



**Dogs  
For Life**

*Training Service Dogs  
For Veterans*

**Scrapbook**  
**2015**



**DECEMBER**

# Annual Christmas Party





# 4-H Christmas Party



# Gunny Checks In

**Dogs  
For Life**

*Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park*

**Gunnery Sergeant  
"Gunny"  
Assistance Dog In Training  
December 2015**



My first few weeks at DFL, I'm only 5 months old here. I'm with my Trainer & Foster Mother L. A., and my friend DFL Trainer Lisa holding Shelly's Dog "Sunny" and my "Live-In" dog friend named Darel. Darel is a DFL Certified Service Dog for my Foster Mom. He said he would teach me everything he knows!



Me again with my trainers and Darel, we're at an event in Vero Beach, FL that honored the 9/11 First Responders from New York City.

This is me today with my Best Bud Darel. I'm 8 months old and learning all I need to be the Best Service Dog in the World.



Thank you for helping me to be all I can be. ~ Love Gunn

# NOTE CARDS

## Veterans' Service Dogs



Portrait by Janet L. Tyrrell ©

*Improving the lives for our heroes*

# 14.00

Enjoy the beautiful new graphite portraits of service dogs.

Our Veterans are proud of their new buddies and amazing service dog partners.

Every purchase of these Note Cards contributes to the training of another service dog for a person in need.

Each box contains:

- 8 Note Cards, blank inside
- 8 Matching Envelopes



**Dogs  
For Life**

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

Donations are tax deductible as Dogs For Life, Inc., is a Non-Profit Organization, a 501 (C)(3)

Donating Call: 772 - 365 - 8989 or Online: [www.dogsforlifefl.org](http://www.dogsforlifefl.org)

Cards created and donated to Dogs For Life by Artist Janet L. Tyrrell ©

Printed in USA

**Perfect Christmas Gifts for Friends and Family**  
On Sale at Dogs For Life Training & Administrative Center  
1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

# Articles

VETERAN VOICE • THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE • DECEMBER 31, 2019 • 9

## 'Who rescued who?' Vet's wife pens 'tail' of unique service dog

**Mary Kemper**  
STAFF WRITER  
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

It's often the unwanted extra member in many a military family — PTSD. To say it's a challenge, both for the veteran and those who love them, is a huge understatement.

Nightmares, panic attacks, and lashing out are just some of the things that make life very hard for those coping with PTSD.

There's help available, though — major help — in the form of a furry, four-legged buddy. Many veterans are finding that bonding with a service dog has made a big change for the better in their lives.

Enter Pia Pia (pronounced "pay-pay"). She's an adorable pug whose guardian James Taylor, an Army combat veteran with PTSD, takes her nearly everywhere he goes.

And she inspired Dawn Taylor to write "Who Rescued Who? Veteran rescues pug who rescues veteran", a book about their journey together back toward normal life.

"It was actually James who came up with the title," Dawn said. "And it really fits."

James had served 20 years in the Army before retiring. One day in 2008, the bottom dropped out of the Taylors' world.

"We took a trip to MGM Studios, now Hollywood Studios, in California," Dawn said. "Suddenly, James just took off running. We didn't have a clue what was going on."



James and Dawn Taylor, with Pia Pia, their service dog, stand near their home in Vero Beach.

Photo by Brittany Lee

Back home in Vero Beach, they visited a doctor, and then went to counseling through the VA.

About a year later, the Taylors adopted Pia Pia.

"We adopted her to keep James company," Dawn said. "We never thought of doing more with her."

They enrolled Pia Pia in basic obedience at Pet Smart and then advanced training, which was where they met Shelly Ferger, who is the founder and CEO of Dogs For Life in Vero Beach.

"We took Pia Pia to see Shelly, and to see if she could be trained for PTSD service," Dawn said.

Ferger's team makes the decision based on in-home tests, such as dropping things to gauge a dog's reaction to loud noises.

"Shelly was hesitant, because she's an unusual breed for it, but she said as long as we were dedicated, it could work."

James began speaking at engagements with Pia Pia, especially fundraisers for Dogs For Life, to

help in the process of matching veterans with trained service dogs.

"At one event, James started getting wavy, a lot of moans," Dawn said. Pia Pia climbed up on him and literally hugged and kissed him, and calmed him down.

"It was really good, because people could see for themselves how she comforted him. And, it helped bring in more donations."

The years passed, and not long ago Dawn's sister, Cinnamon Palso, a teacher in Fayetteville, N.C., asked Dawn to give a presentation to her class on Pia Pia and James.

"It went really, really well," Dawn said. "The kids were riveted."

"My sister and I joked about writing a book. I decided to write a journal. I wanted to not just write about our experiences, but also to educate people on how important service dogs can be for veterans."

The journal evolved into the book, which is categorized as a children's book, but Dawn said adults enjoy it just as well.

"I had met lots of authors of children's books, who told me to put it in writing — that people would appreciate it," she said.

"I thought, well, I might as well try it."

The book, whose illustrations Dawn also drew, began to be picked up on social media among friends and family. It's now one of the chief marketing outlets for the book, though the publisher, Author House, is marketing it as well.

"My best critics were my parents," Stan and Ann Orvel, Clearwater. "The book definitely passed the parent test."

"Even though it's a children's book, it helps veterans understand words and actions, and how important it is to adopt as many as possible," Dawn said.

All proceeds will go to Dogs For Life and the Halo Rescue project. "I am not into this for the money," she said. "It's just my way of giving back."

Coming up, Dawn plans to attend book signing events in Clearwater and at Pug Rescue of

Central Florida.

The many illustrations, with book cover/dawn taylor 33. Copies of the book may be purchased online at authorhouse.com or by emailing Dawn at va\_dtaylor@gmail.com. The cost is \$17.99 per hard copy, and \$3.99 to download.

To learn more about Dogs For Life or to donate, visit dogsforlifevb.org.

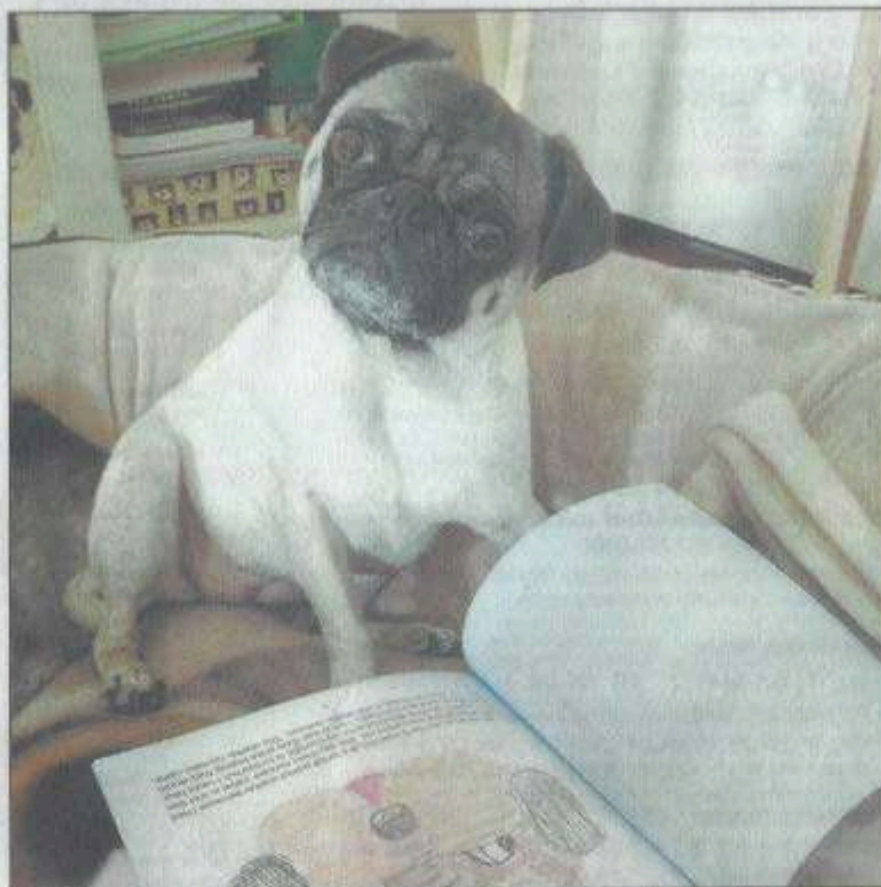


Photo by Brittany Lee

Pia Pia the service dog 'reads' a book written by Dawn Taylor, whose husband, James, an Army combat veteran, relies on her to help him cope with PTSD.

# THE OFFICIAL Vero Beach Handbook 2016

Handbook  
2016



VOLUNTEER

## ANIMALS

**Bauer Research Foundation** engages in research studies that do not involve the use of animals but which can make a huge difference in improving animal and human health.  
[www.bauerresearch.org](http://www.bauerresearch.org)

**Bark Park** is the off-leash dog park in Sebastian with an open area where man's best friends fly like the wind. Set-aside spaces accommodate shy small dogs and larger "customers."  
[www.sebastianbarkpark.com](http://www.sebastianbarkpark.com)

**Dogs for Life Inc.** provides training for dogs to assist people with hearing or mobility issues, as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress issues.  
[www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org)

**H.A.L.O. No Kill Rescue** takes in and adopts out more than 1,500 animals annually, helping them find a "forever" home.  
[www.halorescuefl.org](http://www.halorescuefl.org)

**The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County's** "Open door, Open Heart" shelter accepts all animals, regardless of age, health, behavior or adoptability.  
[www.hsvg.org](http://www.hsvg.org)

**The National Elephant Center** in Fellsmere is home to North American elephants in need of short and long-term health care.  
[www.nationalelephantcenter.org](http://www.nationalelephantcenter.org)

**Vero Beach Dog Park**, the off-leash park along the Indian River Lagoon, has plenty of running and chasing space for our four-pawed friends. It's a social time for their owners.  
[www.verobeachdogpark.org](http://www.verobeachdogpark.org)

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**The Academy for the Performing Arts** offers vocal and instrumental instruction and performance opportunities for all ages.  
[www.academyinvero.org](http://www.academyinvero.org)

**The Atlantic Children's Chorale** is a select choir that develops the individual's potential to a high level of vocal technique while exploring challenging repertoire.  
[www.atlanticchildrenschorale.org](http://www.atlanticchildrenschorale.org)

**The Atlantic Classical Orchestra** encourages and cultivates the appreciation of classical symphonic music by presenting performances at the highest artistic level.  
[www.atlanticclassicalorchestra.com](http://www.atlanticclassicalorchestra.com)

**Ballet Vero Beach** promotes the art of dance as a universal language in our community and beyond with performances throughout the year.  
[www.balletverobeach.org](http://www.balletverobeach.org)

**The Cultural Council of Indian River County** promotes public awareness of the many available cultural opportunities throughout the community.  
[www.cultural-council.org](http://www.cultural-council.org)

**The Gifford Youth Orchestra** provides education, training and on-stage stage experience in the performing arts through music. "More Violins, Less Violence, Better Tomorrows."  
[www.gyotigers.org](http://www.gyotigers.org)

**The Indian River Symphonic Association** seeks to bring the world's finest orchestras and soloists to Vero Beach. They've succeeded.  
[www.irsymphonic.org](http://www.irsymphonic.org)

**Riverside Children's Theatre** offers affordable performing arts experiences and outreach to area children. The youthful enthusiasm and talent is something to see.  
[www.riversidetheatre.com](http://www.riversidetheatre.com)

**Treasure Coast Chorale** members share their love and enjoyment of choral music with four annual performances at First Baptist Church of Vero Beach.  
[www.treasurecoastchorale.org](http://www.treasurecoastchorale.org)

**The Treasure Coast Jazz Society** encourages the performance, promotion and preservation of jazz.  
[www.tczsociety.org](http://www.tczsociety.org)

**The Vero Beach Art Club** fosters the appreciation of art and artistic growth through exhibitions and educational opportunities.  
[www.verobeachartclub.org](http://www.verobeachartclub.org)



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

The Dec. 2 monthly meeting of the Indian River Veterans Council was attended by more than 20 member organizations and at least a dozen auxiliary members, including Dogs For Life, Vero Beach. Shown are, from left, trainers Lisa Snyderski, with service dog-in-training Gunny, and L.A., a former law enforcement official, with retired service dog Darel.

2 • December 10, 2015 • Veteran Voice

## Indian River council packs its December agenda

**Mary Kemper**

STAFF WRITER

[mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com](mailto:mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com)

Reports, tributes and holiday bonuses were just some of the items packed into a sizable agenda at the Dec. 2 meeting of the Veterans Council of Indian River County.

This bustling council lists more than 20 member organizations, and dozens of auxiliary members, like Dogs For Life, Vero Beach. All were brought up to speed on a wide variety of activities.

On Nov. 14, Velda Ford, Vero Beach, held its annual Car Show in tribute to veterans. General Manager Wayne Zwick was there to announce that more than \$4,000 was raised to help the council help veterans.

"We had a ball," he said. "We had about 300 cars this year, which was up from last year."

Teenager Austin Berwick, Vero Beach, was given a certificate honoring his more than 1,000 volunteer hours over 3 years for the council.

Sgt. Joe Abollo, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, warned council members about the perennial uniformed charity seekers.

"We take this very, very seriously," he said. "If you see someone suspect, please call me at (772)

978-9997."

Mike Strickland, of Patriot Productions, announced a Military Expo and Gun Show Feb. 6 and 7 at the Indian River County Fairgrounds. His company partners with charities like veterans' organizations to help them raise funds by manning booths at the event.

As part of the council's Upward American Veterans program, it was announced that a house, undergoing renovation, will soon be ready to become a home for a needy veteran and his family, and that six more are on the waiting list. It is expected that the re-homing project will be completed by June 2016.

Down the road, there are plans to build a veterans' retirement community for veterans and their families barely scraping a living on disability or Social Security benefits.

A pep rally at Vero Beach High School is planned specially to honor veterans, to take place at 8 a.m. Dec. 17 at the high school campus.

A hat was passed for donations for holiday bonuses for the council's 4-man driver staff, which takes veterans to West Palm Beach VA Medical Center and back. By meeting's end, a little over \$200 was collected,

VETERAN VOICE • THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE • DECEMBER 10, 2015 •

### COUNCIL from page 2

providing the hard-working men some extra holiday cheer.

Curtis Paulisin of the Italian-American Veterans told the council that an anonymous donor approached him and wanted to donate a late-model van to the council. "We'll make sure it goes to a needy vet," he said.

The council's recent "Operation Enduring Laughter" comedy show drew 98 veterans and their families. It was designed to reach out to younger veterans as part of the council's Veterans Outreach Program, which connects veterans to needed benefits and local resources.

For the next 3 weeks, the council's Victory Center Military Store, Indian River Mall, will open on Sundays. One item to tempt gift-givers is a new-style flag pole, which telescopes from 7 to 20 feet and has a rotating mechanism that allows the flag

not to become caught on its lanyard.

Veteran Rob Medina, a representative of U.S. Rep. Bill Posey thanked the council members "for all the great things you do — you are by far one of the best (councils) in the state.

"Give yourselves kudos."

Indian River County Commissioner Joe Fleischer, who attends every council meeting with few exceptions, echoed the statement.

"Everything you do ripples out to the community a hundred-fold," he said. "God bless you — you've earned a very happy holiday."

*The Veterans Council of Indian River County meets the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. at the Indian River County Administrative Complex, Building B. For more information contact Catherine Caddell at (772) 226-0191.*

See COUNCIL page 7



**NOVEMBER**

VETERANS LIMELIGHT

# Col. Martin Zickert

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

## Making sure people know the needs of local veterans

By TANIA ORTEGA-COWAN  
for Luminaries

Col. Martin "Marty" Zickert, US Air Force, Ret., has done so much for our community and for veterans, it's hard to believe he has only been volunteering here since 2008.

"At that time, not many in our community knew the need that veterans have here, so I went around with my hair on fire," he says, laughing.

"How are they going to know you have a problem if you don't tell them? And tell them. And tell them. Everyone you meet, you tell them. We have 18,000 veterans here! We need some help! People listen. Often they say, I didn't know."

Marty served in the United States Air Force from January 1962 until June 1992. He was born and raised in the little town of Greenwood, Wisconsin, and after two years of college, he was signed by the Milwaukee Braves for a short stint before starting a roofing business.

"My dad taught me a good work ethic early on," he says.

After joining the Air Force, he played baseball for a year while waiting for flight school at Waco Texas.

Upon completion of the year long course, he received his Navigator wings, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant and got married.



Martin Zickert

borne," he says.

From 1967 to 1968 he went into reconnaissance.

"We flew unarmed RC-135s out of Omaha. We would fly 24 to 26 hours, and we refueled two or three times airborne. We would go up to Alaska, then the North Pole and then back down at Russia where we made a run at the Russians like we were bombers going to attack, just to show our presence. The Russians would launch two airplanes at us and fly alongside of us."

Marty went back to college, flew with the Memphis Tennessee National Guard, and he worked in the entomology department at Mississippi State University before going back to the Air Force in 1971 as a navigator.

He flew tankers and then F-4 Phantoms in 1973. He flew all over the country as well as southeast Asia. He

From 1964 to 1967 he was based in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

"At that time, the Russian threat was real. We had an airplane over Greenland 24-7. We all stuck together and took care of each other and our families. We each were on a crew of four guys and we would go on alert for 7 days. We had 15 minutes from the time the horn went off to be air-

**'We have 18,000 veterans here! We need some help! People listen. Often they say, I didn't know.'**

Treasure Coast Newspaper Luminaries Mon Nov 9, 2015

was assigned to the Philippines in 1975.

After that, he made Major, during which time he was given the project of re-writing the Air Force's Tactical Training manual.

Later, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel which got him back in flight school and then off to Germany in March 1981.

With every accomplishment, he says with characteristic humility, "I thought, this is so cool!"

He was promoted Colonel and Base Commander in 1984 and left in 1986 to go to Eglin Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach to learn operational testing.

By 1991 he was at Edwards Air Force Base performing operational testing on C17s and B2s, and doing fly-offs of F22s and F23s.

He finally retired in 1992, settling the insurance and financial in-

dustry.

He and his second wife Penny moved here in 2001. In 2008, he took the local veterans community by storm!

Now past-president of the Veteran's Council of IRC and the Blue Angels liaison for the 2016 Vero Beach Air Shows, Marty has a full schedule.

Over the years, he has helped secure two buses for veterans to be transported to the VA clinics in South Florida, and he assisted opening the Victory Center store in the Indian River Mall, which he credits the Vietnam Veterans of IRC Chapter 1038 for really making happen.

"You get the right people in place and then all it takes is someone out front to say, you know we really ought to do this, and then you kind of stand back and you get out of the way," he says.

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# 'We cannot abandon them now'

## Veteran organizations are banding together to provide homes for those who served

By Fran Foster  
The Newsweekly

Despite the efforts of many, there are homeless veterans in Indian River County. However, due to the devotion and drive of some of our local support organizations, most veterans have or will have a place to call home. The Veteran House, located on Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach,

is just one example where servicemen are getting the support they deserve. The property, owned by Jerry Hamel, is operated by the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County and houses four men. Each individual has served his country and each has a compelling story like so many others in our community. Their plight is a reminder approaching Veteran's Day we have

the opportunity to support those who have put themselves in harm's way for our safety. **Homeless vets** Vic Diaz, secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County, remembers being told back in 2010 there were no homeless veterans in the county. "I have been all over our country and there are homeless vets everywhere, for various

reasons," he says. "We turned up 38 veterans living in our woods." Diaz, along with president of the Vietnam Veterans of IRC, Tim Nightingale, decided to provide housing for all those seeking shelter. They knew benefits were available and they wanted to make sure the servicemen received all they were due. As Diaz pointed out, "We needed them to defend our country then,



Vietnam Veterans of IRC Secretary Vic Diaz and President Tim Nightingale.

we cannot abandon them now." **A big clean-up** The work began person by person with

assistance from other local organizations such as the Veteran's Council of Indian River **See VETERAN, 18**

pg 1063

Wednesdlay, November 4, 2015 Vero Beach - Indian River Newsweekly

### VETERANS



Coffee in the backyard of the Veterans House on Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach. Seated: Sal & Di Mafatko Lobianco, Jeri Spencer, Frank Alber, Neil Carpenter, Vic Diaz and Tim Nightingale.

#### VETERAN from 1

and Every Dream Has a Price. Each organization offers its own expertise and most operate only on local funding. All money collected in Indian River County stays right here. The Veteran House, located at 955 Old Dixie Hwy., is a perfect example of how Diaz and Nightingale ensure local veterans have a place to call home. "You should have seen the place before," says Sal Lobianco, a Vietnam vet who offered his skills as a tradesman to get the house in shape, along with his wife Di. "I literally had to scrape the windows six times to get the gunk off of them," said Di. "It was uninhabitable."

**Helping** The group had \$12,000 in its coffers to renovate the house from top to bottom, inside and out, including appliances, a

ing rooms and storage space. It now accommodates four veterans who have different roles within the home. Korean War Army veteran James Spencer, USMC veteran Frank Alber, USAF veteran Neil Carpenter and Army veteran Cao Du Bois all live together. Each has his own room with cable television and shared common areas. Alber makes sure that Spencer's blood sugar and insulin levels are right. Carpenter makes coffee, although there seems to be some disagreement of who makes a better pot. There are no drugs, no drinking, and no women. They thrive on the support of one another and continued efforts by Diaz and Nightingale to assist them in any way necessary. "We have helped 31 veterans under the HUD-VASH grant program," says Diaz. "We've used up (the grant money) but hopefully we can get more. This was a four-year journey that

isn't over yet." "All of the local organizations try to coordinate efforts to make sure everyone is housed, for instance the duplex being built in Gifford at 38th Place. A property gets built and then we have to help them get their VA benefits. And then jobs if possible and make sure they are compatible to live together and support each other. We believe in a hand up, not a hand out," Diaz emphasizes. There is still work to be done in this ongoing battle to provide help to veterans in need. For instance, the owners of the Breath of Heaven Ministries house is considering selling the property and the seven vets living there will need new housing. There are five veterans on a waiting list for the Gifford duplex.

**Challenges** Some veterans have mental illnesses that can make providing assistance a challenge. Oth-

## VETERAN from 18

ers have succumbed to drug and alcohol abuse and refuse assistance.

And more still suffer from PTSD and require a long-term assistance to get back on their feet.

Diaz described a particular veteran who suffered from PTSD and couldn't keep a job or find a balance in his life.

Through a lot of hard work over the past six years, this veteran has received proper medical treatment, is employed full-time, reconciled with his wife and children and now



The Veterans House offers four small bedrooms, a full bathroom, full kitchen with all appliances, a dining and family room as well as Internet and cable.

lives in a three-bedroom home.

"There is no reason that we should have homeless veterans living in Indian River

County," Diaz insists.

Diaz and Nightingale are not giving up on those that need a hand up. They may be retired, but they con-

time to serve.

For more information contact the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County at 772-794-0005.

PA 3063

## SERVICE DOGS FOR VETS

# Dogs For Life recognized by Veterans Administration

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

By Shelly Forges

Dogs For Life (DFL) is one of only four Assistance Dog Training organizations in the state of Florida recognized by the Veterans Administration to certify Service Dogs for Veterans.

As stated in the Federal Register, "Service dogs must be certified by ADI or International Guide Dog Federation for veterans with visual, hearing, or substantial mobility impairments to receive benefits."

DFL's prestigious ADI accreditation enables our service dogs to enter VA and military facilities, and our dogs' owners are eligible to receive benefits. Dogs trained by other organizations do not have these privileges.

Our dogs have been turning lives around since 2001 because they enrich people's lives — providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap 911 buttons for emergency and legs that provide access to an unseen world.

The fastest growing need for service dogs is in Florida, and it is for the brave military men and women who served our country! More than 231,000 Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already

claim Florida as their home of record. More than 80,000 veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years.

Extrapolating national VA numbers, the news is grim for our new residents:

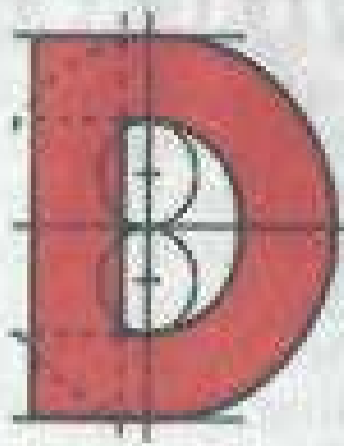
- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 30 percent will suffer from the effects of PTSD
- 50 percent of those with PTSD will not seek treatment
- 19 percent will report PTSD symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- One-third of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and 45 percent of them will suffer from mental illness
- Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era wars

DFL is committed to capitalizing on our 12 years of experience to train service dogs for these Florida veterans in need.

If you know has need for these services or you would like to support DFL's mission, please call 772-567-6989, email [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net) or visit [DogsForLifeVB.org](http://DogsForLifeVB.org).



Veteran Jim Taylor with his hearing assistance dog Pia Pia

**PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE DECADE**

**D O N A D I O**  
 & Associates, Architects, P.A.

### **Donadio and Associates, Architects P.A.**

### **2012 Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist**

Tireless is a word often used to describe Anthony Donadio, president of local architecture firm, Donadio and Associates.

For over 20 years, the firm has supported more than a dozen nonprofit organizations with in-kind professional services to help facilitate the planning and design of various structures.

A self-professed dog lover, Tony generously donated the services of Donadio and Associates to draw up the architectural plans and oversee the construction of a new dog training facility at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park on 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

The new facility allowed the organization to expand its dog training program to

meet the needs of local veterans.

In 2012, Dogs for Life nominated Donadio and Associates as Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist for contributing their professional expertise to give nonprofit organizations the courage and ability to expand services in the community.

