, trees and water, and where they can play with other dogs.



Many dog parks offer a stream or lake for dogs to play in. Some even border the ocean.



These dogs are meeting at a dog park. Dogs learn to play nicely with other dogs, while their human companions get a chance to visit with other pet owners.

Benefits for all

Experts say dog parks are great for dogs and people, too. Some of the benefits include:

- Dogs can exercise safely. Dogs need room to run. In cities, traffic can be a danger to dogs. Dog parks give them enough space to run without having to dodge cars.

- Dogs can play with other dogs. Experts say dogs are not usually aggressive in dog parks. This may surprise people who see their dogs barking and growling at other dogs at home.

But in the dog park, dogs usually realize they don't own that space. Whenever they are in it, there are other dogs. They don't have to defend their territory there.

- Dogs can run free without bothering people who are using the rest of the park for other things, such as jogging or biking.

- Dogs are healthier. Exercise is good for dogs as well as people. If a dog is allowed to run freely, it will stay fit.

- Dog owners can socialize. It can be easier to start talking with strangers in a dog park, because everyone there shares some interests. Experts say talking about dogs can break the ice.

- Dogs who go to dog parks are often better behaved. Healthy, happy dogs don't bark as much at home. They aren't as bored, so they aren't as likely to destroy property back home.

THE MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

Percy: What are dogs afraid of when they go to the animal hospital?

Parker: A cat scan!

Pippin: How are a dog and a marine biologist alike?

Paul: One wags his tail and the other tags a whale!

Peggy: What did the greyhound say when he came in last in the race?

Perry: "Last, but not leashed!"

Dog Parks

Words that remind us of dog parks are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally. See if you can find: RUN, LEASH, PLAY, YARD, PEOPLE, FREE, PUBLIC, SAFE, OPEN, FENCE, OUTDOORS, EXERCISE, TERRITORY, HEALTHY, TALKING, CITIZENS, BARK, STREAM, WATER, PLAYGROUND, CALM.

TRY 'N FIND

PYFBMLCSNEZITIC
ENARADNUORGYPALP
OWVREERSROODTUOW
PAORDEKKCILBUPS
LTPYALPYHTLAESA
EEEMLACKMAERTSF
MRNNURGNIKLATME
ECNEFESICREXEXC
MHSALYROTIRRET

Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy loves to meet up with her dog's friends at the dog park. See if you can find:

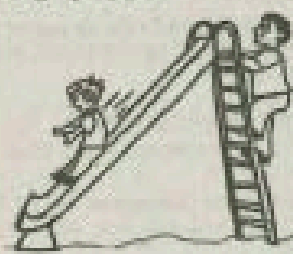
- exclamation point
- question mark
- horse's head
- tooth
- owl
- mug
- umbrella
- wizard
- football
- letter J
- frog
- cat
- mushroom
- letter E
- number 3
- word MINI

More About Dog Parks

Doggie do's and don'ts

It is important that dogs and humans be good citizens when using a dog park. Here are some things to be aware of:

- Remember, a dog park is the dog's playground. It is not a



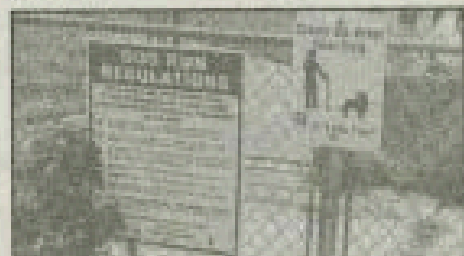
playground for children. Children probably have their own playground in a

different part of the park.

Kids need to learn how to act in a dog park. Many dogs are not used to being around people who are loud and energetic. If kids are running around and making lots of noise, dogs could be scared.

Dogs may not know they have to play differently with small children than with dogs. They may chase a running child or jump up on a child, just as they would with another dog. This could scare the child, even though the dog is just playing.

- If you see a dog coming toward you, stand still with your hands at your sides. Be calm.



Most parks have rules to protect dogs and people.

Next week, The Mini Page is about our presidents' education.



This boy is playing with his dog in a dog park outside Seattle. It is important for children to be calm and quiet in a dog park, or dogs may get too excited.

Many dog parks do not allow children at all. When children are allowed, they should always be with an adult.

- Never touch a strange dog without the owner's permission.
- Do not feed someone else's dog.

Even dog treats might be bad for some dogs. Also, the dog could accidentally nip at kids' fingers when getting the treat.

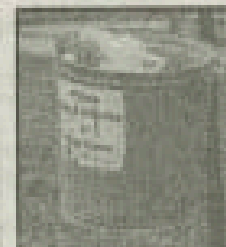


These dogs are having fun chasing each other around an adult's legs, but a small child could get knocked over or scared by running dogs.

The Mini Page thanks Judy Trockel, Serves Our Dog Areas, King County, Wash.; Ruth Schaefer, senior ecologist with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Seattle, Wash.; and Daisy Okra, American Kennel Club, for help with this issue.

Sites to see: www.akc.org
www.soda.org

Look through your newspaper for stories and pictures of pets.

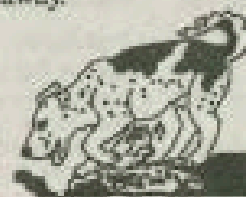


- Pick up after your dog. Most people who use dog parks police the park. They pick up their dog's waste and remind others to do so too. They know if they don't take care of the park, they might lose the privilege. Many dog parks provide plastic bags for dog waste.

- Owners are responsible for dogs that are too aggressive. If your dog does not play well with others, it should be put on a leash and taken away.



- Don't let your dog dig holes in the park.



DOGS MUST BE ON A LEASH WHEN OUTSIDE OF DOG RUN AREA

Put your dog's leash back on as soon as you leave the dog park.



JULY

Assisted Therapy Program



Living, Loving, Learning

Pet Assisted Therapy Program

Date
Name
Title CEO
Organization
Address
City/State/Zip
Phone

Dear ,

We are delighted at the prospect of providing a Pet Assisted Therapy program for your facility.

Using animals as comfort items for children, senior and medical facilities in therapy and education is a relatively new concept. We find that having a clear understanding between our organization and volunteers, and you and your staff, helps things go smoothly and avoids potential difficulties. Our teams receive extensive training and must go through detailed preparation for each visit, and they do their best to conduct themselves with sensitivity and professionalism.

With those things in mind, here is what you your organization can expect from us and what we expect from you in return:

Dogs for Life, Inc. and our volunteer teams will:

1. Assures that all our visiting teams will be registered and certified with Dogs for Life, Inc.
2. Assure that all animals will be clean and well-groomed, up-to-date on all vaccinations and health related needs, including coat, ears, and teeth.
3. Comply with all your organizations policies and procedures and undergo orientation for volunteers as required or desired.
4. Assure that our volunteers are competent dog handlers.
5. Assure that our volunteers understand the importance of confidentiality and agree to sign a confidentiality form if desired.
6. Provide teams to work with your organization on the days/times agreed upon.
7. Provide all appropriate equipment for handling, including but not limited to collar, leads and clean up supplies.
8. Let you know if we must cancel or postpone a session due to illness or emergency.
9. Not visit if an animal is showing signs of illness, skin lesions or undue stress.
10. Always seek permission before taking photographs; request permission to use photos elsewhere and obtain written releases if permission is granted.
11. Never be alone with any student, or leave the organizations premises with student(s) unless:
12. 1) accompanied by staff and 2) release has been obtained by the organization.
13. Provide or participate in documentation and client progress as requested by your organization.
14. Report any incident o you and your staff follow reporting ad documentation protocol as required by your organization.
15. Conduct an evaluation of our program with your organization at least once per year.

The _____ and staff will:

1. Provide Pet Therapy teams with appropriate orientation, not only for general policies and procedure but also 1) what if an incident occurs, 2) where animals may appropriately relieve themselves, etc.
2. Always provide a staff person to accompany our teams.
3. Provide briefing to the team before each session.
4. Participate in periodic de-briefing with our teams.
5. Agree to provide us with information regarding DFL participation in this program at the beginning of the program and at the end, to help us add to our research results about the value of the Trauma Dog program.
6. Let our Volunteer Coordinator know in advance if you need to cancel or reschedule any visits.
7. Notify the Volunteer Coordinator of any illnesses among your clients that may threaten the health of the handler and animal (e.g., lice, chicken pox, measles, etc.)
8. Let our Volunteer Coordinator know if any problem occurs with any of our volunteer teams (person or animal).

Our programs are most successful when there is a strong and healthy coloration between our teams and your staff, with lots of feedback going both ways. We are looking forward to the opportunity to bring the therapeutic benefits of therapy animals to your organization.

Agree:

For _____ Organization

Dogs for Life, Inc. _____

signed
(print name) _____

signed
(print name) _____

Title _____

Title _____

Date _____

Date _____



Living, Loving, Learning

**Pet Assisted Therapy Program
Certification Guidelines
July 2007**

The Dogs for Life, Inc. Pet Assisted Therapy Program consists of the "READ to Dogs" program and the "Trauma Therapy Dog" Program.

