Dogs For Life

Training Service Dogs For Veterans

Scrapbook

2014-2010

DECEMBER

Joy in the New Year

Your Community

Dogs For Life wishes veterans much joy in new year

By Shelly Ferger
For Luminaries

Dogs For Life, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, is waiving the orientation fee to the Off-Leash Dog Park for Military Veterans.

Dogs For Life recently received funding for the Off-Leash Dog Park to help reduce the cost and encourage more people to join.

"For the next year, anyone wishing to use the park will be asked to pay an orientation fee," said Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO.

All dogs will still be required to be neutered, social and inoculated.

Dogs for Life works closely with local veterans, some of whom are in training with their dogs.

"We don't charge them to train their dogs to be hearing or service dogs," said Ferger, adding that one of the trainers is a veteran, too.

"The old adage, 'It takes one to know one,' couldn't be more true. Many of those who have served our country have been through ordeals most of us will never comprehend, but veterans understand each other and we understand this bond," said Ferger.

The Off-Leash Dog Park provides veterans with a safe place to go with their dogs, a place where they can socialize and relax in a beautiful park setting.

For more information, pleae call 772-567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

U.S. Marine Daniel with his service dog.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Reply

Dogs For Life wishes our veterans a joyous holiday season

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Dogs For Life recently received funding for the Off-Leash Dog Park to help reduce the cost and encourage more people to join. "For the next year, anyone wishing to use the park will be asked to pay an Orientation Fee. After that, they will be invited to participate during our Giving Campaigns. All dogs will still be required to be neutered, social and inoculated," said Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO at Dogs For Life.

U.S. Marine veteran Daniel with service dog Ariel

"We have been working very closely with our local Veterans, some of whom are in training with their dogs. We don't charge them to train their dogs to be Hearing or Service Dogs and one of our trainers is a Veteran himself. The old adage, "It takes one to know one" couldn't be more true. Many of those who have served our Country have been through ordeals most of us will never comprehend, but Veterans understand each other and we understand this bond," said Ferger.

Dogs For Life is one of only four organizations in the State of Florida Accredited by Assistance Dogs International. Once our Teams (owner and dog) are certified, they are allowed access throughout the world, including international travel and military bases. "This is very specialized training and we take it very seriously," stated Trainer, Jay Harris, U.S. Army Veteran. It's important to know that the training our teams go through takes six months to one year. The dogs are trained to perform specific tasks for their owners. As an Internationally Accredited Organization, we are required to recertify the dogs every year. Assistance Dog users trust their lives and safety to their dogs, so everything related to the training of both the dogs and people must meet extraordinary criteria. If we see the owners needs change over the years, then we begin training the dog to perform new tasks."

"One of the greatest things about this field of work is seeing how the person changes," added Jay. "Someone who has been isolated becomes more social. As we work with the owners and their dogs, we see a huge increase in confidence in both the people and the dogs. It's an amazing transformation to watch," stated Jay.

"We want our Veterans to have a safe place to go with their dogs…a place where they can gather to socialize and relax in the beautiful park setting. Whether they are going through Service Dog Training here or not, we thank them and welcome them to the Off-Leash Dog Park," stated Shelly. "On behalf of everyone at Dogs For Life, we send a special thank you to our Veterans."

For more information about DFL's Assistance Dog Training, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training, the Off-Leash Dog Park, or to make a much-needed year-end, tax-deductible donation, please contact Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO at 772-567-8969 or visit our website at http://www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Christmas Luncheon

Heroes Appreciation Festival

Shelly Ferger

From: American Security Council Foundation <info@ascfusa.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2014 11:16 AM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Step Up America Heroes Appreciation Festival

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 11, 2014
Gary James; 772-388-2490
gjames@ascfusa.org
www.ascfusa.org

Step Up America
Heroes Appreciation Festival

Vero Beach, Florida – The American Security Council Foundation (**ASCF**) Dr. Henry A. Fischer (President/CEO), Brig. Gen. Donald B. Smith (Chairman of the Board) our Board Members and Senior Advisory Board wish to thank everyone connected with the 2014 Step Up America Heroes Appreciation Festival that took place December 6th, 2014 in Holman Stadium at Historic Dodgertown in Vero Beach, Florida.

We especially thank our sponsors George E. Warren Corp., Bedrock Aviation LLC, Vero Beach Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Chelsea's on Cardinal, Melody Music, Taddeo Family Foundation, Anthony Donadio, Quality Health Care and Wellness of Florida, Anthony Donini CPA, Historic Dodgertown, Springhill Suites, 94.7 Hot Country, Indian River Firefighters Association, Walmart # 1068, Home Depot # 8545, CVS # 5522, Nino's Pizza & Natalie's Best Florida Juices.

We also wish to thank the City of Vero Beach, the Indian River County Commissioners and County Administrators Offices, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, Vero Beach Police Department, Indian River County Recreation Department, Vero Beach Airport Authority our volunteers and supporters for making this an excellent evening.

We were proud to have as our onsite heroes Medal of Honor Awardee SFC Melvin Morris 5th Special Forces Group Viet Nam, CSM Ed Britt 5th Special Forces Group Viet Nam, MCPO Rick Kaiser Executive Director

National UDT/SEAL Museum, MCPO Ken Corona Asst. Director National UDT/SEAL Museum, Pinnacle Five; 9th MCPON Jim Herdt, 8th MCPOCG Vince Patton, 13th CMSAF Jim Finch, 14th SMMC Al McMichael. Also in attendance but not on stage was local hero Staff Sgt. Justin Burdette from Palm Bay, Florida.

With numerous Christmas Parades and other activities that took place on the same day, the event was well attended by approximately 3000 attendees.

The event featured **The Band Perry, JT Hodges, Newton & Thomas and Kurt Stevens**. The opening ceremonies took place at 4:30 with the National Anthem Girl "Janine Stange" performing the National Anthem as the Centennial High School ROTC Color Guard presented the colors.

The first of what we hope to be an annual event in Vero Beach raised money for the UDT/SEAL Trident House and the ASCF Scholarship fund benefiting the children of Active Duty Military, Veterans, First Responders and Law Enforcement.

The ASCF sends our sincere thanks and appreciation for your generous and dedicated support for our programs, including the Step Up America Program as well as your support of the strategy of "Peace through Strength" which has kept America free and strong. We pledge to you our continued best efforts to ensure that the United States of America will always have the best equipped, trained, and best lead military in the world making America the beacon of freedom hope and justice throughout the entire world.

In closing, on behalf of our Board of Directors, Senior Advisory Board and Staff, we wish you a joyous holiday season, Happy Hanukkah, and a blessed Christmas. May God truly bless you and your family in the new year!

American Security Council Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt organization. Promoting the Strategy of Peace Through Strength

This message was sent to dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net from:

American Security Council Foundation | info@ascfusa.org | American Security Council Foundation | 1250 24th Street NW, Suite 300 | Washington , DC 20037

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Channel 5 News

Shelly Ferger

From: DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2014 3:06 PM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: DFL on WPTV Channel 5, Two Service Dog Teams Certified, and Orientation Fee Waived for Veterans

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

Congratulations
Vietnam Veteran Tony & Service Dog "Shadow" and Retired Deputy Sheriff Phil & Service Dog "Duke"

Tony, Shadow, Phil and Duke

We are proud to announce the Certification of two Service Dogs Teams. Tony & Shadow and Phil & Duke received their certifications this week. This certification allows them full access to public places including international travel, access to military bases, and clinics. Recertification will be done in 6 months and then every year after.

Dogs For Life is one of only four organizations in the State of Florida to hold the ADI Accreditation.

For more information, please contact Shelly at Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969.

See Beth and Tigger on WPTV Channel 5!

Florida State Senator Jimmie Smith is proposing a bill that makes it illegal for someone to "misrepresent a service dog".

Watch the Newscast Here

Tell us what you think on

Dogs For Life Wishes Our Veterans a Joyous Holiday Season

Iraq War Veteran U.S. Marine Daniel with Service Dog "Ariel"

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, is waiving the Orientation fee to the Off-Leash Dog Park for Military Veterans.

Dogs For Life recently received funding for the Off-Leash Dog Park to help reduce the cost and encourage more people to join. "For the next year, anyone wishing to use the park will be asked to pay an Orientation Fee. After that, they will be invited to participate during our Giving Campaigns. All dogs will still be required to be neutered, social and inoculated," said Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO at Dogs For Life.

"We want our Veterans to have a safe place to go with their dogs...a place where they can gather to socialize and relax in the beautiful park setting. Whether they are going through Service Dog Training here or not, we thank them and welcome them to the Off-Leash Dog Park," stated Shelly. "On behalf of everyone at Dogs For Life, we send a special thank you to our Veterans."

For more information about DFL's Assistance Dog Training, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training, the Off-Leash Dog Park, or to make a much-needed year-end, tax-deductible donation, please contact Shelly Ferger Founder and CEO at 772.567.8969 or visit our website at www.dogsforlifevb.org.

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 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 (800-435-7352) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the State.
Registration # CH15831

Ambassadors

Shelly Ferger

From: DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Friday, December 12, 2014 2:18 PM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Dog Park Ambassadors and A Special Message from Service Dog, Duke

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

Calling All Dog Park Ambassadors

Are you a Dog Park Ambassador?
Would you like to be a Dog Park Ambassador?

If you answered "yes," then

We Want You!

Remember when you were new to the Park and coming for your Orientation? Was there another 2 or 4 legged friend here to help you feel welcome and safe?

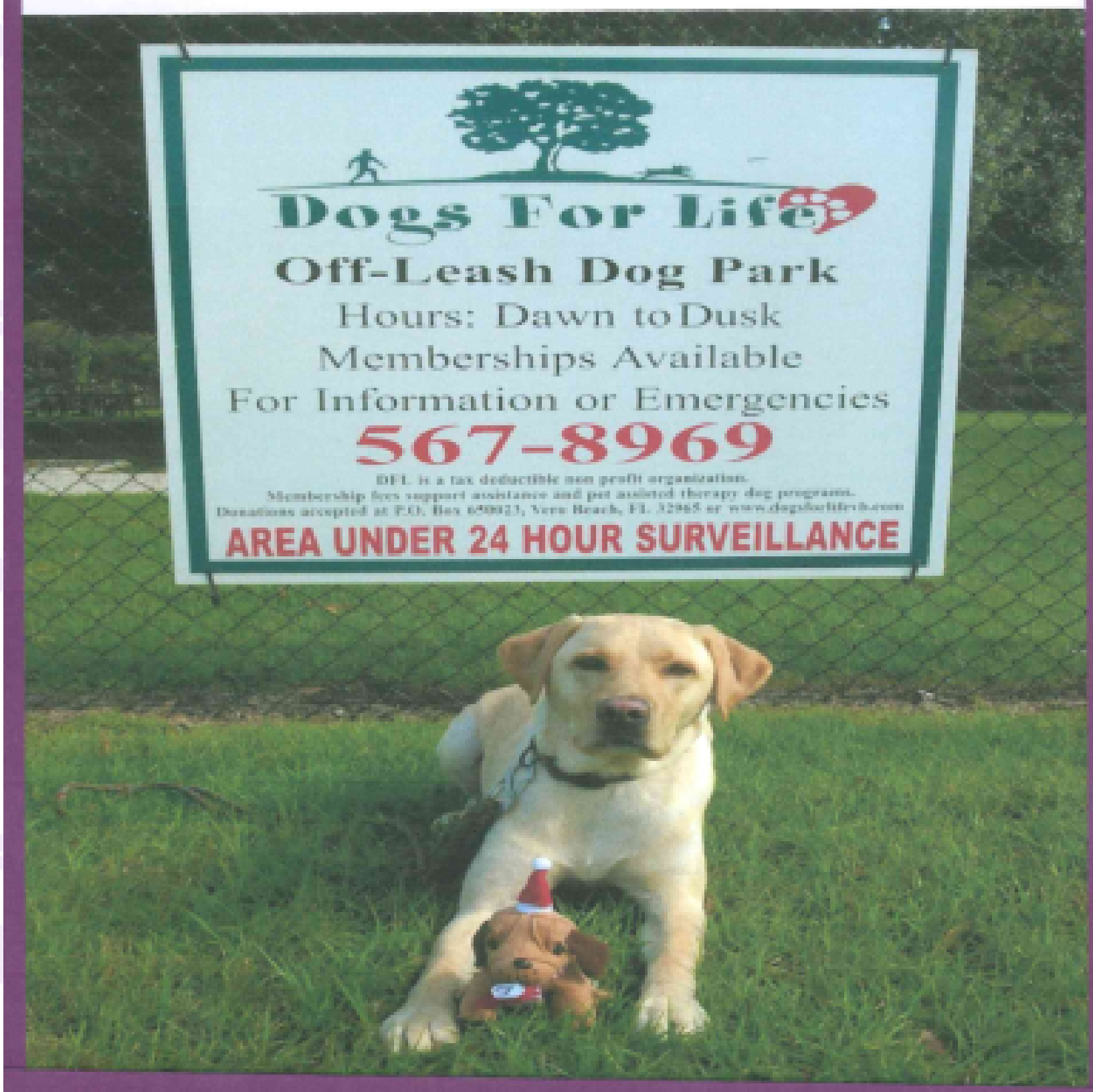
Being an Ambassador isn't a big job, but it can make a big difference to someone who is new to the Park. Whether you are a big dog or a small dog, **We Want You** to be an **Off-Leash Dog Park Ambassador!**

We need your help with Dog Park Orientations. More friends want to join, but lack of Ambassadors during orientations make it difficult. Let's reach out to our new friends with open paws by being a part of the Off-Leash Dog Park Ambassador Program today! All 2 legged Ambassadors must bring their 4 legged companions :)

For more information, please contact Shelly at Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969.

And Now...

A Special Message From Duke



On behalf of all of the
Dogs For Life Service Dog Teams,
Duke wishes you all a safe and joyous
holiday season.

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving

Dogs For Life

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

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at
Dogs For Life!

We want to take a moment to thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve.

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 772-567-8969

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>
Wednesday, November 26, 2014 9:48 AM
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Happy Thanksgiving

GIVING RECOGNITION OPPORTUNITIES

Yes! I want to help DFL. Enclosed is my donation (please check one):

___ $10,000 Silver Benefactor
___ $ 5,000 Bronze Benefactor
___ $ 1,000 Major Benefactor
___ $ 500 Benefactor
___ $_____ Other (No amount is too small.)
___ $ 250 Patron
___ $ 100 Supporting
___ $ 50 Friend
___ $ 25 Donor

Donations of $100 or more can be recognized on the permanent "Donor Bone" displays in the dog park.

Sizes are: $100 (Small), $500 (Medium), $1,000 (Large) and $5,000+ (X-Large)

Yes! I will give $100 or more and would like the following engraved on a "Donor Bone." (Please limit to 30 characters.)

_____

Donor Bones may be "In Honor of " or "In Memory of " a pet or person's name. A business may also be listed.

You may now give on-line via PayPal at the DFL website: www.dogsforlifevb.org

DONATION MAIL-IN FORM

CLIP AND MAIL TO:
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email address: _____

___ I/We prefer our gift to remain anonymous

For your convenience you may now give on-line via PayPal at the DFL website: www.dogsforlifevb.org

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT #73
VERO BEACH, FL

Dogs For Life

Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs For Life

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR PEOPLE AND DOGS

AT NO COST TO OUR CLIENTS

(772) 567-8969

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 specially 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. During their training they develop a special bond with their human partners. Dogs For Life specializes in training Assistance Dogs, including 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 crossed-trained, depending on the needs of their companions, to open and close doors, turn lights on and off, tap a specialized K-9 emergency phone to dial 911, carry shopping bags, help with laundry and bring items to their companions. They can be trained to look both ways before entering a room or to watch behind one's back and create a barrier to stop people from approaching if it makes their companion uncomfortable.

Accredited by Assistance Dogs International

Canine Good Citizen — An American Kennel Club Program

TM International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

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

Pia Pia taps 911 phone.

Service 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 Disorder.

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 and at the dog park.

DFL Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center

In response to growing needs in our community and beyond, Dogs For Life is constructing a 2,400 sq. ft. air-conditioned Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center at our 4+ acre Off-Leash Dog Park on 12th Street in Vero Beach. This facility will enhance the Dog Park Campus and give DFL much-needed exposure to the public in a central location.

The center will allow DFL to train many more dogs year-round, as well as widen the reach of our Community Outreach Programs. It will also enable us to expand our "Service Dogs For Veterans" Program by enabling us to pre-train Assistance Dogs at the center.

The new building will house administrative offices for our staff and volunteers and the incremental space and central location will allow DFL to better serve the needs of the people who need our services. The on-site location will also enable DFL to offer different categories of dog park memberships and provide long-awaited restrooms for dog park members.

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park
12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dogs For Life

(772) 567-8969
12th Street & 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32965

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 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!

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

231,000* Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record[1].

80,000* Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years[2].

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 PTSD**
- **50% of those with PTSD will not seek treatment**
- **19% will report PTSD symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"**
- **1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans,** and 45% of them will suffer from mental illness[1]
- Florida is home to the highest number of **amputees** from the Gulf War-Era wars[3]

DFL is committed to capitalizing on our 12 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[5]:

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* million Veterans have served our country since September 2001[4]

- 307,000*+ members of our armed forces are likely to leave the military in each of the next four years[5]

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

The Statistics Are Staggering

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

Veterans Are *Disproportionately* Homeless[5]:

- **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)

PTSD, Physical Disabilities & Homelessness:

What does PTSD have to do with homelessness? The sad fact is:
- ***2/3 of homeless Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD***[6]

PSTD is even far more common than physical wounds among troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan:
- **336,000*** have been diagnosed with PTSD (some studies indicate that up to 70% of Veterans suffer from PTSD)[7]
- 50,409 have been wounded[7]

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[5]:
- **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**[6]

Moreover, the VA says the numbers could be higher because they include only the homeless the department is aware of[8].

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."*[9]

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 crossed-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 Disorder. 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 PTSD

The Department of Veteran Affairs has long recognized the effectiveness of Service Dogs for Veterans*. The Department is currently sponsoring a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Service Dogs as a treatment method for PTSD. While the results of this study will not be available until January 2014:

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

Other programs indicate[10]:

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

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) Service Dogs *already* help Veterans with PTSD 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 PTSD by:

1. Waking up the owner from nightmare
2. "Creating a Barrier" around the owner to allow distance from people in a crowd
3. "Watching my back" - dog sits/downs 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 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 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 PTSD 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.

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

[1]Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
[2]According to local Veterans Groups
[3]Walter Reed Army Hospital estimate
[4]Current Population Survey (CPS) 2012, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service
[5]Department of Veterans Affairs
[6]January 2012 HUD national "point-in-time count" of the homeless
[7]The Rand Study; Department of Veteran Affairs; Department of Defense
[8]VA's specialized homelessness programs
[9]Anne Murphy, LA Salvation Army program director
[10]Operation Wolfhound

Jim Taylor, SSG, US Army Ret. & Service Dog Pia Pia

By Dawn Taylor, Jim's Spouse

Pia Pia attended many outings in 2012 with friends, neighbors and families, which included dinner at the Olive Garden and breakfast at Cracker Barrel. We've been to Texas for 10 days, visited the Spaghetti Factory, Steak & Shake and the Burleson Mall where she performed perfectly. She attended Jim's son's wedding reception and stayed right by Jim's side. When we stayed in hotels, she took to the elevators really well and comforted Jim while he was in the elevator by licking his face and holding onto him. There was a time when Jim was unable to go into an elevator and Pia Pia walked up five flights of stairs with him.

Pia Pia goes with us for normal shopping at Target, Air Force Bases, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. She goes to Jim's Chiropractor and Counseling appointments and she was right on Jim's lap when he had to give blood at his doctor's appointment. She also attended a DFL fundraising event at the Vero Beach Country Club. When Jim needed to get the windows tinted on his car, Pia Pia was with him. The employees were impressed with her behavior and her attendance to Jim. She also attended the DFL Howl-O-Ween event in October at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Last year, Pia Pia attended a blessing for caregivers at the West Palm Beach Veteran's Hospital Chapel. December was a tough month for Jim. Pia Pia stayed right by his side at all times, in the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. When Jim became sick downstairs, Pia Pia came upstairs to get me from my office. She spun in circles until I got up to follow her, then she led me to Jim who was on the floor in the kitchen, too weak to get up by himself.

Many times during our trips, Pia Pia helped Jim to stay calm so that he can be patient enough to hear people talking to him. She will "speak" for him, so that he may excuse himself from a stressful situation and she alerts him when someone is at the door in a hotel, just like she does at home. She is able to pick up on his moods and distracts him with her playful antics.

Jim & Pia Pia attended a fundraising luncheon with DFL to tell his experience of having his dog trained as a service dog through Dogs For Life, Inc. Jim explained that without his dog he would have become a recluse. Pia Pia has given him a quality of life he would not have had without a service dog, and we are grateful for Jim's service to this country and the independence he gave to us all.

Pia Pia taps special K-9 emergency phone.

Spirit Saves The life of Her Owner By Tapping 911 Phone

By Dorothy Davidson

Two eyes are watching me. One is blue and the other is brown but they both belong to my dog, Spirit. She is never far from my side, waiting for something she can do for me and this was never more important than at 2:00 one morning when I found myself flat on a cold, tile bathroom floor tangled up in a walker and a wheelchair, too sick and too weak to get up. That is when I asked Spirit to "go tap help." She went to her 911 phone, activated it and two big, handsome EMS men came and took me to the hospital.

Spirit has been picking things up for me since she was a pup like bringing me my grandson's dirty socks. So when I wanted to get her certified, I turned to my friend, Shelly Ferger, and Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, FL to complete her training, especially the necessary public training that I was physically unable to do myself. They trained Spirit to tap the K-9 911 phone.

I could tell many stories about this dog like how many times she has retrieved my bird feeder or my portable phone that fell off my porch then down the bank into the woods, to how she won the hearts of all the staff and patients at Care Partners in Asheville, NC, the rehab center where we spent two weeks after coming out of the hospital. There are no words to tell you how grateful I am to have Spirit and the many people who have been so good to us along the way.

Dorothy Davidson with "Spirit", trained and certified to tap a 911 Emergency phone by DFL, as featured on ABC, Ashville, TN.