# Howl-O-Ween Coverage

## STARS WERE OUT

## Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade

By **BEENDA SUOSATO**  
For Luminaries



Little Red Riding Hood 3-yr-old Lily with grandma the werewolf, 5-yr-old Yorkie, Oliver



James Taylor and his service dog Pia Pia with Kathi Schumann and Sir Georgia Sunshine

The 14th Annual Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo on Oct. 24 attracted pooches and their proud owners - from superheroes, hot-dogs and Hawaiian princesses, to traditional story book characters.

Held at the off-leash Dogs For Life Park on 12th Street in Vero Beach, the pawrade draws non-pet owners too!

CEO and Founder Shelly Ferger said the pawrade was part of the nonprofit's effort to raise aware-

ness in the community about the off-leash dog park, the service dog training center and the outreach programs at Dogs For Life.

"This year, we've had more sponsors than ever," Ferger said. "We're very grateful to all our underwriters, including Henry 1X Schumann and Dyer Subaru who have been awesome. We're also very thankful to Dale Sorensen for helping us out today and all our volunteers and other sponsors."

Learn more at [DogsForLifeVB.org](http://DogsForLifeVB.org).



Corina Turner and her Tibetan Spaniel rescue dog Heidi, 'mammy's pumpkin'



Mary Kemper and DFL CEO and Founder Shelly Ferger



Ruthann Glass and her two 8-month-old molasses Spider-Man and Super Girl

Friday, November 6, 2015

Hometown News - SEBASTIAN - [www.HometownNewsOL.com](http://www.HometownNewsOL.com)

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## Pets on parade

Dogs For Life held its 14th Annual Howl-o-ween Pawrade and Pet Expo Saturday, Oct. 24. Dozens of dog owners were on hand for the annual event. Dogs For Life offers programs for assistance dogs, pet assistance therapy, companion dogs at their off-leash park. For more information call (772) 567-8969. Lilly Springer came as Little Red Riding Hood and her Yorkshire terrier Oliver, was grandma.



Photos by Cliff Partlow  
staff photographer



Rocky the pug, dressed as a bumblebee, gets a last minute costume adjustment from his owner Deb Soroka. Her son Jayse is a member of the 4H Dog Masters.

# Annual "Dog's For Life" 'Pawrade' a howling success



Staff photo by Mary Kemper  
Stephanie Springs, Vero Beach, her daughter Lily and their Yorkshire terrier, Oliver, dressed in a Little Red Riding Hood theme, with Oliver being the Big Bad Wolf dressed as Grandma.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper  
Brooke Bourza, left, and Lisa Kent, veterinary technicians with Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital, manned a booth at the annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade held Oct. 24 at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

More than 100 people showed up at the 14th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

Mary Kemper  
STAFF WRITER  
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year, the annual Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade fundraiser was a smash once again Oct. 24 in Vero Beach.

Nearly 100 owners and their dogs flocked to the Off Leash Dog Park to march in costumes ranging from a horse and jockey to Little Red Riding Hood.

Hundreds of others came to show support for Dogs For Life, and to donate toward its mission of helping those who need it from four-legged friends.

Representatives from the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit put on a dog-handling display. Other representatives included a contingent from the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital. VFW



Staff photo by Mary Kemper  
Roscoe, a 6-year-old Dachshund owned by Beth Martin, Vero Beach, came to the Oct. 24 annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade held at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

See PAWRAGE page 9

Pest 3918 provided a Color Guard, while "Hobo Jim" provided musical entertainment. Numerous raffles were also held.

An English Labrador breeder in northern Florida contacted the mother of Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO, asking if Dogs For Life wanted a puppy to train for some lucky recipient.

"Of course, I said yes!" Ferger said. (In the Dogs For Life "Paw Prints" newsletter, it was announced that "we are expecting (the puppy) by Lab-or Day.")

One of Dogs For Life's most important programs involves training service dogs for veterans with PTSD. While other kinds of disabilities — hearing, loss of sight, etc. — are also part of dogs' training, it is veterans with PTSD who provide a unique challenge in matching them with service dogs.

Trainers teach the dogs to "secure perimeters," or investigate a room or area before the veteran enters it, and brace themselves against a veteran having a panic attack, among many other tasks.

Everything — the service dog and its training — is provided to the

veteran for free, thanks to generous donors and Pawrade-goers.

Also in the works is a program called Veterans Training Dogs for Veterans, which, as its name implies, will involve veterans taking on a more direct role in helping other veterans with their service dogs.

In addition to assisting veterans, Dogs For Life has a thriving number of dogs in training to assist disabled civilians as well, who hearing, sight or mobility issues.

Vital tasks the dogs are trained in include alerting their owners to a doorbell or fire alarm, "herding" them out the door and dialing a special 911 phone, among many others.

Training for all the service dogs takes place in part at Dogs For Life's administrative facility, which has a mock bedroom complete with furniture, partly in the owner's home and partly in public places. It is a time-consuming and demanding job, but the staff has a strong track record of successful "graduates."

Those wishing to donate, or to learn more about Dogs For Life's programs, can contact them at (772) 567-8969.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper  
Corina Turner, Vero Beach, holds Baby, her 4-year-old tricolor Chihuahua, at the annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade held Oct. 24 at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

EVENTS

'Pawraders' strut their stuff at Dogs for Life park

By Fran Foster  
The Newsweekly

The recent Howl-o-Ween Pawrade and Pet Expo was another huge success at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog park in Vero Beach. Enthusiastic canines were dressed from head to toe in elaborate costumes along with some of their owners who got in on the fun.

Dog owners adorned their beloved best friends — big and small — in costumes that ranged from Sherlock Holmes to football players to a Hawaiian princess.

Each one received a participation prize from the 4-H Dog Masters Club as well as lots of attention, treats and pats on the head.

Seventy-three dogs took part in the annual Pawrade, passing by the VIP tent to strut their stuff and show off their creative costumes.

Shelly Ferger, founder of Dogs For Life, emceed the event.

The parade was open to the public and attendees could visit vendor booths supplying pet information or selling products, such as designer doggie clothing.

"We had a slow start this time around, but eventually we had 73 dogs registered for the parade and plenty of people stopping by to show their support," said Ferger. "I am really pleased with the outcome but I want to point out it took an army of volunteers to set everything up



Dogs For Life volunteer Joan Freeman and people help guard the raffle prizes at the Howl-o-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo.

The parade was open to the public and attendees could visit vendor booths supplying pet information or selling products.

their time and energy." Ferger also noted the K-9 demonstration provided by Indian River Sheriff deputies, who volunteered their time to highlight their special talents. Since 2001, Dogs For Life has been turning lives around by providing inde-

and legs that provide accessibility. The fastest growing need for assistance dogs in Florida is among the men and women who have served in the United States military. For more information about the Dogs For Life programs or to become a member of the Off-Leash Dog Park, stop by at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach; visit the website at www.dogsforlifefvb.org or call 772-567-8969.



Little Red Riding Hood, Lily, 3, with her Yorkie, Oliver, in his wagon with mom Stephanie Springer received lots of smiles for their creative costumes.



Dogs For Life Founder/CEO/President Shelly Ferger (center) with Jim Taylor holding PiaPie and Kathi Schumann holding Sir George Sunshine in the VIP tent.

# EVENTS

## 'PAWRADERS' STRUT THEIR STUFF AT DOGS FOR LIFE PARK



Bee-keeper Jayce Soroka with his bumble-bee pug Rocky.



Hudson, a Great Pyreneese/Husky mix, attends the pawrads dressed as a polar bear.



Elvis the Bloodhound as Sherlock Holmes.



Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital's Brooke Souza and Lisa Kent manned the vendor booth at the Dogs for Life event.



Great Dane Finnegan shows his owner Linda Roberts' sense of humor.



Hawaiian Princess Lola, adorned in a pink tutu takes a break from her hearing dog training for the pawrads.



Brittany Kramer, Renzi Innes, Alex Webber, Maddy Ursulean along with Otto the poodle represented the 4-H Dog Masters Club.



The 14th Annual Howl-o-ween Dog Costume Pawrads and Pet Expo had 73 dogs participate in the costume parade.

# I LOVE MY JOB!

Assist    Open a door

Save lives

Be a friend

Alert to danger

Cross a street

Make a call

## I WAS CHOSEN FOR A REASON.



At Dogs For Life, Inc., our mission is to empower those in our community who have physical disabilities or are living with the effects of post-traumatic stress. **With your help, they can gain independence and live with confidence.**

Dogs are man and woman's best friend for a reason. Our specially trained dogs help their owners achieve amazing things. Hearing Dogs give **the gift of confidence** to their owners by alerting them to a knock on the door or when a smoke alarm sounds. Mobility Dogs **provide independence** to their owners by picking up dropped items or helping them stand. Service Dogs **return freedom** to their owners by waking them from a nightmare, creating a soft barrier in a crowd or disrupting emotional overload through tactile stimulation. DFL has trained over 100 dogs since 2002, rescuing 18 dogs from area shelters; saving their lives and changing the lives of their disabled owners.

In 2015, the number of veteran teams we certified and supported **increased 17%**. That's a considerable jump in the need to train dogs for the men and women of our military and DFL has been recognized by the community for its commitment to these veterans.

### Assistance Dog Teams Trained and Certified for Veterans / First Responders

- Twenty-Five percent increase in the number of dogs task trained to mitigate PTSD
- Seventy-Five percent of these dogs are dual trained as either a hearing or mobility assistance dog in addition to PTSD work
- Sixty-Five percent increase in the amount of questions we receive nation-wide via phone and email
- Eight Indian River County veterans are on a waiting list for our program

And as you can read below, **Florida has seen an enormous surge in veterans moving to our state.**

### We need to make sure we, as a community, are prepared to serve them

- 80,000+ Iraq & Afghanistan veterans are expected to relocate to Florida in the next two years; more than 231,000 already claim Florida as their home
- Roughly 30% suffer from PTSD
- Florida has the largest population of veteran amputees in the nation

**They proudly stood up for us, now it's time for us to stand up for them.** Please donate to DFL today.

*Eleanor M. Bengyak*  
Eleanor M. Bengyak, President

*Kathi G. Schumann*  
Kathi G. Schumann, Vice-President

*Dogs For Life is ONE OF SIX fully accredited service dog providers in the State of Florida.*

## Your donation helps Dogs For Life train dogs for

Mobility  
Limitations

Healing  
Families



Veterans with PTSD

Comforting  
the Elderly

Hearing  
Loss



Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
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## ASSISTANCE DOGS WELCOME

GUIDE DOGS  
HEARING DOGS  
SERVICE DOGS



Training Service Dogs Since 2002  
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### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOGS

**Guide Dogs** assist their blind or visually impaired partners to independently and safely negotiate the environment by **GUIDING** them around obstacles, safely across streets and stopping at curbs and steps.

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### Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have task trained their service dogs:

Federal laws which protect individuals with disabilities include the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA, revised 2010); the Fair Housing Amendments Act (1988); Sect 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973); and the Air Carrier Access Act (1986).

The ADA is the federal law that governs access rights to buildings, businesses and public accommodations for people with service dogs. For more information, visit [www.ada.gov](http://www.ada.gov) or call 1-800-514-0301.

The ADA and Florida law both define a service animal as any dog that is trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a physical or psychological disability; the work or task must be directly related to the individual's disability. The disabled person must have a diagnosed impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.

Service dogs are working animals, not pets. A dog used only for crime deterrence, emotional support, comfort or companionship does not qualify as a service animal under this definition.

These laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service dogs in taxis, buses, trains, stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, schools, parks, hotels and other public places.

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Most assistance dogs wear a tag, vest, harness, or backpack, however, these forms of identification are **not** required by law. You should never pet an assistance dog when it is working as this could distract the dog's focus from its human partner. You can talk to the person, not the dog, if they are not busy and are able to hear you.



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Florida State Statute 413.08 defines the rights and responsibilities of an individual with a disability, use of a service animal and prohibited discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing accommodations. The law also provides for criminal penalties in the following circumstances:

Any person, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person, firm or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to, or enjoyment of, a public accommodation, or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual with a disability or the trainer of a service animal while engaged in the training of such an animal, commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. (SS 4)

A person who knowingly and willfully misrepresents him or herself as using and being qualified to use a service animal or as a trainer of a service animal commits a misdemeanor of the second degree. (SS 9)

### Reasons to Deny Access

Under Federal Law, SS 36.302 (c)(2) of the ADA, access can be denied for two reasons: (1) the animal is out of control and the animal's handler does not take effective action to control it; or (2) the animal is not housebroken.

Under Florida Law, FSS 413.08 (3)(f) access can also be denied if the dog's behavior poses a direct threat to the health and safety of others.

Allergies and fear of dogs are not valid reasons for denying access or refusing service to an individual with a service dog. If a service dog is properly excluded or removed, the public accommodation

## Dogs For Life

### Legal Rights for People with Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs, and Service Dogs



Assistance dogs are "task trained" to mitigate the disability of the people who own them.



must provide the disabled individual the option of continuing access to the public accommodation without having the service dog on the premises.

### Summary of Law:

Physically or psychologically disabled persons have the legal right to be accompanied by a specially trained dog in business establishments housing and accommodations where the general public has access and on all common carriers. No extra charge can be levied because of the dog's presence, but the dog user is liable for any damage the dog might cause to the premises.

### Businesses

When it is not obvious what service an animal provides, only limited inquiries are permitted. Business owners or employees may ask two questions: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability; (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to do.

Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Service dogs can be any breed or size and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. Certification or registration of the dog as a service animal is not required under federal or Florida law. It's the training to do work or perform tasks that makes a service dog legal, not the ID or 'clothes' they wear.



**Other studies show<sup>4</sup>:**

Treatment via medication    50% effective  
 Talk therapy                      50% effective  
**Service Dogs                      84.5% effective**

Our dogs also help provide the emotional stability that veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress need to restore peace in their everyday lives. They instill the confidence necessary to be able to leave the house or to enter a confined space like an elevator. This critical help enables their owners to lead a life of self-reliance and independence.



**Dogs For Life Programs and Services**

**Assistance Dogs** are task trained to assist people 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Dogs For Life specializes in training hearing, mobility and psychiatric support dogs at **no cost to our clients**. Dogs can also be cross-trained depending on the needs of their companions.

**Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs** provide warmth and comfort to individuals in need of support and unconditional love. Certified volunteer dog teams provide pet-assisted therapy for children and seniors. Since 2002, Dogs For Life volunteer teams have regularly visited 33 facilities in Indian River county.

**Community Outreach Programs** feature Dog Behavior Workshops and Obedience Training Classes for the public and members. A four-acre Off-Leash Dog Park Campus has served the community since opening in February 2002. Memberships help to fund programs and services.



*Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog, Companion Dog Training & Off-Leash Dog Park*

Email: [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net)  
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Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit, tax exempt organization as described under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Federal ID# 33-090097

**Dogs For Life**

**Service Dogs For Veterans**



**Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center**

1230 16th Avenue  
 Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

**Service Dogs For Veterans**

Dogs For Life, Inc., is one of only six organizations in the state of Florida recognized by the Veterans Administration to certify service dogs for veterans. DFL's prestigious accreditation from Assistance Dogs International enables our service dogs to enter VA and military facilities and our dogs' owners are eligible to receive benefits.



James Taylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.) Iraq War Veteran with Kathi Schumann, DFL Board Vice President and hearing & service dog Pia Pia.

Our dogs have been turning lives around since 2001 - providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws and noses that tap 911 phones in emergencies, and legs that provide stability.

The fastest growing need for service dogs is in Florida, especially for the brave military men and women who served our country!

231,000\* veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record<sup>1</sup>.

80,000\* Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years<sup>2</sup>.

Extrapolating national VA numbers, the news is grim for our new residents:

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 20% will suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress
- 50% of those with Post Traumatic Stress will not seek treatment
- 19% will report Post Traumatic Stress symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- 1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and 45% of them will suffer from mental illness<sup>3</sup>
- Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era<sup>3</sup>

DFL is committing our 25 years of experience to train service dogs for these Florida veterans in need.



**Service Dogs Can Help Veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress**

Our program is dedicated to providing service dogs to the brave men and women who honorably served our country, many of whom suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress, in addition to hearing and/or mobility loss. Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) has been training service dogs to help veterans combat the effects of post traumatic stress since 2010. Specifically, DFL Service Dogs help veterans by:

1. Waking them from nightmares
2. Creating a 'safe zone' around them to allow distance from people in a crowd
3. "Watching my back" - dog sits down with back to owner's back to alert if anyone approaches
4. Making a perimeter search inside of the home
5. Barking when given a hand signal if the owner feels the need to leave a stressful situation
6. Calling for help on a special K-9 emergency phone
7. Providing deep pressure for calming effect
8. Reducing hyper-vigilance through task work

On September 5, 2012, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) amended its regulations concerning veterans in need of service dogs. Under this final rule, VA will provide to veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility impairments, benefits to support the use of a service dog as part of the management of such impairments. The benefits include assistance with veterinary care, travel benefits associated with obtaining and training a dog, and the provision, maintenance, and replacement of hardware required for the dog to perform the tasks necessary to assist such veterans.

<sup>1</sup>Florida Department of Veterans Affairs  
<sup>2</sup>According to local Veterans Groups  
<sup>3</sup>Walter Reed Army Hospital estimate  
<sup>4</sup>Operation Wolfhound



## Application Approval

I have read, signed and understand the Off-Leash Dog Park application.

- I understand that all dogs can bite. I realize I am responsible for my dog's safety and assume all risks for myself and my dog for injury, loss or theft.
- I have attended the Canine Behavior Workshop. I understand there may be situations where my dog is not compatible with other dogs in the dog park.
- The dog described in this application has attended the required temperament evaluation.
- I agree to remove my dog from the park if, at any time, it is found to be incompatible with a dog or person already in the park upon my arrival.
- My dog is currently vaccinated. I will provide current proof of vaccinations, and I understand proof of vaccinations are required every year.

Owner's Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To be signed on Dog Park Orientation date

## Dogs For Life Mission

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 and operating an Off-Leash Dog Park.

## Dogs For Life Programs

**Assistance Dogs:** DFL is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and specializes in task training hearing and mobility service dogs, as well as psychiatric support dogs for veterans.

**Assistance Dogs for Veterans:** This program is dedicated to providing service dogs to the brave men and women who honorably served our country, many of whom suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress, hearing and/or mobility loss.

**Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs:** Our certified volunteer dog teams have been providing unconditional love and support to children and seniors in Indian River county since 2002. DFL teams bring warmth and comfort to people at assisted living facilities, schools and the Off-Leash Dog Park.

**Community Outreach Programs:** These programs include Dog Behavior and Obedience training for the public and members, as well as sponsorship of the 4-H Dog Masters Club.



## Dogs For Life

Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
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# Dogs For Life

## Off-Leash Dog Park



Open  
365 days  
a year!

- 4 acres - safe, clean, fenced
- Walking trails
- Restrooms, chairs and benches
- Separate areas for large and small dogs
- Separate training area
- Shade and watering stations

## Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center

1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969



## Off-Leash Dog Park Information

All persons applying for use privileges at the Off-Leash Dog Park must abide by all Park Rules and Regulations.

### Cost: \$100 Orientation fee.

Tax deductible donations needed and appreciated. Orientation fee is non-refundable. Scholarships are available to those who qualify. In honor of DFL's Assistance Dogs for Veterans Training Program, there is no cost for military veterans or first responders to use the park.

**Payment Method:** Cash, Check or Credit/Debit Card.

**Application Process:** All dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. All applicants must attend a dog park orientation and canine behavior workshop.

**Dog Temperament Evaluation:** Each dog's temperament is evaluated to determine social ability with dogs and people.

**Canine Behavior Workshop:** Orientation includes a canine behavior workshop where dog behavior, body postures, communication and canine pack structures are explained.



## Safety For The Park

Rules are for everyone's safety and promote good etiquette. The disregard of any rule may result in a grievance being filed against any person or dog. Grievances will be reviewed by the Dogs For Life, Inc. Board of Directors and may result in loss of park privileges.

## Rules and Regulations

1. Only pre-approved dogs may enter the park. Dogs must wear a buckle collar when in the park (no choker, spike or electronic collars).
2. Dogs must be leashed when entering and exiting the park. No exceptions.
3. Dogs are not allowed to chase people.
4. Dog owners assume liability for any non-member invited to the park.
5. Dogs are not allowed to dig. If dogs do dig, owners must immediately fill holes.
6. Owners must clean up after their dogs and must deposit waste in receptacles.
7. Dogs over 6 months old must be spayed/neutered and no puppies less than 5 months of age are allowed.
8. If your dog acts aggressively, you must leash your dog and immediately leave the park.
9. No dog can be in the park without an adult in attendance. No more than 2 dogs may be brought into the park by any individual.
10. Park gates must not be left open. Watch for dogs so that they do not escape from the fenced areas. Owners are responsible for ensuring that their dogs do not escape from fenced areas.
11. No bicycles, skateboards, skaters, scooters or motorized devices, except wheelchairs, are allowed.
12. No food, dog treats, alcohol, smoking, glass containers or sticks are allowed in the park.
13. Children under 8 years of age are not permitted in the park. At no time should anyone run or chase dogs.
14. Park hours must be observed.
15. Dog owners must treat each other and dogs with respect at all times. Threatening, rude or abusive behavior is not allowed or tolerated.
16. No toys are allowed in the park.

## Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Dog's Breed: \_\_\_\_\_

Age/Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_ Male Female

Vet Clinic: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of communication:  Email  U.S. Mail

How did you hear about us?

Member  Friend  Ad  Dog Park Sign  Event

Other \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, in consideration of park privileges in the Off-Leash Dog Park, hereby release from liability Dogs For Life, Inc., its Board of Directors, employees, agents and volunteers and waive any right that I may have in the law to recover medical, property or bodily injury damages, regardless of cost, as a result of any injury I may sustain from my dog or any other dog, while on the property of the Dogs For Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park.

I further agree and assume the risk for participating in programs at the Off-Leash Dog Park where there are dogs whose temperament may be unpredictable. I also assume full responsibility for any injury that may occur to me, to my dog(s) or my property. I waive any right that I may have to institute legal proceedings to recover costs of any kind.

Photo/Video Release: I will permit free use of my name video and pictures of myself and/or my dog for DFL brochures newsletters or promotional material, including social media.

I have read this entire application and am fully aware that this constitutes a waiver and release. I hereby certify that I am over 18 years of age and of sound state of mind.

Owner's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Referred by: \_\_\_\_\_

## ASSISTANCE DOGS WELCOME

GUIDE DOGS  
HEARING DOGS  
SERVICE DOGS



Training Service Dogs Since 2002  
772-567-8969

### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOGS

**Guide Dogs** assist their blind or visually impaired partners to independently and safely negotiate the environment by **GUIDING** them around obstacles, safely across streets and stopping at curbs and steps.

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## Dogs For Life

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Staff cannot ask about the person's disability, require medical documentation, require a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

Service dogs can be any breed or size and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. Certification or registration of the dog as a service animal is not required under federal or Florida law. It's the training to do work or perform tasks that makes a service dog legal, not the ID or 'clothes' they wear.

## DFL Community Outreach Programs

**Off-Leash Dog Park** usage for owners of dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social. Dog behavior and park orientations are scheduled by appointment and an orientation fee is required. Walking trails, water, and shaded oak trees are all a part of this safe and controlled environment.

**Dog Behavior Workshops and Obedience Training** is available for the public by appointment for a nominal fee.

**4-H Dog Masters Club** is available for youths between the ages of 8 and 18, which promotes responsible pet ownership skills, self-confidence and leadership skills. This program is sponsored by DFL at no cost to the club.

All donations to our community outreach programs are fully tax-deductible.



## DFL Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center

In response to growing needs in our community and beyond, Dogs For Life has constructed a 2,400 sq. ft. air-conditioned Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center at our 4 acre Off-Leash Dog Park located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. This facility enhances the Dog Park Campus and gives DFL exposure to the public.

The new building houses administrative and training areas and the increased space and central location allows DFL to better support the people who need the specialized services we offer.

The center allows us to increase the scope of our Community Outreach Programs by training dogs year round. It also enabled us to expand our Hearing Dog and Veterans Assistance Dog programs with the addition of a simulated home environment.



Administrative Offices, Training Center and Off-Leash Dog Park



Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog, Companion Dog Training & Off-Leash Dog Park

Email: [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net)  
www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization as described under the Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Federal ID# 31-1800397

# Dogs For Life

## Improving The Quality Of Life For People And Dogs

**AT NO COST TO OUR CLIENTS**



James Taylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
Iraq War Veteran  
and his Hearing/Service Dog Pia Pia

## Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center

1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

## Dogs For Life Mission

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 and operating an off-leash dog park.

**Assistance Dogs** are trained to perform tasks to assist a person with special needs 24 hours a day. This critical help enables their owners to lead a life of self-reliance and independence. Dogs For Life specializes in training Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs.

**Hearing Dogs** can be trained to alert their owners to a knock at the door, a telephone ring, a smoke alarm, or an alarm clock. Many other sounds such as a baby's cry or an oven timer can be added to training depending on individual needs.

**Service Dogs** can assist with mobility challenges and psychiatric support. They can be cross-trained to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, tap a specialized K-9 emergency phone for help, carry shopping bags, and bring items to their companions. The dogs can also be trained to watch behind one's back, create a safe zone around their human partner, or reducing hyper-vigilance through task work.



**Assistance Dogs For Veterans Training Program** "task trains" dogs to assist veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of post-traumatic stress.