This is a Volunteer based program where members of the public participate with their own dogs.

The Certification Guidelines for each program are as follows:

1. Each volunteer is to complete a DFL Application.
2. Each volunteer is to complete a DFL Protocol and Rules of Etiquette form.
3. Each volunteer and their dog (if no previous obedience training) will attend a public basic obedience/behavior class.
4. Each volunteer and their dog will attend an AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) preparation Class. (This is a ten step test that evaluates the dog's obedience training, sociability and reliability). These classes are open to the general public.
5. Each volunteer and their dog are required to pass the AKC CGC test. (exception Pocket Pets)
6. Each volunteer and their dog are required to pass a DFL Public Access test.
7. Each volunteer will attend a DFL Therapy Preparation Class that will cover the following:
 - a) The Therapy Handlers Responsibility
 - i. Human/Animal Interactions - The dog and handler's role in the therapy program,
 - ii. How to handle and get out of problem situations,
 - ii. How to recognize stress in dogs and volunteers,
 - iii. How to prepare for your therapy visit.
8. If training for Health Care Facilities, each volunteer and their dog will attend an orientation with the medical facility coordinator.
9. Each volunteer and their dog will accompany a Certified Pet Assisted Therapy team on at least one visit to a DFL Pet Assisted Therapy Program.



Pet Assisted Therapy
Programs Outline
May 2004

"READ to Dogs"

- Increases literacy skills
- Results in fewer absences
- Raises excitement about reading
- Children have a greater desire to read
- Improves reading scores
- Increases confidence in reading out loud
- Increases self-esteem
- Teaches empathy for animals

"Trauma Therapy Dogs"

- Informal positive animal contact with no specific goals
- Documented with client with patient progress measured
- Teaches how to set appropriate limits and boundaries
- Teaches responsibility, social skills and compassion
- Builds trust, nurturing, play, communication and mental stimulation
- Improves willingness to participate in group interactions with peers and staff
- Less anxious behavior
- Less withdrawn behaviors
- Lowers blood pressure.
- Fosters, affection, empathy, courage, self acceptance and hope

Potential activities to promote emotional healing:

- Counseling sessions that involve dogs can roll play with homeless dogs and "their story"
- Specifics to homeless people vs. homeless dogs and a shelter environment. i.e. what dogs may feel when homeless, how surviving homelessness can help others.

Statistics show therapy with animals yields better behavior, increased calmness, decreased aggression, increased social interaction and increased cooperation.

Dogs for Life, Inc.
Volunteer Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone No. _____ Work Phone No. _____

Please list qualifications that may benefit Dogs for Life Programs:

Do you own a Dog? Y N Would you be interested in your dog participating in DFL Programs? Y N

Dog's Name: _____ Breed: _____

Male Female Neutered: Y N Age: _____

Does your dog have any medical problems?: Y N

If yes explain: _____

Where did you obtain your pet?: _____

How does your dog react when approached by a stranger?: _____

How does your dog react when approached by another dog?: _____

Would you describe your dog as: (circle as many as may apply)

SWEET HAPPY SHY BOLD FEARFUL AGGRESSIVE

I understand that participation in any Dogs for Life, Inc program is not without risk to myself, members of my family or guests. I understand that some of the dogs to which I (we) may be exposed to may be the cause of injury even when handled with the greatest amount of care.

I hereby waive and release, Dogs for Life, Inc. Shelly Ferger, Canine Behavior trainer, her employees, or agents from any and all liability of any nature, for injury or damage which I or my dog may suffer, including specifically, but not without limitations, any injury or damage resulting from the action of any dog, and I expressly assume the risk of any such damage or injury while attending Dogs for Life, programs, or any other function of the Dog Park, or the 4-H Dog Master's Club, or while on the training grounds or the surrounding area thereto.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Protocol for Pet Assisted Therapy Programs

Volunteers are required to: Complete and sign a Volunteer Application and Rules of Etiquette agreement and attend a DFL Therapy Preparation Class which includes the following: Dogs for Life, Inc. Point of Entry Presentation, How Animals are used in therapy and Health Benefits of Animals. Assistance Animals vs. Therapy Animals. DFL Policies and Procedures when visiting a facility – Helpful hints for visits - Handling difficult situations – Techniques for preventing and handling injuries – Situations that require reporting – When not to take your animal on a visit – How to handle your animal when visiting and when leaving – How to recognize and reduce stress in people – how to prevent, recognize and relieve stress in dogs. The Soothing Touch. R.E.A.D. Articles: The Essential Prerequisites - Basic Training & Tools – While with your readers – R.E.A.D. in Alternative Settings - Supporting young readers "General Tools for the Handler".

Dogs required to: Pass an AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and a Public Access Test.

Rules of Etiquette

I understand that Pet Assisted Therapy Animals **do not** have the same legal access rights as Assistance Animals.

Pet Therapy dogs may have public access only if arrangements are made by a DFL Representative with management of a facility or business prior to taking therapy dogs to public places.

Dogs for Life, Inc. trains and certifies Assistance Dogs as well as providing Pet Therapy opportunities to the community. **DFL will not jeopardize Assistance Dog Access rights by having our therapy dog handlers not abide by the law.**

When attending a pre-arranged facility I will sign-in and out. I will also agree to complete a Program Report after each visit.

DFL Therapy dog handlers must agree to the following Rules of Etiquette:

You must treat people with kindness and respect confidentiality at all times. You must be prepared to clean up after your dog at all times. Do not take your dog to programs if they are not feeling well, re: vomiting, diarrhea, sudden behavior changes. Your dog must be clean at all times during therapy visits. Your dog must be up to date on all inoculations. You must handle your dog humanely at all times and protect them from unknown or unstable environments. Dogs will not be handled roughly or corrected while in public places. Dogs must be on a sit stay or a down stay command prior to anyone petting the dog. You will wear your DFL Volunteer shirt and your dog will wear its DFL scarf or vest at all times when representing DFL programs.

If I cannot attend my pre-scheduled program I will notify The DFL Volunteer Coordinator or Facility to which I am scheduled.

I agree to the terms listed above: _____ Date: _____

P.O. Box 650023 • Vero Beach, Florida 32965 • 772.567.8969

Logo designed and donated by DHI Visual Communication

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

MAY

Be Kind to Animals Week

PROCLAMATION

HONORING BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK
MAY 6-12, 2007

WHEREAS, May 6-12, the first full week of May, has been established by the American Humane Association as the annual celebration of the philosophy of kindness to animals for the 93rd year in 2007; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that we have been endowed not only with the blessings and benefits of our animal friends, who give us companionship and great pleasure in our daily lives, but also with a firm responsibility to protect these fellow creatures from pain and suffering by educating citizens on the importance of responsible ownership; and

WHEREAS, Dogs for Life, Inc. a non-profit organization is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance and pet therapy dogs; and

WHEREAS, Dogs for Life, Inc. as part of the "Unleashed" Community Campaign is inviting citizens with dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social, to a free day at Dogs for Life's Off-Leash Dog Park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on May 12, 2007.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA that may 6-12, 2007 is designated as "BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK" in Indian River County.


Adopted this 8th day of May, 2007.




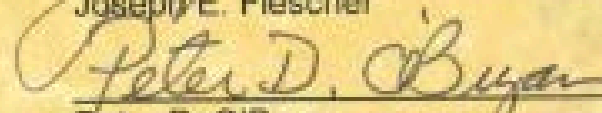
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS,
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA