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965 • (772) 567-8969
E-mail address: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net • Website: 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# 31-1808397

NOV 2014

SHELLY
+ STAFF

THANKS FOR ALLOWING
ME TO BE A PART OF
DOGS FOR LIFE.
I'VE LEARNED SO MUCH
& HAVE MET SO MANY
WONDERFUL "HUMANS."

AND TO THINK IT ALL
STARTED WITH
MEETING YOUR
"AMBASSADOR" JAY.

Hope every little thought this brings
adds sunshine to your days
And brightens every hour
in the very nicest ways!

PENNY COXE

Local Philanthropists

LIVE LUMINARIES ■ SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS ■ Week of November 16, 2014

YO?

THE PURPOSE

National Philanthropy Day pays tribute to the contributions that philanthropists, volunteers and companies have made.

THE PARTY

Locally, the Association of Fundraising Professionals Indian River Chapter (AFPIR) will host an awards presentation at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 18, at Riverside Theatre, 3250 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach. Light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails will follow. Tickets are $35 each. Contact Katie Kowanic at 772-567-8969 or Shannon Bowman at 772-567-3202.

THE PEOPLE

Award recipients are: Outstanding Individual Philanthropist: Robert Bowman; Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist: Girard Equipment Inc.; Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser: William Glawing; Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy: Brian Barnett; and Unsung Hero: Ross Cotherman. Also recognized are Pauline Adams of I'll Never Tell; Melvin Baker, IV; Jo Ann Becker; Dr. Gary and Deb Freed; David and Barbara Hefflebower; Sheriff Deryl Loar; Dr. Robert Rappell, D.O., J.D.; Ken Roberts; Bob Schlitt, Jr.; Bob and Carmen Stork; and Jack and Carolyn Veeneman.

NPD co-chairs are Katie Kowanic and Shannon Bowman. Steering committee members include: Angela Astrup, Kerry Bartlett, Nate Bruckner, Monica Cheslak, Connie Cotherman, Lorne Coyle, Alyssa Dritenbas, Cynthia Falardeau, Juliane Ivy, Jamie Jackson, Carol Kanarek, Julia Keenan, Carol Ludwig, Michelle Malyn, Nancy McCurry, Mary Miner, Maureen Nicolace, Jessica Schmitt, Brenda Sposato, Jennifer Trotter, Camilla Wainright, and Monique Walker.

NPD event sponsors: youth in philanthropy sponsor: Bob Carter Cos.; event sponsors: Bank of America, Indian River Community Foundation, Leigh Jewelers, Publix Supermarket Charities, and Wells Fargo; corporate sponsors: CenterState Bank, Coyle Consulting Co., Florida Power & Light, John's Island Foundation, Inc., Kmetz, Nuttall, Elwell, Graham, CPAs, Marine Bank & Trust Co., Rehmann, and Rossway Swan Tierney Barry; in-kind sponsors: Frabel Studio and Martina's Photography; media sponsors: Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, and Treasure & Space Coast Radio. Venue sponsor is Riverside Theatre.

Appreciating the untiring work of local philanthropists

National Philanthropy Day committee members include: Monique Walker, Juliane Ivy, Monica Cheslak, Angela Astrup, Camilla Wainright, Shannon Bowman, Lorne Coyle, Katie Kowanic, Julia Keenan, Jamie Jackson, chapter president Cynthia Falardeau, Connie Cotherman, Nancy McCurry, Mary Miner and Alyssa Dritenbas

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

FILE PHOTO

A dog obedience and behavior class will be at 9 a.m. Saturday at the DFL Training & Administrative Center in Vero Beach.

Community Calendar

Dog Obedience & Behavior Classes: Six-week classes. 9 a.m. DFL Training & Administration Center, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $120. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net; www.dogsforlife.org.

Orientations to Off-Leash Dog Park: For dogs 6 months+, inoculated, neutered & social. By appointment. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $65-$365. Register: 772-567-8969; www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Looking Forward Indian River

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS THAT LEAD TO BETTER QUALITY OF LI

By Sue-Ellen Sanders
For Progress & Innovation

■ The **Indian River Chamber of Commerce** honored a number of businesses at its recent Industry Appreciation Awards luncheon. In the architectural recognition category for new construction less than 10,000 square feet was **Dogs for Life Training and Administration Center,** Executive Director **Shelly Ferger**;

Lasting Legacy

Your Community

Dogs for Life benefactor leaves lasting legacy

By Shelly Ferger
Your Newsweekly Contributor

In 1997, Dogs For Life began a relationship with Victor and Eleanor Bengyak and a golden retriever named Taffy.

Had it not been for these generous neighbors, we would not be enjoying the off-leash dog park and Assistance Dog Training Center today.

In 2009, Dogs For Life certified Victor's dog Mitzi, a springer spaniel, as a service dog.

On Oct. 31, Victor Nicholas Bengyak, 89, passed away unexpectedly, at Indian River Medical Center with his family by his side.

He was born in Jackson Heights, N.Y. and lived in Vero Beach for 37 years. Victor was a veteran of the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946, serving during World War II and subsequently honorably discharged.

Victor was a retired New York City Firefighter for 20 years, serving Lower Manhattan with Engine 24 as a First Responder, before his retirement in 1978.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Eleanor M. Bengyak, and his beloved service dog, Mitzi.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial contributions may be made to Dogs for Life, Inc. for the "Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society", 1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960 in memory of Victor N. Bengyak.

We are saddened by the loss of Victor and will be forever grateful for his service to our country, our community and our organization.

Victor Begyak and Mitzi

Shelly Ferger

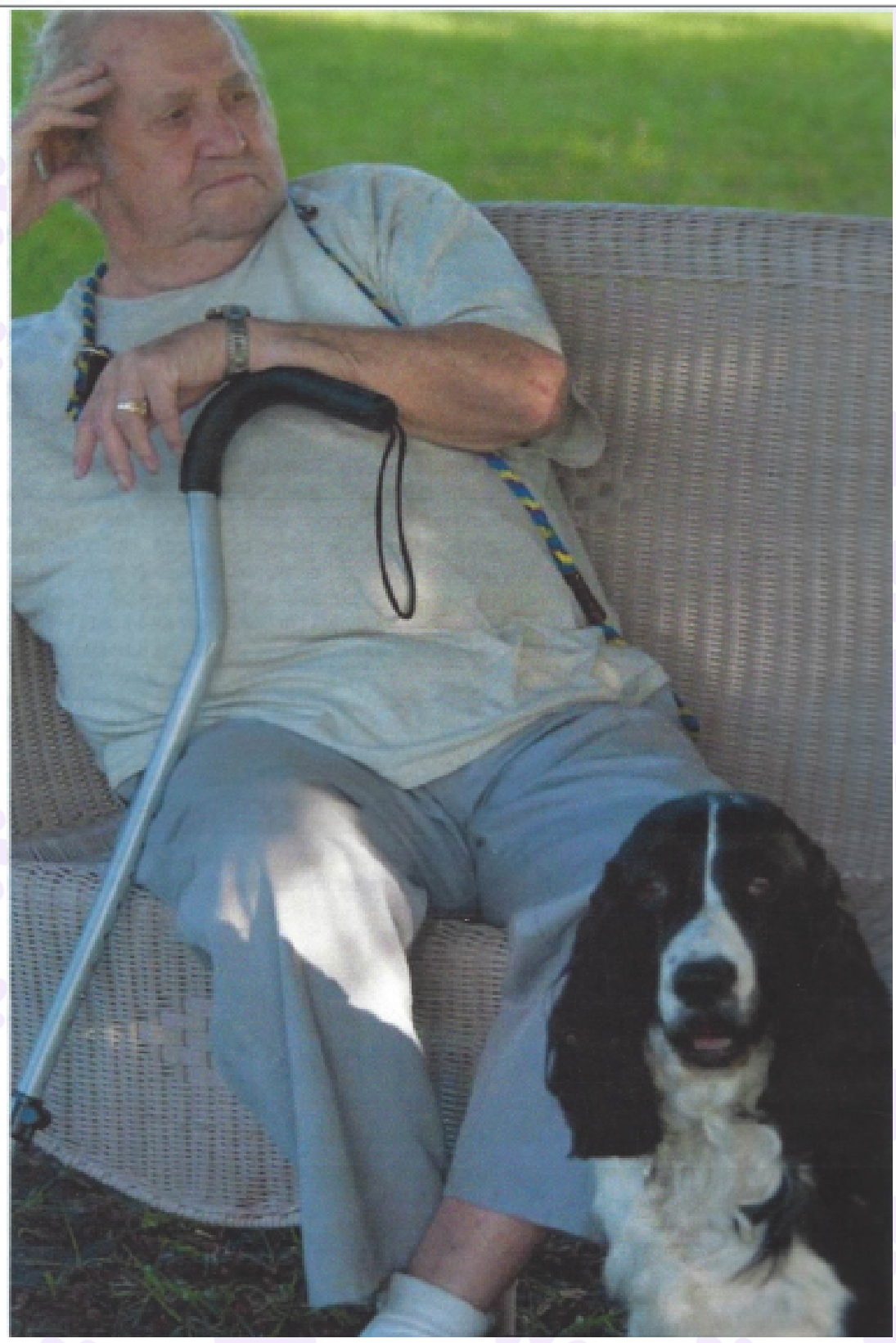
Subject: FW: Your campaign DFL Mourns The Loss of One of Our Founding Dog Park Members has been sent

Dogs For Life

In 1997, Dogs For Life began a relationship with Victor and Eleanor Bengyak and a Golden Retriever named Taffy.

Had it not been for these generous neighbors, we would not be enjoying the off-leash dog park and Assistance Dog Training Center today.

In 2009, DFL Certified Victor's Dog Mitzi, a Springer Spaniel, as a Service Dog. We are saddened by the loss of Victor and will be forever grateful for his service to our Country, our Community and our Organization.



Victor Nicholas Bengyak

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Victor was born in Jackson Heights, NY and lived in Vero Beach for 37
years. He was a graduate of Newtown High School, Queens, NY.

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Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Eleanor M. Bengyak and his bel
service dog, Mitzi of Vero Beach; stepson, Patrick M. McCalister, Sr.
(Elizabeth) of Fort Pierce; grandson, Patrick M. McCalister, Jr. of Vero
Beach; granddaughter, Sharon Shelton (Justin) of Fort Pierce; 3 great-
granddaughters: Cheyanne Caudill, Alayna McCalister and Ava McCali
a great-grandson, Neil Caudill, Jr.; one sister, Margaret Quaglietta, of
Olbridge, NJ; 2 nieces, Diana Rosenthal (Richard) of Manahawkins, NJ
Margaret Schepperle of Olbridge, NJ; 1 nephew: Christopher Bengyak
Vero Beach; Patricia McCalister (Jill) of Ransomville, NY, Cathleen Do
(Richard) and Cheryl Kratts (Richard) both of North Tonowanda, NY; a
brother-in-law, Charles McCalister of Niagra Falls, NY.

Victor was pre-deceased by his parents Rudolph Bengyak and Theresa
Radakovics; both of Jackson Heights, NY; 3 brothers: Frank Bengyak,
William Bengyak and Edward Bengyak.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial contributions may be made to Dogs for
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Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Strun

Indian River County

VICTOR NICHOLAS BENGYAK

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Victor was born in Jackson Heights, NY and lived in Vero Beach for 37 years. He was a graduate of Newtown High School, Queens, NY.

He was a veteran of the United States Navy from 1943 to 1946. Having served during World War II and subsequently being honorably discharged.

Victor was a retired New York City Firefighter for 20 years, serving Lower Manhattan with Engine 24 as a First Responder, before his retirement in 1978.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Eleanor M. Bengyak and his beloved service dog, Mitzi of Vero Beach; stepson, Patrick M. McCalister, Sr. (Elizabeth) of Fort Pierce; grandson, Patrick M. McCalister, Jr. of Vero Beach; granddaughter, Sharon Shelton (Justin) of Fort Pierce; 3 great-granddaughters: Cheyanne Caudill, Alayna McCalister and Ava McCalister; a great-grandson, Neil Caudill, Jr.; one sister, Margaret Quaglietta, of Olbridge, NJ; 2 nieces, Diana Rosenthal (Richard) of Manahawkins, NJ and Margaret Schepperle of Olbridge, NJ; 1 nephew: Christopher Bengyak of Vero Beach; Patricia McCalister (Jill) of Ransomville, NY, Cathleen Donner (Richard) and Cheryl Kratts (Richard) both of North Tonowanda, NY; and a brother-in-law, Charles McCalister of Niagra Falls, NY.

Victor was pre-deceased by his parents Rudolph Bengyak and Theresa Radakovics, both of Jackson Heights, NY; 3 brothers: Frank Bengyak, William Bengyak and Edward Bengyak.

In lieu of flowers, any memorial contributions may be made to Dogs for Life, Inc. for the "Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society", 1230 16th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960 in memory of Victor N. Bengyak.

Visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, November 4, 2014 Strunk Funeral Home, Vero Beach. A private family graveside service will be at Crestlawn Cemetery, Vero Beach. An online guest book is available at www.strunkfuneralhome.com

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

Dogs For Life

13th Annual

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center
Open House

1230 16th Avenue – Vero Beach

FREE ADMISSION

October 18, 2014

2-5 PM – Pawrade 4:00

Over 100 Dogs in Costume!

Please do not dress your dog in any way to cause harm.
Bring your lawn chairs and prepare to have fun!!!

Exhibitor and Sponsor
Space Available starting at $100!
Call 567-8969

Proceeds benefit DFL's

Hearing and Service Dog Training
Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training
Companion Dog Training and Off-Leash Dog Park

Don't miss the Secret Dog Park Announcement

SCHUMANN

Dogs For Life

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960

A Special Thank You to this Year's Event Sponsors

Gene, Martha Schumann

and Sir Bentley

It Rained Cats & Dogs!

Baby, It's Wet Outside!

Be on the look-out over the next few days at the dog park while additional drainage construction is taking place. Additional drains will be placed in the Dog Training area to the South of the Training Center and to the North of the Training Center. Fill Dirt will be brought into the N.E. corner of the Large Dog Area, all draining into the existing underground drainage pipes.

A BIG THANK YOU to Daisy & Amber for throwing us a life preserver.

#TCPalmSocial recommends these weekend activities

Treasure Coast Newspapers
INDIAN RIVER • MARTIN • ST. LUCIE • PALM BEACH
SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS
Journal
Weekend
Friday, October 17, 2014

Dogs can celebrate the season Oct. 18 at the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo in Vero Beach.

TCPalm.com

Quick Read

81°/59°
Rain: 5%
Page 8C

#TCPalmSocial Weekend Picks

DOG PARADE

Dogs can celebrate Halloween from 2 to 5 p.m. **SATURDAY** at the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo at Dogs For Life at 1230 16th Ave. in Vero Beach. There will be a K-9 demonstration, food, live music, vendors and more than 100 dogs in costume. Register at the event if you want to march in the 4 p.m. parade with your pet. Info: 772-567-8969 or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

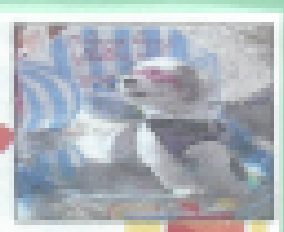
PET PARADE

Dogs can celebrate the season this weekend at the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo. The free event goes from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday at Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

Expect a K-9 demonstration from the sheriff's department, food, live music, vendors and more than 100 dogs in costume. If you want to march in the parade with your four-legged family member, all you have to do is register at the event. It is free. The dog costume parade starts at 4 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and have fun.

call 772-567-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

VETERAN VOICE
The Voice of Experience
Veteran Voice is a weekly newspaper for veterans, active military, their families and their friends.



Dogs For Life

13th Annual

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center
Open House
1230 16th Avenue – Vero Beach

FREE ADMISSION

October 18, 2014

2-5 PM – Pawrade 4:00

Over 100 Dogs in Costume!

Please do not dress your dog in any way to cause harm.
Bring your lawn chairs and prepare to have fun!!!

Exhibitor and Sponsor Space Available starting at $100!
Call 567-8969

Proceeds benefit DFL's
Reading and Service Dog Training
Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training
Companion Dog Training and Gift Leash Dog Park

Don't miss the Secret Dog Park Announcement

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo: 2-5 p.m. Oct. 18. Pawrade, 4 p.m. Oct. 18. Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Indian River County Luminaries
Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday · Oct. 13, 2014

HOWL-O-WEEN

Halloween has gone to the dogs! **Dogs For Life's 13th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo** is from 2-5 p.m. this Saturday, Oct. 18, at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. It's free, and the Costume Pawrade starts at 4 p.m. Even if you don't have a dog, come see over 100 dogs in costume! Too cute! Call (772) 567-8969.

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

By Tonia Ortega-Cowan

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Oct. 18 - 13th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to benefit Dogs for Life. 2-5 p.m. Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center, Vero Beach. Exhibitor space $100. 772-567-8969

7 - Katie Kowanic and Shannon Bowman are this year's co-chairs for National Philanthropy Day to be held on Nov. 18 and hosted by the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2014

tcpalm.com

Your Newsweekly

VERO BEACH, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER SUBMISSIONS

THINGS TO DO

Plenty of pooches at 'Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade'

By Shelly Ferger
Your Newsweeekly Contributor

For the 13th year, Dogs for Life is hosting its signature fundraising event, the Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo, on Oct. 18, 2 - 5 p.m. The parade starts at 4 p.m.

All the fun, including an open house, is at the off-leash park and new Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center,1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

The FREE event is open to the public and sponsored by Gene, Martha and Sir Bentley Schumann.

Additional sponsors and exhibitor space is still available.

The Howl-O-Ween Pawrade has drawn over 100 dogs in costume and over 300 spectators for the past three years. Bring your lawn chairs, dogs and children with costumes and be prepared to have a howling

See POOCHES, 6

Katie Jordan with Mylo, dressed as a hot dog at a past Dogs for Life Halloween parade.

POOCHES
from 1

good time!

Howl-O-Ween Pawrade activities include raffle items and prizes for all dogs in costume, a military color guard presentation by Veterans of Foreign War Post 3918, a multi-law enforcement K-9 demonstration organized by the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, food will be offered by Jims Dog's On the Run from Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4067, the 4-H Dog Master's Club will be selling water as their first fundraiser of the year, and entertainment is offered by the Rip Tides.

Dogs For Life is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs, sponsors a Veteran Dog Training Program and offers Pet-Assisted Therapy, and obedience classes for the public. The organization owns and manages a 4-acre safe and clean off-leash dog park, where dogs are screened for health, temperament and sociality.

For additional information please call 772-567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Gator grrr.

Dogs For Life, Inc.

Presents The 13th Annual Howl-o-ween
Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo!

1230 16th Avenue

Sat. Oct. 18th 2014
2-5 pm
Pawrade at 4 pm

2014 Treasure Coast choice WINNER

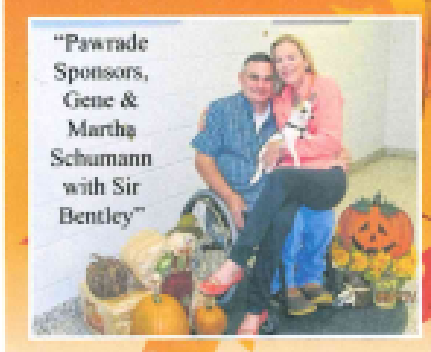
FREE ADMISSION
October 18, 2014
2-5 PM – Pawrade 4:00
Over 100 Dogs in Costume!
Please do not dress your dog in any way to cause harm.
Bring your lawn chairs and prepare to have fun!!!

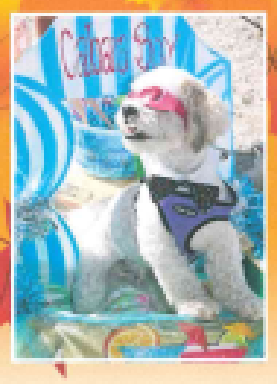
Exhibitor and Sponsor
Space Available starting at $100!
Call 567-8969

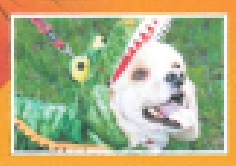
Activities Include: Live entertainment by The Rip Tides
Food by Jim's Dogs on the Run from the Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 4067. Additionally, enjoy the ever-popular multi-law-enforcement K-9 demonstration coordinated by the Indian River County Sheriff's Department. At 4:00 pm. The Pawrade will open with the VFW Post 3918 Color Guard. This year's raffle items will be better than ever and will be included throughout the day's activities.

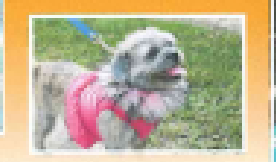
Proceeds benefit DFL's
Hearing and Service Dog Training
Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Program
Companion Dog Training and Off-Leash Dog Park

Don't miss the Assistance Dog Training & Administration Center
Open House and Fun Training Tours.
Be sure to listen for the Secret Dog Park Announcement


"Pawrade Sponsors, Gene & Martha Schumann with Sir Bentley"







Voted Favorite Dog Park in Indian River County
Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida
www.dogsforlifevb.org • 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Member
International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

Dogs For Life

Dogs get the jump on humans at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

Patient pooches, outfitted as everything from butterflies and bees to pixies and pirates, got an early jump on Halloween, strutting their stuff last Saturday at the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to benefit Dogs for Life, Inc.

"It has been non-stop all day long," said Katie Kowanic, DFL Administrative and Fund Development director, watching as dogs of every size and variety wandered around the four-acre DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, accompanied to music by the Rip Tides.

Tails were in constant motion and noses in a state of sensory overload during doggie meet-and-greets. Even with all the distractions, all were on their very best behavior, displaying true puppy love and one inventive costume after another. Some let the dogs take center stage, while others augmented their pets' outfits with their own creative get-ups.

Before the Pawrade, Darel, a retired bomb dog and now Pet Assisted Therapy dog and his trainer/handler L.A. Bykowsky gave a demonstration of his skills. Many of the DFL service dogs have been rescued from local shelters, and some of the most poignant "costumes" were simple "Adopt Me" vests worn by several Humane Society dogs.

The occasion offered an opportunity for visitors to tour the newly constructed Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center, which opened this summer. "We're thrilled to be showing off the Training Center," said Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and CEO.