## Average Cost To Train A Service Dog

*Thanks to your donations Dogs For Life is able to provide dogs and training free of charge to our clients.*

Team Evaluation Process	UNIT	AVG. #	TOTAL
Client Application Review	\$50/hr.	4	\$200
Home Visit; Head Trainer & Assigned Trainer	\$75	1	\$75
Shelter Visits & Dog Temperament Evaluation	\$50/hr.	6	\$300
Cost to Adopt Dog	\$120	1	\$120
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	6	\$300
<b>Training Equipment</b>			
ID Card - In Training	\$15	1	\$15
Jacket & Patches - In Training	\$125	1	\$125
Canine 911 Emergency Phone	\$264	1	\$264
Training Supplies	\$250	1	\$250
<b>Basic Behavior / Obedience Training</b>			
Group Obedience Classes	\$100	4	\$400
AKC Canine Good Citizen Test	\$10	2	\$20
Public Access Training	\$75/hr.	10	\$750
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	6	\$300
<b>Task Training: 3 Tasks Minimum</b>			
Assigned Trainer	\$42/hr.	120	\$5,040
Head Trainer	\$75/hr.	36	\$2,700
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	96	\$4,608
<b>Certification Costs</b>			
ID Card - Certified	\$15	1	\$15
Personalized Collar & Leash; New Jacket Patches	\$150	1	\$150
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	3	\$150
<b>TOTAL Initial Training</b>			<b>\$15,782</b>
<b>Annual Recertification &amp; Support</b>			
Annual Recertification	\$750	10 yrs.	\$7,500
Annual ID Cards	\$15	10 yrs.	\$150
Replacement Jackets, Collars & Leashes	\$175	4	\$700
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	10	\$500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$24,632</b>
<b>Additional Costs For DFL Pre-Trained Dog:</b>			
<b>Veterinary Care</b>			
Initial Exams & Vaccinations	\$280	1	\$280
Heartworm/Flea Meds	\$40	6 mos.	\$240
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$520</b>
<b>DFL Housing Costs</b>			
Cost of Service Dog Puppy	\$1,000	1	\$1,000
Boarding	\$25/day	6 mos.	\$4,550
Food & Treats	\$100	6 mos.	\$600
Crate & Dog Bed	\$400	1	\$400
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$6,550</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL w/Additional Costs</b>			<b>\$31,702</b>

Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, Registration # CH15831. You will receive a written receipt and regular updates through the Dogs For Life, Inc. Paw Prints Newsletter.

We are grateful for your support. Should you have any questions please call our office at (772) 567-8969.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 438-7352 within the state.



International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

**Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs** provide warmth and comfort to individuals in need of support and unconditional love. Certified volunteer teams provide pet-assisted therapy for children and seniors at assisted-living facilities, schools and at the dog park.



**OCTOBER**

# Howl -O- Ween

## SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA Hometown News

Vol. 13, No. 6

[www.HometownNews01.com](http://www.HometownNews01.com)

Friday, Oct. 30, 2015

### Perfect pet 'Pawade'



Dogs For Life held its 14th Annual Howl-o-ween Pawrade and Pet Expo Saturday. Dozens of dog owners were on hand for the annual event. Lilly Springer came as Little Red Riding Hood and her Yorkshire terrier Oliver, was grandma. Dogs For Life offers programs for assistance dogs, pet assistance therapy, companion dogs at their off-leash park. For more information call (772) 567-8969.

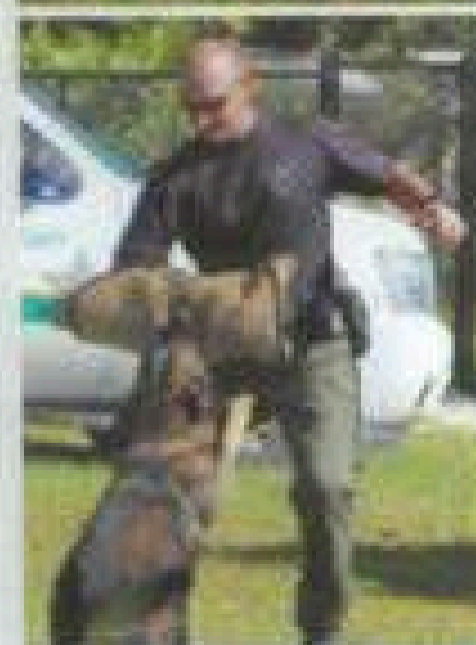
Cliff Partlow

Shelly Ferger

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Subject:

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>  
Tuesday, October 27, 2015 4:22 PM  
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
DFL's Howl-O-Ween Photos and YouTube video

Dogs For Life's Howl-O-Ween Parade was a huge success thanks to all of your efforts and support!



**14th Annual Howl-O-Ween  
Dog Costume Parade & Pet Expo**

*Thank you to everyone who  
participated and came out to our  
event. It was a blast!*



Also be sure to check out the YouTube video donated by  
OhNo! Productions

# Going to the Dogs



More than 70 dogs lined the track at the Dogs For Life dog park in Vero Beach for the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade on Saturday. "This was last minute," said Linda Wyatt (left), of Vero Beach, who attended with her dog Izzy, granddaughter Mackenzie Paivy (right), 5, and her friend Chloe Wilson, 8. "I didn't plan on coming, but my granddaughter insisted." This was Wyatt's second year participating in the event. To see more photos, go to [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

38 INDIAN RIVER County  
HOMETOWN NEWS

IN SEASON

October 2015



## Pawrade

Bruni Serrano gets Jasmine ready in her not-so wicked witch costume. Dogs for Life held its 13th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade at their off-leash park. Dozens of dogs dressed in the holiday best assembled for a parade around the park.

Cliff Partlow  
staff photographer

## Events

From page 36

\$35. For more information visit [afpindianriver.afpnet.org](http://afpindianriver.afpnet.org)

### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

- **Sebastian Area Historical Society**, "Flounder Fishing at Sebastian Inlet State Park" by Ed Perry, Park Services Specialist, Sebastian Inlet State Park, North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd., CR 512 at Roseland Road. Admission is free. Refreshments provided. For more information call (772) 581-1380 or email [sahsi@att.net](mailto:sahsi@att.net).

- **Free Wildlife Tours**, 8-10 a.m. every Wednesday, November through March (except holiday weeks), Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. You MUST have a reservation. For reservations call (772) 581-5557, ext. 2.

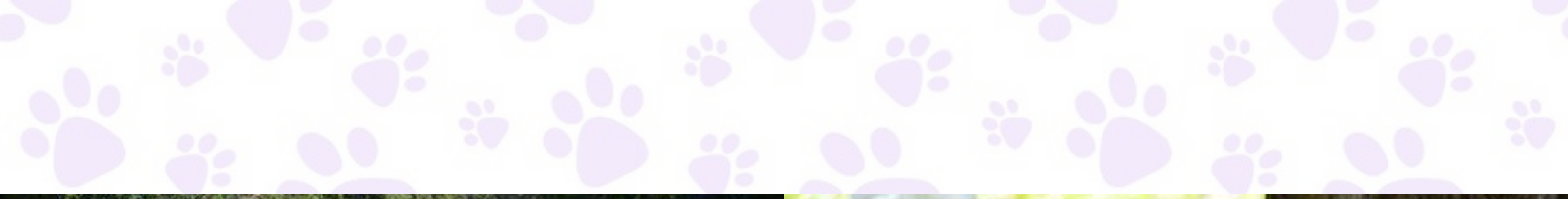
### THURSDAY, NOV. 19 & SATURDAY, NOV. 21

- **'Riverside Goes to Hollywood'** 8 p.m., Stark Stage, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. Two evening performances, Thursday and Saturday, following an already sold-out musical revue luncheon on Nov. 19. Enjoy some of the most beloved and acclaimed songs from Hollywood musicals. Tickets are \$45. For tickets or more information, call (772) 231-6990 or visit [www.riversidetheatre.com](http://www.riversidetheatre.com).

### THURSDAY, NOV. 19 - SATURDAY, NOV. 21

- **"That's Entertainment!"** variety concert: McAlpin Fine Arts Center, IRSC main campus, 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce. Join the IRSC "Company" singers and jazz ensembles in a celebration of classic jazz, pop and Broadway music from past to present. Show times are 7 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with a 2 p.m. show on Saturday. General admission tickets are \$15. For more information, contact the IRSC box office at (772) 462-4750 or visit [www.irsc.edu](http://www.irsc.edu).

See EVENTS, page 39





# Dogs For Life

Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park

## 14th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade & Pet Expo October 24, 2015

Registration - 2 pm • Pawrade - 4 pm



**Event Underwriter**  
Henry IX Schumann

**Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park**  
1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
772-567-8969  
www.dogsforlifevb.org



### TREASURE COAST

#### Community Calendar

954-4611; [james.baturya@indianriverschools.org](http://james.baturya@indianriverschools.org)

#### Orchid Mounting

**Workshop:** Make and take a mounted Dendrobium orchid. All materials included. 10 a.m.-noon Oct. 24. McKee Botanical Garden, 350 U.S. 1, Vero Beach. Ages: 16+. \$55. Register: 772-794-0601; [www.mckeegarden.org](http://www.mckeegarden.org).

#### Absolute Integrated

**Medicine:** learn more about Acupuncture at AOM Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 24. Absolute Integrated Medicine, 1575 Indian River Blvd., Suite C-130, Vero Beach. \$0-\$30. 772-770-6184; [AcupunctureVeroBeach.com](http://AcupunctureVeroBeach.com).

#### Vero Beach Oktoberfest &

**Music Jam:** Rock, Country, Blues and German/Bavarian bands, foods, vendors. 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Oct. 24. Indian River County Fairgrounds, 7955 58th Ave., Vero Beach. \$2. 856-611-0442; <http://www.VeroBeachOktoberFest.com/>.

#### VNA's "Shoo the Flu"

**Vaccination Clinic:** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 24. Vero Beach Hidden Treasures, 660 21st St., Vero Beach. 772-567-5551; [www.vnafc.com](http://www.vnafc.com).

#### Dogs For Life Canine Howl-o-ween Pawrade & Pet Expo:

Halloween Dog Costume Parade at DFL Off-Leash Dog Park. 2 p.m. gates open for registration. 4 p.m. Pawrade Oct. 24. Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

#### Community Calendar

Hidden Treasures, 660 21st St., Vero Beach. 772-567-5551; [www.vnafc.com](http://www.vnafc.com).  
**Dogs For Life Canine Howl-o-ween Pawrade & Pet Expo:** Halloween dog costume parade at DFL Off-Leash Dog Park. 2 p.m. gates open for registration. 4 p.m. Pawrade Oct. 24. Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).

CHARTING YOUR COURSE

Calendar Oct. 19-30

Cocktail Party: 6-8 p.m., to benefit ARC of Martin County, Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club, Stuart. \$75 per person. 772-383-2525

Oct. 24

Swinging For the ARC Golf Tournament: 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., to benefit ARC of Martin County, Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club, Stuart. \$150 per person. 772-383-2525

19th Annual Golf Tournament: noon, to benefit Caring Children Clothing Children, Monarch Country Club, Palm City. \$150 per golfer. 772-221-8777. www.wicmartin.org

Exchange Club of IBC Foundation's Black & White Maquerade: 6 p.m., Vero Beach Country Club, 800 10th St., Vero Beach. \$75 per person. www.exchangeclubofindianriver.org

Annual Halloween Party: 3-6 p.m., to benefit The Arc of Indian River County, Sun-Up Camps, 3456 5th St. SW, Vero Beach. \$5. 772-562-6854, ext. 228

Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade & Pet Expo: 2-5 p.m., to benefit Dogs for Life. 772-567-8969

Shelly Ferger

From: DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>  
Sent: Friday, October 16, 2015 4:18 PM  
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
Subject: Oct 24 Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

Don't forget to join us for our Annual Canine Howl-O-Ween Pawrade Saturday, October 24th at 4 PM!



**14th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade & Pet Expo**  
Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park  
1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach

**October 24th**  
Registration - 2 PM  
Pawrade - 4 PM

**Pawrade Sponsor**  
**Dyer!**  
SUBARU

**Best in Show Sponsor**  
**DALE SORENSEN**  
REAL ESTATE INC.

**Top Dog Sponsors**  
**Sniff & Barkens**  
**WINDSOR**

**Henry IX Schumann**  
Event Underwriter

**Hobo Jim is Back!** Providing Live Entertainment  
Indian River County Sheriff's Dept. K-9 Demonstration  
VFW Post 3918 - American Legion Color Guard  
Exhibitor Space Available Starting at \$100  
This Year's Raffle Items are Better Than Ever!

**Supporting Organizations:**  
ARC of Indian River County  
ARC of Martin County  
Caring Children Clothing Children  
Exchange Club of IBC Foundation  
Hobo Jim  
Indian River County Sheriff's Dept.  
K-9 Demonstration  
Monarch Country Club  
Palm City  
Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club  
Stuart  
Sun-Up Camps  
The Arc of Indian River County  
The Arc of Martin County  
Vero Beach Country Club  
Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital  
Windsor  
Windsor Veterinary Hospital

**Exhibitors:**  
4 of 4 Dog Members Club  
Diverse Design  
Dog Safety Plus  
Vero Beach  
4 of 4 Dog Members Club  
Diverse Design  
Dog Safety Plus  
Vero Beach

**Supporting Organizations:**  
ARC of Indian River County  
ARC of Martin County  
Caring Children Clothing Children  
Exchange Club of IBC Foundation  
Hobo Jim  
Indian River County Sheriff's Dept.  
K-9 Demonstration  
Monarch Country Club  
Palm City  
Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club  
Stuart  
Sun-Up Camps  
The Arc of Indian River County  
The Arc of Martin County  
Vero Beach Country Club  
Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital  
Windsor  
Windsor Veterinary Hospital

STAY CONNECTED

Service dogs "paw it forward" to military and law enforcement veterans



Darel, a Labrador retriever, is a retired law enforcement K-9 and is now an assistance dog. Returning soldiers and law enforcement personnel often suffer from PTSD after a traumatic event. Founder and assistance trainer Shelley Ferger of Dogs For Life is increasing the number of service dogs trained at their facility in Vero Beach, Florida to accommodate the growing demand. Dogs For Life is one of only four Assistance Dog training organizations in Florida with Assistance Dogs International accreditation and is recognized by the Veteran's Administration.



Dawn Taylor, wife of Jim Taylor, SSG US Army Iraq War veteran got Jim a rescued pug named Pia Pia after he showed signs of PTSD. The pair went through assistance training together at Dogs For Life and the family has seen a big turnaround. "They all say they cannot believe how 12 lbs of love could change this man into a happy and smiling person again. Jim does not hesitate to tell anyone that Pia Pia is his angel."



Ferger founded Dogs For Life based on her passion for helping veterans and people with disabilities. "We recognize each person's disability and determine how a trained dog can help", she states. "Dogs interrupt panic attacks, anxiety, PTSD to name just a few. One of the things we teach is 'lap' where the dog makes full, comforting contact with the veteran", she adds. "It's like a dog hug".



Another favorite task assistance dogs perform is "Watch my six" where dogs alert to anyone approaching from behind. Dogs can also provide stability so the owner can stand without help from another person.



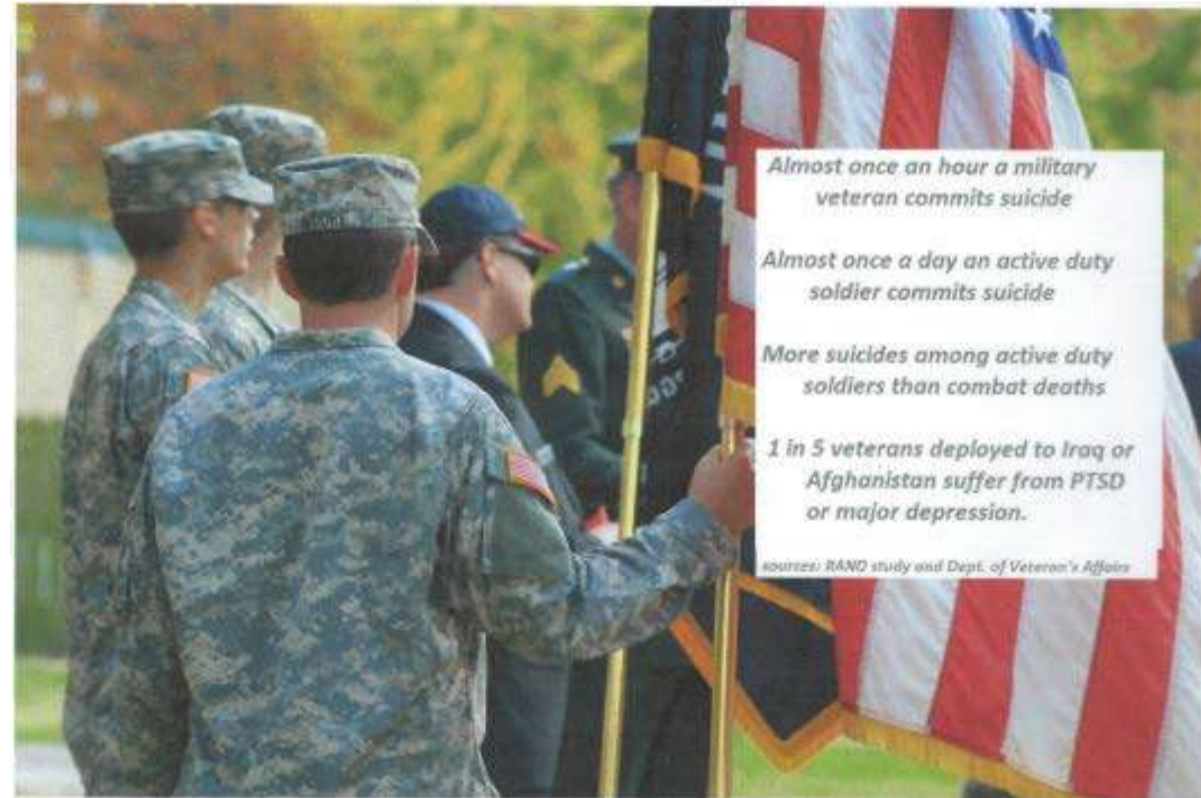
Ferger believes that dogs are a workable alternative to medication and augment talk therapy to a great degree. She is backed up by the Operation Wolfhound study that showed service dogs were 85% effective in helping with PTSD as opposed to medication and talk therapy each at 50% effective.



Iraq war vet Jim Taylor's assistance dog Pia Pia is trained for many of the tasks veterans and law enforcement want, such as alerting to a doorbell or knock, babies crying, tea kettles, stove timers and they can even distinguish between a cell phone and house phone. Some dogs are also taught to dial 911 on a special phone in an emergency.



Ferger is increasing the number of dogs she trains to accommodate the growing need and echoes the sentiments felt by many: "They deserve our help for all they have done for us". On October 24th, Dogs For Life holds its annual Howl 'o'ween Pawrade at 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach, Florida to raise money for their work. Judging by the chart below, they will need it. <http://www.dogsforlifevb.org/>



Almost once an hour a military veteran commits suicide  
 Almost once a day an active duty soldier commits suicide  
 More suicides among active duty soldiers than combat deaths  
 1 in 5 veterans deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan suffer from PTSD or major depression.

sources: RAND study and Dept. of Veteran's Affairs

# Dogs For Life

(772) 567-8969

1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32960



## Service Dogs For Veterans

*A Message From Kathi Schumann*

Dogs For Life, Inc. is one of only four Assistance Dog Training organizations in the state of Florida recognized by the Veteran's Administration to certify Service Dogs for Veterans.

As stated in the Federal Register, "Service Dogs Must Be Certified by ADI or International Guide Dog Federation for Veterans with Visual, Hearing, or Substantial Mobility Impairments to Receive Benefits."

DFL's prestigious ADI accreditation enables our Service Dogs to enter VA and military facilities, and our dogs' owners are eligible to receive benefits. Dogs trained by other organizations do not have these privileges.

Our dogs have been turning lives around since 2001 because they enrich people's lives – providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap 911 buttons in emergencies, and legs that provide stability.



Kathi Schumann gives Veteran Jim Taylor and his Hearing/Service Dog Pia Pia a special treat at the Schumann Racetrack.

The fastest growing need for Service Dogs is in Florida, and it is for the brave military men and women who served our country!

231,000\* Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record!

80,000\* Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years!

Extrapolating national VA numbers, the news is grim for our new residents:

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability
- 30% will suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress
- 50% of those with Post Traumatic Stress will not seek treatment
- 19% will report Post Traumatic Stress symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- 1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and 45% of them will suffer from mental illness!
- Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era!

DFL is committing our 25 years of experience to train Service Dogs for these Florida Veterans in need.



### WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The sobering fact is that suicide is rampant<sup>6</sup>:

Almost **once an hour** – every 65 minutes – a military Veteran commits suicide

Almost **once a day an active duty soldier** commits suicide; 349 in 2012 – a record high

There are now more suicides among active duty soldiers than combat deaths

Veterans make up 7% of the American population, but they account for 20% of its suicides

***Our Veterans deserve our help!***

## Our Veterans Are Returning Home ... Without Homes



A brief look at the national numbers also gives us an idea of what awaits us here in Florida:

- 2.6<sup>1</sup> million Veterans have served our country since September 2001<sup>4</sup>

- 307,000<sup>2</sup> members of our armed forces are likely to leave the military in each of the next four years<sup>5</sup>

Current homelessness statistics do not bode well for these brave young men and women.

### Post Traumatic Stress, Physical Disabilities & Homelessness:

What does Post Traumatic Stress have to do with homelessness? The sad fact is:

- 2/3 of homeless Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have Post Traumatic Stress<sup>6</sup>

Post Traumatic Stress is even far more common than physical wounds among troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan:

- 336,000<sup>7</sup> have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress (some studies indicate that up to 70% of Veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress)<sup>7</sup>

- 50,409 have been wounded<sup>7</sup>

While unemployment, poverty, lack of support networks and substandard housing are major reasons that many Veterans become homeless, a closer look reveals that **disabilities, both mental and physical**, precede and contribute to these conditions<sup>8</sup>:

- 51% of individual homeless Veterans have **disabilities**

- 50% have **serious mental illness**

- 70% have **substance abuse problems**

What's even worse:

- 1,400,000 veterans are considered "at risk" of homelessness<sup>8</sup>

Moreover, the VA says the numbers could be higher because they include only the homeless the department is aware of<sup>8</sup>.

Compounding the problem is the fact that our Iraq and Afghanistan vets are different from other Veterans. "They're younger, much more savvy and they don't necessarily like to ask for help."<sup>9</sup>

### The Statistics Are Staggering

- 13% of homeless adults: Veterans
- 20% of male homeless: Veterans
- 62,619 Veterans homeless on any given night<sup>10</sup>
- 4 in 10 of these are unsheltered<sup>10</sup>
- 240,000<sup>10</sup> homeless or "at risk"
- Veterans were served by the VA in 2012 (up 21% from 2011)
- 80,558 calls made to the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans in fiscal 2012 (up 123% from 2011)

### Veterans Are Disproportionately Homeless:

- 20% homeless for veterans aged 18-25 (vs. 16.4% for same-aged civilians)
- 10.4% for veterans aged 25-34 (vs. 8.1% for same-aged civilians)

No one who has served our country should ever go without a safe, stable place to call home.

***Those who keep us safe deserve our help now!***

## Dogs For Life Programs and Services

**Assistance Dogs** are specially trained to perform tasks to assist a person with a special need 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide a life of self reliance and independence for their companions. Dogs For Life specializes in hearing, mobility and psychiatric support training **at no charge to our Clients**. Dogs can be cross-trained depending on the needs of their companions.

**Service Dogs for Veterans Training Program** "task trains" dogs to assist our Veterans with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post Traumatic Stress. This innovative program is certain to give back to our Veterans who have given so much to assure our freedom.

**Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs** provide warmth and comfort to individuals in need of support and unconditional love. Certified volunteer dog teams provide pet-assisted therapy for children and seniors. Since 2002, Dogs For Life volunteer teams have visited 33 facilities in Indian River County.

**Community Outreach Programs** feature a Dog Behavior Hotline, Dog Placement Referral Program, Dog Behavior Workshops and Obedience Training Classes. The Off-Leash Dog Park Campus has served 492 members since opening in February 2002. Memberships help to fund programs and services.

## Service Dogs Can Help Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress

The Department of Veteran Affairs has long recognized the effectiveness of Service Dogs for Veterans<sup>11</sup>. The Department is currently sponsoring a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Service Dogs as a treatment method for Post Traumatic Stress.

### Other programs indicate<sup>12</sup>:

Treatment via medication	50% effective
Talk therapy	50% effective
Service Dogs	84.5% effective



James Taylor, SSG U.S. Army (Ret.), Iraq War Veteran and his Hearing/Service Dog Pia Pia

**Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) Service Dogs already help Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress** by task-training hearing, mobility and psychiatric service dogs, as well as dogs that can be cross-trained depending on the Veteran's needs. Specifically, DFL Service Dogs help Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress by:

1. Waking up the owner from nightmares
2. "Creating a Barrier" around the owner to allow distance from people in a crowd
3. "Watching my back" - dog sits down with back to owner's back to alert if anyone approaches
4. Making a perimeter search inside of the home before entry
5. "Popping a corner" - looking both ways before a person enters a room or long hallway
6. Barking when given a hand signal if the owner feels the need to leave a stressful situation
7. Providing tactile stimulation to disrupt emotional overload of the owner
8. "Breaking the Spell" and/or combat sedative side effects
9. "Finding the Car" - when owner needs to exit building quickly and get to a car
10. Calling suicide hotline on a special K-9 emergency phone
11. Carrying backpack with medical supplies and/or water
12. Providing deep pressure for calming effect
13. Reducing hyper-vigilance through teamwork
14. Serving as the owner's "combat buddy" to provide security and mitigate loneliness

Our dogs also help provide the emotional stability that Veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress need to restore peace in their everyday lives. They instill the confidence necessary to be able to leave the house, or to enter a confined space like an elevator. This critical help enables their owners to lead a life of self-reliance and independence.



<sup>11</sup> On September 5, 2012, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) amended its regulations concerning veterans in need of service dogs. Under this final rule, VA will provide to veterans with visual, hearing, or mobility impairments, benefits to support the use of a service dog as part of the management of such impairments. The benefits include assistance with veterinary care, travel benefits associated with obtaining and training a dog, and the provision, maintenance, and replacement of hardware required for the dog to perform the tasks necessary to assist such Veterans.