Gary C. Wheeler, Chairman

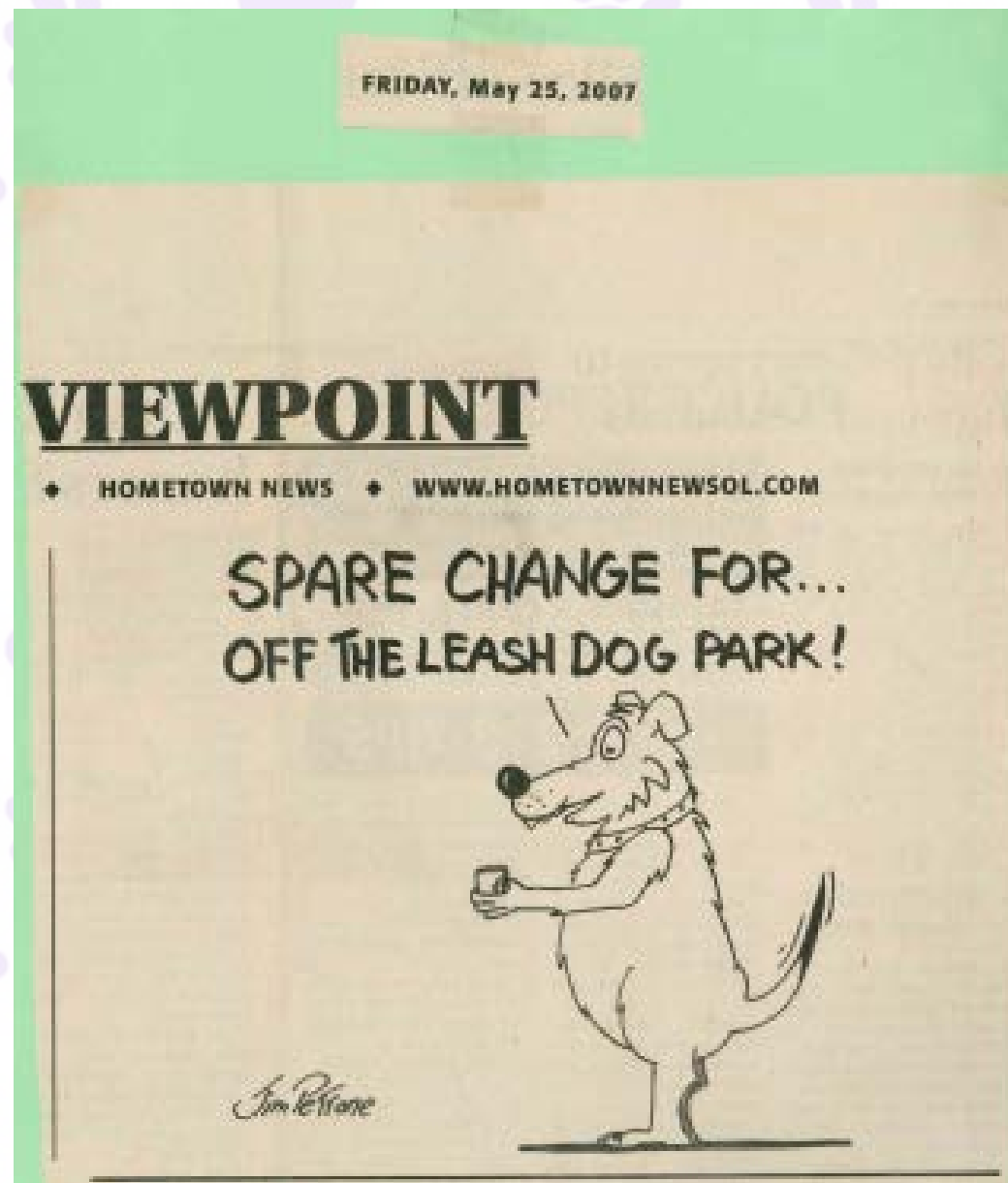

Sandra L. Bowden, Vice Chairman


Wesley S. Davis


Joseph E. Flescher


Peter D. O'Bryan

Park Donors



Indian River County

SECTION B • TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2007 • TCPALM.COM

Without donors, dog park is in the doghouse

BY ELLIOTT JONES
elliot.jones@tropic.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Mitti, the young Springer Spaniel, comes to her owner, retired Blogger Blogger, daily at 5 p.m. and makes some low noises, indicating it is time to go home.

"She's the babe of the park," said Blogger of the private, off-leash dog park they go to across the street on 14th Avenue.

"The other dogs like to play with her," as Blogger, 68, and her husband, Victor, 62, sit on the benches.

Those good times could end.

Despite being in a leash-on county with about 40,000 dogs, the only private off-leash dog park in the county could close. The Dogs for Life group faces closing its park in July, unless it can come up with \$225,000 to buy the 4½-acre it leases at the corner of 14th Street and 14th Avenue in Vero Beach, said the group's executive director Shelly Forger.

So far, her 150-family organization has raised \$50,000 of the property's \$225,000 asking price.

"We are at a last-ditch effort," she said, adding up to 10 dogs run in the park daily.

The lease ends July 14.

Originally, the park was planned to close in February, but an anonymous donor offered the full purchase price. That offer, however, was recently withdrawn because of limitations on the trust from which the money would have come, Forger said.

"That put us right back where we were in February: facing closing the park," she said.

If her park closes, the only remaining off-leash park is on city-owned land at Vero Beach's MacWilliam Park near the east end of the Merrill Barber Bridge.

Otherwise, most dog owners apparently prefer to just take their pets for walks in neighborhoods where they are supposed to be on leashes, said Indian River Animal Control Manager Jason Ogilvie.

MacWilliam Park is open to all dogs for free, except to sidewalk, a city official said.

Dogs for Life members pay \$30 a year for a facility where dogs are screened for being sociable and monitored or spayed. Or people may pay \$200 for six months, but the fee ap-

pear to be is too high for most people.

To boost membership, the group has started allowing people to pay a \$12 a day pay-as-you-go plan on either Wednesday or Saturday, when an attendant is available. To use that system, people need to pay a \$25 registration fee. Dogs used as guides are admitted for free.

Forger says fees could be kept lower if her group owned the land and didn't have a \$3,000-a-year lease.

What paying members get is a private, fenced park where their dogs can run free, helping maintain the dogs' health, she said. The eight-year-old park has \$100,000 in improvements including landscaping, she said.

"There is no other place like it," she said.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Forger at (772) 567-6262.

If the park closes, "My dog would be lost without it," Blogger said.

The other alternative would be buying another dog to keep Mitti company at home. She and her sitting husband would be afraid to take her dog for a walk elsewhere.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY'S DOG LEASH RULES:

- Under the county's leash law, dogs are supposed to be on a leash except when on the owner's land or on property the owner has permission to use. The county also enforces these rules in the office of Sebastian and Melbourne, Vero Beach and Indian River. All areas have similar rules.
- Central recently passed an ordinance allowing dogs either on leash or under voice control of the owner on the beaches.
- About half of the county's 300 animal dog-law citations are for dogs being off-leash. The remainder are for not having a county dog tag.
- First-time violators are warned. Repeat violators can face a \$15 fine or be ordered to appear before a county judge.
- "The reason we require leashes is to keep people from being bit, dogs fighting and yards being messed up," said Jason Ogilvie, manager of Indian River Animal Control.

Indian River Animal Control

Judy Saucerman

From: Dogs For Life [DogsForLifeVB@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, May 22, 2007 4:05 PM
To: 4-H Cletzer, David A; 4-H Violet; 4-H Kelly-Begazo, Christine A; Adache, Marcia; Amstutz, Holly; Anderson, Delphine; Andrews, Jean; barkavenuepetspecialties@yahoo.com; Bartkus, Ellen; Bartlett, Kerry; Bell, Dan & Maryanne; Bengyak, Elinor; Berg, Tracy; Bodnar, Barbara; Bogin, Wenda; Brown, Lisa; Brown, Pat; Burnett, Ed; Campbell, Sally; Carlson, Gay; Chandler, Penny; Chapman, Shirley; Clyne, Mike; Collins, Clay; Colmey, Kelly; Constantino, Brenda; Cornell, Deborah; Cousin, Laura; Cousins, Bobbie; Cunningham, Hugh; DeBiase, Toni; Dill, Holly; DiSarro, Shara; Driver, Laura; Dunn, Mim; Dupree, Dr & Phyl; Emerson, Betsy; English, Sharon; Ferger, Helen; Ford, Anne; Fretwell, Bethany; Greenbaum, Barbara; Hale, Steve; Hatch, Mary Margaret; Hinzman-Mills, Terri; Hometown News; House, Debbie; Hustead, Jane; Jacobson, Judy; Jaffee, Liz; Kelly, Audrey; Kenyon, France; King, Pam; Knight, Marilyn; Kremer, Clare; LaPine, Fran; Lee, Kathy; Leffew, Richard; LoPresti, Elita; Lowenstein, Sheila; Marshall, Duane; Marshall, Sharon; McDonald, Ellen; McHugh, Jean; Miller, Carl; Mitchell, Mary; Montgomery, Gayle; Munsick, Lee; Myers, Susan; Nelson, Maria; Norling, Darrae; Patten, Barbara; Pena, Carol; Petersen, Charlotte; Plagens, Sandy; Redstone, Dawn; Richards, Mark; Riley, Janet; Ritchie, Lenora; Ruma, Kay; Saucerman, Judy; Saucerman, Stormie; Schell, Patti; Schlitt, Craig; Schober, Alberta; Severt, Janet; Sheppard, Faye; Smith, L&H; Smith, Merlene; Smith, Michelle; Snell, Dr. Molly; Spirakus, Doris; Stevens, Connie; Stryker, Beth; Sullivan, Nikki; Swift, Macy; Thompson, Barbara; Tripson, Melissa; VanHooser, Paula; VB Printing; Westphalen, Sally; Whitney, Ann; Whittle, Maria; Wilson, Rich & Laura; Woodruff, Jocelyn; Yount, Susan
Cc: Dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: DFL Dog Park Update

As most of you are probably aware, after a month long dialogue with Elliott Jones at the Press Journal, DFL's effort to print an article to help save the off-leash dog park was finally printed today on the front of the Indian River County section.