Dogs for Life trains hearing and service dogs, offers programs for Veteran Dog Training and Pet-Assisted Therapy, and offers basic obedience and behavior classes to the general public. DFL hopes to raise $100,000 by the end of the year, which an anonymous donor has pledged to match. Donor levels from $1,000 to $100,000 or more will be recognized on the Donor Recognition "Tree of Life," painted by Teri Barrett and prominently displayed in the Training Center lobby.

"I grabbed her Halloween costume but I didn't grab her service vest," laughed Dawn Taylor, sitting with husband Jim, as Pia Pia, a sweet little pug wiggled in her arms. When her vest is on, Pia Pia is all business. Despite her diminutive size, Pia Pia, dual-certified in hearing loss and post-traumatic stress syndrome, has made an enormous difference in the life of Jim Taylor, a former Army Staff Sergeant who served in Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Theirs was the first veterans' dog team trained and certified by Dogs for Life. ■

Oscar, right, and Sophie came to the parade as bride and groom.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

The Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo will be held 2-5 p.m. Saturday at Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. For more information, call 772-567-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Community Calendar

SATURDAY'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo: 2-5 p.m. Pawrade, 4 p.m. Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

VNA Hospice's Camp Chrysalis: Bereavement

IC « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Sunday, October 19, 2014 « T
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Reader Snapshot

SARAH GRILE/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Dress your doggies

Cheryl Campbell, of Vero Beach, entices her dog, Tucker, to walk on two legs after participating Saturday in the annual Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo at the Dogs For Life dog park in Vero Beach. This is Campbell's first time walking in the "pawrade." She says her son recently went away to college, so she's "keeping herself busy."

Left: Lily Springer and dog Oliver watch the parade.

Right: Fairy princesses Buzzi, right, and Sidney.

DOGS GET THE JUMP ON HUM
AT HOWL-O-WEEN PAWRADE

Scene & Seen
ARTS, DINING, PEOPLE, PETS AND ENTERTAINMENT | VERO NEWS/SEBASTIAN RIVER NEWS
B6 VeroNews/Sebastian River News October 24, 2014 Serving mainland Indian River County

DOGS IN COSTUME
A HOWL IN PAWRADE B6

Dogs get the jump on humans at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

PHOTOS: BENJAMIN HACER

By Mary Schenkel | Staff Writer
social@veronews.com

Patient pooches, outfitted as everything from butterflies and bees to pixies and pirates, got an early jump on Halloween, strutting their stuff last Saturday at the 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to benefit Dogs for Life, Inc.

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Dogs for Life trains hearing and service dogs, offers programs for Veteran Dog Training and Pet-Assisted Therapy, and offers basic obedience and behavior classes to the general public. DFL hopes to raise $100,000 by the end

Lily Springer and her dog Oliver watch the parade. Superdog Izzy, Top: Oscar, right, and his bride Sophie, Deborah Flores with chihuahua Chanel.

4 • OCTOBER 23, 2014 •

VETERAN VOICE
The Voice of Experience

Staff photo by Mary Kemper
Brooke Rimm-Hewitt, a veterinary technician at Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital, holds Foxy, who, like Rimm-Hewitt, is wearing a bumble-bee costume at the Dogs For Life "Howl-O-Ween" event held Oct. 18 at the Dog Park, Vero Beach.

Who let the dogs out? Pooches on 'pawrade' at Dogs For Life event

Mary Kemper
STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

It was a day for dog owners far and wide to dress up their pets to help benefit Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, Oct. 18.

The event, billed as "Howl-O-Ween," had more than 60 dogs and their owners marching in the "pawrade," in all their costumed finery. In all, more than 300 attended.

"Aww, look at that cute one!" was a phrase heard throughout the day. Costumes ranged from superheroes, ballerinas, butterflies and bumblebees, and there were even two dressed up as spiders, inspired by a video prank that recently went "viral" on the Internet (type "dog spider prank" in a search engine to view the hilarious stunt).

There were even a bride and groom, who "renewed their vows after two years together," accord-

See DOGS page 5

DOGS from page 4

ing to their owners.

Happily, though there were well over 100 dogs at "Howl-O-Ween," no fights broke out.

A demonstration was also given by veteran Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent "L.A." and her retired bomb-detection dog, Daryl.

Vero Beach band Rip Tide played standards from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Vendors were on hand to tout veterinary care, pet cremation and other services, as well as food — the fees they paid helped benefit Dogs For Life as well.

Additionally, raffles were held to win "goody baskets" filled with items donated by various area businesses.

A VFW Color Guard led the "pawrade," after an invocation given by former Navy chaplain Dick Flick.

Dogs For Life provides a full range of services, from conventional obedience training to its newest, and most cherished, offering, according to CEO and founder Shelly Ferger: providing service dogs to returning veterans, at no cost.

"We could not put into words how much it means to us to be able to help our veterans," Ferger said in her address to the crowd.

"We want to thank our sponsors, and all of you, who have helped us and continue to help us help them."

Whether a veteran suffers from PTSD or a physical disability, Dogs For Life trains dogs to help them in living a more normal life. For instance, someone suffering from PTSD can have his or her dog trained to "secure a perimeter" in times of acute anxiety, or calm the veteran by placing him- or herself at his or her back.

Dogs are also trained to dial 911 on special phones, as well as to alert other members of a household in a medical emergency.

Assistance dogs for the hearing impaired is another service that has proven invaluable.

Dogs For Life also provides pet-assisted therapy, which sends dogs into places like assisted-living facilities to help improve patients' quality of life.

While sponsors continue to be an enormous asset for Dogs For Life to continue its mission, smaller donors continue to be a crucial factor, Ferger said.

"By attending our 'Howl-O-Ween,' you all have stepped up for us, and I hope it's been fun for everyone," she said.

Dogs For Life has several opportunities for volunteers, whether providing dogs as therapy pets or helping keep the Dog Park safe. To learn more about volunteering, or to offer a sponsorship or donation, visit dogsforlifevb.org; *call (772) 567-8969; or email* dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

"Bride and groom" Oscar and Sophie arrive in wedding finery at the Dogs For Life "Howl-O-Ween" event held Oct. 18 at the Dog Park, Vero Beach. Their owners, who declined to be named, said the two pooches were "renewing their vows after two years of marriage."

VERO BEACH | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Newsweekly
CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Wednesday
October 29, 2014

Super friends

By Brenda Sposato
The Newsweekly

The 13th annual Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo attracted dogs of all sizes in attire of all kinds.

The parking lot at the off-leash park was full, and the weather was just right to draw a large two- and four-legged crowd.

And what paw-ty would be complete without live music (Rip Tides) and delicious food, appropriately from Jim's Dog On the Run.

But the main event was the paw-rade, which indeed made for great entertainment.

Most of the dogs wore costumes, some of which featured hats, butterfly wings and bumble-bee antennae.

Whether they had their precious pets dressed as superheroes or evil witches, pirates or cowboys — pet owners looked extremely proud, like parents do.

Bentley, a 3-1/2-year-old whippet who does not like cats, seemed glad there were none of those in sight. Though he seemed impatient to get the whole thing over with, it was Bentley's fourth year in the pet pawrade.

Dogs for Life CEO Shelly Ferger emceed the event, announcing the name of each participant. Entrants then walked a circular trail for everyone's enjoyment.

Tetley, a scarecrow, and Sassy, a princess, -- two airedales who like to go kayaking and fishing -- were the first ones in line and seemed to relish showing off their outfits.

PHOTO BY BRENDA SPOSATO

There's no limit to what a girl can achieve with a cape and her best friend at her side. Here, super-besties Mackenzie Peavy, 8, and her 1-year-old boxer find a patch of shade at the annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawade at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Park.

Tetley, a scarecrow, and Princess Sassy enjoy kayaking and fishing when daddy takes them out on the boat.

PHOTOS BY BRENDA SPOSATO

A 7-year-old Pirate Yorkie.

Ginger is a shih tzu dressed up as a butterfly. She wakes up her owner, Stephanie, everyday to make her go to school.

A 2-year-old miniature Lady Bug.

A not-so-scary warlock.

Oreo, a 5-year-old pitbull, didn't opt to dress in costume for the annual Howloween Pawrade.

"Ginger is a shih tzu, dressed up as a butterfly. She likes to wake up her owner Stephanie every day to make her go to school... We need more dogs like Ginger, right parents?" Ferger asked the crowd.

Some dogs appeared embarrassed wearing the funny-looking headpieces. For that very reason, Oreo, a 5-yr-old pit bull, was not made to dress up for the event. His owner didn't seem to mind.

"I'm glad we had an open house too - many still haven't seen the new facility," said Dawn Taylor, an event volunteer with Dogs for Life whose husband James owns a dog trained by the nonprofit.

Dogs For Life specializes in training hearing, mobility assistance and service dogs for veterans with PTSD and other ailments.

The organization opened an Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center at the Off-Leash Dog Park, located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. For information, visit www.dogsforlifevb.org or call 772-567-8969.

See MORE PHOTOS, 11

LOCAL

Canines in costumes

From creepy to comical they strut their 'ruff' at Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

LOCAL

CANINES IN COSTUMES

Casey was dressed as a Bumble Bee.

Cowboy at the Howloween Pawade.

Buzzing around like a bumble bee.

And Toto too!

Bumble bees were a popular costume this year.

Volume XV, Number 1 October 2014

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Senior Bulletin Board

A newsletter from the City of Vero Beach Recreation Department, covering all of Indian River County

October Activities and Programs

See Inside for Bulletin Boards on ...

Community & Social Events ---------- 1
Health Education ---------- 2-5
Exercise and Fitness ---------- 5-6
Life Enrichment Classes and Group Meetings ---------- 6-10
Computer Classes ---------- 11

Happy Halloween from Jameison Publishers Vero Beach, Florida

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL EVENTS

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Parade

- Saturday, October 18.....2:00-5:00 p.m.
  at Dogs for Life park, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach
  Dog Costumes, parades, celebration.
- Contact: Katie Kowanic, 567-8969
  www.dogsforlifevb.org

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

NEW LISTINGS

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo: 2-5 p.m. Oct. 18. Pawrade, 4 p.m. Oct. 18. Dogs For Life, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Newsletters

Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 2:56 PM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Your campaign Dogs For Life, Inc. Newsletter & Dog Park Maintenance Update has been sent

Constant Contact

Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your campaign **'Dogs For Life, Inc. Newsletter & Dog Park Maintenance Update'** was sent on 10/06/2014 around 14:55 PM EDT.

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

Subject: Dogs For Life, Inc. Newsletter & Dog Park Maintenance Update

Dogs For Life

Preview of DFL Newsletter

Off-Leash Dog Park - Drainage Work

October 2014

Below is DFL's Paw Print Newsletter Preview link,

Inside you will be updated on the opening of the DFL Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center opening as well as many other exciting programs and events.

You will also see links for the 13th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to be held in two weeks, October 18th at the Dog Park. Please share this email or the links with your friends and any potential exhibitors that you think might be interested in booth space.

Thank you for supporting DFL Programs and Your Dog Park by promoting our Fundraising Events!

Shelly Ferger

From: Indian River County Chamber of Commerce <director@indianriverchamber.ccsend.com> on behalf of Indian River County Chamber of Commerce <director@indianriverchamber.com>
Sent: Monday, October 13, 2014 9:20 AM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Established Professionals Meets November 4th

Indian River County Chamber of Commerce

A Legacy of Progress.

October 13, 2014
eNews

We welcomed some of our new members last week at a new member reception. Sponsored by EmbroidMe.

DFL Paw Prints Newsletter Fall 2014

Howl-O-Ween Pawrade Flyer

Sponsor and or Exhibitor Form

Sponsor and or Exhibitor Agreement

DFL Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center Now Open!

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960
772-567-8969

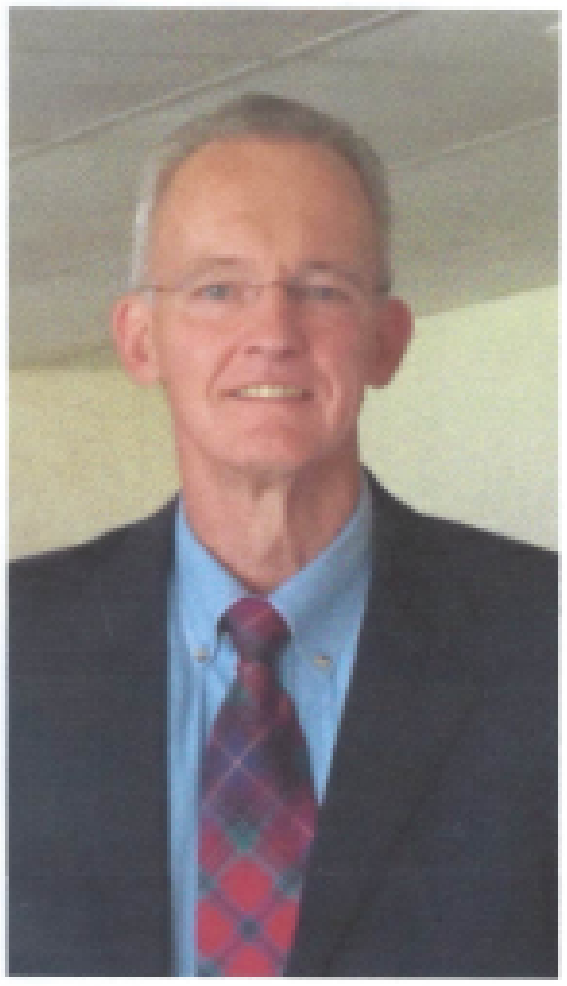
Thank you to
DFL 13th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade & Pet Expo

SPONSORS

GENE, MARTHA & SIR BENTLEY

In Memoriam

SHARE



Send Flowers | Send Card

DR. DONALD B. EDWARDS

July 14, 1948 - October 27, 2014

Honoring the life of Dr. Donald B. Edwards

Dr. Donald Birchard Edwards of Vero Beach, Florida passed away at the age of 66 on Monday, October 27, 2014.

Don was born in Hartford, Connecticut to the late Earle Eugene and Harriet Browne Edwards. His family moved to Clewiston, Florida where Don attended and graduated from Clewiston High School with his three younger brothers.

Don attended and graduated from Fairmont State College in West Virginia where he played as a lineman on the football team. He proceeded to East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee where he received his masters in biology, then he attended the West Virginia School of Dentistry.

Don performed his general practice residency at Carswell Air Force Base Regional Hospital in Texas, then worked as a general dentist at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma. He served his Oral Maxillofacial Surgery Residency at University Hospital in Jacksonville, Florida where he also served as Chief Resident of Oral Maxillofacial Surgery. Don went on to be an oral surgeon with the Air Force at Yakota Air Force Base and Patrick Air Force Base. After being honorably discharged from the United States Air Force in 1991 and joining the Air Force Reserves, Don entered into private practice with Dr. Glen Fritz.

Don was a member of the American Dental Association, American Society of Dental Anesthesia, American Association of Oral Maxillofacial Surgeons, American College of Surgeons, Tri-County Dental Society, Florida Dental Association, Florida Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and Xi Psi Phi Dental Fraternity.

Don had a genuine love for the outdoors, and from this grew a fondness for fishing and caring for his pets. His delight and joy for being outside was immeasurable, and he and his wife spent wonderful days together horseback riding.

Survivors include wife Cynthia "Cindy" Edwards of Vero Beach; daughter and son-in-law Leslie and Scott Stanton of Raleigh, North Carolina; son and daughter-in-law Garrett and Dawn Edwards of Westbrook, Maine; father and mother-in-law George and Shirley Roska of Cocoa Beach; brothers and sisters-in-law Chip and Mary

Send Flowers

Send a Card

Facts

Born: July 14, 1948
Death: October 27, 2014

Memorial donations can be made to:

Dogs For Life, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965, American Wild Horse Preservation, PO Box 1048, Hillsborough, NC 27278 or the Mental Health Association of Indian River County, 820 37th Place, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Edwards, Jeff and Cindy Edwards and Webster Edwards of Clewiston; grandchildren Eli and Nathan Edwards of Westbrook, Maine and Aaron, Aimee and Anna Stanton of Raleigh, North Carolina; sister-in-law Kathie McDaniel of Palm Bay, Florida; and a niece Miranda McDaniel also of Palm Bay.

In addition to his parents, Don was was preceded in death by his stepson Mason Garrett Noyes.

Memorial contributions may be made to Dogs For Life, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965; American Wild Horse Preservation, PO Box 1048, Hillsborough, NC 27278; or, the Mental Health Association of Indian River County, 820 37th Place, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

The family will receive friends at Strunk Funeral Home in Vero Beach on Saturday, November 1, 2014 beginning at 12 p.m. and ending at 1 p.m. in the afternoon. Immediately following will be a memorial to celebrate Don's life with military honors by the Patrick Air Force Base Honor Guard Unit.

Visitation

Saturday November 1, 2014, 12 Noon - 1:00 PM

Strunk Funeral Home
Click for Map and Directions

Celebration of Life

Saturday November 1, 2014, 1:00 PM

Strunk Funeral Home
Click for Map and Directions

Military Honors Service

Saturday November 1, 2014

Click for Map and Directions

Sign the Guestbook

Share your thoughts and memories about DR. DONALD B. EDWARDS in the guestbook.

Sign the guestbook
Read the guestbook

SEPTEMBER

Awards Luncheon

Economic Leadership Alliance Investors (continued)

Friends of Alliance
Alex MacWilliam, Inc. Realtors
Boyle & Drake, Inc.
Brewer International, Inc.
Carter Associates, Inc.
Coastal Technology Corp.
Coldwell Banker Paradise – Ed Schlitt Paradise, Inc. Realtors
Creative Floors Carpet One
Croom Construction Company
Hayhurst Land Surveying Inc.
John's Island Real Estate Company
Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc.
Lambert Commercial Real Estate
New Vision Eye Center
Nicolace Marketing, Inc.
Northwestern Mutual Life
Parker Hannifin
Rogers Brothers Groves, Inc.
School District of Indian River County
SLC Commercial-Bird Realty Group
Strunk Funeral Home
Jeff and Peggy Thompson
Twenty First Century Engineering
Vero Beach Municipal Airport
Vero Millwork, Inc.
W.F. McCain & Associates

Thank you to the members of our Industry Appreciation Awards Committee

Alfonse Alexander, Alexander Insurance Co.
Lynn Fiske, EGP-The Document Imaging People
David Hooper, Marine Bank & Trust
Melody Ipolito, Kmetz, Nuttall, Elwell, Graham, PLLC
Donna Kingsley, Vero Chemical
Donna Leemon, HR Dynamics
Terry Schlitt, MBV Engineering
Jeremy Schwibner, Merrill Lynch
Mark Seeberg, Norris & Co. Real Estate
Anna Valencia-Tillery, White Glove Moving, Storage and Delivery

Economic Leadership Alliance

In addition to the financial support received from the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners, we thank the following Economic Leadership Alliance investors who support our countywide economic diversification efforts.

Policy Sponsor
AT&T Florida

Chairman's Sponsor
Florida Power & Light Co.
George E. Warren Corporation
Piper Aircraft, Inc.
Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

Corporate Sponsor
Donadio & Associates Architects
Dyer Automotive
Marine Bank & Trust Company
Seacoast National Bank
Wells Fargo

Leadership Sponsor
Alliance Business Development
CenterState Bank
Corrigan Ranch
INEOS New Planet BioEnergy
Northern Trust Bank
Oculina Bank
Republic Services

Supporter Level
Bill Bryant & Associates, Inc.
Robert Brackett Foundation
CareerSource Research Coast
Dale Sorensen Real Estate, Inc.
Disney's Vero Beach Resort
EGP-The Document Imaging People
FAU-Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
HBS, Inc.
Huryn Construction
Indian River State College
Laurel Homes, Inc.
MBV Engineering, Inc.
National Bank of Commerce
Orchid Island Golf & Beach Club
Proctor Construction Company
Rossway Swan Tierney Barry
Schlitt Services
Spectrum Interior Design
Dr. David Sullivan
Sun Aviation
TD Bank

Additional investors listed on back cover

17th Annual Industry Appreciation Awards Luncheon

September 18, 2014

Indian River County
Chamber of Commerce

2014 Industry Appreciation Awards Luncheon

Welcome

Lunch Served

Introductions

Special Tribute

Presentation of Architectural Recognition Awards

Manufacturer of the Year
Entrepreneur of the Year
Latin Business of the Year
Company of the Year

Closing Remarks

Adjournment

Shelly Ferger

From: Indian River County Chamber of Commerce <director@indianriverchamber.ccsend.com> on behalf of Indian River County Chamber of Commerce <director@indianriverchamber.com>
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2014 9:18 AM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Local Businesses Recognized

A Legacy of Progress.

September 22, 2014

eNews

September

23
RIBBON CUTTING!
For the
Leigh Jewelers Remodel
3401 Ocean Drive
Ribbon cutting at
4:30pm sharp
(note time chage)

25
5-7pm
Business After Hours
Sponsor:

Members: $8
$10 walk-in
RSVP 772-567-3491 or
RESERVE HERE

30
9am-10:30

"Industry Appreciation" Recognizes County Businesses

The Chamber celebrated the achievements of local companies at our **17th Annual Industry Appreciation Awards** event last week at the Indian River State College Richardson Center. We show our appreciation to those businesses that have made a positive impact in our community during the past year, either through architectural enhancements or by way of community involvement and economic impact.

The awards luncheon also paid tribute to the late John Dean, a local architect and community supporter who passed away earlier this year. Tony Donadio, principal of Donadio and Associates Architects, spoke presented Dean's accomplishments, many of which had been recognized by the Industry Appreciation Awards program through the years.

COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Small - Brite Future Electric
Medium - White Glove Moving, Storage & Delivery/Pak Mail Beachside

MANUFACTURER OF THE YEAR
Small - Triton Submarines LLC
Medium - Nylacarb Corporation
Large - Novurania of America

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Chive Restaurant

LATIN BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Press Coverage

Wednesday September 17, 2014
VERO BEACH | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY Newsweekly
CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

By Brenda Sposato
The Newsweekly

James Taylor, 42, was a retired U.S. Army staff sergeant when he was diagnosed with a serious illness that would change his life forever: post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

He and his wife, Dawn, had just moved to Vero Beach from Seattle, Wash., with plans to start their new life. They even scheduled a trip to Disney World as a welcome-home gift for James.