<sup>1</sup>Florida Department of Veterans Affairs  
<sup>2</sup>According to local Veterans Groups  
<sup>3</sup>Walter Reed Army Hospital website  
<sup>4</sup>Census Population Survey (CPS) 2002, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor  
<sup>5</sup>Veterans Employment and Training Service  
<sup>6</sup>Department of Veterans Affairs  
<sup>7</sup>January 2002 HUD national "point-in-time count" of the homeless  
<sup>8</sup>"The Road Study," Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense  
<sup>9</sup>VA's specialized homelessness program  
<sup>10</sup>Kate Murphy, LA Services Army program director  
<sup>11</sup>Operation Willpower





**SEPTEMBER**



## BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Indian River County with Tania Ortega-Cowan

### Theatre in Fellsmere

Riverside Children's Theatre partnered with the City of Fellsmere to present two free productions from the RCT On The Go troupe.

The performances will take place in the Clarence F. Korker Center for the Performing Arts—the old school auditorium, located on the second floor of Fellsmere Town Hall, 22 S. Orange Street.

RCT On The Go will present "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., Oct. 3.

Then at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., on Nov. 14, RCT On The Go will present "The Tiger Who Came To Tea."

The free tickets will distributed at the au-

### Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween

The Autumn Equinox was last week, so we can start thinking about pumpkin weather and all that comes with it!

From 2 to 4 p.m., on Oct. 24, Dogs for Life will hold its 14th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo.

It's a fun gathering for people and dogs alike, and extra festive with everyone in costume.

The IRC 4-H Dog Masters will be there, selling beverages to raise funds for their group too.

Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company is donating juice toward the cause. Learn more at DogsForLifevb.org.

## IN REMEMBRANCE



Honor Guards - American Legion Post 189



Bagpiper Michael Hyde



Placing of the Wreath. Cpl. Heath Harris, USMC. Local officials, dignitaries, veterans and residents attended the POW/MIA ceremony on Veteran's Memorial Island.

Cmdr. Sylvester McIntosh, American Legion Post 181

John Matthews and Dwight Harris

Peter & Susan O'Bryan



Dogs for Life John Baughman and LA Bykowski

# Veterans Council POW/MIA Day

By BECKA SPOWART FOR LUMINARIES

A special ceremony was hosted by the Veterans Council of Indian River County on Sept. 18 to honor the thousands of men and women who were held prisoners of war and those who remain missing in action.

The POW/MIA candlelight vigil took place at Veterans Memorial Island.

Master of ceremonies was Veterans Council President Tony Young and welcoming remarks were presented by Cmdr. Sylvester McIntosh of the American Legion Post 181.

Bagpiper Michael Hyde participated in the ceremony's interlude.

Vocalist Dolores Mark sang two songs, "My Heart Will Go On" and "America, the Beautiful," in remembrance of our lost heroes.

A moment of silence and illumination of candles was led by Dwight Harris, Marine Corps League.

Placing of the wreath was posted by Cpl. Heath Harris, USMC, in front of the POW/MIA Monument, which was dedicated on Sept. 29, 2007.

The ceremony concluded

with a taps by Duke Scales, Bugles Across America, and benediction by Father Dave Newhart.

According to Vero Beach Mayor Dick Winger, this is a very disappointing moment for him. In January 1944 he lost someone very important.

"I was of course a child. It was my father's brother, Bob, and he was killed in a destroyer off Anzio and they never found his body," he said. "As a child, trying to cope with someone that you love and used to bring me things from all over the world.... He was gone and we never saw him again."



Joe Flescher, Marty Zickert, Tony Young, Rip Wieler and Shelly Fergar with the POW/MIA flag, a symbol of remembrance

# Golf Tournament



# United Way Day of Caring

10A ■ Sunday, September 20, 2015 ■ TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS ■ IC

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

### 7 women tabbed to lead United Way campaign

By Janet Begley  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

VERO BEACH — When you name seven women as co-chairs of a fundraising project for the United Way of Indian River County, it could turn out to be a sensation.

That's what United Way Executive Director Michael Kint was hoping as he announced the names of the "sensational seven" who will lead this year's annual fundraising campaign of \$2.955 million. The announcement came during the organization's annual "Day of Caring" breakfast Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church in Vero Beach.

"This powerhouse lineup of women have agreed to take responsibility for pulling well over 100 volunteers together to do the daunting work of raising the funds needed to advance the common good and make a real impact on community conditions for all of us," Kint said. "Today is Day 1 of 365 days of caring for the coming year."

Kerry Bartlett, managing director of Bob Carter Companies, is one of the seven women who will

#### THE 'SENSATIONAL SEVEN'

**Kerry A. Bartlett:** Managing director, Bob Carter Companies

**Susan L. Chenault:** Vice president, Wealth Advisory Services, Northern Trust

**Janie Graves Hoover:** Sales and marketing executive, Tight Line

**Katherine (Katie) Kirk:** Vice president, Legal and House Counsel, Daland Corp.

**Leah Muller:** Leah Muller Interiors

**Lenora Ritchie:** The Robert F. & Eleonora W. McCabe Foundation

**Sue M. Tompkins:** Vice president and senior financial adviser, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Inc.

lead this year's campaign. She said collectively, the group understand the needs of the community and want to raise as much community support as possible to address those needs.

"It's a huge opportunity but also a huge responsibility," Bartlett said. "We're bringing seven different spheres of influence and connections in the community to the table and we want to leverage our resources."

Another member of the "sensational seven" is Sue Tompkins, vice president and senior financial adviser for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. Tompkins said having

seven different women leading the campaign might be scary to some but she believes it brings diversity to the project.

"It gives us a different leverage when it comes to raising funds," Tompkins said. "We want to be the faces of this campaign and mobilize volunteers throughout the community."

After breakfast, about 400 volunteers headed off to perform more than 30 different community service projects throughout Indian River County, ranging from washing windows at the Homeless Family Center to cleaning the Meals on Wheels kitchen at the Senior

#### 'DAY OF CARING'

More than 30 projects were completed during the "Day of Caring" for the following organizations:

American Red Cross; CareNet; Children's Home Society; Leisure Square; Dogs for Life; Harvest Food & Outreach; Hibiscus Children's Center; Healthy Start; Senior Resource Association; Keep Indian River Beautiful; St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store; The Source; The Source Thrift Store; United Way of Indian River County; Humane Society of Vero Beach thrift stores in Vero Beach and Sebastian; Homeless Family Center; Indian River County Habitat for Humanity; Literacy Services of Indian River County; Florida Aquaculture Foundation; Redlands Christian Migrant Association; Treasure Coast Community Health; Environmental Learning Center; Gifford Youth Achievement Center; and the Samaritan Center.

Resource Association.

Meredith Egan, director of community impact for the United Way of Indian River County, said the local nonprofit organizations that benefit from the "Day of Caring" are very

appreciative of the extra assistance from volunteers.

"I work closely with nonprofit partners and I can tell you that the help you're providing today makes a big difference," said Egan. "Hundreds of

you are going out today to paint, clean, build, organize and even scrapbook, things that these agencies don't have to money or people power to do without help. Thanks go to people like you who put your time and money where your mouth is, step up, and make things better for others."

Stephany Sanders, 25, of Vero Beach, said she learned of the "Day of Caring" event from her dad, and thought it sounded like a good way to spend a Saturday morning. She and some friends were scheduled to do some painting at the Treasure Coast Community Health Center in Fellsmere.

"I like to help others," she said. "It gives me a sense of giving back."

# EVENTS

## VOLUNTEERS UNITE FOR DAY OF CARING



Dogs 4 Life gets new mulch thanks to volunteers with the United Way: Jesse Hatmaker, Brittany Auld, Erin Raines, Jessica Hatmaker, Kristin Zimmermann, Chrissy Stephens and



Hundreds of volunteers attended the breakfast pep rally at First Presbyterian Church before heading to various locations throughout the county.




# Darel's Birthday Party




# 3rd Annual Tunnel 2 Towers 5K

24 | Monday, September 14, 2015 | LUMINARIES - LQ | THE PALM BEACH POST-NEWSPAPER


## STARS IN REMBRANCE




IRCFR  
Chief Brian  
Burkahn



IRCFR's Captain James Coleman and  
Battalion Chief Lonn Berham



Battalion  
Chief Jack  
Dehn from  
Brooklyn's  
Red Hook  
station who  
was working  
on 9-11



Dogs for Life's Lisa Snyderski, Shelly  
Feger, 'Puppy', L.A. and 'Darnik'

## 3rd Annual Tunnel 2 Towers 5K

**By Tami Brown-Cross**  
Luminares

Riverside Park in Vero Beach was filled with first responders, American flags, rows of fallen '01 heroes' names, and enthusiastic supporters Saturday to participate in the Tunnel 2 Towers 5K.

The event commemorates those who died saving others on September 11, 2001.

To honor the best and physical challenges our '01 first responders endured in NYC, many chose to run the race wearing full firefighter and law enforcement gear.

Proceeds benefit the Stephen Siller Tunnel 2 Towers Foundation which forever remembers the sacrifice firefighter Stephen Siller made when he ran to the World Trade Center and laid down his life to save others on 9-11.

Battalion Chief Jack Dehn from Brooklyn's Red Hook station, who helped the rescue efforts on 9-11, came to Vero Beach just for this event.

"It is great to see so many people from the community coming out to support everyone," said Sarah Mazza of the Vero Beach High School girls lacrosse team.

Sydney Bracken added, "We are proud to be here. We are all volunteering and supporting our first responders."

BIC Fire Rescue Chief Brian Burkahn said, "What we want everybody to understand is that this isn't just about firemen and first responders, it's about everybody who sacrificed on 9-11. It affects everybody in this county and in the world. We appreciate everybody coming out to support us. It's all about community support and that's what we are here for."



# Cowboy Beer Night

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS | LUMINARIES

Monday, September 7, 2015

## Cowboy Beer Night Cattlemen help Samuel Tripson

By TAMIA ORTEGA-COWAN  
FOR LUMINARIES

The Patio Seafood Tavern was packed to capacity last Wednesday evening for the Indian River Cattlemen's Association's Cowboy Beer Night fundraiser.

The venue has close ties to the cattlemen community. Built by Waldo Sexton in the 1930s using wood, wrought iron, tile and collectibles still there today, the Sexton family owns the building.

Cattle rancher Sean Sexton, Waldo's grandson, is a long time member of the Indian River Cattlemen's Association. Like Waldo, he is a man of many talents.

An accomplished artist and poet, he designed the label for a new beer being served at the event, the Cow Boss Imperial Milk Stout.

Made by Cigar City Brewing Co. in Tampa, the beer was inspired by Florida ranchers, and the company donated \$10,000 to the Florida Cattlemen's Association.

While the crowd enjoyed the Cow Boss beer, Sean, Doyle Rigdon and Will Barker recited cowboy poetry. Sybil Gage gave a live musical performance. And, Wesley Davis presented an energetic live auction.

Even more fitting, the

Patio donated 15 percent of the evening's proceeds to the Samuel Tripson family for vitally needed medical treatments.

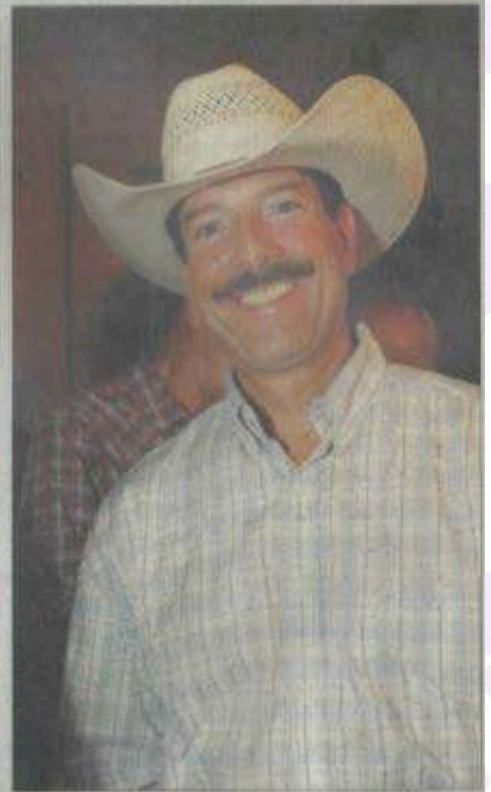
Samuel Tripson, who is battling a return of lymphoma, is related to the Sextons.

Waldo's daughter, Barbara, married a handsome serviceman named John Tripson in 1945. Among their children is Mark Tripson, Samuel's father.

So, the event had a bit of a family reunion feel as so many Tripsons and Sextons were there celebrating the Cattlemen's Association and supporting their loved one Sam.



Joe & Liz Earman



Vinnie Parentela



Lange Sykes, Cindy Goetz and Andrew Witteck

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS | LUMINARIES • LU | Monday, September 7, 2015 | 5



Cindy O'Dare and Rosanne Moler



Mark, Hildie and Charlotte Tripson



Sean Sexton



Chris Dale Sexton with some necklaces for the auction



Logan Tripson Geeslin, Debra & David Fromang, and Nick Geeslin



Michael Pressley, Tiffany Tripson and Ashley Moree



Ryan Cappelen and Hillary Stanley



Beth Sexton-Stryker and Audrey Sexton

# Johns Island Grant

NEW & NOTEWORTHY



## *Dogs For Life Receives Grant*

The Johns Island Foundation awarded *Dogs For Life Inc.* a \$12,679.50 grant. The funding will provide expanded handicapped accessibility in the dog park as well as the outdoor training areas. This generous grant will also help complete the drainage project throughout the Dogs for Life property. "We are thrilled that all of our clients who use wheelchairs will have total access to the outdoor training areas," states Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life founder and CEO. Dogs for Life is the only assistance-dog training center in the area accredited by Assistance Dogs International and they have specific standards to maintain accreditation. Since opening in 2014, the number of local residents and veterans enrolled in the Hearing and Service Dog Training Program has doubled.

Dogs For Life  
1230 10th Ave  
770.767.8969, [www.dogsforlifebi.org](http://www.dogsforlifebi.org)

10/11/18  
10/11/18  
10/11/18

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE'S ANNUAL GUIDE PROVIDES A COMPREHENSIVE REGISTRY OF NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS IN OUR AREA.

# Guide to Giving

**V**ero Beach and Indian River County are blessed with people who give freely of their time, energy and money to help others. No matter where your interests lie, we have a number of organizations that you can choose from so it's hard not to be generous. Make a donation or give of your time at one of our local notable nonprofits. Our Guide to Giving is organized by categories to help you make choices that are relevant to your interests. If your favorite organization is not included, please email [editors@verobeachmagazine.com](mailto:editors@verobeachmagazine.com) with details to be included in the next year's issue.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

### **Bauer Research Foundation**

Promotes effective and safe therapies for the treatment of cancer in animals. 2001 9th Ave. Ste. 103, Vero Beach, FL 32960; 888-401-7171; [www.bauerresearch.org](http://www.bauerresearch.org)

### **Dogs for Life Inc.**

Seeks to improve the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs for people with hearing or mobility impairments and veterans with post-traumatic stress. 1250 16th Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-567-8969; [www.dogsforlifefvb.org](http://www.dogsforlifefvb.org)

### **F.A.L.O. Inc - Off Rescue**

Creates a no-kill safe haven for abandoned and abused animals in Indian River County. 710 Jackson St., Sebastian, FL 32958; 772-585-7297; [www.faloinc.org](http://www.faloinc.org)

### **Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County**

Provides an "open door, open heart" animal shelter dedicated to helping and protecting the animals of our community. 6230 77th St., Vero Beach, FL 32967; 772-388-3331; [www.hsvb.org](http://www.hsvb.org)

### **The National Elephant Center**

Seeks to improve the North American elephant population's

long-term health and welfare by providing and promoting excellence in elephant care and management. P.O. Box 862, Palmetto, FL 32948; 772-202-4870; [www.nationalelephantcenter.org](http://www.nationalelephantcenter.org)

### **Vero Beach Dog Park**

Provides a clean, safe environment for dogs of all sizes to roam freely in an off-leash, 5-acre, green space along the Indian River Lagoon, providing two fenced exercise areas for both large and small dogs. 505 Beachland Blvd. Ste. 1-124, Vero Beach, FL 32963; [www.verobeachdogpark.org](http://www.verobeachdogpark.org)

## ARTS AND CULTURE

### **Academy for the Performing Arts**

Offers vocal and instrumental music instruction and performance opportunities for all ages. 1750 20th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-562-7285; [www.academyvero.org](http://www.academyvero.org)

### **Atlantic Children's Chorus**

Develops each student's potential to a high level of vocal technique and musicianship while exploring challenging choral repertoire. 1901 23rd St., Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-466-2310; [www.atlanticchildrenschorus.org](http://www.atlanticchildrenschorus.org)

# Vero Beach Elementary

## PTA

★ **THANK YOU!** ★

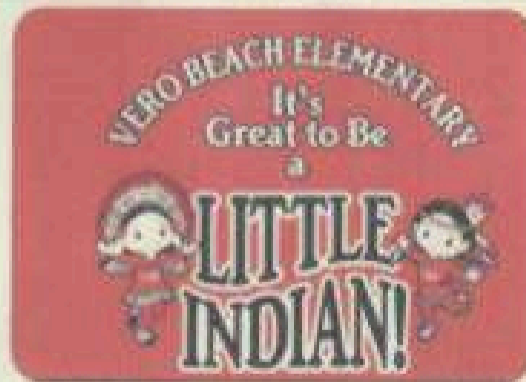
This certificate of appreciation is presented to

**DOGS for LIFE**

for

**Supporting our PTA 2015-2016**

Mr. B



9/14/15



**AUGUST**

# 4-H Dog Masters Club

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY | YOUR NEWSWEEKLY | Wednesday, August 26, 2015 | 5

## Things to Do

### County 4-H Dog Masters Club sets meeting

By Shelly Farger  
*YourNews contributor*

Are you a dog-loving 8- to 18-year-old looking for a fun-filled experience? The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club is holding an informational orientation meeting for families interested in joining the club.

The meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Dogs For Life Training Center, at the northeast corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue (1230 16th Ave.).

Membership is open to all youth between the ages of 8 and 18, and members are not required to own a dog.

Have fun with friends and dogs using positive reinforcement.

Some exciting activities planned for the year include basic dog training, participation in the Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo, Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club Spring Dog Show and Agility Demonstrations.

To sign-up for this informational meeting, call 772-567-8969 or email [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net).

Find more information about the 4-H Program in Indian River County at <http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/4H/index.html/>.

\*A member's age is determined by his/her age as of Sept. 1, 2015, or if he or she is still in high school.



Jumping Lou

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## Club wants children and youths to have doggone good time

FOR VETERAN VOICE

The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club is looking for 8- to 18-year-olds. It'll have a meeting for folks interested in joining that'll be on Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Dogs For Life Training Center, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

Membership is open to children and youths ages of 8 to 18, or still in high school. Members are not required to own dogs. Learn to use positive reinforcement to have fun with dogs.

Some exciting activities the club will do this year include basic dog training, participation in the Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo and Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club Spring Dog Show and Agility Demonstrations.

Additionally, at the meeting folks can learn about Dogs For Life and what it does for veterans with disabilities. It matches dogs with veterans and trains both to handle daily activities.

To sign up, call (772) 567-8969 or email [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net).

Find more information about the 4-H Program in Indian River County at <http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/4H/index.html/>.



Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

Indian River County children recently participated in a fundraiser for the 4-H Dog Masters Club at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach. Veterans and civilians with children are encouraged to attend the club's upcoming orientation meeting Sept. 8.

# International Assistance Dog Week

2015 International Assistance Dog Week  
Tour The DFL Training Center



*You're invited to tour the  
Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Training Center  
1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960*



**August 2-8, 2015**

[www.assistedogweek.org](http://www.assistedogweek.org)

## 2015 International Assistance Dog Week Fact Sheet

### What is it?

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability-related limitations.

### What do assistance dogs do?

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family.

### What are the goals of International Assistance Dog week?

The goals are to recognize and honor the hardworking assistance dogs; raise awareness and educate the public about how these specially trained animals are aiding so many people in our communities; honor the puppy raisers and trainers of assistance dogs; and recognize heroic deeds performed by assistance dogs in our communities.

### Are all assistance dogs retrievers or are they other breeds as well?

Assistance Dogs can be from a variety of breeds including, but not limited to: Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Standard Poodles, as well as shelter dogs.

### Where can I get more information about Assistance Dogs?

You can go to the websites for International Assistance Dog Week ([www.assistance-dogweek.org](http://www.assistance-dogweek.org)) and Working Like Dogs ([www.workinglikedogs.com](http://www.workinglikedogs.com)). You can also check out Assistance Dogs International ([www.assistance-dogs-international.org](http://www.assistance-dogs-international.org)) and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners ([www.iaadp.org](http://www.iaadp.org)).

### What kind of activities can I take part in during International Assistance Dog Week?

Visit your local Assistance Dog Training Center at Dogs For Life, Inc. 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL.

### Who is sponsoring International Assistance Dog Week?

International Assistance Dog Week was established due to the efforts of Marcie Davis, a paraplegic for over 35 years and CEO of Davis Innovations, a consulting firm based in Santa Fe, NM. Davis is the author of "Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook," and she is the host of the internet radio program, "Working Like Dogs," at [www.petliferadio.com](http://www.petliferadio.com). International Assistance Dog Week is facilitated as a program of Soulful Presence, a nonprofit Davis established to empower underserved populations.

### What types of assistance dogs are there?

While many people are familiar with Guide Dogs, those that assist people with vision loss, not as many people are aware of the other types of assistance dogs working today. Here is a description of the various types of assistance dogs:

**Guide Dogs** - Assist people with vision loss, leading these individuals around physical obstacles and to destinations such as seating, crossing streets, entering or exiting doorways, elevators and stairways.

**Service Dogs** - Assist people with disabilities with walking, balance, dressing,

transferring from place to place, retrieving and carrying items, opening doors and drawers, pushing buttons, pulling wheelchairs and aiding with household chores, such as putting in and removing clothes from the washer and dryer.

**Hearing Alert Dogs** - Alert people with a hearing loss to the presence of specific sounds such as doorbells, telephones, crying babies, sirens, another person, buzzing timers or sensors, knocks at the door or smoke, fire and clock alarms.

**Seizure Alert/Seizure Response Dogs** - Alert or respond to medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, post-traumatic stress and seizures.

**Medical Alert/Medical Response Dogs** - Alert to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, and posttraumatic stress disorder.

**Are assistance dogs allowed to go in to restaurants and other businesses even though other pets can't?**

Yes, assistance dogs are allowed to accompany their human partners to places of business including restaurants and shops. Under state law and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), they are guaranteed equal access to any and all establishments and accommodations; no extra charge can be levied because of the dog.

# VETERAN VOICE

The Voice of Experience

*Veteran Voice is a weekly newspaper for veterans,  
active military, their families and their friends.*

2 • AUGUST 28, 2014 • VETERAN VOICE • THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

## Celebrating valor



Photo courtesy of retired Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Britt, U.S. Army. The Victory Center Military Store held an honoring for local Purple Heart honorees earlier this month on Purple Heart Day in the all-volunteer store at the Indian River Mall. From left, Ronald Stevens, O. Ivar Svenson Jr., Ed Britt, Yank Yannetelli, James D. Wilson Sr., Rick Brower, John Darling, Mike Hosford, Robert M. Latimer, Steve Kraus and Daniel Votrobek with his service dog, Ariel. Not pictured but in attendance were Roy Siler and Len Zanca.



**JULY**

# Sign Language Class

**Dogs For Life**

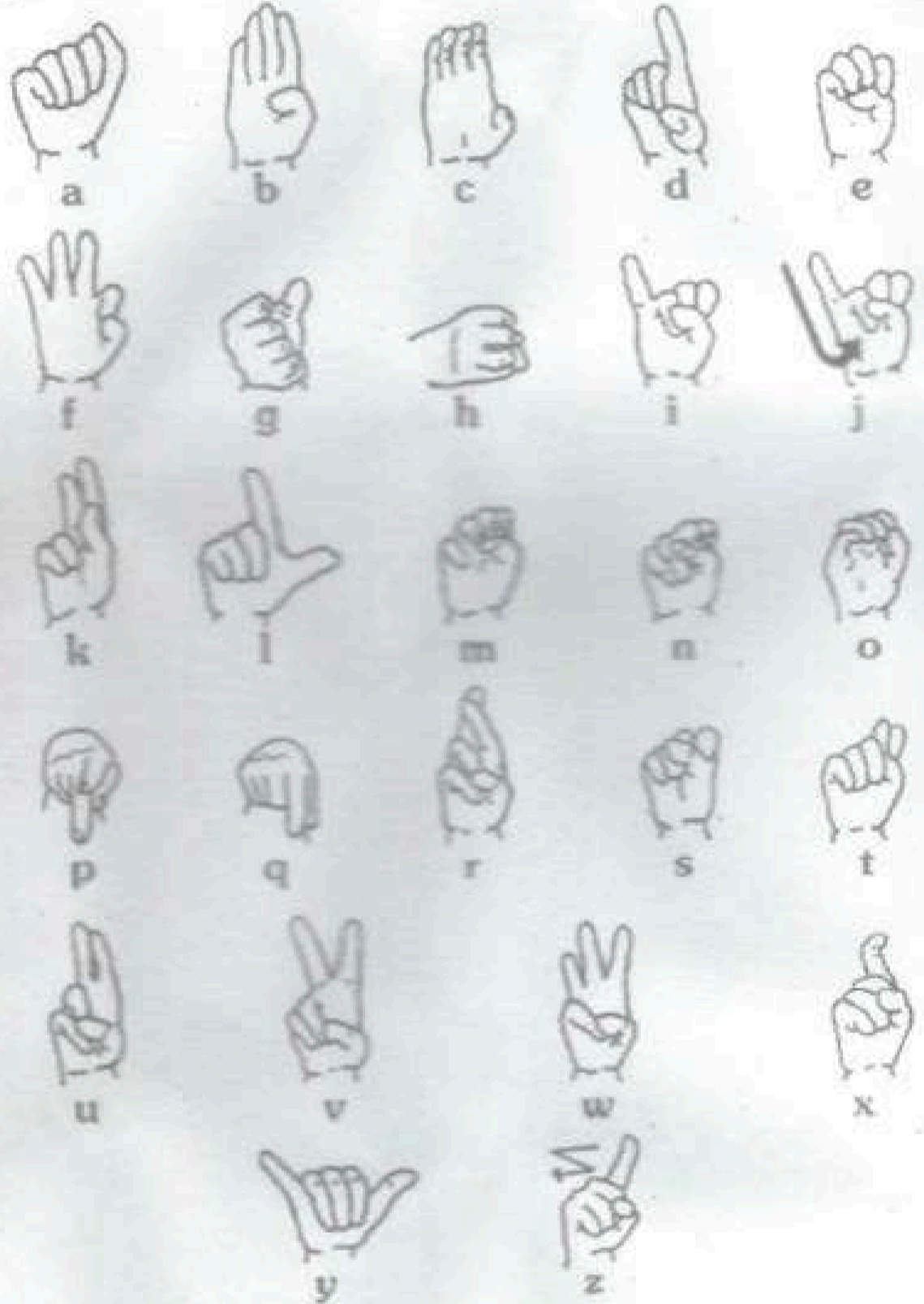
Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park

You Are Invited to Attend a Free  
Sign Language Class At The DFL Training Center  
With Instructor Whitney Mann  
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach

Register now for this FREE 6 week Class  
Starting Wednesday July 29 from 2 - 3:30 PM  
772-567-8969

Learn the Sign Language Alphabet, hand shapes,  
expressions and etiquette.  
Basic communication and key words.