What the article did not say (even though it was reported by DFL to Mr. Jones) is that DFL is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible non-profit organization that manages the off-leash dog park in an effort to help subsidize their assistance dog and pet therapy dog training programs that provide services to hearing and mobility impaired residents as well as non profit children and senior centers in Vero Beach.

Mr. Jones also quoted a "city official" as saying the city operated dog park was open from sunup to sundown. I have just been informed by VB City Recreation Dept that the hours of the city dog park operation are 5:30 AM to 8 AM. And, he failed to mention that the city dog park is not fenced and located next to a busy marina and public street. He did mention three times however that the DFL dog park is "private". The DFL Dog Park is open to the public that have qualifying dogs (inoculated, neutered and social), are willing to follow the rules and pay a membership fee. (all parks have to be managed and maintained).

Over the past eight years, DFL has come to realize that membership fees will not continue to pay expenses at the dog park. In an effort to keep the dog park open we are looking for the community to donate the needed funds (\$275,000) to purchase the property so that we may offer a more affordable membership fee thereby increasing the number of dogs and people in the community that may access an established, safe and well managed dog park.

Elliott did report on the positive effects a dog park has for the senior population in a

5/22/2007

community, affording them a safe place to exercise their dogs that otherwise would not allow them the benefit of owning a dog.

DFL also realizes that a community that supports a dog park makes a statement that it is a better place to live.

The Good News is that just today TV 10 filmed a segment at the park that will air tonight between 9 PM - 11 PM.
WTTB has asked for a phone interview to air on their station Thursday at 8:15 AM

And, just today DFL has received a \$10,000 and a \$25,000 pledge toward the dog park purchase.

Thank you to each of you to help spread the word on DFL's community programs and WHY we want to save the DFL Off-leash dog park.

Sincerely,
Shelly



Shelly Ferger
Executive Director
Dogs for Life, Inc.
PO Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969

VERO BEACH Hometown

News

Drive started to keep dog park open

By WARREN KAGARISE
Staff writer

VERO BEACH — Throw them a bone.

In February, members of Dogs for Life had been promised a hefty donation to keep their off-leash dog park open.

But late last month, the anonymous donor said the promised \$275,000 would not be delivered, due to unspecified limitations with the trust that would have funded the donation.

"Due to trust limitations," said Shelly Ferger, the executive director of Dogs for Life. "Those words will go down in infamy."

The park, located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, near Vero Beach High School, is the city's only off-leash park. Its members founded the park a

Friday, May 11, 2007



Dogs romp at the Dogs For Life off-leash dog park in Vero Beach earlier this spring. The park, which features a canine-level water fountain, could be sold if its members do not raise \$275,000 to buy the site. The park is located near the intersection of 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

Photo courtesy of Michael Clyne of Dogs For Life

Park

From page A1

decade ago.

Ms. Ferger, though grateful that the money was promised initially, said her members are ready to raise the necessary cash to purchase the park.

"This organization knows how to rally and we've been through an awful lot in the past year," she said.

The park's owner has offered the land to Dogs for Life for \$275,000 — a bargain, Ms. Ferger said. Dogs for Life has until July 15 to purchase the land at that price, she added.

The organization can stay at the park rent-free until Dec. 1.

Though the property is not yet on the market, Ms. Ferger said the owner "wanted to get out of the dog park business."

The decision between the owner and Dogs for Life was amiable, Ms. Ferger said.

To raise money to buy the

park, Dogs for Life launched a fundraising and membership drive in late April.

The organization is offering "collarships," a way for "good dogs with meager means" to enroll at the dog park, Ms. Ferger said.

Additionally, members have hosted fundraisers at their homes.

On Saturday, the park will open its gates for free, part of the effort to lure new members.

Ms. Ferger describes the park's benefits as twofold: The open space allows members' dogs space to play, but Dogs for Life also trains its assistance dogs at the site.

"We'll train our dogs in the parking lot if we have to," Ms. Ferger said.

Assistance dogs are trained to help their owners with everyday tasks that age or illness have made difficult.

For instance, the dogs can pick up dropped keys or dial 911 on a modified phone.

Rufus, a 3-year-old golden retriever, is trained to revive Michael Clyne after a seizure by licking his face and hands until Mr. Clyne gives him a series of verbal commands.

When Mr. Clyne moved to Vero Beach with his wife last June, they looked for a house with a large, fenced yard where Rufus could play. But when their efforts turned out to be fruitless, they relied on the off-leash park.

And as his dog romped with other pooches, Mr. Clyne found friends among fellow owners.

"I've met more people there than anywhere else in Vero Beach by a long shot," said Mr. Clyne, a member of the Dogs for Life board of directors.

If the park closed, "I'd be hit pretty hard," he said.

For more information about Dogs for Life, or to make a donation, contact the organization at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

VERO BEACH Hometown News

Your Local News & Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com

FRIDAY, April 13, 2007

Dog lovers hope to fetch funds for off-leash park

By WARREN KAGARISE
Staff Writer

VERO BEACH — It was Valentine's Day, and Shelly Ferger was heartbroken.

The dog park she had helped open a decade ago was being forced to close, its members no longer able to afford the 2.5-acre stretch of grass.

Ms. Ferger, the executive director of Dogs for Life, was about to receive a sweet surprise: A \$275,000 donation from an anonymous donor that would allow Ms. Ferger and park members to keep the facility open.

"I felt like it was something that was meant to be," Ms. Ferger said.

The donor, who wants to be identified only as the

owner of dogs named Puccini and Ty, was inspired by the members' efforts to keep the park running.

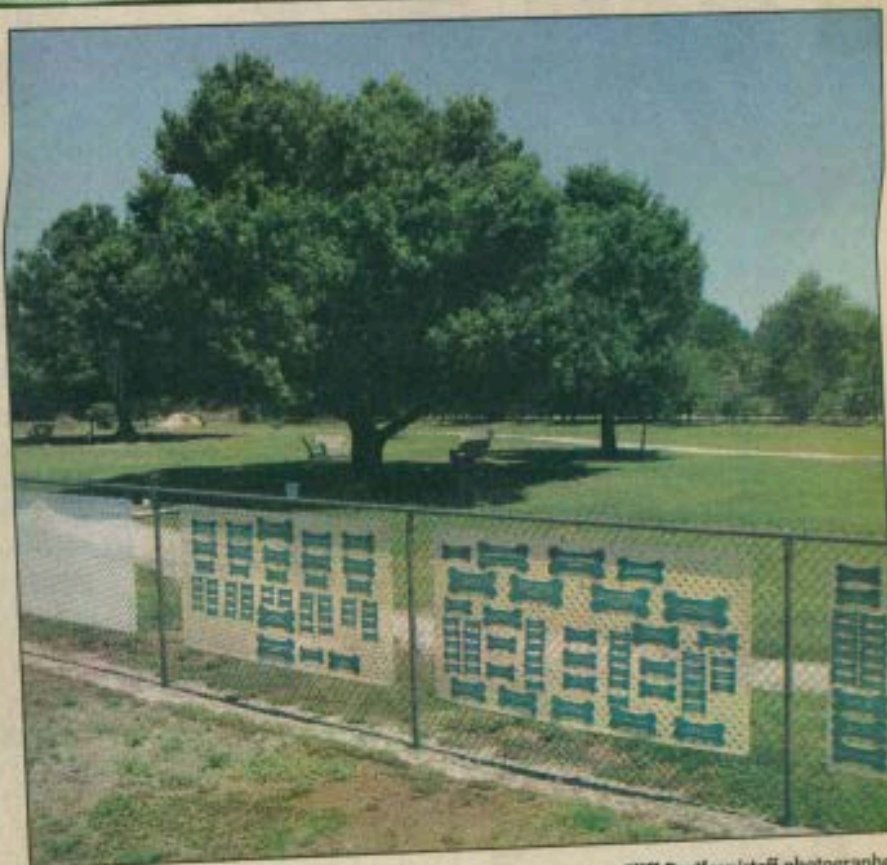
Now, Dogs for Life has launched a fundraising push to improve the park and increase its membership.

The park has between 150 and 180 members, Ms. Ferger said.

The first fundraising event, held on April 5, drew about 30 people to Laura and David Driver's Vero Beach home.

The Drivers' 3-year-old black Lab, Brent, greeted guests. As a pianist played, humans and canines mingled in the living room and on the patio, checking out items for sale in the

See OFF-LEASH, A2



Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

The Dogs For Life off-leash dog park at the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue offers a wide-open area for dogs and their owners to enjoy some free time together.

Off-leash

From page A1

evening's silent auction.

"This is to let people know that Vero Beach's only off-leash park needs support," Mrs. Driver said.

The park, located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, near Vero Beach High School, is a grassy expanse dotted with trees.