But during their visit to the park, "while waiting in line, I panicked," recalled Taylor. "I started breathing heavily, began clenching my fists, my ears started ringing, and then I took off running. I went into survivor mode. I knew something was wrong. I needed help."

He says the relentless wartime attacks, roadside bombings and fire fights caused him to lose sixty percent of his hearing and brought on his PTSD.

"With all the turmoil in our lives, we put our personal goals to the side," he said of the disheartening period after the onset of his illness. "And all hopes of having a child of our own became too much to bear."

PHOTO BY BRENDA SPOSATO

Pia Pia, an 11-pound therapy dog, knows how to dial 9-1-1.

Pug-nacious

Enter Pia Pia, a 5-year-old, 11-pound female pug, who became an angel and hero after she was adopted from Sebastian's Halo Animal Rescue.

With the help of Dogs for Life, which specializes in training service and therapy dogs for veterans, Pia Pia provides comfort

See HEROES, 10

HEROES
from 1

and emotional support to Taylor. Pia Pia received quality training at Dogs for Life and has been certified as a PTSD/hearing assistance dog.

"She's literally saved my husband's life at least two times," said Dawn.

"Jimmy was in the shower one day and I was in my office working with my headphones on. Meanwhile Pia Pia was on the couch. She heard a thump and Jimmy yell, but I didn't hear him," said Dawn.

"Out of the corner of my eye I saw Pia Pia hitting the [special service dog] 911 phone. I took my headphones off to ask her what she was doing, but she proceeded to jump on my leg and go in circles until I got up and followed her to the bathroom door."

Dawn said on another occasion, she was at the neighbor's house when she saw the ambulance pass by, headed toward her own house. James had fallen down the stairs and was knocked unconscious.

"I ran home to see Jimmy laying at the bottom of the stairs with Pia Pia right there as the paramedics went in. The paramedics informed me that they received a 911 call with a dog barking."

Operators at the 911 dispatch centers know when a service dog is in the house, explained Dawn, "so they immediately dispatched the ambulance, fire and cops."

All the responders were surprised it was a pug service dog who made the call, said Dawn. Because of their diminutive size, pugs are most often used as therapy dogs to soothe

Jim Taylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.), an Iraq War veteran, and his hearing/service pug, Pia Pia.

PHOTOS BY BRENDA SPOSATO

SERVICE

Joan Freeman, Patty Shell, Jason Harris, Shelly Ferger and Katie Kowanic of Dogs for Life.

Man and woman's best friend

Pia Pia is not the only service dog who can save lives. Shadow, a 4-year-old labrador retriever is currently in training at Dogs for Life.

After serving in the Army during the Vietnam War, Tony Santos, 67, thought the battles in his life were over. But after he was discharged, Santos was diagnosed with PTSD and possible exposure to Agent Orange.

Santos' internal war with PTSD is only part of his everyday struggles. He also battles poor circulation and is recovering from triple-bypass surgery. He may need to have a leg amputated in the near future.

Shadow serves as his companion, providing affection and stress relief, as well as physical and emotional support. Shadow is learning to call 911 in case of an emergency and perform specialized mobility tasks.

Joan Freeman, a Dogs for Life volunteer, owns a miniature poodle hearing dog named Daisy – and she's Freeman's best friend. "My dog Daisy saved my life twice. I would probably never leave my house without her."

"Our programs can take up to a year and a half," said Shelly Ferger, executive director of Dogs for Life, about the specialized training. "In the end, what we offer people is a second chance."

New digs

Dogs for Life has recently expanded its ability to train hearing and service dogs just like Pia Pia, Shadow and Daisy.

The organization's new indoor and outdoor dog training center, located at 1230 16th Avenue, adjacent to the 4-acre off-leash park, enables the staff and volunteers to train service dogs certified for assisting veterans, and provide them to wounded warriors free of charge.

Funded entirely by donations and membership dues for the off-leash park, the training center also offers dog behavior and obedience classes for the general public and people with disabilities.

According to the volunteers, the new facility is a dream come true.. Dogs for Life is one of only four training facilities in Florida sanctioned by the Veterans Administration and accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

"Before our new facility, we could only train dogs in the homes of our clients," explained Ferger. "Now, we can offer services to folks outside the Vero Beach area."

Vet helping vets

Jason Harris, Dogs for Life's first military veteran to become a dog trainer, is passionate about helping other veterans.

Service dog Shadow and Tony Santos, a Vietnam veteran.

Harris has a whatever-it-takes attitude. He not only helps train dogs, but also raises awareness in the community -- which facilitates recruitment of other veterans and volunteers.

"What we do here is specialized training – from hearing tasks to mobility tasks and PTSD tasks," said Harris. "The level of experience and talent here is phenomenal."

Dogs for Life is member of the Veterans Council of Indian River County and Veterans Service of America.

"As an auxiliary member of the council, Dogs for Life helps meet the needs of men and women who've served their country. They exemplify the support we want for all veterans of Indian River County," said Veterans Council Vice President Tony Young.

"With over 80,000 veterans returning home, we know that our load is going to double and triple very soon," said Ferger.

"Here at Dogs for Life we're getting ready. We're cross training. A person with a hearing impairment may also be in a wheelchair. So we have to teach our dogs to serve in multiple capacities."

For more information about training, volunteering and off-leash park membership , please call 772-567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

photo by **ANNIE SHAW**

THE VHL&D STAFF ENJOYING THE LAST OF THE **DOG DAYS** OF SUMMER

It was a pooch parade at the Dogs for Life Dog Park on 12th street one hot afternoon in late August. The VHL&D staff got together for a doggy meet and greet. Despite the excessive heat, tails were wagging and everybody was on their best behavior!

Indian River, St. Lucie & Martin Counties ★ Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday - Sept. 1, 2014

Luminaries

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2 - Joining Tania Ortega-Cowan (on back of sofa) for her weekly radio show "Chunky Chat" are L.A. and Darel (the Labrador Retriever), Shelly Ferger and Jay Harris of Dogs for Life.

Vero Beach Exchangite

Exchange Club of Vero Beach

A Semi-Monthly Newsletter

Officers

President - Glenn Grevengoed

President Elect - Rick Hahn

Treasurer - Herb Whittall

Secretary - Diana Walker

Past President - Barbara Heston

Board of Directors

Betsy Craun

Judy Landgrave

Nancy Madsen

Jack McAfee

Bob Santoro

Marilyn Wallach

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Page 3: Frank's Memorial
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Page 4: Christmas Tree Sales
Page 4: Newsletter Ads
Page 4: Thank you Joan

Program Notes : September 1—30, 2014

Veteran of the Quarter (Sept 9th): Our honoree, Sergeant James Taylor, retired from the US Army after serving 20 years as Military Police, Military Police Corrections and an Operation Iraqi Freedom War Veteran. After retiring, Jim and his wife, Dawn, returned to Florida to settle in Vero Beach. Not long after, PTSD started to affect Jim's ability to want to go out or to be around groups of people. As he became more homebound, Dawn thought that a dog would be a good way to get Jim out of the house. They adopted Pei Pei and immediately began obedience class. It was during those classes that the instructor noticed Jim's uneasiness and recognized the symptoms. He referred him to Shelly Ferger at Dogs for Life (DFL) who trains dogs to work with PTSD vets. Shelly worked with Pei Pei and for the last four years the dog has been by Jim's side helping him to cope and work through his disorder.

The story doesn't stop there. Jim has been so thankful that he was able to find a way to endure that he has taken on working with Shelley in introducing the idea of service dogs to vets. When they see how it works for Jim, they start to see hope for themselves. We congratulate Jim for his service to our country and for his work helping his fellow vets. (Pictured l to r: Glenn Grevengoed, President, James Taylor, Dawn Taylor and Pei Pei)

From Graceland to Vero: A Visit From Elvis – Sept 9th: Many in the group were wondering what Roy Howard was up to when he announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen, Elvis has arrived". It's definitely not something you would expect to be hearing these days unless you were in Las Vegas. But, no sooner the announcement was made, Elvis did walk through the doors, white jumpsuit, jet black hair, cape and all and immediately began his performance. While the real Elvis is no longer with us, this Elvis is the creation of Glenn Ordndorff. Glenn is one of those rare individuals who not only sound like Elvis, but has also mastered his mannerisms and bears a strange resemblance to him.

Glenn lives in Vero Beach and sings every Sunday with the First Baptist Church choir. When not singing in the choir he likes to sing country and western, but will slip into his Elvis persona for special occasions.

Toastmasters Meeting Demo – Sept 16th: John Young, President of the local Toastmasters club was our guest speaker today. John, along with several of his Toastmaster colleagues, gave us a chance to experience what a meeting would feel like. During a meeting, members evaluate one another's presentations. That feedback process is based on timekeeping, grammar, and nuances. As we viewed the demonstrations, we learned quickly that the ability to listen effectively is extremely important.

John took it one step further by having some of our members (called at random) participate in impromptu table topic subjects. They would have a minimum of 2 minutes and maximum of 5 minutes to talk. At the end of their discussion, they would be subject to the feedback from the members.

AUGUST

Governor's Veterans Service Award

Army National Guard

08/14/2014

MULLIGAN'S
Beach House
12 WEEKS OF SUMMER!
Join the party by dressing along with these fun themes!
June 5th - Fiesta Party
June 12th - Rockstar Night
June 19th - Luau Party
June 26th - Pirate & Princess
July 3rd - Superhero
July 10th - Under the Sea
July 17th - 80's Night
July 24th - Christmas in July
July 31st - Carnival
August 7th - Masquerade
August 14th - Sports
August 21st - Puppy Love
Come Support These Great Local Charities
Anthony M. LaRosa Memorial Scholarship
JDRF
American Cancer Society
Hibiscus Children's Center
Saving Children Since 1985
YOUTH GUIDANCE
Mentoring & Activities Program
ELC
ENVIRONMENTAL
Girls on the run
Boys & Girls Club
Junior Achievement
TEAM IN TRAINING
Dogs for Life
VERO BEACH - 772.492.6744
SEBASTIAN - 772.918.4844
WWW.MULLIGANSBEACHHOUSE.COM

International Assistance Dog Week

Dogs For Life celebrates 2014 International Assistance Dog Week August 3-9

Retired Deputy Sheriff Phillip Muma works with his Dog Duke, during an assistance dog tranining session. â€œTeam Dukeâ€ in Training, through Dogs For Life, Inc.

In honor of International Assistance Dog Week, Dogs For Life, Inc. Will be holding tours of their new Assistance Dog Training Center.Â The Training Center is located at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, Florida and is open from 9 AM to 6 PM.

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations.Â In addition to honoring assistance dogs during their special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness about these very special and highly trained animals. This year International Assistance Dog Week is August 3-9.

We hope everyone in our area can join us to celebrate the selfless love and devotion these dogs provide. Â DFL will have information on how service dogs are evaluated, trained, and the laws pertaining to service dogs in public places.Â DFL will have information on how their program operates in and outside Vero Beach, Florida.

â€œFinally, our Assistance Dog Training Center is complete and we are training more service dogs than ever this year.Â Our Veteran Dog Training Program is moving full steam ahead and we currently have three dogs in training for local Veterans,â€ said Shelly Ferger, DFL head dog trainer.Â Vero Beach has a gem right here in Indian River County and we want our community to learn all about it.

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family. Assistance dogs include Guide Dogs, Service Dogs, Hearing Alert Dogs, Seizure Alert/Response Dogs and Medical Alert/Response Dogs.

For additional information, or to have your dog screened for training as an assistance dog, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

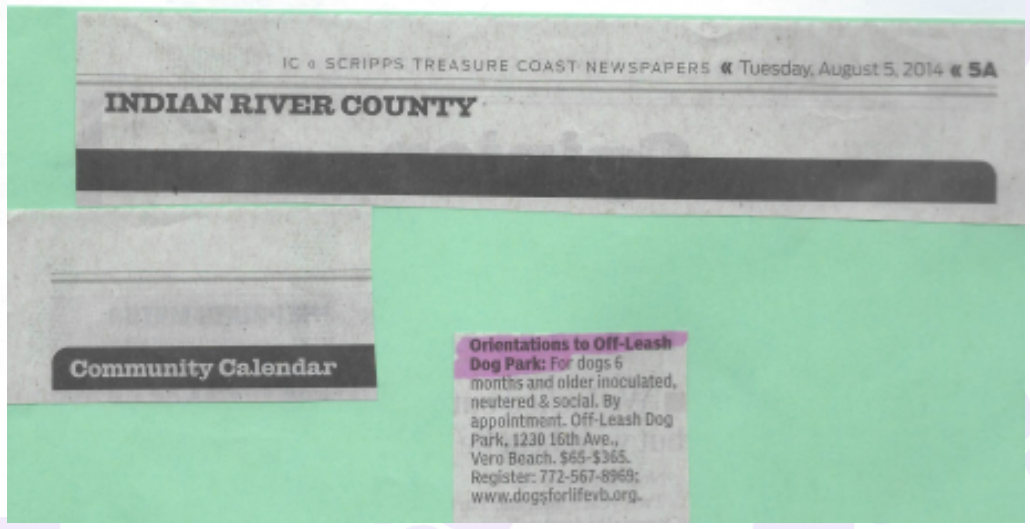
Dogs For Life schedules dog training classes

Dogs For Life, Inc. Has two basic obedience classes, one beginning Saturday, September 2, at 9 AM and the second beginning Friday, September 8, at 6 PM.

With the completion of the new air-conditioned Dogs For Life Training and Administrative Center, Inc. Located at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Avenue, DFL will re-start our dog behavior/obedience classes for assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and dogs owned by the general public. The classes are one hour, last for six weeks and cost $120.

Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO of DFL, will be teaching the first series of classes with trainers Sgt. Jay Harris, CPDT-KA, US Army, and Paula Via, CPDT-KA, ABCDT.Â â€œNow that the Training and Administrative Center is complete, we are excited to be teaching again, from the very basics to the advanced levels, all while having fun and using positive reinforcement,â€ said Shely Ferger.

Class size is limited, and reservations are required, call DFL at (772) 567-8969 for additional information or email at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.Â Website address:Â www.dogsforlifevb.org.



IC ◦ SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Tuesday, August 5, 2014 « 5A

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Orientations to Off-Leash Dog Park: For dogs 6 months and older inoculated, neutered & social. By appointment. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $65-$365. Register: 772-567-8969; www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Chunky Chat Radio Show

Dogs For Life

"A Veteran's Best Friend"
- Chunky Chat Radio Show #8
With Tania Ortega-Cowan
08/21/2014

Listen in Friday August 22 from 3:30 - 4 pm and Sunday August 24 from 5 - 5:30 pm as we chat about the benefit of man's best friend to veterans with post traumatic stress and people with other special needs.

In the studio with me are Jay Harris, L.A. and Darel the Labrador Retriever, and Shelly Ferger from Dogs for Life.

Find it at 107.9 FM and 1370 AM in Indian River County, on i-Heart Radio "WAXE".

The show is called Chunky Chat.

Here is where we have 'conversations of substance' with do-gooders and heroes which will air every Friday at 3:30 to 4:00 pm, and Sundays from 5 to 5:30 pm on 107.9 FM and 1370 AM in Indian River County, on i-Heart Radio "WAXE" and online at www.chunkychat.com and on social media. ~ Tania Ortega-Cowan.

Left to Right: LA & Darel (Labrador Retriever) Tania Ortega-Cowan, Shelly Ferger and Jay Harris.

Shelly Ferger

From: Barbara Hoffman <info@cultural-council.org>
Sent: Monday, August 04, 2014 9:07 AM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Cultural Council Connection

Arts MATTER

Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

Dear Shelley,

Welcome to our ***Monday Morning Cultural Council Connection***.

THE CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH WILLI MILLER

Every Monday on WAXE 1370 AM or 107.9 FM
5 to 5:30 p.m.
To hear the show streaming via your computer, visit www.waxe1370.com at 5 p.m.

Jose Daniel Flores
Marcos Flores

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR SUMMERFEST 2014

Dogs For Life, Inc. Schedules Dog Training Classes

Dogs For Life, Inc. Has basic obedience classes, beginning Friday, August 8, at 6 PM.

With the completion of the new air-conditioned Dogs For Life Training and Administrative Center, Inc. Located at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16thAvenue, we will re-start our dog behavior/obedience classes for assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and dogs owned by the general public. The classes are one hour, last for six weeks and cost $120. levels, all while having fun and using positive reinforcement."

Class size is limited, and reservations are required, call DFL at (772) 567-8969 for additional information.

Celebrate The Arts

FESTIVAL

Saturday, September 27
10 am to 4 pm
Riverside Park

Like us on facebook

Dogs For Life, Inc.
MISSION STATEMENT:

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning and operating an off-leash dog park.

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 for tax purposes and regular updates through the Dogs For Life, Inc. Paw Prints Newsletter.

dogsforlifevb.org

News Articles

20A » Sunday, August 3, 2014 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IC

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Dog Obedience Training Classes: 6 p.m. Fri. Aug. 8. Dogs For Life Training and Administrative Center, Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $120. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net; www.dogsforlifevb.org.

IC » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Wednesday, August 6, 2014 « 9A

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

FILE PHOTO

Assistance Dog Screening for hearing and service work is available by appointment at Dogs For Life Inc., 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. To register, call 772-567-8969 or send an email to dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Community Calendar

Assistance Dog Screening: For hearing and service work; by appointment. Dogs For Life, Inc., 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

IC » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Thursday, August 7, 2014 « 5A

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Orientations to Off-Leash Dog Park: For dogs 6 months and older inoculated, neutered and social. By appointment. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $65-$365. Register: 772-567-8969; www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Private Dog Training: By appointment. Dogs For Life Inc., 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $50. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

DFL Celebrates 2014 International Assistance Dog Week August 3-9

August 3-9, 2014

In honor of International Assistance Dog Week, Dogs For Life, Inc. will be holding tours of their new Assistance Dog Training Center. The Training Center is located at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, Florida and is open from 9 AM to 6 PM.

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations. In addition to honoring assistance dogs during their special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness about these very special and highly trained animals. This year International Assistance Dog Week is August 3-9.

We hope everyone in our area can join us to celebrate the selfless love and devotion these dogs provide. DFL will have information on how service dogs are trained, the laws pertaining to service dogs in public places and how their program operates in Vero Beach, Florida.

"Finally, our Assistance Dog Training Center is complete and we are training more service dogs than ever this year. Our Veteran Dog Training Program is moving full steam ahead and we currently have three dogs in training for local Veterans," said Shelly Ferger, DFL head dog trainer. Vero Beach has a gem right here in Indian River County and we want our community to learn all about it.

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family. Assistance dogs include Guide Dogs, Service Dogs, Hearing Alert Dogs, Seizure Alert/Response Dogs and Medical Alert/Response Dogs.

For additional information, or to have your dog screened for training as an assistance dog, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

'Armageddon' — a soldier's tale of the aftermath of Katrina

Mary Kemper
STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

"The smell ... when we got off the C130, it hit me like a sledgehammer. It was like sticking your head in a toilet."

Former Army National Guard Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris, of Vero Beach, said the memories — both horrible and gratifying — of his one-month deployment to New Orleans in the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Katrina will last his lifetime.

On Aug. 29, 2005, Katrina slammed into the Gulf states, killing 1,833 and causing more than $100 billion in damages. One week later, Harris arrived in New Orleans to help the devastated residents.

He was a mechanic, attached to the 972nd Military Police Battalion. He was part of a mosaic of units from all services, from all across the country.

The immediate need was some kind of base.

"We had the best first sergeant — I wish I could remember his name," Harris said. "He got us accommodations at the University of New Orleans," which is located near Lake Pontchartrain.

"When we flew in, the Air Force base (Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans) was completely destroyed. The runway was hastily put together. We spent two days there, basically camping, before we moved into the university," Harris said.

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Former Army National Guard Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris takes a break at his Vero Beach home with his "unit" of pet dogs.

"The scene was Armageddon, like something out of a 'Mad Max' movie. Apocalyptic. People were just in shock."

Jay Harris

"There were people from all over in our unit. They called us the 'misfit battalion,'" he said, laughing.

Harris and the "misfits" got to work right away, disproving their nickname by quickly getting their base set up for operations and commandeering supplies.

"The Louisiana National Guard Armory gave us access to equipment, like a wrecker, extra trucks, Humvees and tools," Harris said.

"Lowe's and Home Depot were basically bust anyway, so they gave us any kind of supplies we needed, toilet paper, you name it.

"We were in a MacGyver situation — find it and get it, and make it happen. I certainly thank that unit (the Louisiana Guard) — they made sure we had fuel, trucks, even a fenced-in area for our 'motor pool.'

"There were 150 of us living in the gymnasium," he said. "There were cots lined up to sleep on, male and female changing areas, no running water, only one fan, and we had to use MRE boxes as toilets — pretty primitive, but it brought us all together, a real bonding."

Harris and his unit-mates began

See KATRINA page 4

"We were in a MacGyver situation — find it and get it, and make it happen."

Former Army National Guard Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris

KATRINA from page 2

ferrying supplies to their base from the airport and from local sources, "right through the pumping areas," he said. "At that time, the water was still very high." And the smell from the water, a swirling mass of raw sewage and toxic chemicals — "a lot of people were throwing up from it."

Death and destruction were everywhere. "You had bodies in the trees, boats, everything," Harris said. "It was chaos — madness."

The MPs got to work right away as well, securing perimeters and establishing cleared areas. "They walked in teams," Harris said. "That's when it hit me that we might get hurt.

"New Orleans always had a lot of crime anyway, but law and order hadn't been re-established yet.

"We had to keep our weapons with us at all times. We didn't lock and load, but we always had to have a magazine in."

Only once did Harris and the MPs encounter potential danger. A "suspicious vehicle" was seen driving around the area, but it took off after its driver presumably saw the MPs, Harris said.

"I didn't like to ask too many questions" when out and about with the MPs — "I was like, 'are we good? Good,'" he said.

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Souvenirs collected from former Army National Guard Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris' time deploying to Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina include a street sign and a University of New Orleans T-shirt.

A more immediate danger was the flooding everywhere. Driving, Harris said, was always a hazard.