## Sign Language Alphabet



04605  
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MESSAGE

Life in Maine-  
Laid back-  
Lobsters &  
Libations-  
Awesome-  
Heg to all- Darel

TO:

Dogs For Life  
1230 16<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Vero Beach, FL  
32960

# Korean War Ceremony

Monday, July 27, 2015 | LUMINARIES • LU | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

## STARS FOR VETS

### Korean War ceremony honors vets

By Dennis Sengars  
for LUMINARIES

A ceremony was held this past Saturday at Memorial Island Sanctuary to commemorate the 62nd anniversary of the end of the Korean War and to honor the Indian River County veteran community.

Korean War Veteran Association Chapter 318 founder Commander Vincent Abbate said he was happy with the morning's turn out.

Abbate welcomed the crowd and introduced a reading of the testimonials by keynote speaker Lt. Col. Eric "Rip" Wieler, which silenced the crowd.

"Records show that there are 7,846 Americans still remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, iden-

tifications continue," said Wieler.

Wieler told the gathering there are over 19,000 veterans living right here among us in this community. "We pride ourselves in providing support to those who have come back from the war. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for all you do and for all your efforts and volunteer work you provide to our veterans."

"There are many more veterans who will be coming back from the war. They will need our help." It is our duty to honor and take care of them," added Abbate.

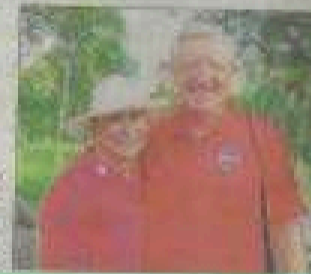
The morning event concluded with the presentation of colors, a closing prayer and taps by bugler Duke Scales of Bugles Across America.



Color Guard, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038: Rick Brower, Hap Allston and Andrew Coull



Veterans Council Programs Manager and Marine Corp Vet, Day Demick and Veterans Council Boardmember, Ted Cooperstein

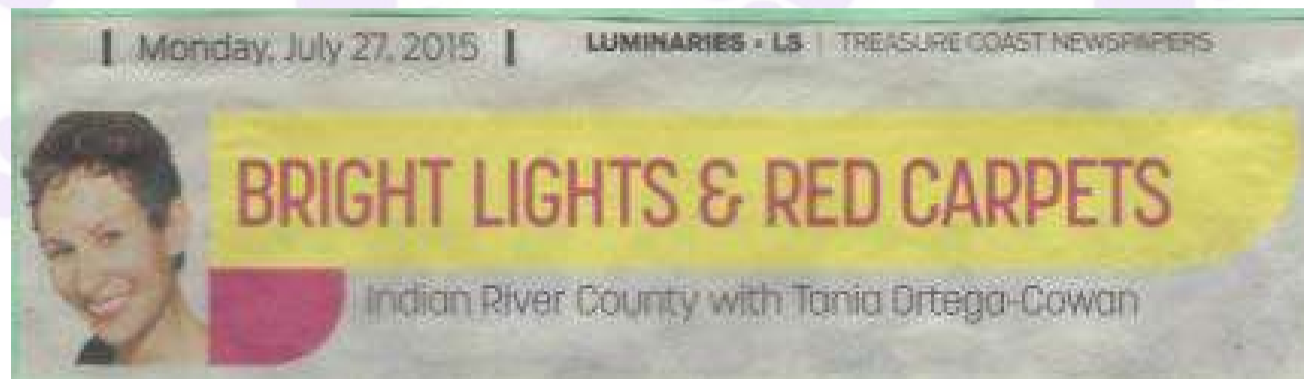


City Council Pillar Turner and Veterans Council Marty Zickert



8th Marine Regiment John Baughman, Kosovo and Iraq; Col. Tony Young, 30 years in Army and President of Veterans Council of IRC; and Iraq Army Veteran Jay Harris, 972 Military Police

# Hammer the Dachshund



## Super SRA Volunteer

Jude Carole along with her dog Hammar from 'Dogs for Life', have been awarded the Sophie Restivo Volunteerism Award for their efforts in volunteering weekly at the Senior Resource Association's Adult Day Care Center in Vero Beach.

The award is given annually to a volunteer for their outstanding contribution to improving the lives of seniors in Indian River County in honor of former volunteer Sophie Restivo. Jude and Hammar visit the Vero Beach Adult Day Care weekly.



Pud Lawrence, SRA Chairman of the Board of Directors; Karen Deigl, SRA President/CEO; and Jude Carole, Volunteerism Award recipient with her dog, Hammar.

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

# Cold nose warming hearts



"We love him but he runs off! He just goes from one to another," said Bernita Raulerson (center) as she and Jean Cuffie (left), both of Vero Beach, visit with Hammar, a 4-year-old longhaired dachshund. Jude Carole (right) brings Hammar to the Senior Resource Association's Adult Day Care Center in Vero Beach every Friday through the Dogs for Life organization. To see more photos, visit [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

## ■ Hammar the Dachshund brightens each Friday at Adult Day Care Center

By Janet Begley

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

**VERO BEACH** — Each Friday at the Senior Resource Association's Adult Day Care Center is Hammar Day.

Hammar, a therapy dog owned by Jude Carole, of Vero Beach, visits the clients and staff, spreading his special breed of comfort to people with neurological or cognitive impairments.

"It's just wonderful when he comes here," said Betty Walker, 95, of Vero Beach. "I've always had dogs, so I look forward to Friday because I know he's going to come to visit."

Carole adopted Hammar

### SENIOR RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Operates two adult day care facilities in Indian River County:

- Schumann Center, 685 14th St., Vero Beach, Information: 772-459-0059
- 815 Davis St., Sebastian, Information: 772-388-5827

### PET THERAPY PROGRAM

- Volunteer-based program where people train and take their Dogs for Life-certified canines to nursing and medical facilities in Indian River County.
- For more information, send an email to [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net).

about four years ago after his owner placed the longhaired Dachshund for adoption. She enrolled him in pet therapy training through the Dogs for Life organization in Vero Beach, where Hammar earned

his canine good citizen award.

Just recently, Carole and Hammar were the recipients of the Sophie Restivo Volunteerism Award from the Senior Resource Association for their contribution to improving the

lives of seniors in Indian River County. The award is named after Sophie Restivo, who volunteered for more than 20 years at the senior center.

"Our clients thoroughly enjoy seeing Jude and her dog Hammar every week," said Karen Deigl, president and CEO of the Senior Resource Association. "She truly is a wonderful volunteer who goes above and beyond. We are so grateful for her and everyone at the Dogs for Life organization for visiting both of our adult day care facilities each week."

Shelly Fergert, president of

See DOGS, 9A

## DOGS FROM IA

Dogs for Life, said not every dog is a good candidate for the pet therapy assistance program.

"It takes a special dog and owner to do pet therapy," Fergert said. "Success is based on temperament, not breed, and a lot has to do with the training the dog receives. The biggest problem we find is some dogs are great with their owner but not with

meeting a lot of new people."

Bea Raulerson, 81, and her friend Jean Cuffie, 96, stopped working on a puzzle when Hammar came over to visit them last week.

"We love to see the dog," Raulerson said. "He's so pretty and he is really good around people."

Certified nursing assistant Vivian Johnson said Hammar's weekly visits to the adult care center are uplifting to the roughly 50 people who visit the facility weekly.

"It is an absolute delight to have Hammar and Jude here," Johnson said. "You should see the smiles on our clients' faces when they hear his collar jingling when he comes in on Friday. It's priceless."

The volunteer award from the Senior Resource Association took Carole by surprise.

"I was really choked-up about the award," Carole said. "It is a great honor and I truly get as much out of our visits as the people do. This is a real win-win."

# 1st Graduation

## The Voice of Experience VETERAN VOICE

35 cents

VOL. 3/ISSUE 36

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

### Vet, assistance dog earn honors at 1st graduation at Dogs For Life

BY STEPHAN KOZE

Dogs For Life recently held its first graduation ceremony at the DFL Administrative and Training Center that opened in July 2014, at 1290 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

"We are honored to have had so many distinguished guests on hand to help us celebrate," said CHADY FORGER, DFL founder and CEO.

Among others, Indian River Veterans Council president Tony Young, a retired Army colonel, led his supporters at the event.

Marine Corps veteran Daniel Vandenack, Vero Beach, with his hearing dog, Axel, and Marine Corps Vero Beach, with his hearing and service dog, Kelly, have completed all of the requirements of DFL and its



At the recent first graduation of owners and service dogs at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, from left, former Army Sgt. Jay Harris, Dogs For Life trainer, graduate Daniel Vandenack, with his service dog Axel, and retired Army Col. Tony Young, president of the Indian River Veterans Council.

Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

See K-9 page 4

# STARS FOR SERVICE DOGS

## Dogs for Life holds assistance dog graduation

By Dawn Pines

Dogs For Life Inc. with its fine graduate students at the DFLA graduation in Seaside, Oregon, which occurred last July at the Seaside Convention Center.

"We are excited to have had so many able graduates, and we need to help our community with their dogs."

Having their own dogs is a great benefit to the community, and the organization.

Our students are trained to assist people with disabilities, and we are proud to have them graduate with their dogs."

Service dogs are also trained to help people with the physical disabilities of hearing loss, blindness, and mobility issues, and always are wearing their identification tags.

Other tasks can be trained to help people with disabilities, such as:

Retrieving items, alerting people to sounds, and alerting people to people who are blind or deaf.

and being able to help people with disabilities.

These dogs and their owners are now the proud owners of their own dogs.

certification.

All your work was done with the help of our dogs, and please do not forget to give them the love and attention they need.



John Sebastian, 24, with his dog, and his partner, Mary Ann, at the graduation.

John Sebastian, 24, with his dog, and his partner, Mary Ann, at the graduation.

### Madison River County



John Sebastian, 24, with his dog, and his partner, Mary Ann, at the graduation.

## K-9 from page 2

Assistance Dogs International to graduate the DDI Assistant Dog Training Program with both titles.

(Editor's note: Vetrovick and Ariel have been featured before in Veteran Voice.)

There will also be some personal items with their assistance dogs. If you want, you may ask about their dog's training, but please do not pet their dogs as this distracts them from their work.

Vetrovick and Ariel began training in April of 2014, and have completed 60 hours of In-House Training and 14 hours of Public Access Training.

Vetrovick was able to take an 8-week-old puppy and bring her to full Public Access Hearing Dog status.

Coast and Kelly started training in June of 2014, and completed their 6-month training time in October of 2014. Coast

was instrumental in helping to make her second hearing dog with DDI. The ceremony featured her and Kelly's first grant for Certification.

Hearing dogs are trained to alert their owners to a variety of dog cues: the phone ringing, an alarm clock and a smoke alarm. Other sounds can be trained as needed.

Service dogs are trained to recall their owners with barking or their own, picking up items or dropping a 911 K-9 emergency phone.

Service dogs can also be trained to help someone with the effects of post-traumatic stress, such as leading from a nightmare, crossing safety barriers in crowds, and alerting someone who is in a panic. Other tasks can be trained to mitigate anxiety and stress-related issues as needed.

For more information on Dog for Life and its several programs, visit [dogforlife.org](http://dogforlife.org).

# Fake Service Animal Law

## Fake service animal law to take effect

A new Florida law taking effect July 1 will make it a misdemeanor to pass off an unqualified pet as a service animal.

The law, proposed by state Rep. Jimmie Smith, R-Inverness, will make misrepresenting a dog as a service dog a second-degree misdemeanor. The offense is punishable with up to 60 days in jail and 30 hours of community service for an organization that services people with disabilities, to be completed in less than six months.

The law will also make it illegal to deny accommodations to or discriminate against anyone accompanied by a service animal, which the law defines as dogs or miniature horses.

Nick Kutsukos, who has been training service dogs for more than 20 years and owns Elite K-9 Academy in Jupiter, said the law was long overdue.

"There's no national certification," he said. "People buy vests online and sign a waiver saying their dog is trained."

The Americans with Disabilities Act's website says some service dogs may wear special collars or harnesses and have certifications, but no one may ask for documentation to provide services because the disabled person is unlikely to have it with them.

# Vero Beach Dog Park



## BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Indian River County with Tania Ortega-Cowan

### Doggie Heaven in Vero Beach

Stroll into the Vero Beach Dog Park and you will undoubtedly be welcomed by happy dogs with tails wagging. Walk around, sit on a bench, and enjoy the shade.

Look around and notice number holes dug in the dirt as well as beautifully painted fire hydrants. This is Doggie Heaven and you can find it at 3449 Indian River East, one block north of the Merrill Harbor Bridge along the Indian River Lagoon.

Dogs of all sizes are welcome in this 5 acres of fenced grass space.

"We want people to know that it is here and it is for everybody," says Phil Reid. "It is not just for dog owners. It is for everybody! It is amazing how many people come out here that just want to watch the dogs."

The founder of the Vero Beach Dog Park is Jim Welles.

He adds, "In our mission, we state we are as much a people's park as a dog park. We have people in their 90s coming here to enjoy the space and the fun. Young families come just to see the dogs. We are now a dog-friendly town!"

Jim worked tirelessly for five years to start the dog park, approaching the City Council and Recreation Department with his idea, rallying the community to sign petitions, and commissioning professionals to help him put together a workable proposal.

In April 2014, the city agreed to a 10-year lease and his dream became a reality: Vero's only fenced, off-leash dog park was established!

"Something else that is very important for people to know is that we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit

organization that operates strictly on donations. We do not receive any government funding at all. The City leased us the land and we have made all the improvements and we operate at our own expense. Fortunately Vero Beach is a generous, kind-hearted place so we are able to do it with private funds."

Connie Keiser explains, "We planted trees, and we installed sunshades, benches and water fountains, all on donations!"

Jim Jones got the idea to have a secure donation box installed. "This is a convenient way for the average person that is passionate about the park to give back. So maybe instead of a cup of coffee you can give a dollar and support the dog park. Our donation box is a secure lock box that is actually used at banks. There are some deposits and you can place your donation in securely. It is collected daily. We plan to install a second one as soon as we have the funds."

Longtime Vero Beach resident Mary Margaret McQuerry says, "I love every minute of it. It is a wonderful place to be. The owners who stay at Marina are so delighted too!"

Jim agrees, "We have had people move here and the deciding factor was that we have a dog park."

Phil says, "In the last year maybe 10 or 12 people have told me that a big part of their decision to buy a home in Vero Beach was the fact that the dog park was so nice. We expect regular donations," he jokes.

Another way to support the park is to buy an inscribed brick paver. Learn more at DogPark.org. You may also make donations at BRC Community Foundation.com.

Week of June 29, 2015. © SCRAPPE NICHE PUBLICATIONS & LITHOGRAPHS, LLC



Two-legged and four-legged supporters of the Vero Beach Dog Park



**JUNE**

# Graduation

Shelly Ferger

**From:** DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 27, 2015 12:26 PM  
**To:** dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** Hearing & Service Dog Graduation at DFL



## Assistance Dog Graduation Ceremony Well Attended And a Huge Success!

DFL held it's first Graduation Ceremony at the DFL Administrative & Training Center that opened in July 2014, at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, FL.

"We are thrilled to have had so many distinguished guests on hand to help us celebrate" said Shelly Ferger, DFL Founder and CEO.

Daniel with his hearing dog Ariel and Norine with her hearing & service dog Kelly, have completed all of the requirements of DFL and Assistance Dogs International to graduate the DFL Assistance Dog Training Program with honors.

They will now be seen around town with their assistance dogs. If you want, you may ask about their dogs training, but please do not pet their dogs as this distracts them from their work.

Daniel and Ariel began training in April of 2014, and have completed 69 hours of In-Home Training and 14 hours of Public Access Training. Daniel was able to take an 8 week old puppy and bring her to full Public Access Hearing Dog status.

Norine and Kelly started training in June of 2014, and

completed their 6 month certification in October of 2014. Norine was instrumental in helping to train her second hearing dog with DFL. The Ceremony marked Norine & Kelly's 1st year Re-Certification.

Hearing dogs are trained to alert their owners to a knock at the door, the phone ringing, an alarm clock and the smoke alarm. Other sounds can be trained as needed. Service dogs are trained to assist their owners with balancing on their feet, picking up items or tapping a 911 K-9 emergency phone. Service dogs can also be trained to help someone with the effects of post traumatic stress, such as waking from a nightmare, creating subtle barriers in crowds, and alleviating oncoming panic attacks. Other tasks can be trained to mitigate mobility and stress related issues as needed.

For additional information call 772-567-8969.



**CONGRADULATIONS DANIEL & NORINE**  
DPL Graduating Teams: Daniel with Ariel and Norine with Kelly



Jay Harris, U.S. Army Veteran and DPL Training Coordinator poses with Daniel, US Marine Veteran and Guest Tony Young, President of the Veterans Council of Indian River County.



John Schumann, Jr. poses with DFL President Eleanor Bengyak and DFL Vice-President Kathi Schumann, and DFL Hearing Dog Team Joan Freeman and Daisy.

Forward this email

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# Daniel & Ariel at Graduation

18A » Sunday, June 21, 2015 » TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IC

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



SAM WOLFE/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

### Dogs For Life

Daniel Votrovek (left), of Vero Beach, who spent four years in the Marines, was one of two recipients to receive service dogs from Dogs For Life on Saturday afternoon. "She's helped me just as far as getting up off the couch and doing stuff with my life again," said Votrovek, who suffers from hearing loss and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to his dog, Ariel, graduating as a service animal, Votrovek and three other veterans also were presented with a hand-stitched quilt by members of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Also graduating during the event was Kelly, a service dog for Norine Coody of Vero Beach. To see more photos, visit [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

# Pet Assisted Therapy

## DOGS FOR LIFE

Pet Assisted Therapy

Volunteer

Program / Facility Report

Pet: Sunny - 10 lb. Maltese

Volunteer: Edna Hitzel Schubert

Date	Facility Visited	PAT-Booth-etc	# of people	Resident's Response	Animals Response	Comments
6/3/2015 Wed	Harbor Chase Somerset Vero Beach FL	PAT  Point of Entry Presentation Edna, Sherry Sunny	approx 8  Group & individual rooms	receptive, comforted questioning  On resident not responsive or welcoming	calm, gentle	Shelly brought attention that one resident held too tightly adjusted  Sunny showed slight sign of stress (yawned) when not comfortable on residents lap-adjusted  one negative response from resident - not welcoming
6/17/2015 Wed	Harbor Chase Somerset Vero Beach FL	PAT  2nd visit Edna & Sunny	approx 10  individual rooms  hallway visit	receptive, comforted remembered Edna and Sunny	calmer no yawning or fidgeting  Sunny was comfortable with the car ride - curious then slept	met with some new residents - questioning some not "lovers of dogs" but were delighted with visit. Last visit with "negative" resident was more responsive and welcoming. Held conversation about Sunny but no "hands on"

# Johns Island Grant

YOUR COMMUNITY

## John's Island awards grant to Dogs For Life

By Shelly Ferger

Your Newsweekly Contributor

A huge thank you goes out to the John's Island Foundation for the \$12,679.50 grant awarded to Dogs For Life for expanded handicapped accessibility in the Dog Park and outdoor training areas.

Since 1997, Dogs for Life has been working to improve the drainage throughout the property and now the John's Island Foundation grant will also help us complete this project.

"We are thrilled that all of our clients who use wheelchairs will have total access to the outdoor training areas," said Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life Founder and CEO.

Eleanor Bengyak, Board President, added, "As the only Assistance Dog Training Center in the area accredited by Assistance Dogs International, we have specific standards we have to meet in order to maintain our accreditation. It is our goal to exceed the minimum standards and raise the bar because our clients deserve more than the minimum."

Kathi Schumann, Board Vice President, stated,



Dogs for Life Training Center at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

"Since the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center opened in July 2014, the number of local residents and Veterans enrolled in the Hearing and Service Dog Training Program has doubled and we need to be able to efficiently and effectively use all the space we have, indoors and out. The John's Island Foundation is helping us do that."

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs.

For more in-

formation about Assistance Dog Training, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training, or Off-Leash Dog Park, please call 772-567-8969 or visit [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).



Daniel and Ariel

# John's Island Foundation awards grant to Dogs For Life

**Mary Kemper**

STAFF WRITER

[mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com](mailto:mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com)

A huge thank you goes out to the John's Island Foundation for their \$12,679,50 grant awarded to Dogs For Life Inc., Vero Beach. This funding will provide expanded handicapped accessibility in the Dog Park as well as the outdoor training areas.

This generous grant will also help complete the drainage project throughout the DFL property.

Since 1997, DFL has been working to improve the drainage throughout the property and now the John's Island Foundation is going to help us complete this project. "We are thrilled that all of our clients who use wheelchairs will have total access to the outdoor training areas," said Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and CEO. "Thanks to the John's Island Foundation, this 8-year-long drainage project will be finished."

Eleanor Bengyak, DFL's board president added "As the only Assistance Dog Training Center in the area accredited by Assistance Dogs International, we have specific standards we have to meet in order to maintain our accreditation. It is our goal to exceed the minimum standards and raise the bar because our clients deserve more than the minimum.

See GRANT page 4

## GRANT from page 3

"We are proud and honored that the John's Island Foundation is confident in our organization, and we look forward to sharing with them the results of their investment."

Kathi Schumann, DFL's board vice president, said, "Since the Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center opened in July 2014, the number of local residents and veterans enrolled in the Hearing and Service Dog Training Program has doubled, and we need to be able to efficiently and effectively use all the space we have, indoors and out. The John's Island Foundation is helping us do that."

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs.

For more information about DFL's Assistance Dog Training, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training, or Off-Leash Dog Park contact Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit the website at [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).

# Articles

## Florida veterans population growing

**Patrick McCallister**  
FOR VETERAN VOICE  
patrick.mccallister@yahoo.com

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently released its *2014 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures*. The annual document helps the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs and others know where the veterans are.

"The numbers look good for Florida," Steve Murray, communications director at the state veterans department, said "We're only about 100,000 below Texas. We may bump up ahead of Texas here in a few years."

Which would put Florida in the silver for total veterans.

From 2013 to 2014 Florida went from about 1.52 million veterans to 1.58, gaining about 63,000. Nationally, there was a slight increase, from 21,882,153 to 21,894,286, about 12,000 more. Texas picked up about 12,700 veterans, going from 1,667,740 to 1,680,418 veterans.

California has the most veterans of any state in the nation, about 1.8 million. Florida, Texas and California are the only three states with more than a million

veterans. New York lost its status as a million-veteran state a couple years ago.

Duval County claims the largest number of veterans in Florida, with about 98,860. Hillsborough comes in with the second most veterans in the Sunshine State, 94,500. There are 22 counties with more than 25,000 veterans and 11 counties with more than 50,000. Liberty County has the smallest number of veterans, 665. It is one of only two counties with fewer than 1,000 veterans.

In the *Veteran Voice* coverage area, Brevard County has the most veterans, 67,060. Heading south, Indian River has slightly more than 15,200. St. Lucie has slightly more than 24,100. Martin just more than 15,000.

While there was a slight uptick in the number of veterans from 2013 to 2014, the population is reducing. The population decreased about 17 percent from 2000 to 2014. The veterans population is projected to decline to fewer than 14 million within the next three decades. At the same time, the American population is growing. The Census Bureau projects that there'll be about 400 million by 2050, up from

about 320 million today. In other words, veterans are in the next 30 years going to drop from about 7 percent of the population to 3.5 percent.

Nevertheless, the Florida Legislature sent a message during its 2014 session — the state wants veterans. The House and Senate unanimously adopted the Florida GI Bill last year, and Gov. Rick Scott — a Navy veteran — signed it not long after. The Florida GI Bill was omnibus legislation that combined numerous military- and veterans-related bills, but creation of Florida is for Veterans

— now called Veterans Florida — was its core. It was fitted into the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, but is acting largely autonomously.

The state-created not-for-profit got \$300,000 from Visit Florida "for market research on the veteran and military community and to advise Visit Florida in the development and implementation of a marketing campaign encouraging veterans and service members to make Florida their permanent residence." And Visit Florida is directed to use \$1 million annually to do that marketing campaign.