In addition to the fundraising effort, Dogs for Life is trying to lure new members with a new membership option: \$25 to register and \$10 per visit.

An annual membership to the park costs \$300. Six-month memberships are \$200.

Ms. Ferger and other members hope to construct a building on the grounds where they can hold obedience classes and train the service and assistance dogs that are key to their mission.

Two assistance dogs attended the Thursday night event at the Driver home, wearing green vests that cautioned, "Please Don't Pet Me, I'm Working."

Assistance dogs are trained to help their owners with everyday tasks that have become difficult due to age or illness. They can, for instance, pick up dropped keys or dial 911 on a modified phone.

Service dogs aid people with disabilities, acting as guide dogs for the blind or signal dogs for the deaf.

Under the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, anyone is allowed to train a dog to help someone with a disability, Ms. Ferger.

Demand for these specialized pooches is high.

"We have taken dogs off the street and trained them as assistance dogs," Ms. Ferger said.

At the fundraiser, Anne Whitney, who teaches art at Saint Edward's School, exhibited renderings of dogs that her students had created.

"They had a blast with it," she said.

For a \$10 donation, guests could leave with a thoughtful charcoal Chihuahua or a pen-and-ink terrier.

Ms. Whitney takes Beemer, her spitz-spaniel mix, to the off-leash park. While Beemer romps with his fellow dogs, his owner gets to unwind with friends.

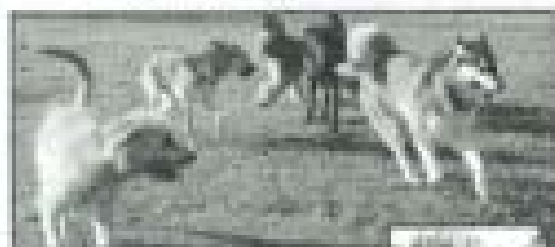
"It's just as much fun for us to socialize as it is for the dogs to socialize," Ms. Whitney said.

For more information about Dogs for Life or to become a member of the off-leash dog park, visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Your Dog could qualify for Dog Park Memberships

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM pay-as-you-go

qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered & social



Join the off-leash Dog Park and enjoy watching your dog run & play



Dog Park Member of the Month
Rufus Clyne

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. OFF-LEASH DOG PARK

12th St. & 16th Ave., Vero Beach

Pay-as-you-go Memberships:

\$25/Orientation, \$10/Wed 10am & Sat 2pm

Unlimited usage (during daylight hours)

\$200/ 6-Month Membership

\$300/ Annual Membership (2nd dog 1/2 price)

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

Call (772) 567-8969
to schedule orientation

Next Dog Obedience,
Agility Training Class begins May 5.

Off-Leash Dog Park Saved

Dogs are simply good creatures. They love us with no strings attached, are patient with us when we are not with them, and almost magically lift our spirits. It is little wonder that even angels want to spend time among these pure souls.

That must be why angels arrived at "those DFL gates"!

As they will tell you, the role of Guardian Angel is not to be taken lightly, especially when it involves saving a certain off-leash dog park from having to close forever. For two such angels however, it was as easy as just being themselves... a three pound Yorkie and a feisty little Maltese. The angel team with names Puccini and Ty put their winning ways into high gear, and with cold noses gave just a little nudge... proving once again how strong and valued the bond between man and dog can be.

In response to the announcement DFL's Off-Leash Park would soon have to close, Puccini's and Ty's human companions, in an act of generosity so great it is still hard to absorb, stepped forward as benefactors and committed funding that now enables Dogs for Life to purchase the dog park property.

(Continued on page 7)



Puccini & Ty Inspire Benefactor

***Community Campaign Launches
Pay-As-You-Go at the
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park***



**DFL
"Unleashed"
Community Campaign**

Kick-Off

Heritage Center
May 5, 2007
One-Of-A-Kind
Doggie Quilt Raffle

Inside This Issue

DFL Launches Community Campaign	1
DFL Attends ADI & IAADP Conferences	2
"Bubba Dunn" Assistance Dog Medical Fund Caring Vets Cure Buster	3
Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteers Certify Pet Assisted Therapy Team Spotlight	4
DFL & AKC Canine Good Citizen Dog Park Member Spotlight	5
Donor Bones Displayed	6
4-H Dog Masters Donate	7

PET CALENDAR

TUESDAY

Puppy Kindergartens: 9 a.m. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Thursdays, 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. Teach your dog basic commands using positive training methods. \$14 per class or eight classes for \$100. (772) 567-2121.

Basic Obedience: 10 a.m. Tuesday, 7 p.m. Thursday, 1 p.m. Saturday, 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. Prepare for the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test and introduce your dog to agility obstacles. \$14 per class or eight classes for \$100. (772) 567-2121.

Puppy Preschool: 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Saturdays, 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. For puppies 8-16 weeks. \$14 per class. (772) 978-7863.

Agility Training for Dogs: 4 p.m., 2335 8th Court, Vero Beach. Teach your dog to negotiate an obstacle course. Four weeks; \$60. Pre-registration required. (772) 978-7863.

Introduction to Agility: 5:30 p.m., 2335 8th Court, Vero Beach. Familiarize dogs and owners with agility equipment and training concepts. Open to dogs 6 months or older. Dogs should have basic obedience skills. Four weeks; \$60. (772) 978-7863.

WEDNESDAY

Dogs for Life: Off-leash dog park; pay as you go. 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Wednesdays and Saturdays. \$10. Owners must attend dog park orientation by appointment. Pre-register: (772) 567-8969, dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

FRIDAY

Bareback Horse Class: 5:30 p.m., Vero Equine Training Center, 830 8th St., Vero Beach. 320 class. (772) 564-2703, www.veroequine.com.

MISCELLANEOUS

Greyhound Adopters: Foster homes are needed for over more than 300 Greyhounds as the Melbourne racetrack is closing until December. A fenced yard is preferred but not necessary as greyhounds are leashed-trained. Contact Carol Becker of Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions, vocalsho@mac.com; or Beverly McCartt, bwmccartt@aol.com, (407) 760-1484.

Dogs for Life, Inc. Dog Park Pay as you Go Opportunity Expanded!

**\$10 Saturdays
and Wednesdays
9:30 AM
and 5:30 PM**

**Pre-Registration
Required, call
(772) 567-8969**



**Dogs must be
inoculated,
neutered & social.**



**Dogs
for Life**
Living, Loving, Learning

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
772.567.8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org
Off-Leash Dog Park located on 12th Street and 16th Avenue



APRIL

4-H Dog Masters Club

4 H N E W S

April 2007
Vol. 1 Ed. 7

Dates | County Events

Livestock Outfitters

By: Mrs. West

Well the year is finally over and our club worked very hard this year. We restructured it and got ourselves organized. We worked as a team and that helped us do so great at the fair!

We would like to give a big shout out to Taylor Lewis for winning Grand Champion Steer and Danielle West for Grand Champion Swine. Let's also not forget Kaleigh Nesbitt & Amanda Rose for placing first in their classes. Then we must give kudos to Kaleigh Nesbitt for all Around Youth Exhibitor, Herdsman, Showmanship & Grooming, and also to Danielle West & Jordan Rose for Highest Daily Weight Gain.

This being our first year as a new club we would also like to thank our leaders, Tammie Lewis & Jennifer Durst for all their wonderful knowledge and help to get us where we are today. Without their help, we might not have done so well.

Dog Masters

By: Angie LoPresti, Secretary

For their 2007-08 Community Service Project, Marissa LoPresti, President of the Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters, presented a check in the amount of \$400 to the Dogs for Life. The check was earmarked to assist with the medical expenses of a chronically ill assistance dog named Buster.

Marissa said that she and other 4-H Members got to know Holly and Buster at Saturday morning dog obedience classes held at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park. Holly has come to depend on Buster to assist her in her daily living. Buster is a hard working, smart and loving Boxer who works hard to please his owner. Marissa said, "When we heard that Buster had to undergo an expensive surgical procedure to help correct a chronic illness, we did not think twice about offering to assist Holly financially with this effort."



Livestock Outfitters

By: Mrs. West

Well the year is finally over and our club worked very hard this year. We restructured it and got ourselves organized. We worked as a team and that helped us do so great at the fair!

We would like to give a big shout out to Taylor Lewis for winning Grand Champion Steer and Danielle West for Grand Champion Swine. Let's also not forget Kaleigh Nesbit & Amanda Rose for placing first in their classes. Then we must give kudos to Kaleigh Nesbit for all Around Youth Exhibitor, Herdsman, Showmanship & Grooming, and also to Danielle West & Jordan Rose for Highest Daily Weight Gain.

This being our first year as a new club we would also like to thank our leaders, Tammie Lewis & Jennifer Durst for all their wonderful knowledge and help to get us where we are today. Without their help, we might not have done so well.