"My buddy Daly (first name Jermaine) and I were sent out to find this truck that had gotten stuck," Harris said. "Daly was driving. The water started getting higher and higher, so we made the decision to get back to the parking lot.

"All of a sudden, the truck began to tilt. 'Uh-oh,' [Daly] said. I said, 'Whaddya mean, uh-oh? Don't say uh-oh!'

"Then it really began to tilt. Water started coming in. And you did *not* want to come in contact with that water. I climbed out onto the roof, while he tried to get the truck moving. It was no good, so he climbed out, too. 'Let's hang out for a while,' I said.

"We called the motor pool. We sounded like smarta**es, I guess, because Daly said, 'They think we're joking.' I said, 'No, no, no! We're not!'

"They planned to send someone out to get us, but a boat came by with reporters and local people (in it). They dropped us on dry land, and we eventually met up with the rescue party.

"We called ourselves 'Skipper and Gilligan,'" Harris said with a laugh.

The next day, the water had drained enough to allow the truck to be driven out. "You should have seen the yellow-green color on the hubcaps," Harris said. "To think that could have gotten on us."

Eventually, once the security perimeters were established, the MPs began allowing residents back to their home areas by ZIP code, Harris said. "The scene was Armageddon, like something out of a 'Mad Max' movie. Apocalyptic. People were just in shock."

But relief efforts began to take on a kind of rhythm, Harris said.

"The MPs did their mission; we did ours, moving supplies," he said. "It was the first time I'd ever worked with such an eclectic group. Even the cooks were going out (distributing) water and MREs to people.

"We picked up people who were stuck, we helped out everyone we met — it was the whole reason we were there," Harris said.

"People were so happy, thanking us all the time. The best part of the mission was seeing how much of a difference we made. When I went home, I felt good."

Even personal hygiene for the troops began to improve from the MRE-box-toilet primitive conditions. Portable toilets were installed, and the Coast Guard unit allowed Harris and his fellow soldiers to use its shower facilities on an alternative-day basis.

"That was awesome," Harris said. "On the truck, Daly was talking about taking a long, long shower at home, and I was like, 'Dude, shut up!'"

The overpowering stench permeated everything, and no one kept any of his clothes afterward, Harris said. "It just smelled like death, like a punch in the face. They did give us masks, which helped."

By the end of his deployment, Harris said there was a noticeable improvement in the situation.

"When we first got there, there was 5 feet of water. There was a lot of crime in the first couple of days, but then that was secured. FEMA cleared out the bodies, and the Coast Guard was clearing the dikes.

"The focus was on repair and rebuilding. Electric companies from all 50 states were there working around the clock."

A few days before leaving, Harris and his friends heard there was a Popeye's restaurant nearby.

"We took a ride across Lake Pontchartrain, and there it was," he said. "After a month of MREs, we devoured that food like vultures."

All in all, despite the hardships, Harris said he doesn't regret a minute of his deployment.

"To see the city gradually pick itself up, to help people, to be a part of that — it's just the greatest feeling," he said.

Harris said he'd "love to go back and see New Orleans today. It's a beautiful city. Back then, it was more like downtown Iraq."

No sooner had Harris' National Guard contract expired in April 2006 than he was called back up to service via the Individual Ready Reserve. In November of that year, he was deployed to Kuwait. After 11 months, he flew back to the U.S., "my contract free and clear," he said.

"Back when I was in Kuwait, I used to tell people I wanted to start a revolution. 'You mean overthrow the government or something?' people said. 'No, I just want to do something revolutionary."

Jay Harris

"Back when I was in Kuwait, I used to tell people I wanted to start a revolution. 'You mean overthrow the government or something?' people said. 'No, I just want to do something revolutionary.'"

A dog lover, Harris found his current job as coordinator of the veteran service dog program at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, through his two white Scottish terriers, Fergus and Nessia.

"They needed walking, so I took them to the Dog Park," he said.

(The two terriers were soon joined by Sasha, a poodle, and Barbie, a Chihuahua. Together, they form Harris' own "unit," with Nessia as "brigadier general," Fergus as "lieutenant colonel," Barbie as "lieutenant" and Sasha as "secretary of state.")

"Well, a few months went by, and I was working at PetSmart. My mother's friend knew someone at DFL, and I eventually met Shelly (Ferger, DFL founder and CEO). She's a great mentor, a great friend.

"We talked about training service dogs. About a year ago, Shelly said the (administrative and training) building was going up, and the plan was for 'Jay to get hired.' That kept me going — I've always wanted to work with service dogs."

Editor's note: *Please see last week's issue featuring Tony Santos and his dog Shadow, whom Harris is helping to train for Shadow's future as a service dog.*

At a recent ceremony for Purple Heart recipients at the Victory Center military store in Indian River Mall, Harris said he was proud of how well Daniel, a veteran suffering from PTSD, did with the help of his dog, Ariel (Daniel's last name is not released because of privacy issues).

In addition to his work with Dogs For Life, Harris said he wants to get a "Florida sled dog" initiative going.

"Basically, it's you on a skateboard with dogs on a harness and leash," he explained, showing a video of himself being pulled along a street by four dogs.

"It's a great, active way to exercise dogs, and the veterans, too," he said.

"A lot of vets get pits (pit bull terriers), Dobermans, shepherds — that's great, but they all need exercise."

Veterans and dogs can learn a lot from each other, Harris said.

"I tell my classes, there is great

See KATRINA page 5

KATRINA from page 4

wisdom from dogs. Anger, frustration issues — dogs know. It's the best therapy to learn from each other.

"Things are beginning to change in terms of dog training. We're helping people learn to relax, instead of using tight leashes, choke collars — I mean, would you like to keep on getting jabbed in the neck?

"But we're seeing a real change from the old mentality. Now we're helping people see interactions in new ways, with a focus more on problem-solving, and everything they can do with their dogs — agility, sports, all that stuff. So yeah, that's revolutionary in its own way.

"See?" Harris said with a laugh. "I told 'em I'd start a revolution!"

Veterans interested in learning more about the Dogs For Life service training can contact dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, *and those interested in learning more about Harris' sled dog initiative can contact him at* jason.r.harris.2013@gmail.com.

Veterans to get service awards in Melbourne

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

Photo courtesy of Gov. Rick Scott's office

Gov. Rick Scott, right, greets men and women in uniform at a July 2 ceremony in Jacksonville to give out the Governor's Veterans Service Award. Scott will be in Melbourne Thursday, Aug. 14 to conduct a similar ceremony with veterans from the Space Coast area.

Gov. Rick Scott will be in Melbourne on Thursday, Aug. 14, at 2:15 p.m. to give veterans and military personnel recognition. The governor will be at the Melbourne National Guard Armory, 1889 Stewart Road, giving those who served and are serving the Governor's Veterans Service Award.

The Great Seal of the State of Florida is on the front. The seals of the five branches of the military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard — on the back. Below those seals are the words, "Honoring Those Who Served." Scott hopes to get the Governor's Veterans Service Award to all in the state who served in uniform.

"I'll be there," said Garren Cone, president of the American Veterans Empowerment Team (AVET) Project, and co-host of American Warrior Radio, a veterans-interest show on 1300 AM, WMEL. "I registered to go to the (ceremony) in Orlando, but couldn't get there. A lot of veterans around here got them."

Florida is one of only four states with more than a million veterans. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are 1.6 million veterans in the state. The Florida Department of Veterans Affairs is separate from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs. Among its duties are running the state's veterans homes and advocating for veterans interests at the Florida Legislature and Cabinet.

In a press release when the awards were introduced last year, Scott explained their importance.

"The freedoms and opportunities that are afforded by the American Dream were paid for by the service and sacrifice of our brave veterans," he said. "Our heroes have made countless sacrifices for Florida families and it is important that we take the time to frequently honor and thank them for their courage and their service. Although we can never thank our veterans enough, this medal will serve as a testament of our thanks from Floridians everywhere."

Scott was in the Navy from 1971 to 1974. He served as a radar operator aboard the *USS Glover*.

"The freedoms and opportunities that are afforded by the American Dream were paid for by the service and sacrifice of our brave veterans."

Gov. Rick Scott

Registration for the ceremony begins at 1 p.m. For proof of service, veterans can use military ID cards, DD214s, retirement ID cards, VA ID cards, or veteran service organization IDs. Veterans can also register ahead of time by visiting *www. floridavets.org/gvsa/new-melbourne-gvsa*.

Those who can't attend the Melbourne ceremony will get a second chance to receive the award. On Friday, Aug. 15, at 3:30 p.m., the governor will give awards at the Avon Park National Guard Armory, 2500 U.S. Highway 27. Registration begins at 2:30 p.m. Veterans can also register for that ceremony by visiting *www.floridavets.org/gvsa/avon-park-gvsa*.

The FDVA said that so far 2,418 veterans have received the award.

For more, call (850)717-9207.

The 'Governor's Veterans Service Award' honors Floridians who have served in the U.S. military. On the front of the medal is Great Seal of the state of Florida. The back of the medal displays the five seals representing the five branches of U.S. military with an inscription that reads 'Honoring Those Who Served.'

Photo courtesy of Gov. Rick Scott's office

VERO BEACH | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Newsweekly
CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Wednesday
August 13, 2014

Ceremony recognizes Purple Heart heroes

By Candace Moore
Your Newsweekly Contributor

Local Purple Heart recipients were honored in a celebration Aug. 7 on National Purple Heart Day at Victory Center in the Indian River Mall.

Thirteen local war veterans, with hearts bigger than their awards, were recognized for their heroism and sacrifice in the preservation of our country in wars ranging from World War II to the Iraq War.

"The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Specifically, it is a combat decoration as defined by the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

"Thank you all," said County Commissioner Joseph Flescher, wearing a purple tie in their honor, "You have risked your lives, shed blood, sustained injuries, without compromise and unselfishly for us all. You are all heroes and I'm here because you're here."

One of a kind

The Victory Center, a vision that became a reality two years ago, is the only center of its kind in the United States and a model for future sites desperately needed throughout the country.

More than just a military store, it is a labor of love and operated solely by volunteers.

First, all proceeds benefit local veterans.

Behind the store is "The Bunker," a gathering place for veterans and their families to relax, have a cup of coffee and talk to other veterans.

The center offers physical therapy and cardiology training, financial planning classes, job information for new veterans returning home from war, and provides permanently disabled veterans with wheelchairs, walkers and canes through donations and store profits.

Pete Sayles, president of Victory Center, said, "All of the money made at the store remains in Indian River County.

Fifty percent of the profits help pays to transport veterans to the West Palm Beach Veterans Medical Center to obtain the health care they require and deserve."

PHOTO BY CANDACE MOORE

Purple Heart recipients John Darling, former president of Victory Center and currently a volunteer manager, and Len Zanca at the Purple Heart Day celebration at the Indian River Mall.

Purple heart cane

The Indian River County Woodcarvers supply beautiful handcrafted canes to distribute to local veterans and Purple Heart recipients in need.

Each cane bears the head of the American bald eagle on the handle and an inscription with the personal information of the recipient, such as their name, rank, division, service dates and awards.

The back of the cane carries these poignant words:

"A Veteran whether active duty, retired, discharged, national guard or reserve - man or woman - is someone who at one point in their life wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America' for an amount 'up to and including my life.'"

Ryan Testa, a Purple Heart recipient, received a veteran's cane on Purple Heart Day at the Victory Center. He is the 99th local recipient to date.

Colonel Tony Young, acting president of the Veterans Council said, "Take a look of the character of the people in this room. Everyone here today is a hero and honored for their sacrifice for our freedom."

The award dates back to Aug. 7, 1782, when General George Washington, commander in chief of the Continental Army, created the "Badge for Military Merit," known today as the Purple Heart.

To help our local veterans or make a donation, contact Victory Center Military Store in the Indian River Mall (near Macy's) or call 772-226-5316.

See MORE PHOTOS, 6

LOCAL

PURPLE HEART RECIPIENTS (FROM PAGE 1)

PHOTOS BY CANDACE MOORE

Purple Heart Day at Victory Center, honoring Purple Heart recipients from Indian River and Saint Lucie counties. Standing: Ronald Stevens; O. Ivar Svanson, Jr.; Ed Britt; Yank Yannotelli; James D. Wilson, Sr.; Rick Browder; John Darling; Mike Hosfod; Robert M. Latimer; and Steve Kraus. Kneeling: Daniel Votrobek and service dog Ariel. (Not pictured: Roy Siler and Len Zanga.)

Ryan Testa was presented with a hand carved cane at the Purple Heart Day celebration. He served in the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in Samarra, Iraq and was awarded the Purple Heart on Aug. 28, 2007.

6 - Retired Deputy Sheriff Phillip Muma works with his dog Duke during an assistance dog training session hosted by Dogs For Life, Inc.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

THURSDAY'S SPECIAL EVENTS

Governor's Veterans Service Award Ceremony: All local veterans to be honored with the Governor's Veterans Service Award medal. 2:15 p.m. Melbourne National Guard Armory, 1889 Stewart Road, Melbourne. Must provide some form of identification that validates veteran status: DD214, VA ID Card, retirement ID, military ID, etc. RSVP: 850-717-9207; http://rsvp.myflorida.com RSVP Code: "MELBOURNE"

Private Dog Training: By appointment. Dogs For Life, Inc., 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $50. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

The Voice of Experience
VETERAN VOICE
35 cents
VOL.2/ISSUE 41
THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014

'Man's best friend' brings hope to veterans, others in need

Mary Kemper
STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Tony Santos of Vero Beach is an Army veteran of the Korean War.

Facing losing a leg in the future due to health issues, he knows he's going to be limited in his activities in multiple ways.

Enter Shadow, his 4-year-old black Labrador/Walker hound mix. With the help of Dogs For Life, Shadow is being trained to help Santos get the newspaper, make an emergency phone call and go up and down stairs, among other tasks.

On Aug. 5, Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO of Dogs For Life, and one of her trainers, former Army Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris, visited Santos' home to check on Shadow's progress.

Shadow is an exuberant dog — "He's smart, but he's 100 percent stubborn," Santos said — but he must learn to obey commands.

"Let me see you make him lie down," Ferger said to Santos, who complied.

"We need to get him to lie on his side, because otherwise he'll 'break,'" Ferger said, referring to a dog's habit of jumping back up or walking away without permission.

She took Santos and Shadow through a series of tasks — from "down" to "stay" to helping Santos up from the couch — and pronounced that "I want to see more tug and release, but he's doing well."

After the home visit, Ferger had Santos and Shadow visit the clubhouse, where Santos spends time each week helping out at bingo. The plan was to teach Shadow how to lie down quietly under the table.

After two or three tries, Ferger succeeded — but she made sure this task would be necessary.

"I'm up and down a lot at this bingo," Santos said. He serves refreshments from the kitchen, for example. "But my wife and I go to high-stakes bingo sometimes, where I'd just be sitting."

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Tony Santos, an Army Vietnam veteran who lives in Vero Beach, gets ready to take off in his golf cart with his buddy, Shadow, who will one day help be Santos' eyes, ears and hands once service-dog training is completed through Dogs For Life.

"It takes a full year to train these kinds of dogs. It's very, very specialized."

Former Army Sgt. Jason "Jay" Harris
veterans' program coordinator at Dogs For Life

Ferger's verdict: It's probably best to leave Shadow home on these occasions.

Down the road, Shadow will receive training on how to use a special phone — "about the size of a small shoebox," Santos said — equipped with a button Shadow can press, which will call 911 when programmed, if Santos' wife, Debbie, is not home during an emergency. Shadow will then be trained to bark when the dispatcher answers. If Debbie is home, Shadow will be trained to get her attention.

Helping veterans like Santos — and, currently, another veteran suffering from PTSD — is a big part of Dogs For Life's mission.

"Our goal is to expand our service-dog program, which is absolutely free to all veterans who need them," Ferger said.

This is accomplished through generous donations, as the costs can be steep.

"It takes a full year to train these kinds of dogs," said Harris, who is the program's coordinator. "It's very, very specialized."

Dogs For Life also conducts regular obedience classes, open to the public, which help offset costs as well.

At the newly built administrative building, Ferger conducted the first class of a six-week course on Aug. 2. At least 20 people attended, some of whom were disabled.

See DOGS page 3

DOGS from page 3

PTSD are fearful in new situations, for example. A service dog for this kind of veteran would be trained to "secure a perimeter," for example, and comfort the veteran, sometimes by pressing against his or her back.

Dogs For Life staff are fully equipped and certified to work with service dogs-to-be and all the complexities of their training, and Ferger said she and her staff keep constantly up to date on advances in the field.

In September, Ferger and trainer Paula Via will attend the Assistance Dogs International conference in Colorado, where, in years past, such famous experts as Dr. Patricia McConnell and Dr. Temple Grandon have given talks.

"The wonderful thing is, we're constantly learning," Ferger said. "What we learn, we pass on to dog owners, especially veterans. We help them, and they help us."

For more information on Dogs For Life and its mission to match veterans with service dogs, contact dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

DOGS from page 1

She pointed out a number of facts about training dogs that even seasoned dog owners might not be aware of.

"How old is your dog? Small dogs aren't fully mature until they're 2 years old, and large dogs aren't mature till 3 years old," she told the class.

"How many families has your dog been with before you? There might be any number of behaviors that got started beforehand.

"Look at the breed. Terriers are bred to kill vermin, while beagles are bred to chase rabbits. But even that may not be a complete picture — a retriever may not like the water, for example."

Ferger explained that many dog owners misuse their leashes, keeping it too tight.

"You want a slack leash most of the time," she said. "Most people seem to think keeping the leash tight is the same thing as control. It's not.

"If you need to correct a behavior, give the leash a tug, and give the dog the proper command," she said. "He will heel if you teach him how."

As a model, Ferger introduced Darel, a former bomb-detection dog with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agency.

By law, former law enforcement K9s are not allowed to become service dogs, but Darel was there, with his owner, who identified herself as L.A., to help show Ferger's students how a properly trained dog behaves in regular life.

Treats are key to good training, Ferger said. After Darel correctly heeled, sat and lay down, he received a treat after each command.

There are treats, though, and there are treats, Ferger cautioned.

"Don't give them those junky, fatty commercial ones," she said. "There are a number of good, natural and tasty ones available. Personally, I've found that dogs really love the dried beef lung treats I keep here (at the training center)."

Tone of voice is also key. Ferger demonstrated a cheery tone when praising Darel for a task well done, and a sharp tone to correct him.

"Communication is the most awesome tool you can use," she said. "If I can communicate, I can have a dog eating out of my hand."

Shadow certainly has Santos eating out of his hand, if not the other way around. Clearly, the two are "buddies."

"I watched him being born," Santos said. "He was the runt of the litter, and the only one that was all black.

"He loves people, loves kids," he said. "He plays with a wild rabbit who comes into our yard, who we named 'Thumper.'

"(Shadow) will go out and chase Thumper around this one bush, five or six times. Then they'll both drop, and lie around together for a long time."

One thing Shadow loves most is riding around with Santos in a golf cart. "It's just about his favorite thing," he said.

Santos said he was told by doctors that he has no circulation in one of his legs, and "very little pulse." As a result, he expects eventually to lose the leg.

"The doctors said to stay with the pain as long as I can stand it, and then they'll conduct the operation," he said.

"And I figure by that time, Shadow will be trained and ready."

Along with other tasks, Shadow is already learning how to brace Santos as he goes up and down stairs, and how to open a sliding door in Santos' house.

These are just a few of the tasks Dogs For Life trains dogs to do. In Santos' case, they're purely physical — for those with PTSD, they are mostly psychological.

Many veterans suffering from

See DOGS page 7

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Shelly Ferger, CEO and founder of Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, conducts the first of a six-week-long series of dog obedience classes at the brand-new administration building located at the Dog Park on 16th Avenue. In the foreground, former law-enforcement agent "L.A." waits with former bomb-detection dog Darel until the time Ferger will utilize Darel to demonstrate good training techniques.

Members of Dogs For Life who help train service dogs for veterans and others with disabilities include, from left, former Army Sgt. Jason 'Jay' Harris, trainer Paula Via, board member Toni Teresi and Shelly Ferger, Dogs For Life CEO and founder.

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

'Man's best friend' aids veterans in need

Staff photo by Mary Kemper
Tony Santos, an Army Vietnam veteran who lives in Vero Beach, gets ready to take off in his golf cart with his buddy, Shadow, who will one day help be Santos' eyes, ears and hands once service-dog training is completed through Dogs For Life.

Mary Kemper
Staff Writer
Tony Santos of Vero Beach is an Army veteran of the Korean War.
Facing losing a leg in the future due to health issues, he knows he's going to be limited in his activities in multiple ways. Enter Shadow, his 4-year-old black Labrador/Walker hound mix. With the help of Dogs For Life, Shadow is being trained to help Santos get the newspaper, make an emergency phone call and go up and down stairs, among other tasks.

To Read More Subscribe Here

Huge donation goes to veterans' council

VERO BEACH | INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Newsweekly
CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
Wednesday
August 6 2014

Dogs For Life, Inc. Celebrates

2014
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choice
WINNER

Voted Favorite Dog Park in Indian River County

2014 International Assistance Dog Week August 3-9

In honor of International Assistance Dog Week, Dogs For Life, Inc. will be holding tours of their new Assistance Dog Training Center. The Training Center is located at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, Florida and is open from 9 AM to 6 PM.

International Assistance Dog Week was created to recognize all the devoted, hardworking assistance dogs helping individuals mitigate their disability related limitations. In addition to honoring assistance dogs during their special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness about these very special and highly trained animals. This year International Assistance Dog Week is August 3-9.

We hope everyone in our area can join us to celebrate the selfless love and devotion these dogs provide. DFL will have information on how service dogs are evaluated, trained, and the laws pertaining to service dogs in public places. DFL will have information on how their program operates in and outside Vero Beach, Florida.

"Finally, our Assistance Dog Training Center is complete and we are training more service dogs than ever this year. Our Veteran Dog Training Program is moving full steam ahead and we currently have dogs in training for local Veterans," said Shelly Ferger, DFL head dog trainer. Vero Beach has a gem right here in Indian River County and we want our community to learn all about it.

Assistance Dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family. Assistance dogs include Guide Dogs, Service Dogs, Hearing Alert Dogs, Seizure Alert/Response Dogs and Medical Alert/Response Dogs.