6 • JUNE 11, 2015 • VETERAN VOICE • THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

## Makeover proceeds apace on Brevard Corsair



A vintage 1960s Navy Corsair jet, on loan to the Brevard Memorial Center as renovation efforts move forward, is getting closer to the goal of getting the plane in the air once again. Crew members include, from left, front, Bill Kowalczyk, Bob Doyle and Donn Weaver; rear, Bob Estes, Floyd Curington, Anthony Cannini and Enrique Barnes (not shown: Dave Brands and Roger Scruggs).

Photo courtesy  
of Roger Scruggs

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



SAM WOLFE/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

### Dogs For Life

Daniel Votrovek (left), of Vero Beach, who spent four years in the Marines, was one of two recipients to receive service dogs from Dogs For Life on Saturday afternoon. "She's helped me just as far as getting up off the couch and doing stuff with my life again," said Votrovek, who suffers from hearing loss and post-traumatic stress disorder. In addition to his dog, Ariel, graduating as a service animal, Votrovek and three other veterans also were presented with a hand-stitched quilt by members of the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Also graduating during the event was Kelly, a service dog for Norine Coody of Vero Beach. To see more photos, visit



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Veteran Daniel Votrovek, Vero Beach, and his service dog, Ariel, stand outside Dogs For Life Inc., Vero Beach. Votrovek is just one of many veterans whom DFL has assisted with service-dog training since it started.

10 JUNE  
HONOLULU PAPER  
7 BREWSTER, N.Y. WED



A service dog threw himself in front of a school bus to try to protect his blind owner and stayed by her side as emergency responders tended to the injured pair, authorities said. Both Figo, the golden retriever, and his owner, Audrey Stone, were on the mend Tuesday, a day after the collision in Brewster, N.Y. "The dog took a lot of the blow," Brewster Police Chief John Del Garbo said. "And he did not want to leave her side. He stood right with her. He was there to save her."

Shelly Ferger

---

**From:** judecarole@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 1:53 PM  
**To:** dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** May PAT report.

Yikes. So sorry this is so late. I had NY company and "life" got in the way too so I apologize for not getting this to you on time. Not that anything has changed. Group is getting smaller and smaller and the staff has all changed. The original aids are gone, Mary, Amy and the rest are gone as well. The new clients are beginning to bond with Hammar. He still has a few favorites that go and they're explaining to the others what he does, how cute he is (how can ya not notice????) etc. One of my girlfriends who visited me in May I brought to DFL to show her the facility. She was VERY impressed! I was very proud to be a small part of all you've accomplished. It's dead as a door knob in Vero now that summer is here. Actually, summer has been here ALL YEAR....Heat is just awful. Ham goes for his yearly shots on Thursday. I'll fwd. his shot record for his file. I haven't told him yet. Just dropping him off for his usual groom and then they'll surprise him with the needles! I can't bare to watch so I just drop him off and pick him up when it's "all over" He ate my girlfriends \$400 pair of shoes within 20 minutes of her visit. Her wifi charger, silk underwear, a stick of butter, dinner rolls and attempted a garganzol salad which he apparently didn't like. All because my friend bonded with Sally Ride, the hound from hell. Here I'd been bragging on him being a highly trained PAT dog and he blew it! He was insane with jealousy because Sally for once in her life got all the attention. I think he needs a tune up in the attitude department. He thinks it's always all about HIM! Little creep. Again, sorry for not getting this to you on the first. Since the shoes I doubt anyone will visit me again for a few years so I'll be more timely in my reports from now on now that I don't have any friends left. I did ask my friend when she'd visit us again and she asked me "how long do Doxies live" Guess that tells me her answer. She mentioned the Rainbow Bridge. I covered Hammars ears on that snarky comment....Love ya girl and as always, thanks for the opportunity to serve! xxx

### RANGER POZIOMEK

In June, 2015, a large but undernourished black dog was picked up by Animal Control and brought to the Humane Society shelter. Mark Poziomek had just lost a dog he had loved for 16 years, and when he heard about the big black dog he came to the shelter to see him.

Mark and his wife Lisa decided to add the nameless canine to their family, which already included three cats, a stray and two adopted from the Humane Society. Mark recalls that the new dog, who was about a year old, was skin and bones and had bad teeth. With good food, lovingly cooked by the Poziomeks, he developed into the 90-pound family member with good teeth now named Ranger.

Ranger is currently in training at Dogs for Life to become a service dog. As a service dog he will provide needed assistance to Mark, who has a balance impairment and depends on Ranger for support.

Ranger has also learned how to swim; his first time in the water was a challenge but now he does just great! A recent photo of Ranger practicing his new swimming skills won first prize in Vero Vines Best Dog Photo Contest.

Go Ranger! 🐾



Ranger and Mark Poziomek

Editor's note: If you have adopted from the Humane Society and would like us to publish your pet's story, please contact Joan Patota at [regpat1@msn.com](mailto:regpat1@msn.com).



**Dogs For Life**

Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park  
Established in 1997

Separate areas for:  
Large Dogs/Small Dogs  
Training/Transition  
Memorial Garden & Pavilion

All dogs screened  
for temperament, all dogs  
inoculated, neutered & social

**Summer Membership Special  
only \$50/6 MONTHS**

Join the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park and enjoy  
recreation with your dog while supporting  
a non-profit organization that trains hearing  
& service dogs for the community including  
local military veterans

**FREE  
OBEDIENCE &  
BEHAVIOR  
TRAINING FOR  
MEMBERS**

**THANK  
YOU FOR  
VOTING  
FOR US**  
FOR BEST DOG PARK

4 Acre property located  
at 1230 16th Avenue.

**Mature Oak Trees,  
winding trails,  
water fountains,  
chairs & benches.**

- Free membership for Military Veterans & Assistance Dogs
- Scholarship Memberships available
- Soon to be installed, lights for use after dark

THE SUN COAST NEWSPAPERS | 2015 CHOICE AWARDS

| Wednesday, June 10, 2015 |

Congratulations to all **WINNERS** and **FAVORITES!**

**WINNERS AND  
FAVORITES**

**INDIAN RIVER  
COUNTY**

Favorite  
Dogs For Life



**Dogs For Life**

Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
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Separate areas for:  
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**DFL**

**Announces**

**Dogs For Life**

Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park

**Off-Leash Dog Park  
Summer Special  
\$50/6 months**



**MAY**

# Youth Guidance Excel Club



# Armed Forces Week Open House

Shelly Ferger

**From:** DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 08, 2015 4:52 PM  
**To:** dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** Armed Forces Week Celebrated at DFL

Be sure and visit the DFL Booth and Service Dog Teams on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 16th at the Victory Center in the Indian River Mall 11-12:30.



May 11 - May 15,  
Mon - Fri 9 - 4

## Open House to Celebrate Armed Forces Week At DFL

Open House at DFL  
In Honor of Armed Forces Week



In honor of Armed Forces Week DFL will hold an Open House for anyone interested in learning more about training for Assistance Dogs for Veterans.

Veteran Dog Teams will be on-hand throughout the week to answer questions from the public.

If you want to schedule a time to meet with a Veteran, please call ahead to make sure we're "covered".

Or just drop by for information, a tour and refreshments.

Tours will be offered Monday, May 11 through Friday, May 15, from 9 AM - 4 PM, at the DFL Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center, located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For additional information call 772-567-8969.



DFL Veteran Assistance Dog Teams will be on hand during Armed Forces Week at the Dogs For Life, Inc. Training Center To answer your questions concerning DFL's Training Programs.

Tony & Shadow, L. A. & Darel, Jim & Pia Pia, Jay Harris, DFL Assistance Dog Trainer, and Bill with Lola.

**EVEN MORE TO COME**

# Articles



## New leash on life



THE SAFFORD/STANLEY COFFEE PRESS

"It's very important. If I'm in my bedroom or bathroom and someone knocks on the door, she comes and gets me, and the same with the telephone," said Norine Coody (right) about her service dog, Kelly, after a fire alarm drill monitored by trainer and Army veteran Jay Harris (left) at Dogs For Life. Coody, who has hearing loss, was led by Kelly to an exit door during the drill. "It's important so I can live normally," Coody said. Dogs For Life, an assistance dog training organization in Vero Beach, is celebrating Armed Forces Week through Friday with an open house for all area veterans. The facility certifies service dogs for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, as well as for those with hearing loss and mobility issues. Call 772-567-8969 or visit [www.dogsforlifefvb.org](http://www.dogsforlifefvb.org) for more information. To see more photos, go to [TCPalm.com](http://TCPalm.com).

# STAR DOGS

Indian River County

## Dogs for Life helps veterans

By Tracy Dennis-Cross  
THE LIFELINE

Shelly Taylor, founder of Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, trains service dogs for veterans, many of whom suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and hearing loss.

"We found out when we started working with veterans that they are really committed to helping each other," says Shelly. "We train one team (human and dog) and they come back and become trainers," Shelly explains.

Service dogs for veterans are specially trained to assist veterans with specific challenges, including spinal cord/brain trauma, visual or hearing deficits, arthritis, ataxia/poor balance, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal bifida, seizure disorders, and psychiatric disabilities.

PTSD tasks the dogs perform range from searching a home before entering and looking both ways before entering a room, to watching the owner's back and creating a barrier to stop people approaching if it makes the companion nervous.

Jay Harris is the group's first full time hired trainer. He served in the Army in Kuwait in 2007.

"The intuitive nature of the dogs is absolutely amazing," says Jay of his two terriers. "If I am feeling a little stressed out they come up and bump me and give me a little lick. 'Hey, man, are you all right?' They learn to read humans and pick up on their needs."

In 2009, Jay began giving regular obedience training to a pug named Pia Pia (pronounced Pay Pay), a rescue dog from H.A.L.O. The owner's husband, Jim Taylor, a retired Army combat veteran who served in Iraq, was suffering from PTSD and so Jay connected them with Shelly and Dogs for Life.

Now with 700 hours of training, Pia Pia is dual certified to help Jim with hearing and PTSD.

"Everywhere I go, she comes," says Jim. "Before Pia Pia, I was home



Jim Taylor and Pia Pia (shown) assist making a 911 call on the telephone.



Tony & Shadow, Jay Harris, LA & Darzell, Jim Taylor & Pia Pia, and Bill & Lola

bound. But now with her in our life and all the training Shelly has done, I can go everywhere. Also when I have a bad nightmare she pumps on my chest and wakes me up."

Vietnam veteran Tony Santos brings his dog Shadow to Dogs for Life for training. The two often ride around the community together in a golf cart. "He has more friends than I do," says Tony. "But as soon as I grab that vest and he bends his head to get into it — he knows he is working. He is a completely different dog."

Lola, a rescue from the Humane Society, has just begun training with Dogs for Life to help her new owner, Bill, a Vietnam veteran with difficulty hearing. Her training will center around the jingling of keys for cues.

Learn more, get involved and make a donation at 772-567-8969 or visit [DogsForLifeVB.org](http://DogsForLifeVB.org).

# Pet blessing

**Right:** Paula Bright gives Raymond a head scratch during Saturday's event.



**Below:** Steve Selzer and his apple head Chihuahua listen as the opening prayer is read.



*For more than 30 years, the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County has offered a Blessing of the Animals. Over 100 animals and families took part in this year's event. The Rev. Christopher Rodriguez and The Rev. Jason Murbarger gave this year's blessing. A special award was given to the Dogs for Life organization for their work with service dogs.*



**Photos by Cliff Partlow/staff photographer**  
The Rev. Jason Murbarger blesses Winnie, owned by Kimberly Mudge.



**APRIL**

# The Wall





# DFL History

## History



**2001** Dogs For Life, Inc. filed for IRS 501(c)(3) Tax deductible status in August & September and the Florida Department of State Articles of Incorporation. **2002** 501(c)(3) Status awarded on February.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** To train and certify qualifying as **assistance dogs** for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and or and physically challenged. Provide training for pets and their owners for therapy visits to area nursing homes and children's facilities. Provide pet behavior information with a telephone hotline. Provide educational programs such as anti-dog bite, and providing dog behavior and obedience training for the general public and groups such as 4-H Dog Master's Club. Coordinate with local law enforcement and Emergency Response agencies on the legal rights of assistance dogs. To enlist donors, staff and volunteers who are interested in sharing mutual interest in assistance dogs and training in general dog welfare.



### 4-H Best-Friend's Off-leash Dog Park / Dog Park Club of Indian River

**1997** The Indian River County 4-H Dog Master's Club, as a community service project, under the leadership of Shelly Ferger owner of Shelly's Canine Community Center and began raising funds toward Indian River County's first off-leash dog park.

**1999** The Dog Park Club of Indian River, a non-profit organization, was formed to continue fundraising, development and management of the park. Over \$80,000 in donated funds and In-Kind donations were raised to build the dog park on 4 ½ acres of leased property at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> St. & 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. Vero Beach.

**2002** The Dog Park opened for membership.



**2003** Dogs for Life, Inc. a tax-exempt non-profit organization **adopted the Dog Park in July**. The lease agreement ended in 2007. Membership fees: \$200 annually, second dog from the same household half price. Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered, and social.

**2007** The DFL Board of Directors agree to a Capital Campaign to purchase the 4 ½ acres of dog park property for \$275,000. Assessed value was \$450,000 and plans were made to build a DFL Assistance Dog Training Center with offices and restrooms.

**2010** The dog park property was purchased by Dogs For Life, Inc.

**2013** The goal of \$350,000 was reached through a \$100,000 matching grant to build the Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center.

# 2014

On January 11, 2014 a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the dog park with distinguished guest speakers.

In June DFL moved into the Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center located at 1230 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Shelly Ferger was hired as CEO and Director of Training Programs, Debbie Burton as Administrative Assistant and Katie Kowanic as Administrative & Fund Development Director. Contractors: Paula Via, Jason Harris and Patti Schell work part time for training, office and maintenance duties.

The Center is a hub of activities. Regular basic obedience classes are open to the public, assistance dogs are trained at the center on a weekly basis, the 4-H Dog Master's Club has re-started. The general public interest has increased 50% since June in all of DFL's programs.

An anonymous donor has donated ¾ of the cost to operate the dog park for the next 2 years, the dog park orientation fee is lowered to a 1 x \$100 orientation fee, and The Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society is established to help offset dog park operation costs in hopes that donations will continue to support the park forever.



*Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog,  
Companion Dog Training &  
Off-Leash Dog Park*

November 8, A New DFL Logo is unveiled. The Logo with a Purple Heart is to help signify DFL's commitment to training service and hearing dogs for our Military Veterans.

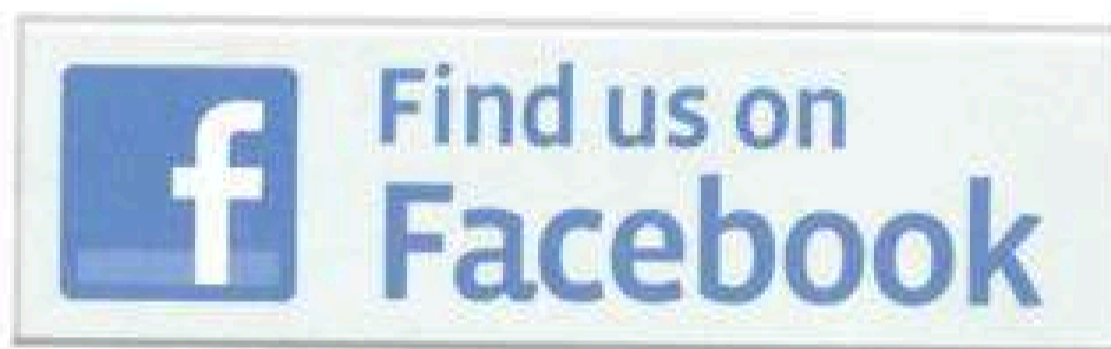
A Matching \$100,000 Grant has been Awarded to DFL toward programs and operations for 2015.

**Current Account Balances: \$150,000**  
**DFL's estimated Budget for 2015: \$250,000**

## STATISTICS November 8, 2014

Assistance Dogs Trained	129	2014 Budget \$85,000
Assistance Dogs Currently Supported	18	
Assistance Dogs In Training	6	
Assistance Dogs For Veterans Trained	11	
Pet-Assisted Therapy Facilities Visited	19	2014 Budget \$35,000
Pet-Assisted Therapy Facilities Active	12	
Pet-Assisted Therapy Volunteers	15	
Dog Park Users	116	2014 Budget \$40,000
Actual number of dogs	134	
Assistance dogs / no charge	15	
Scholarship Program / no charge	18	
Community Out Reach Program		2014 Budget \$60,000
General Public Support / Public Training / 4-H Dog Club		
DFL Board of Directors	8 / 4 Openings/Volunteers	
DFL Staff	3	
DFL Dog Part-Time Contractors	3	Total 2014 Budget \$220,000

# Dogs For Life on Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/DFLVB>

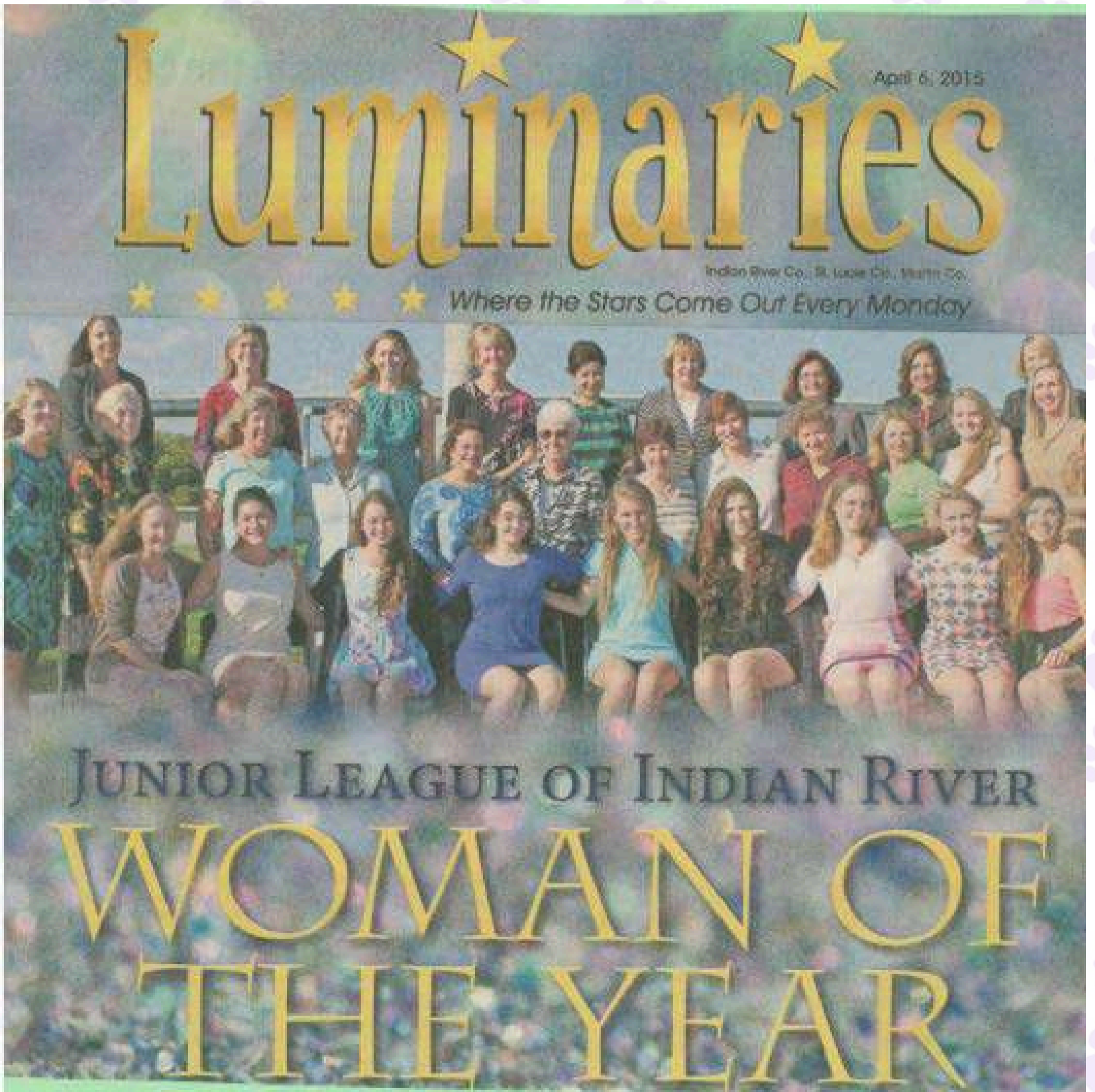
Find us, Like us, Share us with your Friends

## Posting on Dogs For Life's Timeline

If you want to share something with DFL friends, you can post it directly on the Dogs For Life's Timeline. To do this, simply use the Publisher located on DFL's Timeline.



# Woman of the Year



# Woman OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF INDIAN RIVER

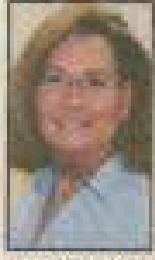
## Congratulations to our 2015 Nominees

Join the Junior League of Indian River in honoring these remarkable women at a luncheon benefitting Junior League initiatives including Whole Child Indian River on

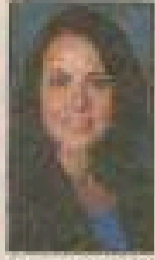
Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 11:30 am  
Tickets \$100 per person

Available at [www.womanoftheyear.info](http://www.womanoftheyear.info) or by contacting Chrissy Stephens (772.907.9319 or [cstephens@omnitaxhelp.com](mailto:cstephens@omnitaxhelp.com)) by April 22, 2015 at noon.

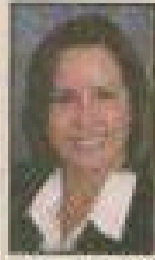
For more information about our nominees and the event, visit [JLIR.org](http://JLIR.org)



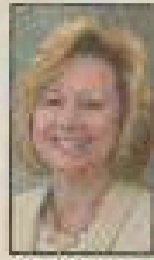
HELEN CROCKETT  
Business Professional



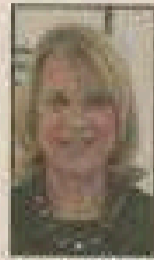
REBECCA EMMONS  
Business Professional



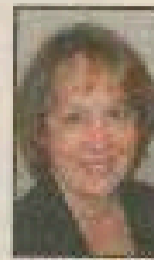
KIMBERLY HARDIN-THORPE  
Business Professional



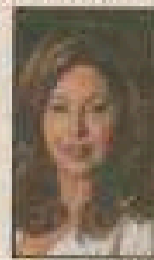
LORI MCCORMICK  
Business Professional



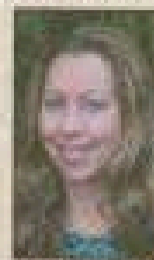
CINDY O'DARE  
Business Professional



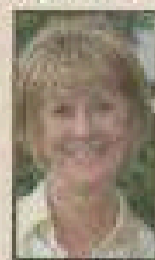
KIM PRADO  
Business Professional



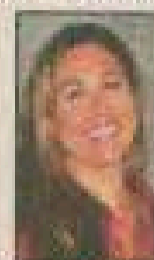
DR. DEEPTHI SADHWANI  
Business Professional



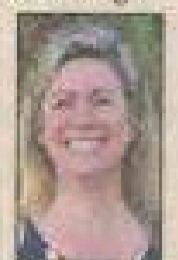
ANGELA ASTRUP  
Civic/Non-Profit Professional



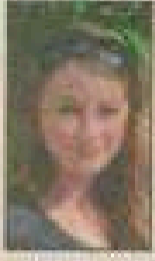
SARAH MONDANO  
Civic/Non-Profit Professional



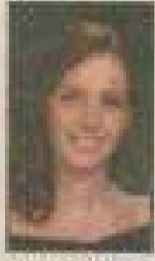
JESSICA WOOD  
Civic/Non-Profit Professional



ELIZABETH WOODY  
Civic/Non-Profit Professional



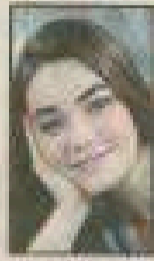
EMILY ARESENULT  
Rising Star



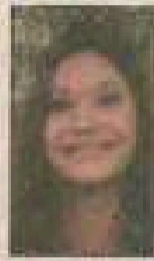
DEANNA BOWMAN  
Rising Star



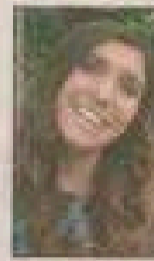
DEVON GREEN-STEEL  
Rising Star



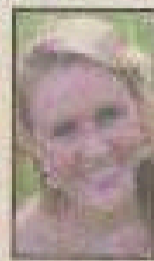
CASSIDY LAYTON  
Rising Star



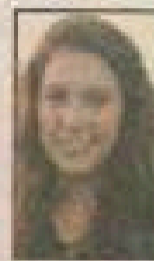
MACKENZIE MOORE  
Rising Star



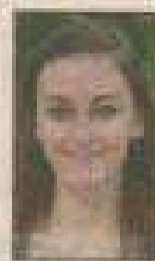
MADLINE PARTOW  
Rising Star



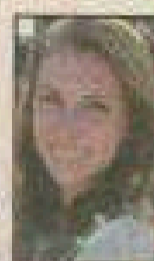
DELANEY POLK  
Rising Star



LILY SHELTON  
Rising Star



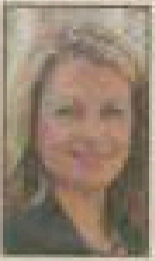
AMANDA VORCE  
Rising Star



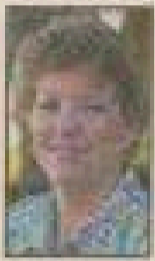
NATALIE ZATZ  
Rising Star



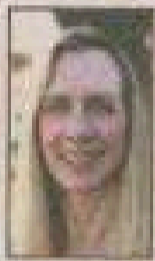
ELEANOR BENGYSK  
Volunteer



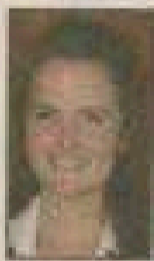
TRACY CARROLL  
Volunteer



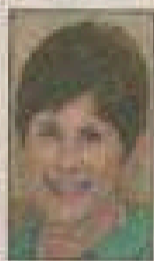
SHERRI DAVIS  
Volunteer



MICHELE FALLS  
Volunteer



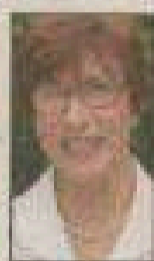
MARY HILL-BELLIZZI  
Volunteer



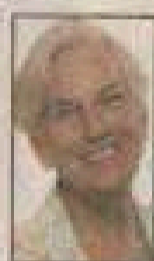
CAROL KANAREK  
Volunteer



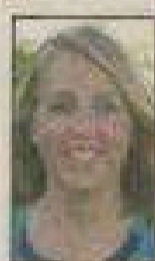
LIZ MAYO  
Volunteer



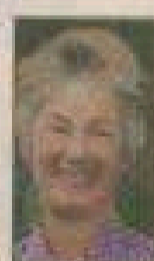
DORIS PLYM  
Volunteer



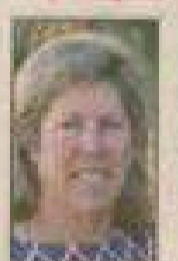
TRUDIE RAINONE  
Volunteer



JESSICA SCHMITT  
Volunteer



MARLYNN SOULY  
Volunteer



HOPE WOODHOUSE  
Volunteer

JOIN US FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL

# Woman OF THE YEAR

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF INDIAN RIVER

PRESENTED BY

Help Us To Honor Women That Shape Our Community  
April 29, 2015 • 11:30 a.m. Luncheon  
Oak Harbor Club • Vero Beach, FL  
Tickets Available Online or By Request  
\$100 per Guest • RSVP Required

WOMEN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES • 2015

**Rising Star**  
Emily Aresenault  
Deanna Bowman  
Devon Green-Steele  
Cassidy Layton  
Mackenzie Moore  
Madeline Partow  
Delaney Polk  
Lily Shelton  
Amanda Vorce  
Natalie Zatz

**Business Professional**  
Helen Crockett  
Rebecca Emmons  
Kimberly Hardin-Thorpe  
Lori McCormick  
Cindy O'Dare  
Kim Prado  
Dr. Deepthi Sadhwani

**Civic/Non-Profit Professional**  
Angela Astrup  
Sarah Mondano  
Jessica Wood  
Elizabeth Woody

**Volunteer**  
Eleanor Bengysk  
Tracy Carroll  
Sherri Davis  
Michele Falls  
Sara Hill-Labelarte  
Carol Kanarek  
Liz Mayo  
Doris Plym  
Trudie Rainone  
Jessica Schmitt  
Marilyn Souly  
Hope Woodhouse

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS  
The French/O'Dare Team - Premier Estate Properties - Program Sponsor  
Grall Law Group - Invitation Sponsor  
Junior League of Indian River Sustainers - Champagne Toast Sponsor  
Treasure Coast Newspapers/TCPalm - Newspaper Sponsor

Proceeds from Woman of The Year will support the initiatives of the Junior League of Indian River, including Whole Child Indian River. Whole Child allows families to get connected to service providers through an online assessment of their needs. Parents can view detailed program descriptions, fees and eligibility requirements so that they can make informed decisions about which providers are best for their family. Everything from doctors to after school care to enrichment programs is included. It's free, easy, convenient, and confidential.

FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT  
[www.WomanOfTheYear.info](http://www.WomanOfTheYear.info)



4/10/15

Shelly -  
Great media coverage on this event! Every time I opened a paper there it was! Sometimes twice. (LOL)  
Good for you -  
Penny



The world is  
hugged by the  
faithful arms of  
volunteers.

TERRI GUTTENMETS



We "donut" know what  
we would have done  
without you!

Thank You!

# Park Improvements

Shelly Ferger

**From:** DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 24, 2015 11:47 AM  
**To:** dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** Improvements Coming to the Off-Leash Dog Park



Wed-Thurs  
April 29 & 30, 2015

## Attention Dog Park Friends

### More Improvements Coming to the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park

You may have noticed the beautiful umbrellas, tables and chairs recently added to the dog park from very generous contributions restricted to these items. We are very grateful for these improvements to the park.

More improvements are coming to the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park beginning Wednesday, April 29th. East Coast Tree Company will be in the park April 29th and 30th to lift and thin 84 trees on the four acre property. It is our goal and East Coast Tree Company's to make sure adequate areas of the park remain open for off-leash use during this time.

Please be mindful of the work and where it is being conducted. Safety is always a priority for you and your dog and while we want to make sure there is a place to take our four legged friends during the work, if you see the workers coming into an area where you are, please leash your dog and move to another section of the park.

[See below for more news...](#)

### EVEN MORE TO COME...



#### Dog Park Drainage Project to be completed

The John's Island Foundation has awarded Dogs For Life with a grant to complete the 8 year long drainage project. In addition, we will be connecting the shell pathway from behind the small dog area through the training area.

[Stay tuned for start dates.](#)



#### Pardon Our Mess As We "Shed"

Thanks to a very generous contribution, the old DFL storage shed will be "blown down" and a new, larger, hurricane rated shed will be installed in the very near future.

[More information to come.](#)



#### DFL T-Shirts will be Available for Purchase

Several people have asked to purchase DFL T-Shirts. They are on order through a local vendor and will be available in the next week or two. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact the office at 772-567-8969.

[Forward this email](#)

Find Us. Like Us. Share Us With Your Friends



# Articles

14A » Monday, April 13, 2015 » TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IC

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

### Community Calendar

**Quarter Auction American Legion Auxiliary Sebastian: ALA Quarter Auction Sponsoring Dogs for Life, 6 p.m. April 13, American Legion Post 189, 807 Louisiana Ave., Sebastian. Ages: 18+. 772-882-7352. Avondaisy44@aol.com.**

4 | Wednesday, April 22, 2015 | YOUR NEWSWEEKLY » INDIAN RIVER COUNTY | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

## Good For You

### Exchange Club 'Champions for Charity' donates to Dogs for Life

By Joseph Walsh  
Your Newsweekly Contributor

The Exchange Club of the Treasure Coast first Champions for Charity Golf donated \$500 to Dogs For Life.

Dogs For Life specializes in training Hearing Dogs, Mobility Assistance Dogs, and Service Dogs for Veterans to assist with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

This donation was made possible through the participation of all

the golfers and sponsors of the first annual Champions for Charity Golf Tournament.

Exchange Club of the Treasure Coast meets the first and third Thursdays at noon at Culinary Capers, 737 22nd Street in Vero Beach. For more information please visit [TCExchangeclub.org](http://TCExchangeclub.org). Members donate time and money to organizations that help support our four pillars: Prevention of Child Abuse, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Programs.



TCEXchange Club President Cindy Jewett, Sam LaFavers, Dogs For Life President Shelly Ferger, veteran Jim Taylor, and his service dog, Pia Pia.

6 » Wednesday, April 1, 2015 » YOUR NEWSWEEKLY » INDIAN RIVER COUNTY » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

## Things To Do

### American Legion Auxiliary quarter auction is April 13

By Gayle Seifert  
Your Newsweekly Contributor

American Legion Auxiliary Quarter Auction is Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m., at American Legion Post 189, 807 Louisiana Ave., Sebastian.

This month we are sponsoring Dogs for Life. This group trains dogs to improve quality of life for people facing various challenges, including service dogs for veterans with hearing and/or mobility impairment, as well as PTSD issues.

Come join us for a night of fun, raffles, 50/50. Bring \$2 for paddle rental and quarters. Must be at least 18-years-old to attend (no exceptions).

Vendor booths will feature products and services from A Hidden Oasis Spa, A alchemy Treasurz, Avon, Beauty Control, Cruise Planners, Damsel in Defense, Dorothy Leggett,

Come join us for a night of fun, raffles, 50/50. Bring \$2 for paddle rental and quarters.

Dove Chocolates, Everything Ecuadorian, Jam-berry Nails, Mary Kay, Our Hearts Desire, Pampered Chef, Thirty One, Tupperware, Whimsical Designs and others.

American Legion kitchen crew will be selling burgers, hot dogs, fries, salads, dessert etc. for a nominal fee.

For information contact: Daisy Williams 772-882-7352 [avondaisy44@aol.com](mailto:avondaisy44@aol.com) Or Mori Serpa 772-633-9914 [mori44@aol.com](mailto:mori44@aol.com)

# Veteran Voice writer given award from Dogs For Life

Mary Kemper  
DAILY VOICE  
mkemper@veteranvoiceonline.com

On March 24, I was privileged and honored to receive an Excellence in Journalism award from a group I've come to care very deeply about — Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, which, among other missions, connects disabled veterans with service dogs, and trains them to be full and more productive lives.

The training Dogs For Life offers veterans — at no charge — is phenomenal.

One story I wrote concerned a veteran whose ability to walk was becoming more and more diminished, so his dog was being trained to alert him to people at the front door, pick up dropped items and dial a special 911 emergency phone, among other things.

Another story concerned a veteran whose hearing was steadily going south, so his dog was being trained to alert not only to the front door, but also smoke alarms and similar events.

Part of that training involved a visit to a Vero Beach eatery, which uses real-world situations to make training most effective.



Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

Mary Kemper, left, a staff writer for Veteran Voice, receives an Excellence in Journalism award from Dogs For Life founder and CEO Shelly Feiger at its Vero Beach administration facility March 24.

See AWARD page 7



**April 28 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**April 29 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**April 30 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 1 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 2 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 3 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 4 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 5 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 6 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 7 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 8 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 9 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 10 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 11 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 12 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 13 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 14 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 15 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 16 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 17 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 18 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 19 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 20 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 21 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 22 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 23 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 24 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 25 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 26 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 27 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 28 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 29 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 30 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

**May 31 — 11 a.m., opening Band and Three Marches Rock**

## AWARD from page 8

PTSD soldiers can also learn to cope with life's challenges. Their dogs are trained, among other things, to "secure perimeters" and brace themselves against their owners during anxiety attacks.

Watching veterans and their dogs train is a treat. You can see and feel the bond between them, which goes so much deeper than ordinary owners and dogs. They depend on each other, as well as love each other.

It fills me with happiness to know these wonderful men, who've given so much, get so much back from their dogs, who only want love in return.

What Dogs For Life does goes way beyond helpful. They're helping veterans get their lives back. You just can't put a price tag on that — and they don't, which is even more amazing.

In honor of veterans, Dogs For Life changed its logo color to purple recently, as a tribute to wounded warriors.

They say an organization is only as good as its manager, and Shelly Feiger is as good as they come.

To call Shelly — founder and CEO — "energetic" is a laughable

**What Dogs For Life does goes way beyond helpful. They're helping veterans get their lives back. You just can't put a price tag on that — and they don't, which is even more amazing.**

understatement.

Since Dogs For Life's beginning in 1997 as a 4-H community service project — resulting in Indian River County's first off-leash dog park — to today's full-service dog park and training facility, Shelly has been the driving force.

She has been absolutely trained in seeking (and getting) donations for what became a massive project, frustrating at times, but ultimately rewarding — all the while doing administrative tasks, overseeing building, overseeing staff and somehow squeezing in dog training, her real passion and love.

Her bridge tournament fundraisers are always a success, and what fun I had at this past year's "Howl-O-Ween" event with my little dog Floy! Close to 100 costumed owners and pooches went on parade, and some of the outfits were just out there awesome. I swore I'd never be one of "those people" who boo-boo their dogs like that. Oh, well — it's just plain fun, so, as the saying goes, call the cops!

Oh, and I forgot to mention a story on former Army Sgt. Jay Harris, who has just recently been hired as a trainer full-time from his former contract status.

I'll never forget my enjoyable interview at his Vero Beach home, with his "posse" of four dogs who bear such names as "general" and "secretary of state."

The rest of the staff, and board of director members, are one and all lovely people who bring a wealth of experience to their jobs. Shelly paid tribute to them as well as the necessary. This includes Debbie Burton, administrative assistant; Katie Kowanz, administrative and fund development director; training, office and maintenance contractors Paul Via and Peter Schell, and of course, Jay.

I wasn't the only award winner, either. Others received recognition for all the help they've given to Dogs For Life in different ways. Frankly, I didn't feel I deserved any recognition — it's sheer pleasure to write about them. It's I who should give them an award.

Let me give you an idea of the scale of assistance Dogs For Life offers — it's not just helping veterans. Additionally, they train and certify assistance dogs for anyone with a disability; provide training for pets and their owners for therapy visits to nursing homes, mental health and children's facilities; provide pet behavior information, a telephone hotline and education programs like anti-dog bite, dog behavior and obedience training for the general public; and coordinate with law enforcement, emergency response organizations and businesses on the legal rights of assistance dogs — and run the off-leash dog park for its 140 users and their 148 dogs (as of this month).

Dogs For Life's annual budget runs well into the six figures to cover all the services they offer. Please consider sending a donation their way at [dogsforlifeflb.org](http://dogsforlifeflb.org). While you're there, take a look around and find out all the wonderful things they do.

Or, you can give them a call at (772) 567-8669, or email them at [dogsforlife@verobeach.com](mailto:dogsforlife@verobeach.com).

Mary Kemper is a staff writer for Veteran Voice.

**EVENTS**

# More than a best friend

Dogs for Life recognizes those that improve the lives of humans who might need a helping paw

By Fran Foster  
The Newsweekly

Watching the dogs of every size, age and breed cavorting at the Dogs for Life off-leash dog park is sure to bring a smile.

But there is much more happening at the facility than just letting the dogs out. Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization founded and run by CEO Shelly Ferger, is changing lives for many in Indian River County.

DFL recently held its 2014 Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center to celebrate the people and animals who improve the quality of life for individuals by training assistance dogs and pet-assisted therapy dogs, as well as providing basic obedience classes and a safe, clean off-leash dog park.

Ferger awarded Jeff and Suzy Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping with the Corporate Philanthropist Award, highlighting their devotion to keeping the dog park in pristine condition at half the regular cost.

She also recognized Kathi Schumann, a board member since 2013, with the Individual Philanthropist Award.

"Kathi's knowledge of

animals and the effects they have on people motivates her devotion to our veteran program.

"Without her contribution to furnish the training facility and office, we couldn't have opened our doors in 2013," said Ferger. She also pointed out that Schumann challenged the board of directors to a \$100,000 matching grant for 2014 - which they reached - ensuring the future for programs that are crucial to military veterans and others who are in need of animal therapy.

**Incredible bond**

Volunteer and Assistance Dog Team Award Recipient L.A., with canine Darel, explained the importance of maintaining a respectful distance when people encounter service dogs and their partners.

"When the vest is on, they are working, even at resting position. It's as much a service to the individual as it is to the animal to keep the relationship consistent," L.A. said.

She went on to explain how part of DFL's training entails working with pets to convert them into service dogs for their owners.

"There is an incredible bond that happens



DFL volunteer, retired deputy sheriff Phillip McDade Muma, and Duke are standing strong in support of Dogs for Life.



Duke, Darel and Mitzi enjoy some play time before going back on duty.

between the service animal and the individual, different than just having a pet. And that includes training the human not to treat the animal as a pet," she said.

DFL supporter and

See FRIEND, 16

**EVENTS**

**FRIEND from 15**

board president Eleanor Bengyak was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award at the reception.

She is carrying on the philanthropic work of her late husband Victor, who created the Legacy Society.

His charity began by making gifts to DFL to help fund and support the dog park so his DFL-

trained service dog Mitzi would always have a place to run.

Mitzi is now being trained to assist Eleanor as a service dog, illustrating just how complex and rewarding the relationship can be between a person and his or her best friend.

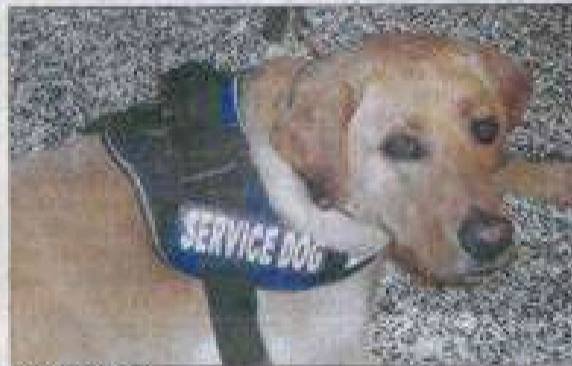
For more information, visit Dogs For Life, Inc. at 1230 15th Avenue, Vero Beach. Call 772-567-8969 or visit their website at [www.dogsforlifevb.org](http://www.dogsforlifevb.org).



DFL's CEO Shelly Ferger and board president Eleanor Bengyak with Mitzi Accepting the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Shelly Farger with Individual Philanthropist Award winner Kathi G. Schumann



Duke on duty.

Shelly Farger, owner, presented Jeff and Suzy Gomez from Coast to Coast Landscaping with the Corporate Philanthropist Award.



**Dogs For Life**  
**Off-Leash Dog Park**  
 12th Street and 16th Avenue  
 1230 16th Avenue  
 Vero Beach, Flo



**\$1.00/day**  
**Open 365 days**  
**a year!**

- 4+ acres - safe, clean, fence
- All dogs screened for temp
- Separate areas for large a
- Separate training area
- Watering stations, chairs

**(772) 567-**

**Dogs For Life**



**IMPROVING THE**  
**QUALITY OF LIFE FOR**  
**PEOPLE AND DOGS**

**772-567-8969**

**Dogs for Life**

**Legal Rights of Guide**  
**Dogs, Hearing Dogs**  
**and Service Dogs**



Taylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.)  
 a War Veteran and his  
 hearing/service dog Pia Pia

*Assistance dogs are*  
*"Task trained"*  
*to mitigate the disability of the*  
*able who own them.*



The background of the page is a repeating pattern of purple paw prints of various sizes, scattered across the entire surface. The paw prints are stylized with four distinct pads.

**MARCH**

# Annual Meeting





Individual Philanthropist,  
Kathi G. Schumann



Digital Media, Preston Orrick



Volunteer of the Year,  
Eleanor Bengyak



Digital Media, Sharon Morgan

## Donors And Volunteers Are Celebrated

March 28: Dogs For Life Inc. celebrated those who helped ensure the fulfillment of their mission in 2014 at the annual Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the Dogs For Life Administrative & Assistance Dog Training Center. "We look forward to this event each year. It gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors and volunteers," stated Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO. Board president Eleanor Bengyak added, "The number of clients we are working with to become Certified Hearing Service Dogs has doubled in the last few months. So far, we have been able to keep up with the demand, but only because of the donations and volunteer work that goes into each client. These specially trained dogs perform tasks by assisting with medical and life-coping situations for people right here in our community, including our military veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders."

Recipients of this year's Donor and Volunteer Awards:  
 Assistance Dog Team: L.A. Bykowsky and K-9 Darel  
 Volunteer of the Year: Eleanor M. Bengyak  
 Journalism Award: Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice  
 Digital Media Award: Sharon Morgan  
 Digital Media Award: Preston Orrick  
 Pet-Assisted Therapy Team: Ana Montoya & Oslo  
 Individual Philanthropist: Kathi G. Schumann  
 Corporate Philanthropist: Jeff and Suzy Gomez,  
 Coast to Coast Landscaping



Corporate Philanthropists, Suzy and  
Jeff Gomez



Pet-Assisted Therapy Team, Ana  
Montoya and Oslo



Journalism Award,  
Mary Kemper



Assistance Dog Team,  
L.A. Bykowsky

## 2014 Donor and Volunteer Award Recipients

Assistance Dog Team

*L. A. Bykowsky & K-9 Darel*

Volunteer of the Year

*Eleanor M. Bengyak*

Media Awards

*Journalism Award ~ Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice*

*Digital Media Award ~ Sharon Morgan*

*Digital Media Award ~ Preston Orrick*

Pet-Assisted Therapy Team

*Ana Montoya & Oslo*

Individual Philanthropist

*Kathi G. Schumann*

Corporate Philanthropist

*Jeff & Suzy Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping*

Please join us for our  
2014 Donor & Volunteer  
Appreciation Awards  
Saturday, March 28, 2015  
at 11:00 a.m.

Dogs For Life, Inc.

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center  
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida

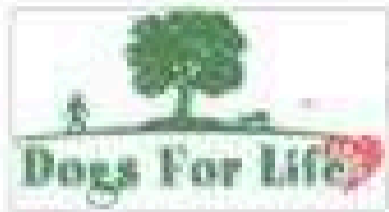
Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to 567-8969  
or [dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net](mailto:dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net)

MARCH 21, 2015

## Dogs For Life celebrates donors and volunteers Reply

by Mark Schumann • Community News  
NEWS RELEASE



<https://indianrivertoday.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/dogs-for-life-logo.jpg>Dogs For Life, Inc. will celebrate the donors and volunteers who helped ensure the fulfillment of the mission of the organization in 2014 at an event to be held March 28 at 11 a.m. "We look forward to this event and having the opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors and volunteers. Dogs For Life has so much to be grateful for. It is our donors and volunteers who have made it possible for us to be working with so many clients today," stated Shelly Ferger, Founder & CEO.

Board President, Eleanor Bengyak added "The number of clients we are working with to become Certified Hearing/Service Dogs has doubled in the last few months. So far, we have been able to keep up with the demand, but only because of the donations and volunteer work that goes into each client. Each dog mitigates the challenges to their owner from mobility or hearing loss or post-traumatic stress.

These specially trained dogs perform tasks by assisting with medical and life coping situations for people right here in our community, including our military veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders.

Dogs For Life is proud to announce the Recipients of this year's Donor and Volunteer Awards:

Assistance Dog Team – L. A. Bykowsky & K-9 Darel

Volunteer of the Year – Eleanor M. Bengyak

Journalism Award – Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice

Digital Media Award – Sharon Morgan

Digital Media Award – Preston Orrick

Pet-Assisted Therapy Team – Ana Montoya & Oslo

Individual Philanthropist – Kathi G. Schumann

Corporate Philanthropist – Jeff & Suzy Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Administrative & Assistance Dog Training Center located at 1230 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach.

Dogs For Life is 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 and operating an Off-Leash Dog Park. If you would like more information on the programs and services provided, please contact Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969.

# Dogs For Life

You Are Invited  
to the  
2014 Donor & Volunteer  
Appreciation Awards

Saturday, March 28, 2015

## Dogs For Life, Inc. Past Donor / Volunteer Appreciation Awards

Year	Award	Recipient
2009	Assistance Dog Team	Pat Scott & Holly
	Volunteer of the Year	Ed Boatwright
	Media Award	Dutch VanNorden
	In-Kind Services	Jeff Gomez Coast to Coast Landscaping
2010	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Deborah Cornell & Stella
	Assistance Dog Team	Jim Taylor & Pia Pia
	Volunteer of the Year	Linda Lisa
	Media Award	DHI
	In-Kind Services	Garden Club of IR Co.
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Barbara Bodnar & Maddux
2011	Individual Philanthropist	Janet Riley
	Corporate Philanthropist	Jeff Gomez Coast to Coast Landscaping
	Assistance Dog Team	Norine Coody & Abby
	Volunteer of the Year	Eleanor Bengyak
	Broadcast Media Award	Jill Roberts-McDermott
	Journalism Award	Mary Schenkul - 32963 Article
	In-Kind Services	Suzy Gomez / Beech Annuals,
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Nancy McCusker & Buford
2012	Individual Philanthropist	Robert Bowman
	Corporate Philanthropist	Florida Veterinary League
	Past President's Award	Al Turner
	Assistance Dog Team	Ford Jones & Spoo Girl
	Volunteer of the Year	Jack Saucerman
	Media Award	Sydney Lieberman / Luminaries
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Carol Hartwig & Baxter
2013	Individual Philanthropist	Beth Stryker
	Corporate Philanthropist	Tony Donadio, Donadio & Associates
	Assistance Dog Team	Joan Fowman & Daisy
	Volunteer of the Year	Laura E. Bonney, L.E.B. Printing & Design
	Media Award	Tama Ortega-Cowan / Luminaries
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Shirley Schaedler & Sarah
	Individual Philanthropist	Richard & Jane Mancojian
2014	Individual Philanthropist	Kathi G. Schumann
	Corporate Philanthropist	Travis Chambers - Adron Fence Company

# Dream Job

8 • MARCH 12, 2015 • VETERAN VOICE • THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

## Army vet realizes dream job with Dogs For Life in Vero Beach

FOR VETERAN VOICE

Part of the mission of Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, is providing training for returning warriors and their canine companions to help tackle the daily challenges of life.

Now, Army veteran Jay Harris is going to continue his mission of training and helping full-time — up till now, he has been working on a contract basis.

Dogs For Life board president Eleanor Bengyak said, "Since the Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center has opened, the number of people and dogs in training has doubled.

"Jay is a team player, dedicated to the DFL mission. He has been contracting with us for five years, and who better to assist in the training of our heroes than someone who has been there?"

"Dogs For Life is proud and honored to bring Jay from a contractual status to a full-time employee. We need the additional help with training, especially with the increase in the number of military veterans we are working

**"For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."**

*Jay Harris, trainer*

with.

"Jay, being a veteran himself, can relate to the brave men and women he trains. He is truly an asset to the organization," added DFL director of training programs Shelly Ferger.

Harris said, "For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."

*For more information on Dogs For Life and its mission, visit [dogsfor-lifevb.org](http://dogsfor-lifevb.org)*



**FEBRUARY**

# Accreditation



Assistance Dogs International

**We Are Accredited by Assistance Dogs International Gold Seal Achievement**

## The ADI Mission

To establish and promote standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training and partnership. Facilitate communication and learning among member organizations. Educate the public to the benefits of assistance dogs and ADI membership.