Dog Masters

By: Angie LoPresti, Secretary

For their 2007-08 Community Service Project, Marissa LoPresti, President of the Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters, presented a check in the amount of \$400 to the Dogs for Life. The check was earmarked to assist with the medical expenses of a chronically ill assistance dog named Buster.

Marissa said that she and other 4-H Members got to know Holly and Buster at Saturday morning dog obedience classes held at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park. Holly has come to depend on Buster to assist her in her daily living. Buster is a hard working, smart and loving Boxer who works hard to please his owner. Marissa said, "When we heard that Buster had to undergo an expensive surgical procedure to help correct a chronic illness, we did not think twice about offering to assist Holly financially with this effort."

We wish them both all the best for a happy, healthy future together!"

Training Is Key to Assistance Dogs--

Crucial to Their Access to Public Places

That concept was the bottom line at the recent conference and workshop held by Assistance Dogs International and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners in January. The meeting took place in Baltimore, Maryland. Shelly Ferger and Patti Schell, assistance trainers for Dogs for Life, represented their organization.

Shelly says, "We were honored to be in the company of over 60 assistance dogs and 200 assistance dog trainers from all over the world." She added that Dogs for Life will apply for accreditation with ADI later this year.

The trainers attended a remarkable number of workshops and seminars, which included plans from U.S. Airways about transporting puppies, legal and fund-raising issues, the need for assistance dogs for autistic children and diabetics, and the challenges of training client-owned dogs. Whew!

One important issue they discussed was the need for assistance dogs as psychological helpers. While guide dogs for the visually impaired and hearing assistance dogs as well as assistants for the physically handicapped are recognized and protected by law, the benefit of psychological and emotional support by dogs is questioned in many areas. One problem is the unregulated training of some dogs and the need for standardization of training has become important as various traumas continue to affect people of all ages and needy veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Few question the positive psychological affect of dog companions on human emotions, the only dilemma is that many dog owners in need have "self-trained" their companions and the canine behaviors may not be as socially acceptable as the owner believes and he often tries to bring his dog into inappropriate public places. Public Access training is important to enable these individuals to be accompanied everywhere by their comforting companions. The ADI plans to work towards the standardization of training needed.

We all know and applaud the benefits provided by dogs: This proposed action will integrate them more thoroughly into many additional levels of society.



The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

MARCH

In Remembrance

BUBBA DUNN
2/10/98 - 3/27/07



Bubba Dunn, a Brindle Boxer, died suddenly of heart failure on March 27, 2007. He was the faithful companion and Hearing Guide Dog of Mim Dunn, Board President of Dogs For Life, Inc. Bubba was trained and certified as a Hearing Guide Dog by Assistance Dog Trainer, Shelly Ferger.

In addition to working as a Hearing Guide Dog, Bubba made public appearances representing Dogs For Life, Inc. and The Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the Treasure Coast. He helped promote awareness of assistance dogs for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Bubba was a proud dog, always a gentleman. His love, loyalty and devotion to Mim allowed him to perform his duties without hesitation. He may be gone, but his spirit remains in Mim's heart and the hearts of all who knew him.

Donations may be made in Bubba's memory to the Assistance Dog Medical Fund in care of Dogs For Life, Inc., PO Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965.

Molly
May 2, 1997 - February 24, 2007



*A precious little Cavalier,
Our guardian angel,
With eyes that would melt a bar of chocolate,
And a heart that beat loyal and true
Briefly on earth,
Forever in our hearts,
Our Molly girl.*

Carol and Hank Pena

Certification



DFL Pet Assisted Therapy Teams Re-Certify for 2007

L to R Back Row: Eleanor Bengyak & Mitzi, Gayle Montgomery & Chance, Marilyn Knight & Dakota, Barbara Greenbaum & Emmy, Merlene Smith & Liberty, Lee Munsick & Blizzard, Darrae Norling & Gus, Doris Spirakus & Cutter. **L to R Front Row:** Barbara Bodnar & Maddux, Michele Smith, Stripe & Buddy, Kris Stillinger & Abbie, Audrey Kelly & Storm, Nikki Sullivan & Maisy, Toni DeBiase & Drake, Deborah Cornell & Stella and Matthew Clevenger & Casper. **Not Pictured:** Shara DiSarro, Laura Driver & Brent, Steve Hale & Molly, Erin Lunsford & Ghost, Charlotte Munsick, Charlotte Petersen & Miss B, Sandy Plagens & Shiloh, Barbara Thompson & Edna, and Paula VanHooser & Vero.

Pet Assisted Therapy Team Spotlight



Hi, my name is Michele Smith. My pet assisted therapy dogs are Buddy, a 6-year-old Bichon Frise, and Stripe, a 5 ½-year-old Shih Tzu. Buddy and Stripe have been going to obedience classes every week since they were puppies. Once they passed their Canine Good Citizen tests, I decided to get them jobs and checked into opportunities in the community. My granddaughter taught the dogs to sit while she read to them and we all enjoyed this. So, with the help of Dogs for Life, we started volunteering in DFL's reading-to-dogs program at the Boys & Girls' Club in Vero. We've been helping kids learn to read for 3 years and the dogs and I love being with the children and the other dog volunteers. Buddy and Stripe also volunteer for the Humane Society. Every week we visit several elementary schools and nursing homes. The dogs are as eager to make these visits as the children and seniors are to having them there.



DFL Issues

AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificates

DFL has expanded its dog obedience classes on Saturday mornings to include the Novice level of training. The Agility course is growing and Rally Obedience has added to the fun. On March 10, 2007, DFL Sponsored an AKC Canine Good Citizen test. Participants that passed the test are from L to R: Kara Suthard & Ruben Jeremiah, Eleanor Bengyak & Mitzi, Darrae Norling & Eddie, Laura Driver & Brent, Marcia Adache & Chinook, Merlene Smith & Liberty and Robert Smith & Mugsy.

Dog Park Member Spotlight



Hey! My name is Daisy Owens and here I am with my Dad, George Owens. We've been going to the dog park for 5 years. Boy, do I love it! Whenever we drive up 12th Street and get near US 1 and the railroad tracks, I start wagging my tail and jumping around like mad. Yippee, I think, we're going to the dog

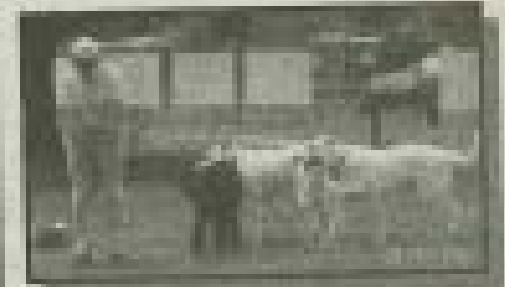


Dog Park Friends Photos by Michael Clyne

Your Dog could qualify for Dog Park Memberships

New Community Outreach Program Pay-As-You-Go

Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered & Social



Dogs For Life, Inc. Off Leash Dog Park
12th Street & 16th Avenue, Vero Beach
New Pay-As-You-Go
\$25/Registration, \$10/ Wed 10am Sat 2pm

Unlimited Usage - (during daylight hours)
\$200/ 6 month Membership
\$300/ Annual Membership
(2nd dog 1/2 price)

**Dogs
for Life**
Living, Loving, Learning

**Call to (772) 567-8969
to schedule orientation**

25,000 Assistance Dogs in the US

Your Dog may qualify for our programs!

Hearing Guide Dog
trained to alert to a door knock, a ringing telephone,
a smoke alarm & an alarm clock.



Service Dog
trained to assist a person rising from a chair,
taping a 911 phone & retrieving a fallen object.



**Dogs
for Life**
Living, Loving, Learning
567-8969

Your Dog may qualify for our programs!

Assistance Dogs

Hearing Guide Dogs

are trained to alert to a door knock,
a ringing telephone, a smoke alarm
& an alarm clock.

Mobility Assistance Dogs

are trained to assist a person rising
from a chair, taping a 911 phone &
retrieving a fallen object.



Precious taps a 911
emergency phone



Chance Montgomery
in pet therapy session

Pet Assisted Therapy

provides an uninhibited setting for
children to read to dogs and
provides warmth, love & comfort
to seniors.

Off-Leash Dog Park

serves as a focal point for canine
recreation & training and is located
at 12th St. & 16th Ave.



Pudgy Bodnar Points the
way to the off-leash dog park

**Dogs
for Life**

Living, Loving, Learning

567-8969

**Memberships are available to pre-screened dogs &
Dog Obedience Training is available to the public.**

Bubba Dunn
2/10/98 - 3/27/07

Bubba Dunn, a Brindle Boxer, died suddenly of heart failure on March 27, 2007. He was the faithful companion and Hearing Guide Dog of Mim Dunn, Board President of Dogs For Life, Inc. Bubba was trained and certified as a Hearing Guide Dog by Assistance Dog Trainer, Shelly Ferger.