For additional information, or to have your dog screened for training as an assistance dog, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

Dogs for Life

International Assistance Dog Week August 3-9, 2014

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center
1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida
www.dogsforlifevb.org • 567-8969

VETERAN VOICE
The Voice of Experience
Veteran Voice is a weekly newspaper for veterans, active military, their families and their friends.

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 Hosfod, Robert M. Latimer, Steve Kraus and Daniel Votrobek with his service dog, Ariel. Not pictured but in attendance were Roy Siler and Len Zanca.

VERO BEACH
Hometown News
www.HometownNewsOL.com
Vol. 11, No. 48
Friday, Aug. 1, 2014

Dog training classes scheduled

For Hometown News
NewsFP@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life has two basic obedience classes, one beginning Saturday, Sept. 2, at 9 a.m. and the second beginning Friday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m.

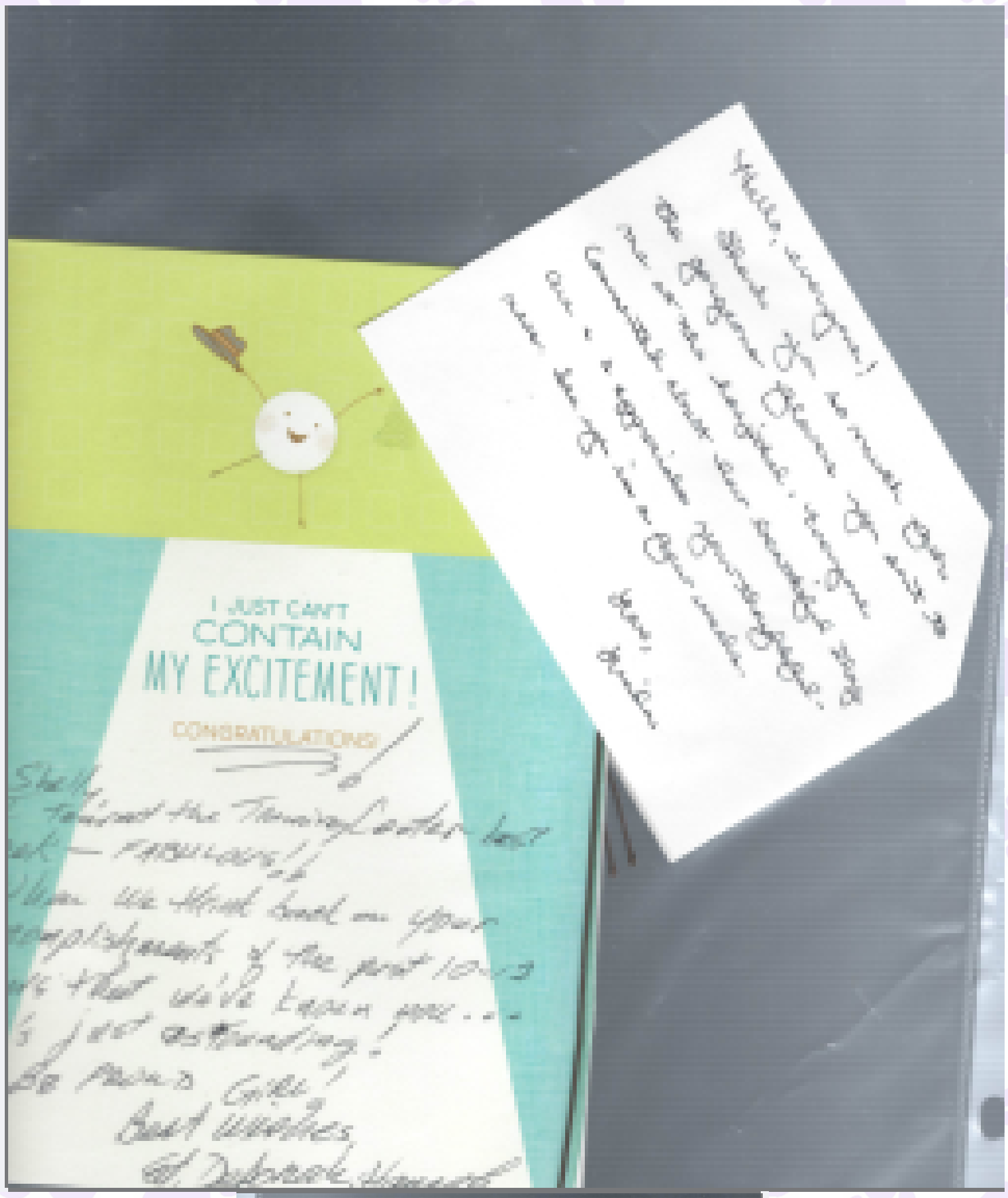
With the completion of the new air-conditioned Dogs For Life Training and Administrative Center, located at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach, DFL will re-start dog behavior/obedience classes for assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and dogs owned by the general public. The classes are one hour, last for six weeks and cost $120.

Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO of DFL, will be teaching the first series of classes with trainers Jay Harris, and Paula Via.

"Now that the Training and Administrative Center is complete, we are excited to be teaching again, from the very basics to the advanced levels, all while having fun and using positive reinforcement," said Ms. Ferger.

Class size is limited, and reservations are required.

For more information, call (772) 567-8969, email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net *or visit* www.dogsforlifevb.org.


I JUST CAN'T
CONTAIN
MY EXCITEMENT!
CONGRATULATIONS!

THANK YOU
WHOOPEE
AWWRIGHT
WOW
CONGRATS
WAHOO
IT'S A BOY
YAY

JULY

DFL Updates

Shelly Ferger

From: Constant Contact <support@constantcontact.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 26, 2014 12:56 PM
To: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
Subject: Your campaign Dogs For Life Events Schedule and Upcoming Dog Park Maintenance has been sent

DFL Schedules Group Dog Training Classes

DFL has two basic obedience classes, one beginning Saturday August 2, at 9 AM and the second beginning Friday, August 8, at 6 PM.

With the completion of the new air-conditioned DFL training and Administrative Center, located at the off-leash dog park, 1230 16th Avenue, we will re-start our dog behavior/obedience classes for assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and dogs owned by the general public. The classes are one hour, last for six weeks and cost $120 to the public, dog park members receives discounts and there are no charges for assistance dog teams.

Shelly Ferger, Founder and CEO of DFL, will be teaching the series of classes with trainers Sgt. Jay Harris, CPDT-KA, US Army, and Paula Via, CPDT-KA, ABCDT. "Now that the Training and Administrative Center is complete, we are excited to be teaching again, from the very basics to the advanced levels, all while having fun and using positive reinforcement."

Class size is limited, and reservations are required, call DFL at (772) 567-8969 for additional information.

LEMMON
from 1A

■Thursday's column about Mike Warren, an Army veteran who received a service dog from the K9s for Warriors organization in Ponte Vedra Beach, prompted Michele Falls to give a plug for the Vero Beach-based Dogs for Life.

"I think it's important for local veterans or anyone who suffers from post traumatic stress, hearing loss, anxiety, or other life-interfering disabilities to know that there is a local organization right in Vero Beach that may be able to help them," she wrote. "Their email is dogsforlife@bellsouth.net and their website is www.dogsforlifevb.org."

Russ Lemmon is a columnist for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers. This column reflects his opinion. Contact him at 772-978-2205 or russ.lemmon@scripps.com.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Dog Obedience & Behavior Classes: Six-week classes. 9 a.m. DFL Training & Administration Center, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $120. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net. www.dogsforlife.org.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

SATURDAY'S RECURRING EVENTS

Assistance Dog Training Center Tours: Dogs For Life. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Aug. 3-9. DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net; www.dogsforlifevb.org.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Private Dog Training: By appointment. Dogs For Life Inc., 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach. $50. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

NEW LISTINGS

Purple Heart Day: Honoring Purple Heart recipients. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Aug. 7. Victory Center at the Vero Mall, 6200 20th St., Suite 160, Vero Beach.

Scheduled Dog Park Maintenance

Coast to Coast Landscaping has agreed to start mowing each Friday at 9:30 AM at the north end of the park. Members are asked to shift to the southern off-leash areas through the greenway space to the east of the park (dogs are required to be on-leash in this area,) as the mowing then continues to the south, to then shift back to the north.

The new off-leash are just north of the Training Center is available for use if not being used for DFL Programs.

A second Ant Treatment will take place Tuesday, July 29 at 4 PM, and then will require full irrigation of the park. So the park will close at 4 PM next Tuesday.

Tree Trimming will occur within the next two weeks, to accommodate 7' under the pathways and busiest areas of the park.

The key pad is operational to the Training Area of the Park. A double gate entrance will be installed next week. This area is also available to members when not being used for DFL Programs.

Soon you will notice the words "compact" on the parking stoppers just west of the small dog area, please adhere to this request so that the gravel driveway remains passable. Two parking stoppers will be reserved for "visitors" just north of the handicapped parking stops, and the three stops to the west of the building will be reserved for "staff."

Please refrain from using your foot to activate the bottom water fountains, this is causing the bulbs inside to break.

Recently we have replaced the temperature gage, it's hanging on the shed just as you turn left into the gravel parking area. Please remember this time of year we need to be extra careful our dogs don't over heat.

If you suspect your dog is overheating, all dogs have access to the dog wash area. Immediately, take your dog to the dog wash and and soak them to the skin, paying special attention to their stomachs, mouth, rectum and pads of their paws.

The first-aid kit along with the bolt cutters have been moved to the outside restroom as we've had to use the shed for additional storage that will need to be locked in the future.

Thank you for helping DFL to make our Off-Leash Dog Park the Best in Vero Beach, we welcome your suggestions and input on increasing membership and with park improvements.

VERO BEACH Hometown News
www.HometownNewsOL.com
Friday, July 4, 2014
Vol. 11, No. 44

Dogs for Life administration center complete

Obedience, service training classes coming soon

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — It has been a long time coming, but a local nonprofit with a mission focused on people and their furry best friends finally has a real headquarters.

Dogs for Life Vero Beach is certified to train hearing and mobility assistance dogs, as well as service dogs for military veterans with physical and psychological needs. Dedicated trainers also provide beginning and advanced obedience classes for the public. With the new administration and training center, more pets can be trained year-round, members said.

The new building is located on the site of the nonprofit's off-leash dog park on 16th Avenue and 16th Street in Vero Beach. Previously, any training of animals and their companions would have to be done outdoors and was weather-dependent, or would take place in people's homes, said Shelly Ferger, founder and executive director of Dogs for Life.

"Now that we are here in this building, we hope more people will see that we are still around and will check us out and see what we're about," Ms. Ferger said.

Beth Stryker is a member of Dogs for Life and frequently brings her hearing assistance dog, a toy poodle named Tigger, to the group's off-leash dog park for play time with other dogs.

Not only will the new on-site building provide indoor training that will be invaluable to many people, but the

See DOGS, page 8

Dogs

From page 1

Dogs for Life members are also thrilled about finally having an indoor plumbing restroom at the park, Ms. Stryker said.

"There are a lot of good things about the training center. I think when you train dogs in a group, the dogs will watch what the other dogs are doing, and the likelihood of more of them getting it is higher. But I do know all of us who come here a lot are very excited about the bathroom," Ms. Stryker said with a chuckle.

Generous donations made by individuals in the community made the construction of the building possible, even after a period where it looked like the nonprofit was going to have to fold, Ms. Ferger said.

Membership to Dogs for Life is $365, partially tax-deductible, and includes open access to the off-leash dog park during daylight hours with a personal access code and notifications of upcoming events and classes offered by the nonprofit.

Right now there are about 100 dues paying members and 30 qualified members that earned a scholarship, Ms. Ferger said.

"Right now, the membership basically pays for the maintenance of the park, that's all. We see the dog park as our thrift shop, a place where we can get funds to keep our mission of training service dogs going," Ms. Ferger said.

Individuals interested in joining Dogs for Life can purchase a one-month membership for $65 if they want to dip their paws in water, she said.

Dogs brought to the park must be inoculated, neutered and social, according to the Dogs for Life website.

Some people in Vero Beach enjoy recreational activities such as boating, golfing or going to their children's sporting events, but others find their joy in recreational activities with their dog, Ms. Ferger said.

"The dogs are their recreation and that's why they are willing to pay for membership to the dog park," she said.

Members know that dog owners are expected to be aware of their animal at all times, cleaning up after them and checking to make sure they play appropriately, Ms. Ferger said.

If a pup's obedience and interaction with others isn't the greatest, perhaps enrolling in a Dogs for Life obedience class could help, she said.

The basic class includes instruction on teaching commands such as: sit, stay, come, heel and down, and further instruction on how to have a dog become a certified American Kennel Club "good citizen," Ms. Ferger said.

"All of the dogs we train, not just the service dogs, all of the dogs we train, we would like to see become good citizens," she said.

The obedience class schedule is not yet available, but should be out within days of the Dogs for Life center soft opening on July 7.

With the new building, the Dogs for Life board of directors have also decided to add staff for the office and for the training side.

"It's exciting for me personally because I have been training dogs in Vero Beach for more than 30 years, but it had taken a backseat with Dogs for Life. Recently, it had been all about campaigns, raising money for us to keep going," Ms. Ferger said.

"I am really grateful to the board for hiring some help so I can go back to what I do best, and that's training dogs," Ms. Ferger said.

The new training and administration center of Dogs for Life Vero Beach is at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach, which is the same address as the off-leash dog park. For more information about Dogs for Life Vero Beach, call (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

The Voice of Experience
VETERAN VOICE
VOL. 2/ISSUE 39
35 cents
THURSDAY, JULY 31, 2014

Dogs For Life will offer tours, classes to public

FOR VETERAN VOICE

In honor of International Assistance Dog Week, Dogs For Life, Inc., Vero Beach, will hold tours of its new Assistance Dog Training Center, located at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Ave. and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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

In addition to honoring assistance dogs during their special week, one of the goals is to raise awareness about these very special and highly trained animals. This year International Assistance Dog Week is Aug. 3-9.

DFL hopes everyone in the area can help celebrate the selfless love and devotion these dogs provide.

DFL will have information on how service dogs are evaluated, trained, and the laws pertaining to service dogs in public places. Additionally, information will be given on how the program operates in and outside of Vero Beach.

"Finally, our Assistance Dog Training Center is complete, and we are training more service dogs than ever this year," said Shelly Ferger, DFL founder, CEO and head trainer.

"Our Veteran Dog Training Program is moving full steam ahead, and we currently have three dogs in training for local veterans," Ferger said. "Vero Beach has a gem right here in Indian River County, and we want our community to learn all about it."

Assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with debilitating physical and mental disabilities, such as PTSD, by serving as their devoted companion, helper, aide, best friend and close member of their family. Assistance dogs include guide dogs, service dogs, hearing alert dogs, seizure alert/response dogs and medical alert/response dogs.

Source: Wikimedia Commons

DFL will also offer two basic obedience classes, one beginning Saturday, Aug. 2, at 9 a.m., and the second beginning Friday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m.

For additional information, or to have your dog screened for training as an assistance dog, contact Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

DFL will also offer two basic obedience classes, one beginning Saturday, Aug. 2, at 9 a.m., and the second beginning Friday, Aug. 8, at 6 p.m.

DFL will re-start its dog behavior/obedience classes for assistance dogs, pet-assisted therapy dogs and dogs owned by the general public. The classes are one hour, last for six weeks, and cost $120.

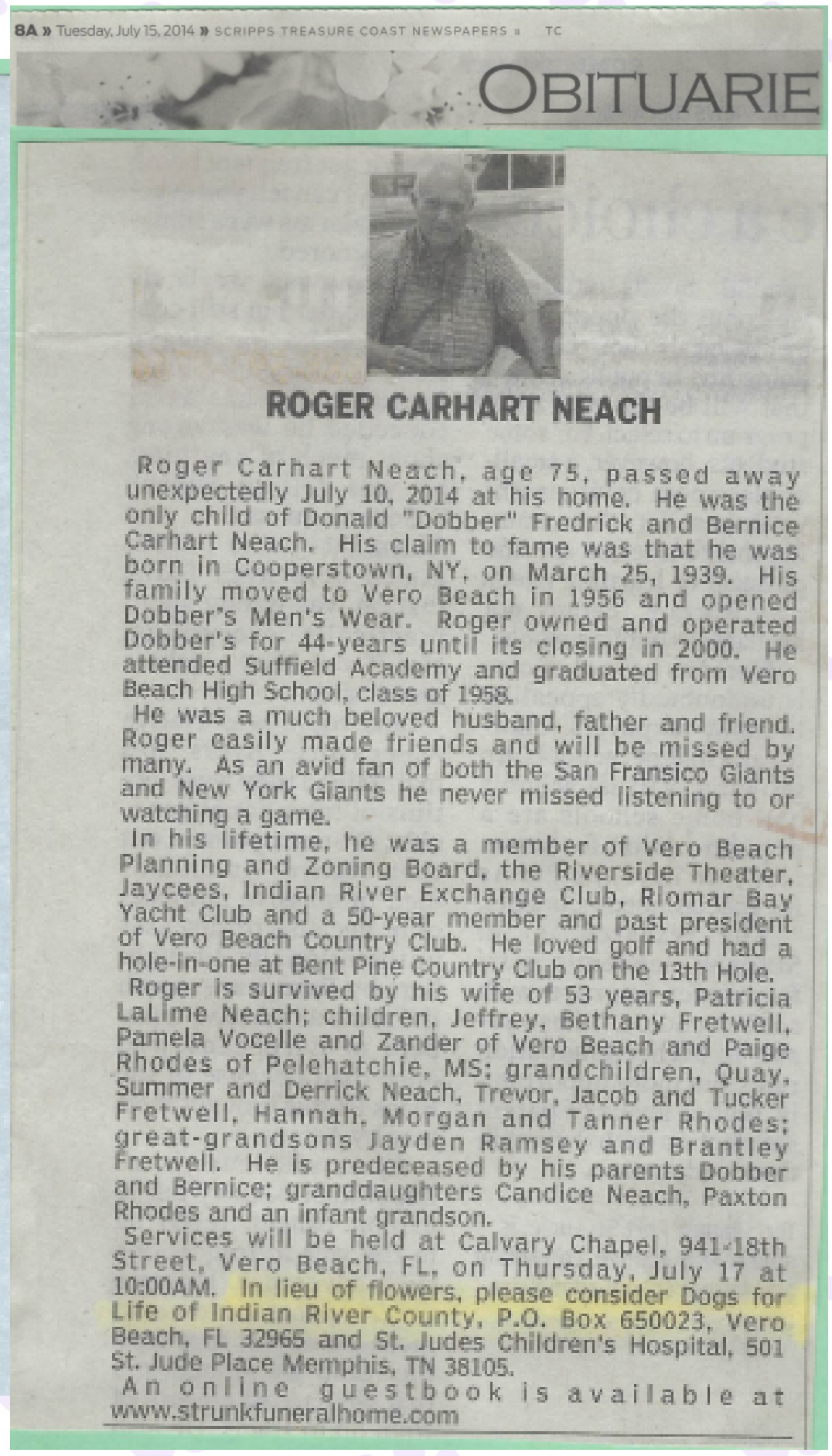
Ferger will teach the first series of classes, along with accredited trainers Sgt. Jay Harris, U.S. Army, and Paula Via.

"Now that the Training and Administrative Center is complete, we are excited to be teaching again, from the very basics to the advanced levels, all while having fun and using positive reinforcement," Ferger said.

Class size is limited, and reservations are required, call DFL at (772) 567-8969 for additional information, or email at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

DFL's website can be viewed at www.dogsforlifevb.org.

In Memoriam



8A » Tuesday, July 15, 2014 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » TC

OBITUARIE

ROGER CARHART NEACH

Roger Carhart Neach, age 75, passed away unexpectedly July 10, 2014 at his home. He was the only child of Donald "Dobber" Fredrick and Bernice Carhart Neach. His claim to fame was that he was born in Cooperstown, NY, on March 25, 1939. His family moved to Vero Beach in 1956 and opened Dobber's Men's Wear. Roger owned and operated Dobber's for 44-years until its closing in 2000. He attended Suffield Academy and graduated from Vero Beach High School, class of 1958.

He was a much beloved husband, father and friend. Roger easily made friends and will be missed by many. As an avid fan of both the San Fransico Giants and New York Giants he never missed listening to or watching a game.

In his lifetime, he was a member of Vero Beach Planning and Zoning Board, the Riverside Theater, Jaycees, Indian River Exchange Club, Riomar Bay Yacht Club and a 50-year member and past president of Vero Beach Country Club. He loved golf and had a hole-in-one at Bent Pine Country Club on the 13th Hole.

Roger is survived by his wife of 53 years, Patricia LaLime Neach; children, Jeffrey, Bethany Fretwell, Pamela Vocelle and Zander of Vero Beach and Paige Rhodes of Pelehatchie, MS; grandchildren, Quay, Summer and Derrick Neach, Trevor, Jacob and Tucker Fretwell, Hannah, Morgan and Tanner Rhodes; great-grandsons Jayden Ramsey and Brantley Fretwell. He is predeceased by his parents Dobber and Bernice; granddaughters Candice Neach, Paxton Rhodes and an infant grandson.

Services will be held at Calvary Chapel, 941-18th Street, Vero Beach, FL, on Thursday, July 17 at 10:00AM. In lieu of flowers, please consider Dogs for Life of Indian River County, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965 and St. Judes Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place Memphis, TN 38105.

An online guestbook is available at www.strunkfuneralhome.com

JUNE

Certificate of Occupancy

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

Certificate of Occupancy Issued by Indian River County!

AND

DFL Off-Leash Dog Park Voted Treasure Coast Reader's Choice Award WINNER!!!

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center Receives Certificate of Occupancy!

Because of the generous support of our Donors, Project Manager Anthony Donadio, Contractors Bill Bryant & Associates and the DFL Board of Directors.

DFL received our Certificate of Occupancy yesterday for our Assistance Dog Training & Administration Center. This amazing organization is located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach and very soon will be our headquarters.

We have been slowly moving office supplies and training equipment into the Center, and expect to be operational within the next two weeks.

Meanwhile.. The Restrooms accessible from the dog park will be open as of TODAY! This area is accessible from the gate directly east of the Center.