## As a Member Program of Assistance Dogs International (ADI)...

We believe that organizations and individuals involved in the assistance dog industry have common goals and interests which are best achieved by uniformly complying with all local, state and federal laws as well as ethical, moral and legal policies, practices and procedures.

We are honored to demonstrate our commitment to this belief through voluntary participation in the ADI accreditation process.

Our achievement of full ADI accreditation means that the facilities and operation of our assistance dog program meet ADI's standards of excellence.

## ADI and the Accreditation Process

ADI is an international coalition with members representing assistance dog programs from across the world. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of selection, training, placement and utilization of assistance dogs.

Accreditation by ADI is a peer-review process. It is a uniform method by which ADI voting member agencies can achieve compliance with the operational standards of excellence established by ADI for organizations that train and place assistance dogs.

Participating organizations undergo an official on-site assessment conducted by highly skilled assessors. During the course of the visit, assessors interview agency staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors, assistance dog applicants and recent graduates, and are given access to a variety of agency documents and records.

The following areas are evaluated during the accreditation survey:

### Program Management

- Application policies and procedures
- Canine management and training
- Teaching curriculum and instruction
- Program record keeping
- Volunteering
- Graduate input

### Administration

- Organization
- Emergency procedures and safety regulations
- Risk management
- Documentation
- Business practices
- Written policies and procedures

### Facilities

- Building and grounds
- Safety and maintenance
- Kennels

### Community Activities

- Behavior of assistance dogs in the community
- Community education about assistance dogs

## Members must be accredited every 5 years

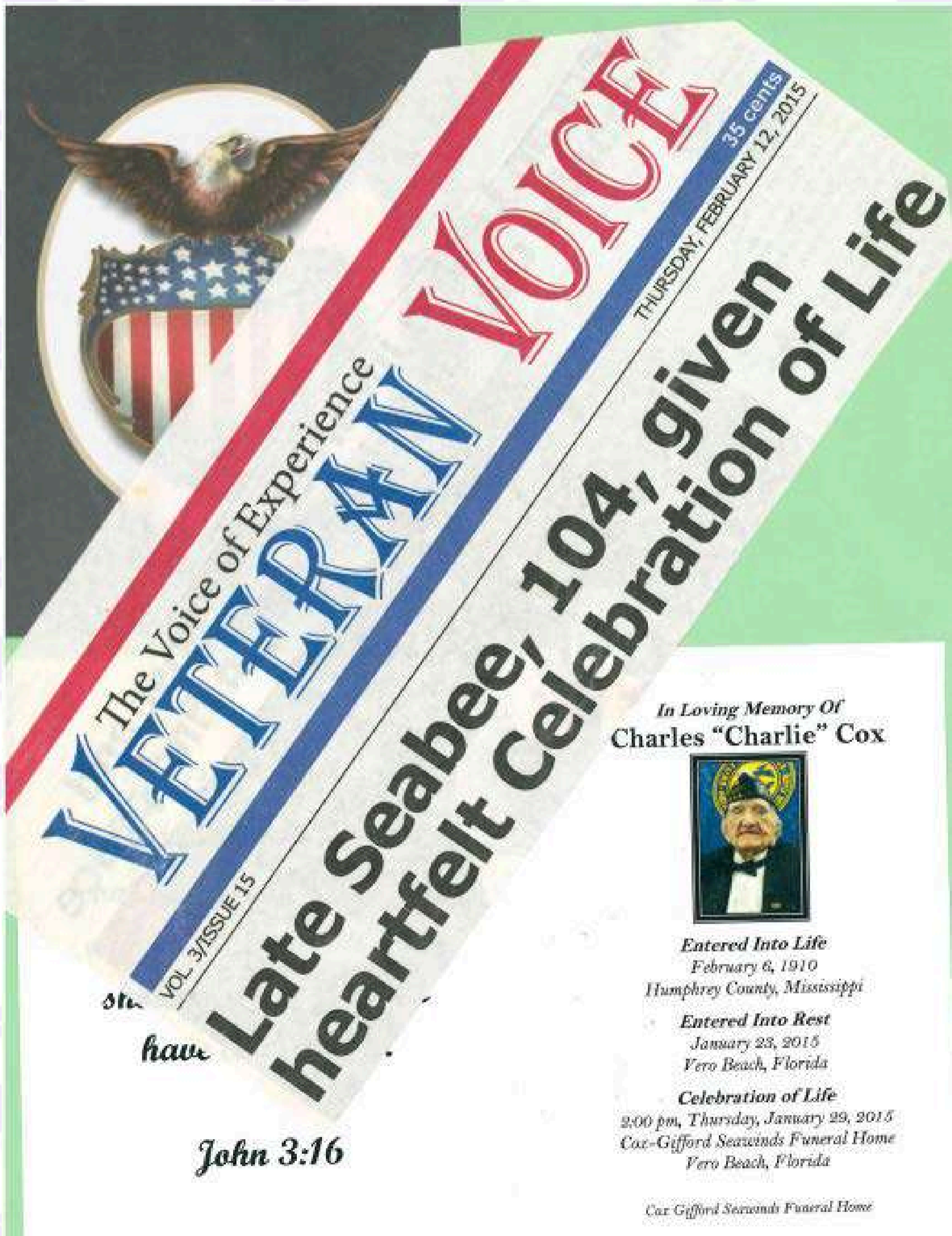
Compliance with ADI standards in all these operational areas results in full ADI accreditation for a term of five years and the award of an official plaque containing the ADI gold medallion.

We are proud to be an Accredited ADI member program and be recognized for maintaining ADI's standards of excellence in all areas of our assistance dog program.



For more information, please visit:  
[www.assistedogsinternational.org](http://www.assistedogsinternational.org)


# Seabee Celebration of Life



The image features a collage of items related to a Seabee's life. At the top left is a circular emblem with an eagle perched on a shield with the American flag. Below it is a copy of the newspaper "The Voice of Experience VETERAN VOICE". The newspaper's masthead includes the text "The Voice of Experience", "VETERAN VOICE", "THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015", and "35 cents". The main headline on the newspaper reads "Late Seabee, 104, given heartfelt Celebration of Life". Below the newspaper is a white obituary card for Charles "Charlie" Cox. The obituary includes a portrait of Charlie in a military-style uniform and provides details about his life, including his birth date (February 6, 1910), his death date (January 23, 2015), and the location of his Celebration of Life (Thursday, January 29, 2015, at Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home in Vero Beach, Florida).

*John 3:16*

*In Loving Memory Of  
Charles "Charlie" Cox*



*Entered Into Life  
February 6, 1910  
Humphrey County, Mississippi*

*Entered Into Rest  
January 23, 2015  
Vero Beach, Florida*

*Celebration of Life  
2:00 pm, Thursday, January 29, 2015  
Cox-Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home  
Vero Beach, Florida*

*Cox Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home*

It was to be a birthday party for the late Chief Petty Officer and former Navy "SeaBee" Charlie Cox Feb. 4, but he died just days beforehand. The Indian River Veterans Council decided to turn mourning him into a Celebration of Life instead.

In conjunction with its monthly meeting, the council gave a tribute, attended by Cox's widow, Busilisa, and family and friends.

The ceremony began with a speech by Bradley Scott, 12, Vero Beach, a League Cadet with the David McCampbell Construction Battalion (SeaBees) of the Navy League Sea Cadets, Melbourne.

*(Editor's note: Please see a feature on Bradley Scott, and his "Change 4 Change 4 Vets" effort to help veterans in need, in the Jan. 22 edition of Veteran Voice.)*

Accompanied by his father, Mark, Bradley had most in the assembly moved and impressed.

"I'd like to give thanks to the council for allowing me to speak today about Chief Petty Officer Cox," Bradley said.

"We in our battalion want to be just like him. We want to recognize a brother."

Bradley then read "The Old Salt," a poem by Mac McDonald, which ends:

"As I look up at night, I envision The Old Salt, a bearded draper draped just above the eye, as he draws upon his pipe, quietly he waits. The guardian of heaven's gate."

Bradley then explained his "vision" — with the help of the council — "to see that someday every Sea Cadet in the nation will collect change for our patriots."

Council Vice President Curtis Paulisin then gave opening remarks on Cox and his legacy.

"He was the oldest veteran in Indian River County, and he was a hero," he said. "Not only to our coun-



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar speaks at a Celebration of Life ceremony for the late Chief Petty Officer Charlie Cox, who recently died just short of his 105<sup>th</sup> birthday, at Vero Beach Veterans Inc. headquarters, Vero Beach, Feb. 4. Listening are, from left, Indian River Veterans Council Vice President Curtis Paulisin and Cox's widow, Busilisa, and family and friends.

**"Anyone who knew him knew he was a real presence. He would command the room, and with his voice, he never needed a microphone."**

**Curtis Paulisin, vice president, Indian River Veterans Council**

ty, but also to his country and his family.

"Anyone who knew him knew he was a real presence," Paulisin said. "He would command the room, and with his voice, he never needed a microphone."

An invocation was given by Eric "Rip" Weiler, of the council.

Former Army Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Britt next paid tribute to "my friend, comrade and buddy," whom he designated "an honorary paratrooper."

After a rendition of "Amazing Grace" by Delores Chambers, the Colors were presented and "Taps" played by Duke Seabie

Paulisin introduced Busilisa Cox and family and friends who accompanied her.

Fellow Seabee Bill Beyerle reflected on Cox's life and career, and read a letter from national commander Jerry Landcastle, who wrote, "Chief Petty Officer Cox joined a brand-new battalion in World War II, and was thrust immediately into danger.

"He had little military training, but skills (as an electrician) second to none."

Beyerle pointed out that Cox was in-

VERO BEACH, FL 32960-3788

1200 18TH AVE

DOGS FOR LIFE INC

SA PR \*\*\*\*\*SCHS-DIGIT 32960



See CHARLIE page 6

### CHARLIE from page 1

involved in "many, many" veterans' organizations, and served as Veterans Memorial Island chaplain for 12 years.

"He truly lived up to the Seabees' motto 'can do.' I wish him calm winds and following seas."

Beyerle said that in addition to his many services to veterans, Cox was also the founder of Habitat for Humanity in Indian River County — at the age of 80.

Reminiscences were next given by Joe Martorana and Tony Russo, members of both the council and the Italian-American Veterans Association, of which Cox was also a member.

Martorana, the former national commander, recalled that among Cox's other accomplishments, "he established the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award here in Indian River, and he even met one of the survivors of the (USAT) *Dorchester*."

Memorial Island steward John Michael Matthews spoke in tribute to Cox's "deep sense of spirit," and Will Collins spoke on behalf of the Vero Beach Veterans, which donated the use of its post for the ceremony.

Indian River County Sheriff

**"He was an unbelievable human being. In a recent conversation, he said to me, 'Joe, they mothball ships younger than me.'**

**Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher**

Deryl Loar said "There's no way to know how many lives he (Cox) has touched in our county."

Weiler noted "the difference in our ages" (Weiler is in his 80s) — "he remembered World War I — and when I think of what he's accomplished in the 25 years since he turned 80, I'm ashamed."

Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher said, "He was an unbelievable human being. In a recent conversation, he said to me, 'Joe, they mothball ships younger than me.'

"He could be anything he wanted."

Former Army Col. Tony Young, president of the council, who recently returned from a two-month leave of absence, said, "Charlie told me, I've been around the world, but I'm glad to be around you (veterans)."

"For his birthday, he asked that flowers be given to his wife. That speaks volumes. Mrs. Cox, his



Photo courtesy of the Indian River Veterans Council

The late Chief Petty Officer Charlie Cox, center, is seen at a recent Indian River Veterans Council function. His wife, Busilisa, is seated behind him, and he is conversing with John Michael Matthews of the Veterans Council.

success in life was born from your love and affection."

Young noted that after serving in the SeaBees, Cox went on to have a long career in electrical engineering.

Lastly, Sam Kouns of the council proposed that a Charlie Cox Memorial Scholarship be estab-

lished for deserving Indian River students.

During a luncheon following the ceremony, family friend Helene Beck said, "They shared love every day. He had a long, productive life, and (Mrs. Cox) was his caregiver in the last months. "He will be sorely missed."

**U.S. Army Veteran, Jay Harris,  
Joins Dogs For Life on a Full-Time Basis as  
Training Coordinator**



**U.S. Army Veteran, Jay Harris, Training Coordinator**

For those of you who have had the opportunity to meet or work with Jay, you are familiar with his dedication to the people and the dogs he works with. DFL Board President, Eleanor Bengyak stated, "Since the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center has opened, the number of people and dogs in training has doubled. Jay is a team player, dedicated to the DFL mission. He has been contracting with us for five years and who better to assist in the training of our Heroes than someone who has "been there?"

Jay added, "For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another Veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."

"Dogs For Life is proud and honored to bring Jay from a contractual status to a Full-Time Employee. We need the additional help with training our increase of Military Veterans. Jay, being a Veteran himself, can relate to the brave men and women he trains. He is truly an asset to the organization," added DFL Director of Training Programs, Shelly Ferger.

# Meet Ariel — and her human — who are forging a special bond

Mary Kemper  
STAFF WRITER  
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

She's small, has beautiful hair, bright eyes and boundless energy. She can leap onto a tall bed in a single bound and save her human's life in the event of danger. She can wait patiently under the table until a meal is done.

She can even "herd" and keep track of those lesser beings not gifted with her sense of organization. Is there anything she can't do?

The answer: Not much. Just ask her human, Daniel Votrobek, Vero Beach, who has Ariel, a Belgian Tervuren (also known as Belgian sheepdog) in training at Dogs 4 Life to become a certified service dog.

Votrobek is a Marine Corps veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, for wounds sustained in three different IED explosions in Iraq.

Enlisting in 2002, he served in the initial invasion in 2003, as

well as later missions checking vehicles and house-to-house combat.

He suffered hearing loss from perforated eardrums, among other injuries, and the condition appears to be getting worse over time.

"I figured I'd better get Ariel trained in case it goes completely," he said.

That's where Dogs 4 Life came in.

"My neighbor, Barbara, told me about them," Votrobek said. "I contacted (founder and CEO) Shelly (Ferger). I had just gotten Ariel in Tallahassee at 2 months old. She started training at 6 months, and she's almost 2 (years old) now."

"To tell you the truth, I was a bit apprehensive about him (Votrobek) providing his own

*"She picks things up very quickly, and she's so intelligent. These two are going to go a long way together."*  
Dogs 4 Life founder and CEO Shelly Ferger, on veteran Daniel Votrobek and his service-dog-in-training, Ariel

dog, without our vetting it first," Ferger said. "But as soon as I met Ariel, I could tell she has what it takes."

Dogs 4 Life, which just changed its logo color to purple — "to honor our veterans," Ferger said, as it reflects the Purple Heart as well — trains service dogs for veterans with special needs related to a wide range of injuries, whether hearing loss, paraplegia or PTSD, as well as civilians with similar needs.

At a class on Feb. 12 at Dogs 4 Life, Ariel learned how to come and get Votrobek when she heard a knock at the door, how to wake him up when a smoke alarm goes off and how to behave in a public setting like a restaurant.

Ferger and trainer Jay Harris, an Army veteran, had Votrobek sitting at a desk, just as he

would at home. When a volunteer knocked at the door, Ferger or Harris would release Ariel, who then ran and alerted Votrobek, who gave her a treat both for alerting properly and for sitting when she reached the door.

During the smoke-alarm training (which was purposely done at the center, as Votrobek has a newborn daughter, Gabrielle, at home), Ferger made use of a mock bedroom, which is contained in a closet, complete with a real fold-down bed. Ariel successfully "woke" Votrobek up when the alarm went off and led him to the door, earning more well-deserved treats.

In time, she'll be trained to go outside Votrobek's home and wait by the mailbox until the family emerges safely.

During a break in the training, Ariel joined L.A. (a former law-enforcement officer) and Daryl, and Judy (who declined to give her last name) and Bailey, out in the

See DOGS page 3



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Marine veteran and Purple Heart recipient Daniel Votrobek, right, and his dog, Ariel, are undergoing training to prepare Ariel to become a service dog at Dogs 4 Life, Vero Beach, with the help of trainer and Army veteran Jay Harris.



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

At the Dogs 4 Life training center, a mock bedroom helps simulate the home situations of service dog trainees for emergency situations that might take place while the owner is asleep, such as someone knocking at the door or a smoke alarm going off.

## DOGS from page 2

yard for a romp. Naturally, Ariel tried to "organize" the other dogs, who simply looked at her with what could only be amusement.

Judy and Bailey, a "Labradoodle," are also taking the sound training, as Judy has hearing issues as well. L.A. visits Dogs 4 Life frequently with Daryl, a Labrador retriever and former bomb dog, to help the other dogs see how to behave properly.

After the sound training, the

group underwent "table" training, which teaches dogs to lie quietly under a table in public situations like going out for a meal.

Then it was off to a real eatery in Vero Beach, to put the training to a real-world test.

Ferger showed Votrobek how to keep Ariel between himself and the counter while ordering and paying, so as to limit distractions from all the stimuli in a busy restaurant.

The ordering accomplished, Ariel finally joined the other dogs un-

der the table and, with the help of treats and "stay" commands, she sat at Votrobek's feet properly.

Ferger had a lot of praise for Ariel's progress. "She picks things up very quickly, and she's so intelligent," she said. "These two are going to go a long way together."

Votrobek said Ariel already has the instinct of protectiveness. "She helped my father-in-law at Christmas," he said. "He's diabetic, and his sugar got low. He got up and went to the door, but then

got disoriented.

"Then he found himself out on the road. Ariel went to him, and started pacing in circles around him. She was very protective.

"My father-in-law said the last thing he remembered was Ariel coming up to him."

Votrobek said she's equally as protective of his wife, Joy, and daughter. "She's pretty awesome."

(To learn more about Dogs 4 Life, call (772) 567-8969, or visit [www.dogsforlifefvb.org](http://www.dogsforlifefvb.org))

# Bridge Tournament



**Dogs  
For Life**

**HAVE A HEART**

*& Help Build A Bridge*

**Bridge Tournament**



Eleanor Bengyak and "Mitzi"  
Invite You To Support  
**The 5th DFL "Build A Bridge"**  
**Bridge Tournament**  
To Help Raise Funds  
To Train Assistance Dogs in 2015

**Vero Beach Country Club**  
800 30th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960

**Tuesday, February 3, 2015**

*Registration - 11:00 A.M.*

*Luncheon - 11:30 A.M.*

*Bridge - 12:30 P.M.*

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

**SANCTIONED DUPLICATE**

*Master Points / First Overall*

*Flight A, B & C*

**OR PARTY BRIDGE**

**\$75 Bridge/Lunch**

*(\$50 Tax Deductible)*

**- Limited Seating -**

**Please Reply By January 26, 2015**

**Committee Members:**

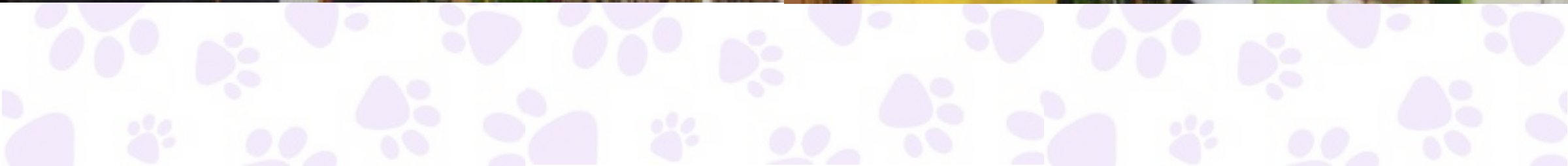
Eleanor Bengyak & "Mitzi"

Kathi G. Schumann

Linda Liss


Betty McCalister







**JANUARY**

PETS 

# A Great Pyrenees who ate Christmas dinner



Opal Schlesinger

"Where do you play with your dog buddies?" I asked.

"We have this really cool dog park called Dogs For Life. Members only. We have 4 acres to run around in. My Besties are Sammi, Charlie, another Charlie, Polly, Lady, Benj, Clem, Winnie, Tigger, Dugan, Inka, Gus and Boo."

"Wow, you got some great posse there," I said.

"I know! But Lady's my total BFF We can yap about anything."

"But I have my job, too, Mr. Borzo."

## Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I met a Great Pyrenees, Opal Schlesinger, who looks like a beautiful, giant snowball. She lives in Sea Oaks with her humans, Lil and Peter, and she's one of those pooches who come from a long line of showdogs. She has papers and everything. But, even though her Official Name is – get this – Gardenia Ivory Jewel, for Lassie's sake, she's not snooty at all. Actually she was a little shy at first.

long time, named Oze. When he went to the Big Dog Park in the Sky, they wanted another pooch like him.

"Actually, Oze and I are related. Our dads had the same dad," Opal said. Then, in an excited voice, "I've gotta tell you this story – my humans love to tell it to their buddies. But their version is a little different than mine," she said.

"Can't wait to hear it!" I was intrigued.

"Well, it was last Christmas Eve morning. Mom had to take Dad to the doctor, but I didn't get to go. I used to have this terrible separation anxiety. Anyway, Mom knows I don't like it when they leave so she left me a special treat. There it was, in a lovely big pot right on the stove. With a lid and everything – just for me. So I very carefully got up on my back tippypaws and gently, with my nose, nudged and nudged and nudged. Finally the pot slipped over the edge and landed, as I had planned, upright. The lid had bounced off nicely."

I'm pretty sure my eyes were as big as water bowls, as I listened to Opal's story.

"So, then, I just stuck my nose in and started nibbling. Man, it was fabulous.

Lots of delicious meat, and a lot of nice juice. I kept pulling off little pieces and putting them on the floor and nosing them around and nibbling."

"Ooooh boy," I managed.

"Anyway, I was taking a little nap when, all of a sudden, I heard Mom say, in her loud voice, 'What did you do, Opal???' Turns out, Mr. Borzo, I'd eaten the entire Christmas dinner. Mom called it Beef Burgundy. I mean, how was I to know? Mom told me it was a pound and a half of beef, with bacon and a whole bottle of wine. I thought she was just being nice because she knew I didn't like to be alone. And it worked, too, because I was so busy eating all that delicious food I didn't even miss Mom and Dad. I bet no other dog ever had such a great Christmas dinner."

"I think that's a safe bet," I said.


"I had to stay in the den with my Dad for 3 ½ hours, while Mom cleaned the kitchen. I guess it was a pretty big mess. Then, two days later, Mom and Dad told me I wasn't a little girl anymore and I had to graduate to my own bed. But that's okay, as long as I can have my fa-

vorite toys with me. So now, when Mom and Dad are gone, I don't freak out or anything like that. I just push a chair up to the dining room table, jump on it, then to the table, where I sit and wait for them. I jump off when I hear them coming. So far, there hasn't been anything to eat up there, but maybe, someday ..."

My ancestors were Spanish guard dogs. They worked with the sheep-herding dogs, standing guard so no other animals could grab any sheep. So I carry on the tradition. I guard my family."

I knew she was right, but I couldn't help but think it would be kinda hard to be scared of anything that looked like Frostie the Snowman. I wisely decided not to share that with her.

Till next time,

The Bonz 

## DON'T BE SHY

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories.

For a questionnaire, email [bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com](mailto:bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com).

# Vero Beach Magazine

EDITOR JOEY PANTOLIANO • HOME WITH MODERN VIBE • MODERN QUILT-GUILD • OLD ROMAN TALES • DELICIOUS JEWELRY • THE TIDES' RECIPE

THE FIRST & THE ONLY

# Vero Beach

JANUARY 2015

St. Edward's School celebrates 100th anniversary  
IN GOOD FAITH

*Magazine*

THE SCENE



*Supergirl and her sidekick*



*A skeleton escorting her dachshund*



*A crowd of dog-lovers gathering for the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade*

## Pooches Pawrade In The Dog Park

*Sponsored by Gene and Marthe Schumann*

**OCTOBER 18:** Dogs For Life held their annual *Howl-O-Ween Pawrade* with 63 canine entries and as many as 400 spectators taking a peek at the pooches on pawrade. Attendees shopped local vendors such as the Florida Veterinary League, Vero Insurance, Capital Investments, Forever Family Pet Cremations and the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital. Just over \$18,000 was collected through cash donations, raffles and vendor fees.



*Olaf the snowman getting a ride on Sven the reindeer*



*Zorro leading the parade*



*A pair of pals showing off their fancy costumes*

VERO BEACH  
MAGAZINE

FEBRUARY  
2011

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**Dogs For Life**

**Off-Leash Dog Park**

Hours: Dawn to Dusk

Memberships Available

For Information or Emergencies

**567-8969**

DFL is a tax deductible non profit organization.  
Membership fees support assistance and pet assisted therapy dog programs.  
Donations accepted at P.O. Box 659023, Vero Beach, FL 32965 or [www.dogsforlifefvb.com](http://www.dogsforlifefvb.com)

**AREA UNDER 24 HOUR SURVEILLANCE**

# Service of Celebration

A Thursday, January 22, 2015 B SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS B

## A Service of Celebration for



**Nancy H. Ireland**  
September 29, 1923 – January 16, 2015

January 26, 2015 – 11:00 am  
Community Church of Vero Beach  
Vero Beach, Florida

# Legacy Society



## *Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Guests: \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend but want to help Eleanor and Mitzi  
"Keep the Dream Alive."

Please see my enclosed gift to the Eleanor Bengyak Legacy  
Society in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Mrs. Eleanor Bengyak cordially invites you to the  
Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society Reception*

This event will formally kick off the  
*Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society*  
which began with gifts to Dogs For Life  
in memory of Founding Member, Victor Bengyak

This fund was started to help support the  
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park  
which Victor loved to visit with his Service Dog, Mitzi.  
*"Now I will continue this Legacy to keep my dream alive.  
We love this park and want to make sure it is here in the future."  
- E.B.*

Please join  
Eleanor and Mitzi  
January 13, 2015  
3:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Training & Administration Center  
1230 16th Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

*Refreshments Served*