In addition to working as a Hearing Guide Dog, Bubba made public appearances representing Dogs For Life, Inc. and The Deaf and Hard of Hearing of the Treasure Coast.

He helped promote awareness of assistance dogs for the deaf and hearing impaired. Bubba was a proud dog, always a gentleman.

His love, loyalty and devotion to Mim allowed him to perform his duties without hesitation. He may be gone, but his spirit remains in Mim's heart and the hearts of all who knew him.

Donations may be made in Bubba's memory to the Assistance Dog Medical Fund in care of Dogs For Life, Inc., PO Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965.



Caring Vets Cure Assistance Dog Buster

Buster, a DFL trained mobility assistance dog is surely living testament to the Nietzsche quote, "what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger."

Found wandering on US 1, Buster was a heartbreaking sight when rescued by Holly Amstutz. Although malnourished and frightened, he bonded quickly with his disabled new owner perhaps sensing his purpose, he trained into a trusted and beloved mobility assistance dog.



Patti Schell Assistance Dog Trainer with Holly and Buster Service Dog Team

(Continued from page 1)

Dogs for Life has been a huge part of Buster's and Holly's lives since that fateful rescue. When Buster was found to have a chronic intestinal problem that would not respond to normal treatment protocol and threatened his service dog status, DFL turned to Todd Vinoski, DVM at Village Pet Clinic for help. Dr. Vinoski diagnosed the problem as a polyp that when surgically removed could cure what had been months of bloody diarrhea.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 3)

DFL Unleashed Community Campaign

Financial support of this magnitude is based on the understanding that DFL secure on-going funding to maintain the property, and expand assistance dog training. This extraordinary blessing comes with the responsibility of both operating our park and nurturing the mission on which the organization was founded: training assistance and therapy dogs.

In support of both, long range plans include construction of a facility on park property that will house an education and training center with offices and restrooms.

Our first priority is to launch a Community Campaign that will raise \$100,000. As we are just getting underway, now is a great time to get involved with Dogs for Life. We need you!



4-H Dog Masters President Marissa LoPresti presents a check in the amount of \$400 to DFL Treasurer Barbara Patten and DFL Vice President Susan Myers

Assistance dogs sometimes need special help, too. Such is the case with Buster, a hard-working, smart, loving and chronically ill Boxer, whose owner, Holly, has come to depend on him for assistance in her daily activities. So, when Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters learned of Buster's medical problems, the group decided to help him through its 2007-08 Community Service program. Marissa LoPresti, president of the group, recently presented a \$400 check to Dogs for Life, earmarking the funds for Buster's medical expenses. Marissa said she and other 4-H Members got to know Holly and Buster at dog obedience classes held Saturday mornings at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park. "When we heard that Buster had to undergo an expensive surgical procedure to help correct a chronic illness, we did not think twice about offering to assist Holly financially with this effort. We wish them both all the best for a happy, healthy future together," she said.

Submitted by Angie LoPresti, secretary/reporter, Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters

Assistance Dog Buster

Shelly Ferger, DFL's Executive Director took Buster and Holly to veterinary surgeon, Jeffrey Christiansen of the Animal Emergency Center of Brevard County. Corrective surgery did cure the problem, and today Buster is back to work full speed.

Expert veterinary care is understandably costly. When DFL knew they were facing \$4,000, surgery for Buster, President Mim Dunn launched a campaign to start an assistance dog medical fund for situations like Buster's where owners are not able to pay for necessary treatment themselves. To date \$2,010 has been raised toward Buster's surgery we are halfway there!

With the loss of Mim's beloved hearing dog Bubba, we are all reminded that our dogs are with us for just a short time. It is amazing how well dogs use their time on this earth, and how much joy and love they manage to squeeze into their years with us.

To honor the memory of Bubba, Dogs for Life's assistance dog medical fund from this day forward shall be named...

**THE BUBBA DUNN ASSISTANCE DOG
MEDICAL FUND.**

DFL's tribute to Bubba... for a life well lived.

4-H Dog Masters Choose Bubba Dunn Assistance Dog Medical Fund As Their 2007 Community Service Project

The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of varying sizes, scattered across a light lavender background.

JANUARY

Sunbonnet Sue Quilters' Guild

CONTENTS PREPARED BY THE SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

LUMINARIES • WEEK OF JANUARY 8, 2007 • 7

Ugo?

The Sunbonnet Sue Quilters' Guild presents

Fantasy in Fabric



Jane Miles and Pat Lester, members of the Sunbonnet Sue Quilters' Guild, stand with the quilt that will be donated to the Pelican Island Audubon Society.

The Purpose

The Sunbonnet Sue Quilters' Guild blends ingenious minds with nimble fingers to create original quilts that are works of art — deserving of a museum showing. The guild donates quilts and handmade teddy bears to other nonprofit agencies, such as the Children's Home Society, Dogs for Life, the Environmental Learning Center and the Indian River County Sheriff's Office Victim's Assistance Unit.

The People

Quilt show co-chairs are Marjorie Brower, Dora Churchill and Barbara Schiefelbein. The designer of the quilt that will be donated to the Pelican Island Audubon Society is Pat Lester and Margie Allen hand-painted the pelican. The chair of the Opportunity Quilt is Ida Bonelli and the charity mini-quilt auction has been arranged by Jane Stiasny.

The Party

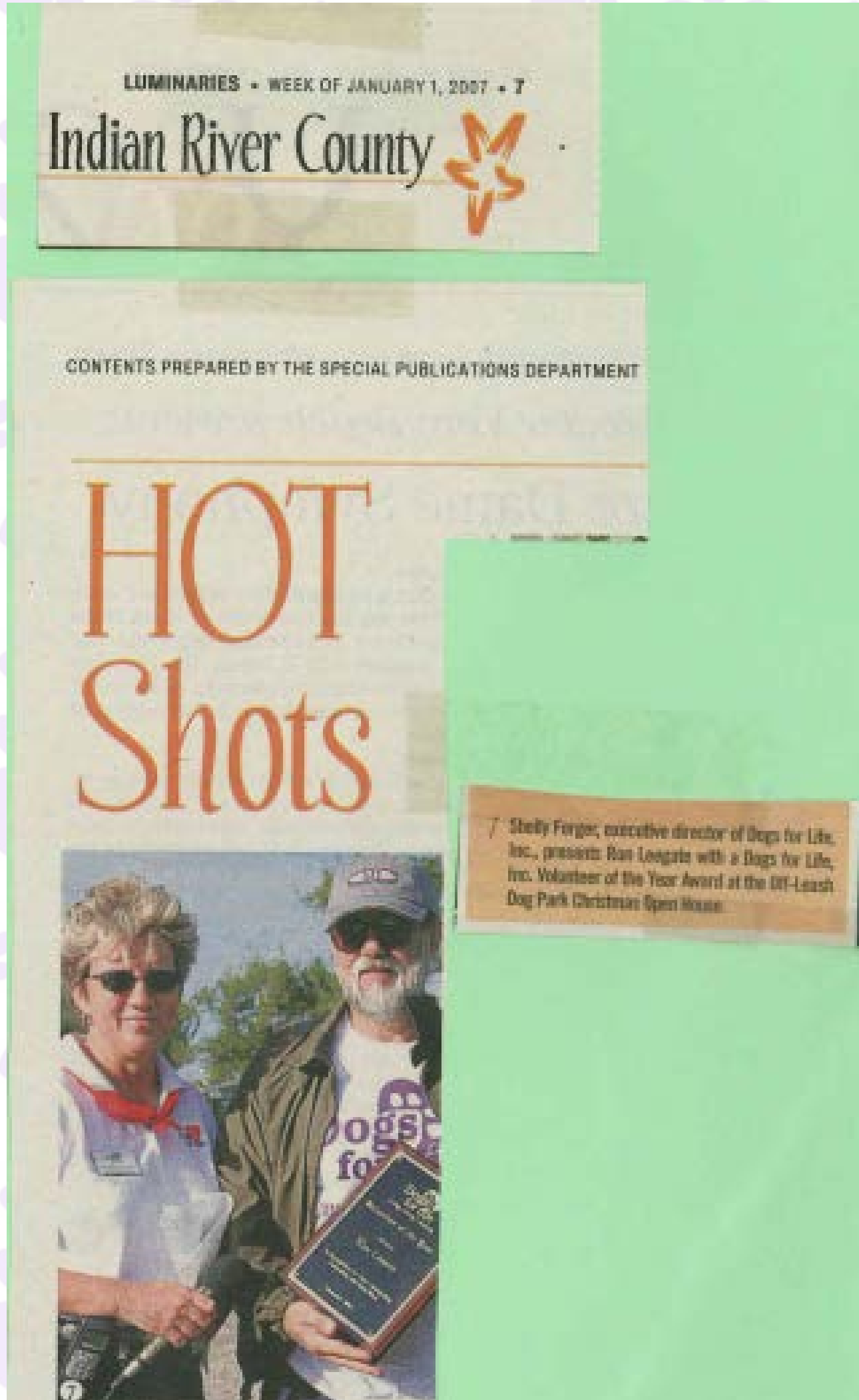
The 2007 quilt show, "Fantasy in Fabric" is Feb. 2-3, at Indian River Community College's Richardson Building on the Mueller Campus in Vero Beach.