The off-leash area just to the north of the Center will remain closed until we are able to cover the existing drains with custom (dog paw friendly) covers, currently being fabricated.

The gate at the paved parking area will remain closed while contractors finish up the "punch list" and we finish moving in. Once we become open to the public, and ready for business, the gate will be removed completely.

The access from the parking lot to the training area is not quite operational, but should be very soon.

Once the Center is open, members and the public will enter at the paved parking, there will be a one-way drive, parking stops will be repositioned to accommodate additional parking, and the exit will be on the north end of the park.

We hope you are as excited as we are!!

We actually have our first assistance dog training session scheduled with a local Veteran at the Center THIS FRIDAY!!

A Grand Opening for Donors and the Public will be held at a later date, once we have the Center fully operational... Stay tuned.

We are currently planning a full range of programs for our supporters and the public. From basic dog behavior and obedience training to full public access training for assistance dogs. We are especially proud to be in a position to expand our relationship with the military community, increasing the number of dogs trained for the men and women who have and are protecting our freedom.

DFL will increase our Pet-Assisted Therapy Program, and the number of people and dogs in the dog park, as well as our community out reach educational programs, such as the 4-H Dog Masters Club and many others.

Thank you for your continued patience as we make this transition, and give yourselves a pat on the back, and your dog a pat on the head!

Appreciatively,
Shelly Ferger

News Articles

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

By Tania Ortega-Cowan

SOFT OPENING

I often drive by the Dogs for Life's Off-Leash Dog Park and have watched their new DFL Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center go up in no time! Founder Shelly Ferger says, "Whew!! DFL is 95-percent in its new spacious training and administrative center. Next week the telephones and computers will begin making the transfer from the home/office, and we'll be moving the remaining office and warehouse items."

As of July 7, the center will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. They have re-routed the parking area and some other areas so be sure to stop by and check it out. Stay tuned for news on the big official Grand Opening this Fall. Visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Dogs for Life's Shelly Ferger and Kathi Schumann with Daniel Votrobek and his service dog Ariel.

PEOPLE

Dogs for Life opens training facility for service dogs

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

It's been a long journey from idea to reality but Dogs for Life supporters never gave up, and this month will open the doors to a whole world of opportunities for veterans and others in need of service dogs with its new Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center.

Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and executive director, and her dedicated team have been training service, pet-assisted therapy and companion dogs since 2002. In 2010 DFL became accredited by Assistance Dogs International as one of only four in Florida sanctioned by the Veterans Association to certify service dogs for veterans.

All service dogs are trained at no cost to their owners, thanks to private donations, local grants and memberships in the group's Off-Leash Dog Park.

"We are using the dog park as the equivalent of a thrift shop as a source of income for us," explains Ferger.

In addition to the new Training Center, the 4.5-acre site includes spaces for both outdoor and agility training, separate areas for small and large dogs and a memorial garden. Future plans call for outdoor park lighting in the evening.

The new building will house the DFL administrative offices, restrooms with outdoor access for Dog Park members, and most importantly a place for indoor training. It also offers an opportunity to increase services open to the public, such as dog behavior and obedience training, and outreach programs to the 4-H Dog Masters Club and others.

"Before, we could never stay on a training schedule because everything was outside. In Florida it's never cool enough unless you're getting out here at 7:30 in the morning which people don't want to do," says Ferger. "So now that we've got the indoor training center, we can train year round and stay on a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

PEOPLE

schedule. Now we're going to be able to have individual classes and we can have them at night, without the mosquitos."

Designed by architect Tony Donadio and constructed by Bill Bryant & Associates, the new facility affords a variety of indoor training scenarios.

"In the past we could only work in the home of the people who owned the dog to do the task training, because we had to have a bed and alarm clocks, telephones, fire alarms and that sort of thing," explains Ferger. "This building allows us to simulate the in-home environment, so we can do the work here. And it also allows us to train dogs from outside of Vero Beach."

DFL's Assistance Dog Training, which aids owners dealing with hearing and mobility issues, was the perfect foundation for the newer Service Dogs for Veterans Training program.

As any dog lover can attest, tensions can be eased by just the thump of a tail from a furry friend. For veterans returning home from the horrors of war a service dog can bring about an emotional stability that is far more effective then drugs. DFL can train dogs in 14 tasks beneficial to veterans suffering from PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

She said one frequently requested task is called "watch my back," where the dog is placed behind the person.

"It's so they can sit comfortably in an environment of people where they're not so concerned that someone is going to come up behind them and assault them or something of that sort."

Another coping mechanism aid is crowd control, where the dog is trained to go out to the end of the leash and create a circular safety barrier.

"Not in an aggressive way; these dogs are not aggressive," stresses Ferger, noting the goal is increased personal space. "They get overwhelmed with hypervigilance, stress, fear; they're on alert all the time."

They also train dogs to wake a person from a nightmare by jumping on the bed and licking their face.

"And from what we hear, if you're woke-up by a dog licking your face you're a lot less combative than when a person is waking you up."

Others include: "popping a corner" to look before a person enters a doorway; searching a home before entry; barking at a hand signal; providing tactile stimulation to disrupt emotional overload; "breaking the spell" of a combat trauma trance; "finding the car" when owners need to exit a building quickly; calling 911 or a suicide hotline on K-9 emergency phones; carrying backpacks of supplies; providing deep pressure for calming effects; reducing hypervigilance; and serving as a security and loneliness "combat buddy."

"All our training is positive reinforcement; they have to want to do it," she says. "When they want to do it that bond is unbreakable."

Although the VA will not yet reimburse veterans for PTSD service dogs, most of the DFL dogs are cross-trained so Ferger says, "If it's a hearing or mobility dog trained for PTSD as a secondary condition then they can get their benefits from the VA."

The group expects an influx of veterans needing service dogs, and wants to obtain grants to hire veterans as trainers.

"Our first hired veteran and dog trainer, Jason Harris, is actively attending regular veterans' group meetings and events to engage and recruit additional veterans to assist as future Dogs for Life trainers. This effort will help the reintegration of veterans into our community and help Dogs for Life pre-train service dogs at the same time."

Unlike most service dog training facilities, which breed, pre-train and sell their dogs, DFL generally either trains a dog people already have, or assists them in finding one at shelters.

"We are looking for foster homes; a lot of people are not physically capable of training their own dogs. Dogs could be dropped off during the daytime for training, and stay in the foster home nights and weekends."

DFL also has a Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog program, which trains and certifies volunteers to take their own dogs to senior centers and children's facilities.

"We currently have 13 facilities we serve at least once a week; some of them are twice a week," says Ferger, noting the therapeutic value of a dog's unconditional love.

"Now that we have this building it's going to be all about veterans and service dogs. Our focus is on what we can do to train more service dogs, and we have to train more trainers."

One of their biggest hurdles has been that the public does not fully realize all that Dogs for Life offers.

"We have a resource in this community that is second to none. I want people to know that this is like a little gem," stresses Ferger. "We're so much more than just a dog park, but we can't make it happen without the money. We need the community to get behind this; to support Dogs for Life so that we can support our veterans and others with disabilities." ■

Treasure Coast Reader's Choice Awards

WINNERS EDITION

Treasure Coast Newspapers TCPALM.COM Read. Play. Share.

2014 treasure coast choice awards

Congratulations to all WINNERS and FAVORITES!

ENTERTAINMENT

INDIAN RIVER

Beach
- South Beach
- Jaycee Beach

Car Show
- Wheels Across the Pond
- Classic

Dog Park
- Dogs For Life
- Sebastian Bark Park

Eco Tours
- Stumpknocker Tours
- Environmental Learning Center

Fishing Spot
- Sebastian Inlet State Park
- Blue Cypress
- Indian River

Golf Courses
- Sandridge Golf Club
- Bent Pine Golf Club

Gun Range
- Indian River Public Shooting Range
- Indian River Sportsman

Local Event
- Art Under the Oaks
- Downtown Friday

Local Park
- Riverside Park, Vero Beach
- Riverview Park, Sebastian

Local Weekend Getaway
- Vero Beach Hotel & Spa
- Disney's Vero Beach Resort
- The Driftwood Resort

Performing Arts Venue
- Riverside Theatre
- Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center

Place for Child's Birthday
- Skate Factory
- Christi's Fitness

River Cruises
- Sebastian River Queen
- Capt Hiram's River Cruise

Special Events/Festivals
- Art Under the Oaks
- Hibiscus Festival

Tourist Attraction
- McKee Botanical Garden
- Disney Vero Beach Resort
- The Driftwood Resort

Travel Agency
- AAA
- Treasure Coast Travel

Indian River County · Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday · June 16, 2014

Luminaries

ON SCENE WITH ...

DOGS FOR LIFE

Dogs For Life hosted its inaugural "Treasure Hunt & Car Rally," raising more than $10,000 to go towards the organization's assistance dog training programs. First place went to Charlie Wilson, second went to Conrad Horn and third went to Sharon Shelton.

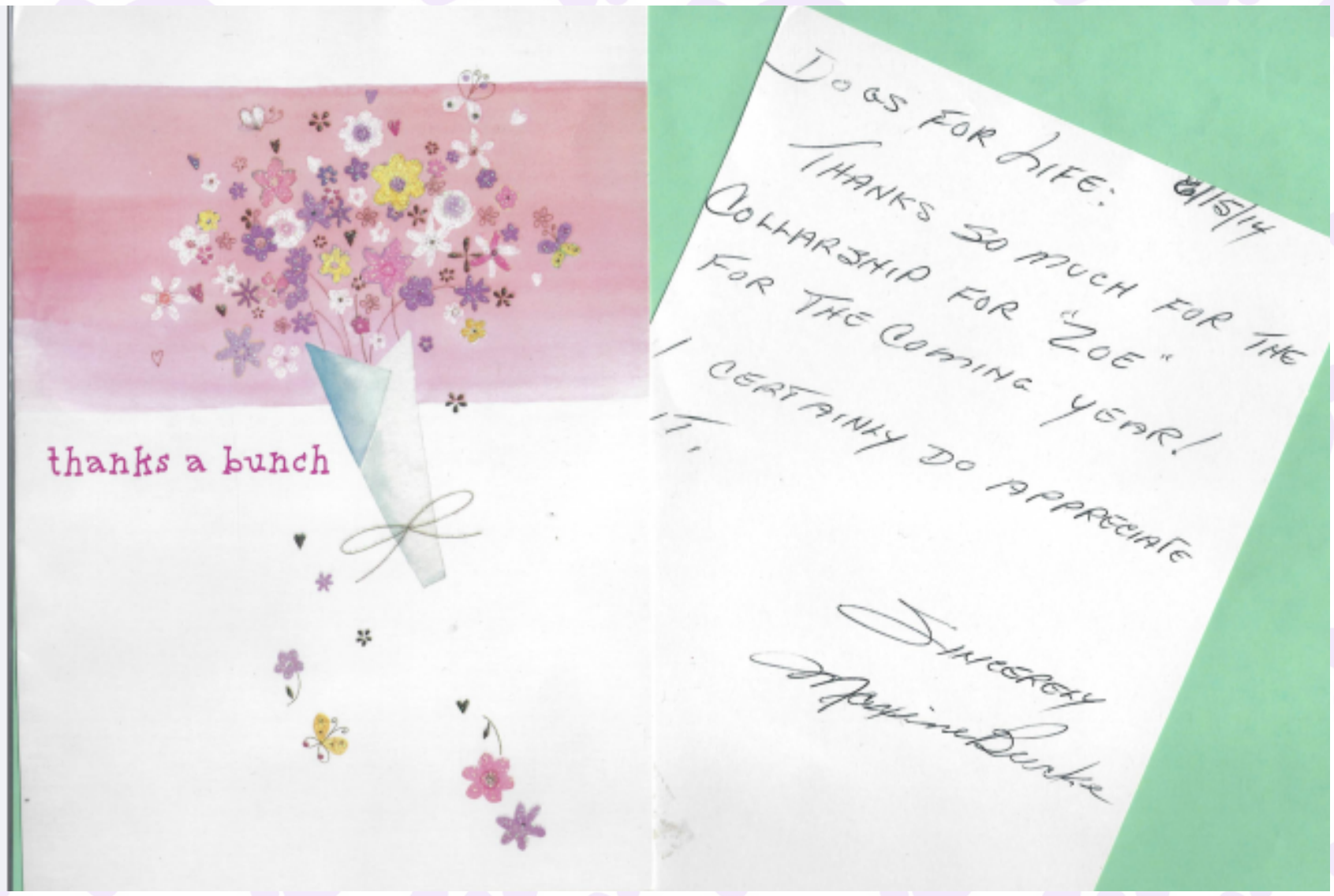
Shelly Ferger with Kathi Schuman

Eleanor Bengyajk and family

Debbie Burton with Chris Bryant

Susan Horn and Page Franzel

Sgt. Patrick White with K9 demo



BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

By Tania Ortega-Cowan

MORE THAN A DOG PARK

We heard from **Shelly Ferger** from **Dogs for Life (DFL)** over the Memorial Day weekend. Her group is constantly working to improve the quality of life for our men and women who serve in the military through training hearing and service dogs. In fact, DFL is currently training a service dog for a veteran of the Korean War, a veteran of the Afghanistan War and has just re-certified a service dog for a veteran who returned from the war in Iraq. Visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Memorial Day

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

Remembers our Fallen Heroes this Memorial Day.

We also honor DFL's heroes, our donors, board of directors, volunteers and staff who are improving the quality of life for the United States Military men and women through training hearing and service dogs.

DFL Veteran Dog Program Update

Because of your generosity, DFL is currently training a Service Dog for a Veteran of the Korean war, a Service/Hearing Dog for a Veteran of the Afghanistan War, and have just re-certified Hearing/Service dog for Veteran who returned from the war in Iraq. And, we have service dog in training for a retired Sheriff's Deputy.

There are two local Veterans who are in the application stages who need our help to train dogs, and there are sure to be many more to follow.

And, this is before our Training Center even opens!

These teams join two additional dogs in training with their owners, one as a Hearing Dog and one as a Service Dog.

DFL also supports 16 Dogs currently enrolled in our Program, and over 100 dogs trained since 2002.

Because of YOU, DFL does not charge our teams one cent for training their dogs. And, all service dog teams revive FREE membership to our off-leash dog park.

Each team can take 6 months to 1 year to train, and our relationships can last up to 10 years with each team, and when their dog passes, that person goes to the top of our list for a new placement.

DFL is honored to be a part of the Veteran Dog training movement, We are honored to serve our military and their families, and we hope you are too!

Our first hired Veteran and dog trainer, Jason Harris is actively attending regular Veteran Group meetings and events to engage and recruit additional Veterans to assist as future DFL Trainers.

This effort to help the reintegration of Veterans into our community and help DFL pre-train service dogs at the same time.

So, as we reflect on our fallen heroes this Memorial Day, let's remember our Veterans who although may have come home scared protecting our freedom. Are mending with the use of a dog, who has been trained to serve them, while naturally providing unconditional love.

Now that' something you can help DFL support!

Thank you,
Shelly Ferger

Park Update

DFL

Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center

And Dog Park Update

The Dogs For Life Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center is almost complete. Construction has stayed on schedule, the restrooms are operational, and we should have our Certificate of Occupancy next week.

We are working now to furnish the building with what we will need to "open the doors" to the public. The DFL Board of Directors have worked hard to find sponsors to purchase appliances, desks, chairs, telephones and computers to name a few.

Although we are still in campaign mode to help with the costs of these needed items, we are moving forward and hope to open within a month.

Until the Center opens to the public, the gate to the paved parking area will remain locked, but parking will be available for small dog overflow parking in the paved area.

The future plan is that the property will have a one-way entrance & exit. Entering at the main paved parking area to the south and then exiting at the gravel driveway to the north.

We ask our members to consider parking directly in front of the building that will be needed for the public to drop in for information on our programs and to join the park. So we want to make sure there is always a space or two available in front of the building.

There will also be two full time employees who will need to park across from the building. Feel free to use the two handicapped parking spaces if you qualify.

The new fenced area just to the north of the training center, will be made available for use once the drain covers are replaced with something smaller that paws will not fall through.

As soon as the C.O. is issued from IR County the bathroom entrance on the north side of the Center will be accessable to members and will remain open 24/7.

We hope you are as excited as we are, to see this important addition to our community.

DFL is only one of four organizations in the State of Florida that is qualified to certify Assistance Dogs under government and international travel, so our assistance dog training program is on the verge a a BIG BOOM!!.

DFL also has a state of the art off leash dog park program that will continue to be modeled throughout this country. And, now that the park is stabalized, we expect memberships to grow as well.

Opening this Center is sure to bring a renewed interest, energy and support for our non-profit organization and we look forward to sharing the news with you.

If you would like additional information on volunteering for DFL, please refer to the newsletter link below, copy the Volunteer Application and forward to us either dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, visit www.dogsforlifevb.org, or contact us directly at the DFL Office (772) 567-8969.

MAY

Volunteers

Your Aging & Disability Resource Center
Area Agency on Aging
Palm Beach / Treasure Coast, Inc.

Proudly Presents the 23rd Annual

PRIME TIME AWARDS

BREAKFAST

~Celebrating Senior Volunteers ~

~Celebrating Senior Volunteers ~

May 22, 2014
Palm Beach Gardens Marriott

Thank you to Jude Carole

Humana.
Hospitality Sponsor

Your Aging & Disability Resource Center
Area Agency on Aging
Palm Beach / Treasure Coast, Inc.

Celebrates

Jude Carole

for your volunteerism and dedication
to those you serve throughout your community.

In witness thereof, this certificate has been issued by the
Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc., at the
Prime Time Awards Breakfast on this 22nd day of May 2014.

Jaime Estremera-Fitzgerald, Chief Executive Officer

Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your email, named Copy of Volunteers Needed for Mailing Sat & Mon, was sent on 05/05/2014 around 9:56 AM EDT.

Below is a copy of the HTML version your contacts received. Don't forget, you can easily monitor the effectiveness of your email with real-time metrics and stats. Log in to your Constant Contact account and visit the **Reports** area under the Emails tab.

Subject: A few large dogs needed this Thurs for orientation

Dogs For Life

Large Dog Volunteers Needed
Thursday 3:00
For Orientation at the
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park

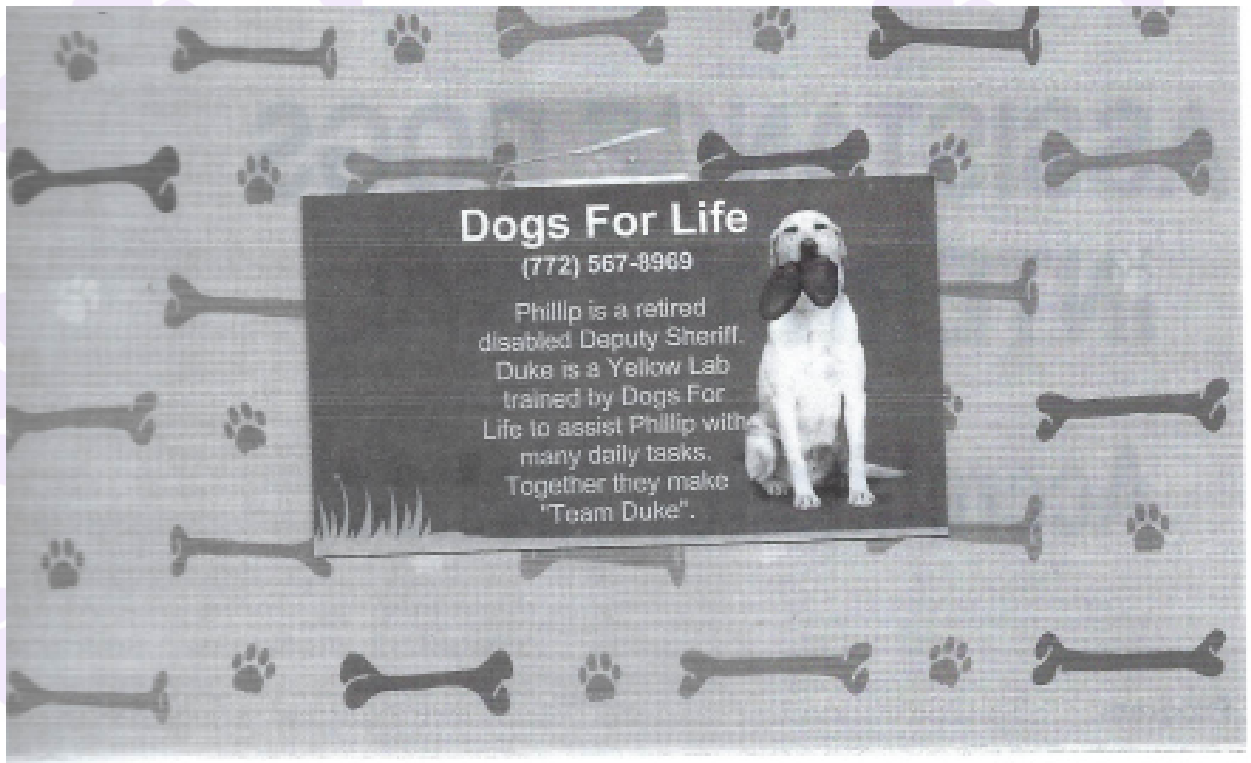
Please check your Large Dog's social calendar and let me know if they are available to volunteer this Thursday, May 8 at 3 PM to meet a new dog park member.

New member, 1 year old Australian Cattle Dog.

Thank you very much.

Shelly

Vietnam Vets Meeting



Shelly —

What a treat!

JUST WANT to thank you and DFL Team for everything, looking forward To Tuesday (PACT) Team Duke proud To represent Dogs for Life! Phillip & Duke

May 2014

VIETNAM VETERANS CHAPTER #1038
MEETING MINUTES May 14, 2014, 2014

Meeting of May 14, 2014 called to order at 18:00 by President Len Zanca, followed by a prayer by Butch Teske and Pledge to Allegiance recited by all.

All officers were present. 15 members and 2 guests were in attendance.

Minutes of April 9, 2014 were emailed to all members. A motion was made by Pete Sayles and seconded by Rick Brower. Approved.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Andrew Coull read the report and a copy placed on file for audit.