Quilt-makers and quilt-lovers will be dazzled by the more than 200 quilts, quilted garments and wall hangings on display. Some quilts will be available for purchase; small quilted items will be on sale in the boutique; and a dozen vendors will provide the opportunity to purchase quilting fabrics, books, patterns, and the latest notions. The guild's "Trash and Treasure" section of gently used quilting items is always sought out and this year includes a display of artistic dolls by Dolores Cox and Andrea Luliak.

There will also be charity auctions of small quilts and wall hangings — this year to benefit Our Father's Table, The VNA Hospice and Boys and Girls Clubs of Indian River County.

The auctions will be at 2 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. Admission is \$5 per person. No strollers, please.

DFL Events



■ upcoming events

By Mary E. Schenkel

WABASSO 5K BRIDGE RUN

16th annual Wabasso 5k Bridge Run is scheduled for **Dec. 2**, beginning at 8 a.m. from the Environmental Learning Center's Wabasso Island campus. The route heads east over the Wabasso bridge, almost to A-1-A and then back to ELC's campus. Proceeds benefit ELC's education programs. www.elcweb.org

BASS AND BIRDIES GOLF TOURNAMENT

Adding a new twist to the standard golf tournament, the Education Foundation of Indian River County will hold a Bass and Birdies Golf Tournament beginning at 1 p.m. on **Dec. 4** at the Indian River Club. Participants will have the opportunity to show off both their golfing and fishing skills as they navigate the Indian River Club Golf Course. Registration is \$250 per person. 772.564.0034

MARDY'S TENNIS & JAKE'S MUSIC FEST

The tennis world ranked number 5 player James Blake and world ranked number 1 doubles duo, Bob and Mike Bryan, will bring their talent to Vero Beach when they participate in Mardy's Tennis & Jake's Music Fest at The Boulevard Village & Tennis Club, **Dec. 8-10**. Blake and the Bryans join event co-hosts, Vero Beach native and champion tennis player Mardy Fish and rising country music star, Josh (Jake) Owen, at a benefit for the Mardy Fish Foundation. Fish began the foundation to provide funding to youth organizations located within Indian River County and to continue his support of Adopt-A-Family Project, which provides aid to low-income families. The event kicks off on Friday afternoon, **Dec. 8**, with a sponsor clinic/pro-am and a dinner reception during the evening. On Saturday, **Dec. 9**, three of Fish's friends from the ATP tour will participate in a tennis exhibition. Saturday morning, prior to the exhibition, there will be a kid's clinic and family fest. The special concert by hometown favorite Jake Owen, will begin at 7:30 p.m. **Dec. 10** at the Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center. This will be Owen's first full-scale concert in Vero Beach. Tickets for the tennis exhibition range from \$25-\$60 and concert tickets are \$25 to \$100 each. 561.394.9190

LARNELLE HARRIS CONCERT

A benefit concert by the powerful, Grammy and Dove Award winner Larnelle Harris will be held on **Dec. 8** at 7 p.m. at the Kings Baptist Church. Tickets are \$25 and are available at The Women's Refuge, King's Baptist Church, Wings of Joy Christian Marketplace and The Women's Refuge Resale Store. Proceeds benefit the Women's Refuge; a Christian based organization which gives women the chance to start over with their lives through their residential and non-residential programs. 772.770.4424

DOGS FOR LIFE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Dogs for Life, Inc. will host a Christmas Open House featuring a dog walk-a-thon, a dog agility show and law enforcement K-9 demonstration beginning at 2 p.m., **Dec. 9** at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 12 Street and 16th Avenue. There will be a \$5 entry fee with children under 12 free. Call Shelly Ferger at 772.567.8969

AN ENCHANTING EVENING

The 6th Annual Indian River County Hibiscus Children's Center Gala, themed An Enchanting Evening, will be held **Dec. 9** at the Vero Beach Museum of Art. Tickets are \$225 per person and funds raised support operating expenses of the Hibiscus Children's Center and focuses on abuse prevention and intervention services. 772.978.9313, ext. 313

17TH ANNUAL SWING FOR HEALTH GOLF CLASSIC

The Swing for Health Golf Classic in support of the capital needs of the Indian River Medical Center through the Indian River Medical Center Foundation will take place on **Dec. 11** at the Hawks Nest Golf Club. Registration and practice tees open at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12:30 p.m. There will be a cocktail reception and awards ceremony following the tournament at 5:30 p.m. \$275 per player registration fee; limited to a field of 132. www.swingforhealth.com

ANTIQUES SHOW AND SALE

The Friends of the Vero Beach Museum of Art invite you Museum's 16th Annual Antiques Show and Sale. The Preview

Party, 6 - 9 p.m. **Jan. 11** kicks off the weekend long event and your \$100 ticket includes reentry for the duration of the show. Guests will have ample opportunity to shop and socialize before the show opens to the public. The show, managed by Charles Miller of North Carolina, is considered one of the best in Florida and opens to the public 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. **Jan. 12** and **13** and from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on **Jan. 14**. Tickets, available at the door, are \$10 per person, and include show reentry. Thirty-six quality vendors will present collections of furniture, jewelry, art, glassware, porcelains and more. Programs and professional appraisals will add to the experience. 772.231.0707 www.vbmuseum.org

A TASTE OF THE TREASURE COAST

Indian River National Bank is the presenting sponsor for the 8th Annual A Taste of the Treasure Coast culinary and wine tasting extravaganza **Jan. 17** to benefit the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition. Your taste buds are in for a treat as you sample dishes prepared by premier chefs on the Treasure Coast. Restaurants include the Fresh Mozzarella Company, Joanie's Hometown Restaurant, The Tides, Riverside Café, Beef O'Brady's, the Culinary Institute of the Treasure Coast at IRCC and many more. Grazing begins at 6 p.m. at the Holy Cross Catholic Church Parish Hall and continues until 9 p.m. Tickets are \$40 per person and benefit the Coalition's TLC Newborn Program. 772.563.9118

ACS 125

Your \$125 per person contribution welcomes you into a special group of people who have joined together in the fight against cancer. The annual ACS 125 fundraiser, 6 - 8 p.m. **Jan. 25** at the Riomar Country Club, raises funds to benefit programs and services of the Indian River Unit of the American Cancer Society. Call Nancy Madsen, 772.562.2272, ext. 115

TREASURE COAST WOMEN

The Treasure Coast Women's annual Savor the Flavor to Help a Neighbor, Buffet Luncheon and Card Party will be held from noon until 3 p.m., **Jan. 26** at the Vero Beach Community Center. Tickets

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! FROM DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

It is that wonderful time of year and Dogs for Life, Inc. is happy to report that we are once again able to offer a ONE year membership at the Best Friends Off-leash Dog Park. Why? Because we got one of the best presents we could have received before the end of the year! It was the good news that our lease would be extended to July, 2008, through the kindness of our generous benefactor.

This means we can **SAVE OUR DOG PARK**—but only with your continued effort and support. Look for more exciting news and phone calls at the first of the year for forming committees and launching the drive.

Here are a few bits of information for you about the Dog Park this last year:

Over 184 of you and our other Dog Park members and their dogs came to the park.

Over 70 puppies and dogs were obedience trained, several of which received AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificates, and some received DFL Assistance Dog Public Access Certification.

Over 400 visitors came to our Easter, Halloween, and Christmas Open Houses.

Many of you have become volunteers to help us with the **SAVE OUR DOG PARK CAMPAIGN**.

And to date, the campaign has raised \$28,250 in donations and pledges.

Now here is the scoop on our Dog Park membership rates:

One year membership fee: \$300.00 for your first dog and ½ price for a second dog in the same residence. (This stays the same.)

Six month membership fee: \$200.00 for your first dog and ½ price for a second dog in the same residence. (We raised this rate slightly.)

The way you can help us when you are notified that your dog's membership is due is to renew your membership at the yearly rate. As a courtesy, members that are due in January, 2007, will still be offered the old 6 month membership rate of \$150.

Now we need to "hit the ground running" to **SAVE OUR DOG PARK**.

Thank you for your continued support for our Dog Park. You are what make this park great!!

Best wishes for you and your family in 2007.

Sincerely,


Susan Myers, Vice President

1715 Golden Ponds
Dr.
Fr. Pierre 3494
January 22-07

Dear Shelly:
I would like to
thank you & the Board
of Directors for the offer
of a complimentary bone.
Maisy & I would be
happy to do anything
we can to support
Dogs for Life, Inc.

Sincerely
Nikki Sullivan