Membership: Pete Sayles reported 96 active members, 6 in arrears and 11 associates. Chapter has 50 life members. Pete Sayles made motion to present Sandra Kane with an associate membership as she donates many hours to the store. Butch Teske seconded, motion passed.

Old Business:
Scholarships – Butch Teske thanked Ed Britt and Mickey Warburton on a fine job presenting scholarships. Craig Waskow will present the last scholarship. A note was received from Mckenna Bachman from Sebastian High School thanking the Chapter. Ed Britt mentioned a scrapbook should be started.
Upward American Veterans – Ed Britt reported things were slow, related how a veteran had rent paid and was sent to the outreach program for food and they hired him, now self supporting. This is a small example of how veterans are helping veterans. Hap Allston also added that the wife of a hospitalized veteran received a donated car.
Color Guard – Len Zanca said volunteers are needed. Mike Bodnar said the color guard was represented at the Republican Ladies Lincoln Day and the Air Show. Upcoming events are Earls -May 24th and Memorial Island – May 26th.

Upcoming events:
Car Show – Craig Waskow said the car show is June 15th, flyers were mailed out, Velde Ford will be sponsoring with other businesses donating prizes. Roy Silor, Hap Allston, Len Zanca and Mike Bodnar volunteered to help. Need to be there by 8AM.
Memorial Day – John Matthews discussed the program at Memorial Island. Will be the 50th anniversary of Memorial Island. Color Guard should be there at 8:15AM.
Pete Sayles spoke regarding Earl's Fest on May 24th
July 4th – Len Zanca discussed the July 4th parade in Sebastian. Would like a good showing from the Chapter. Bring grandkids, they can ride or walk, trying to get Mike's towing for ride.
Ideas - President Len Zanca discussed ideas that are being worked on at the present time. A discussion was held on many ideas including a golf tournament, picnic, Salute to Veterans, etc. A sample of a tee shirt was brought in
Bowling - Sandra Kane asked if the Chapter would like her to set up bowling as she did previously, all agreed.
Volunteers - Pete Sayles said the store needed more volunteers.
Reunion - John Matthews mentioned there is a reunion for the 1st infantry division at Memorial Island and thought it would be a nice gesture for members to welcome them. June 21st at 9AM.

Jay Harris, who works for Dogs for Life, spoke on how they would like to be a resource, the training center to be opened up in the fall.

Butch Teske moved to close the meeting and Ed Britt seconded. Meeting adjourned at 19:10 hours.

Submitted,
Pat Cleary – Acting Secretary

APRIL

Treasure Hunt Car Rally

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

Invites You to Attend the After Party and Bid on These FABULOUS Auction Items at the Treasure Hunt Car Rally this Saturday!

Private Tours of Schumann Car Collection
Private Race Car Rides with Kathi Schumannn
DFL Dog Park Memberships
Ocean Grill Gift Certificates
Bobby's Gift Certificates
Publix Gift Certificates
Fresh Market Gift Certificates
Grander Mountain Gift Certificates
Cotton Mouth Armory Gift Certificates
Airboat Ride & Tour with Florida Cracker Airboats
LEGENDS Autographed Football
Sundial Window Tinting
Caribbean Court Resort 1 night stay
Walmart Gift Certificates
Como Oil Company Gift Certificates
Several Mary Frances Designer Purses

There is Still Time to Register!

Dogs For Life

Car Number:

Who is Dogs For Life?

DFL is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning an off-leash dog park.

DFL Presents with Kathi Schumann

Start Line:
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Avenue

Finish Line:
Vero Beach Heritage Center
2130 14th Avenue

Treasure Hunt & Car Rally

April 26, 2014 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mandatory Driver & Navigator Meeting 9 a.m.
$250 Entry Fee *(Up to 4 people in one vehicle)*

1st Place: $5,000 | **2nd Place: $2,500** | **3rd Place: $1,500**

For Information or to Register Call (772) 567-8969
This is NOT a race, but a Fun Treasure Hunt through Indian River County!

Pre-Registration Form

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Car Make / Model / Color _____ $250 Entry Fee (Up to 4 people in one vehicle)

Please clip and mail your $250 Registration Fee to:
Dogs For Life, Inc. • P.O. Box 650823 • Vero Beach, FL 32965
($200 of your donation is fully tax deductible under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. Our tax ID number is #31-1800397 and, Florida Department of Consumer Registration number is #CH15837.)

Dogs For Life

Who is Dogs For Life?

DFL is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning an off-leash dog park.

DFL presents with Kathi Schumann

Treasure Hunt & Car Rally

Finish Line Party, Silent Auction, Live Music & Much More

1st Place: $5,000 | **2nd Place: $2,500** | **3rd Place $1,500**

April 26, 2014
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mandatory Driver & Navigator Meeting 9 a.m.

DFL presents with Kathi Schumann

Dogs For Life

Who is Dogs For Life?
DFL is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning an off-leash dog park.

Treasure Hunt & Car Rally

Finish Line Party, Silent Auction, Live Music & Much More

1st Place: $5,000 | 2nd Place: $2,500 | 3rd Place $1,500

April 26, 2014 • 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Mandatory Driver & Navigator Meeting 9 a.m.

For Information or to Register Call (772) 567-8969

Finish Line Party open to the public for $65/person

$250 Entry Fee (Up to 4 people in one vehicle)

Start Line: DFL Off-Leash Dog Park • 1230 16th Avenue

Finish Line Party: Vero Beach Heritage Center • 2130 14th Avenue

This is NOT a race, but a Fun Treasure Hunt through Indian River County!

($200 of your donation is fully tax deductible under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code. Our tax ID number is #31-1800397 and, Florida Department of Consumer Registration number is #CH15837.)

Arts MATTER

Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

COMMUNITY EVENTS

■ **Dogs for Life** is sponsoring a Treasure Hunt Car Rally on Saturday, April 26th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A driver and navigator meeting will be held at 9 a.m. at the DFL Dog Training Campus at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Participants will be given a treasure map to follow throughout Indian River County to compete for cash awards. Drivers will finish at the Heritage Center for a finish line party from 11 a.m to 3 p.m. and the public is invited to the party that includes a lunch catered by Osceola Bistro, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, entertainment and demonstrations by DFL Assistance Dogs and the I.R.C. Sheriff's K-9 Units. The entrance fee for cars and drivers is $250 for up to four people and includes lunch. Tickets for the public are $65. For more information or to register, contact Dogs for Life at (772) 567-8969, via email at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, or register on-line at www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Indian River County · Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday · April 21, 2014

Luminaries

Start Your Engines for Dogs for Life!

By Tania Ortega-Cowan
t.ortegacowan@tcpalm.com

CAR ENTHUSIAST, PHILANTHROPIST AND Dogs for Life board member Kathi G. Schumann is sponsoring a Treasure Hunt Car Rally from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on April 26 to benefit Dogs For Life, Inc.

This is not a race and any kind of car is welcome in the Rally. Participants will follow a treasure map, stopping at various checkpoints such as the Environmental Learning Center, Disney Resort on A-1-A, Mel Fisher's Museum in Sebastian, Riverside Theatre and McKee Botanical Garden. Drivers will finish at the Heritage Center on 14th Avenue in downtown Vero Beach ,where they will enjoy a finish line party, prizes and lunch catered by the Osceola Bistro.

Dogs For Life, Inc. is devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, pet therapy dogs, and owning and operating an off-leash dog park. DFL 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.

Veteran James Taylor says of having his beloved service dog Pia Pia, "This has changed my life! I was homebound, and we can go out now because of her. Pia Pia is trained specifically to help me in certain situations, and will even call 911 if that is what I need."

The starting line will be at the DFL Dog Training Campus which is located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

First prize is $5,000, second prize is $2,500 and third prize is $1,500. There will also be a 50/50 raffle, a fun silent auction and demonstrations by DFL Assistance Dogs and other organizations. Other participating agencies include the US Navy SEALs and the Veteran's Council of Indian River County.

The entrance fee is $250 per car for up to five people per car and includes lunch. For those who only want to join the lunch, the charge is $120 for up to five people in a car.

To register for the Treasure Hunt Car Rally to benefit Dogs for Life, call (772) 567-8969, email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.com or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Cover photos by Tania Ortega-Cowan: *Dogs For Life Founder Shelly Ferger and Si, James Taylor with Pia Pia, and board members Linda Liss, Page Franzel and Kathi G. Schumann have seen to every detail of the April 26 Treasure Hunt Car Rally to benefit Dogs For Life.*

Cause for Paws

Cause for Paws fundraiser aids Vero Humane Society

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

Animal lovers united at the Moorings Clubhouse last Monday evening, eager to take part in the 30th annual Cause for Paws fundraiser to benefit the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County. Arriving guests were greeted by tail-wagging shelter ambassadors, each hoping to sniff out that special someone willing to adopt them into a loving home.

"We both want Rusty," said Julie Summers, cupping the sweet face of a little terrier-mix. "Yes we do!" agreed Page Franzel.

Rusty and the other six dogs and two cats brought to the event represented a miniscule fraction of the 7,000 animals that make their way to the shelter each year – surrendered, abandoned, abused, hoarded – the causes are as endless as the variety and health of the animals; none of which are ever turned away.

"I got the dog of a lifetime last year," said Leslie Cameron, who with husband Nick adopted one of last year's 4-footed greeters. "We adopted this dog that has now become our best friend; she goes everywhere with us. She's darling; she's the cutest thing in the whole world."

In addition to protection and adoption, the Humane Society shelter, now in its 61st year, offers an on-site Wellness Clinic, training and educational programs, and numerous other services.

"The shelter and the staff are so extraordinary," said Windsor resident Maria Whittle, a Humane Society board member with two adopted dogs.

"The amount of care they give to every animal that comes in is exceptional. It's an extraordinary place and it's a very happy place.

Right: Shelly Farper, Maria Whittle and Leslie McGuirk.

Left: Janet Baines, Marsha Sherry and Jean Ueltschi.

"The animals are very well cared for."

Cause for Paws has been known for years as the best auction in town, and this year was no exception. During the cocktail hour, the sold-out crowd viewed several hundred silent auction items strategically placed around the room.

"There were more than 100 volunteers who helped make the whole thing happen," said Sheila Marshall, event co-chair with Bonnie Spitzmiller. "We have great volunteers; they turn out to do virtually everything. We're so pleased with the whole event. The people and the club have been terrific and the supporters and donors are so generous and thoughtful."

Individual BidPal devices made making and monitoring their favored items a breeze even during dinner, a delicious buffet featuring pasta stations, carving stations with beef filet and salmon en croute, and delectable desserts.

A live auction after the dinner featured gorgeous jewelry, fabulous trips, a street-legal golf cart, and a dinner for ten prepared by the Humane Society Management, but also a call for support toward a spay/neuter program for pets in low-income households who could not otherwise afford the procedure.

Commenting on the sheer volume of animals needing to be spayed or neutered, Marshall said, "If we had $50,000 it would barely make a dent. There are so many stray cats out in the groves; there are so many animals just roaming around."

"We have a new logo – Open Door, Open Heart – that we think more closely identifies with our shelter," said Chalmers Morse, Humane Society executive director.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

VERO BEACH 32963
Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™
www.vb32963online.com

Left: Chalmers Morse, Bonnie Spitzmiller, Sheila Marshall and Fritz Spitzmiller.

Right: JoAnn Becker, Lou Ann Lindsay and Hal Oberkotter. PHOTOS BY MARY SCHENKEL

Humane Society ambassadors Rusty, held by Tonya Martinez, and Rocky, held by Sharon Brunnel, welcome Julie Summers and Page Frankel to Cause for Paws

He spoke of two of the greeter dogs, one rescued from a hoarder, and another abandoned because the owner no longer wanted it. He then asked guests to "think about your own animals, who greet you at the door when you get home; you are their world."

Generous guests clearly took the message to heart, making the event the most successful one to date. ■

Warren and Virginia Schwerin with Sally and Roger Smith.

Phil & Duke / Service Dog Team

Sponsored by page 2 design

Moving to Vero Beach was a blessing after I retired due to a brain injury I sustained while working as a Deputy Sheriff in MI. While looking for a clean well socialized dog park I found DFL and met Shelly & Jay. Duke and I have become part of the program. DFL has improved the quality of my life and Duke's as well. Duke is all dog at the park socializing, exercising and playing. I get to meet members and build friendships. Many call my disabilities "hidden". Duke is assisting me by bracing for me, waking me from nightmare, and watching my back. DFL has given me a new purpose in life and I get to continue my service related career by given back while my dog assists me to lead a life of self-reliance and independence again. Deputy Sheriff Phillip McDade Muma (ret). K9 partner Duke (Lab).

News Articles

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2014

tcpalm.com

Your Newsweekly

VERO BEACH, INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

In every neighborhood there are 'Unsung Heroes' – volunteers professionals who go well beyond their expected duties.

Congratulations to the 2014 Jefferson Award winners and nominees

WINNERS:

Joel Bray *Indian River County*
Anthony and Alyssa Golino *Martin County*
Captain Donald Voss *St Lucie County*
Sarah Clein *Palm Beach Co*
Crystal Nickell *St Lucie Co*

NOMINNEES:

Shelly Ferger *Indian River County*
Martha Taylor *St Lucie County*
Eric Seibenick *St Lucie County*
Donna Carman *Martin County*
Charlie Hays *Okeechobee County*
Lynn Schubart *Palm Beach County*
Hortense Beachum *Indian River County*
Betty Mulligan *Martin County*
Robert Zaccheo *Martin County*
Charlie Pope *Indian River County*
Lynn Priore *Martin County*
Nyla Pipes *St Lucie County*
Michelle Farries *Broward County*
Victor Rivera *St Lucie County*
Denise Dublin *St Lucie County*
Leonard Smallacombe *St Lucie County*
William Malone *St Lucie County*
Barbara Eakins *Indian River County*
Michele Gillen *St Lucie County*
Elias Viera *St Lucie County*
Sal Neglia *Indian River County*
Christi Mollet *Indian River County*
Nancy Borges *St Lucie County*
Marie Horenburger *Palm Beach County*
Keith Begley *Martin County*
Dani Dreizehnter *St Lucie County*
Georgia Irish *Indian River County*
Neil Lagin *Indian River County*

JEFFERSON AWARDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Look in the **April 9th** edition of **YourNews** for profiles of the winners

GORDON & DONER

NEWS CHANNEL 5

TCPALM.COM
SCRIPPS Treasure Coast Newspapers

Arts MATTER

Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

Dear Shelley,
Welcome to our ***Monday Morning Cultural Council Connection***.

THE CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH WILLI MILLER

Every Monday on WAXE 1370 AM or 107.9 FM
5 to 5:30 p.m.
To hear the show streaming via your computer, visit www.waxe1370.com at 5 p.m.

Paul Gay and Artem Belogurov- Chamber concert at Vero Beach Museum of Art

Cynthia Callander and Jenny Lyons for World Book Night

ART DISTRICT MEETING & PRESENTATION ON WEDNESDAY

All are welcome to an Indian River Neighborhood Association Meeting in Vero's Art District on Wednesday, April 23rd at the Heritage Center, 2140 14th Avenue. Enjoy light refreshments at 5 p.m. with a presentation at 6 p.m. The Cultural Council will present a concept for a Cultural Arts Center at the historic Diesel Plant. With a passionate interest in the visual, performing and culinary arts, the community of Vero Beach is poised to become one of the State's prized cultural destination points. The Council's vision is to create an exciting community-based cultural arts center where adults and children can experience unique opportunities in a safe, creative environment; where local artists can paint a masterpiece in affordable studio

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THE CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH WILLI MILLER

Thank you to our sponsor:

the 6 p.m. show. For the all inclusive package ($55) call 772-252-9341.

- **The Vero Beach Museum of Art** presents jazz group Dave Mundy and Soulfege on Thursday, April 24th from 5 to 7 p.m. The cost is $10 for museum members and $12 for non-members.

- Pianist **Barbara Gomulka** will be performing ambient piano music at Vinz, 4885 Highway A-1-A in Vero Beach on Wednesday, April 23rd from 6 to 9 p.m.

- At **Sunrise Theatre** this week, a concert tribute to the Music of Paul McCartney: McCartney Mania With Special Guest Artists Page & Plant Tribute will be performed in the Black Box Theatre on Friday, April 25th at 7pm. McCartney Mania showcases some of Paul's greatest hits from his career. For tickets, $35, visit SunriseTheatre.com.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Dogs for Life** is sponsoring a Treasure Hunt Car Rally on Saturday, April 26th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. A driver and navigator meeting will be held at 9 a.m. at the DFL Dog Training Campus at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Participants will be given a treasure map to follow throughout Indian River County to compete for cash awards. Drivers will finish at the Heritage Center for a finish line party from 11 a.m to 3 p.m. and the public is invited to the party that includes a lunch catered by Osceola Bistro, a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, entertainment and demonstrations by DFL Assistance Dogs and the I.R.C. Sheriff's K-9 Units. The entrance fee for cars and drivers is $250 for up to four people and includes lunch. Tickets for the public are $65. For more information or to register, contact Dogs for Life at (772) 567-8969, via email at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, or register on-line at www.dogsforlifevb.org.

- World Book Night 2014 is an event to give away half a

Ivo David

Donnelly Galleries

Fern Canyon by Brett Donnelly

Flametree Clay Gallery

Ikebana

Emerson Center Foyer Gallery

Julie Lounibos

Gallery 14

InsideVero

Your Local Online News Magazine

Community News Reply

Dogs For Life Benefits from Masco Gift

Dogs For Life, Inc. A nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people by training dogs to assist with hearing and mobility challenges as well as the effects of post-traumatic stress disorders for Veterans, is proud to announce that it has been selected to receive a donation from Masco Corporation Foundation.

Through a competitive grant process, Dogs For Life was nominated by Masco Contractor Services, a subsidiary of Masco Corporation and leading installer of residential insulation and other residential building products.

This grant was made possible through Masco's "America's Heroes: A Million Thanks" veteran initiative, which is targeting more than $1 million in support to over 50 veteran-focused organizations that provide affordable and physically accessible housing; education, job training and employment initiatives; and related military services.

"The mission of Dogs For Life clearly aligns with the objectives of our veteran initiatives, and we are proud to support its efforts," said Timothy Wadhams, President & CEO Masco Corporation. "Masco values the service and sacrifice of our U.S. Veterans, military troops, and their families, and is committed to supporting our nation's heroes."

Dogs For Life, Inc. Will be using this generous grant toward our Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center where we will be training Veterans to Train Hearing and Service Dogs for their comrades.

Indian River, St. Lucie & Martin Counties · Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday · April 7, 2014

Luminaries

ON SCENE WITH ... DOGS FOR LIFE

DFL's 4th "Build A Bridge" Tournament, sponsored by Hearing Dog "Tigger," was a success in spades - thanks to the following "winning cards:" 100plus bridge players, 25 individual sponsors, 12 corporate sponsors and grand slam silent auction. Betty Scheerin won the 50/50 raffle and very graciously donated her portion to DFL, which brought total funds raised to a victorious $12,500!

1 - Eleanor Bengtek and CEO Shelly Fenger
2 - Dr. Paul Hattan
3 - Ann Wheeler and Margaret Mary Zoltek
4 - Lyn Guilfoyle and Charo Sgura
5 - Teresa Ligon and Sally Schultz
6 - Carmen Townsend-Sommers and Marie Malloy

GLAMOUR & GRIT

By Sydney Liebman

DOGS CONTRIBUTE TO LIFE

Lumin-friend **Donna Murray** tells us that **Meadowood Golf & Tennis Club** recently held its first **"Dog Show."** The afternoon began with a demonstration of service dogs by Vero Beach-based **Dogs For Life**, 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. Twenty dogs were entered in the Meadowood competition for prizes of treats and blue ribbons. The event, organized by **Silence Andrews** and **Diane Nagel**, was a total success. Proceeds of $520 were presented to Dogs For Life.

Assistance Dog Teams And Trainers Receive Tour of Training Center Construction Site By Construction Managers

Standing: Joey Calmes, Superintendant with Bill Bryant & Associates Anthony Donadio of Donadio and Associates, Architechts, and Christopher Bryant Construction Manager, Bill Bryant & Associates. Kneeling: Norine with Hearing Dog Kelly, DFL Trainer Paula Via and Jay Harris with "Team Duke" Phil and Duke DFL Service Dog Team.

Please Make Us Your Favorite Dog Park

Reader's Choice
You Make The Choice

Voting is now open for the 2014 TC Palm Reader's Choice Awards. **Please click here to vote NOW!** Voting ends at 11:59 pm April 20, 2014.

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

DFL Board Member Kathi Schumann Invites You
To Attend The Treasure Hunt & Car Rally
Finish Line Party at the Heritage Center
Noon, Saturday, April 26, 2014

Only $65/per person

Silent Auction, 50/50, Food, Live Entertainment
K-9 Demonstration / UTD-Navy SEALS / Veterans Council
I.R. County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention

Treasure Hunt & Car Rally Sponsor Kathi Schumann
And DFL Founder Shelly Ferger
Survey The Treasure Hunt & Car Rally Start Line
At the DFL Training Center Construction Site

Rally Fundraiser on Saturday, April 26th. The Start Line is at the DFL Training Center construction site located at 1230 16th Avenue promptly at 9 am with a mandatory driver and navigator meeting.

After following a treasure map through Indian River County, Treasure Hunt & Car Rally participants will finish at the Heritage Center in downtown Vero Beach and enjoy a finish line party, silent auction, live music, 50/50, prizes and lunch catered by Osceola Bistro.

Treasure Hunt & Car Rally Participants are eligible for: First Prize $5,000, second prize $2,500 and third prize $1,500. The Entrance Fee is $250, for up to four people per car, and includes a finish line party. ***Consider splitting the cost with 4 and for $62.50 each you could split $5,000!!!***

The Finish Line Party starts at Noon at the Vero Beach Heritage Center located at 2130 14th Avenue, and the event ends at 3 pm.

If you plan to attend the Finish Line Party for only $65/per person. PLEASE RSVP at (772) 567-8969, or email at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Finish Line Party also includes, a demonstration by IRC Sheriff's K-9 Unit, exciting silent auction items such as tours of John & Kathi Schumann's private race car collection, car rides with Kathi Schumann, off-leash dog park memberships, a "Florida Cracker" airboat ride, gift certificates from Waldo's, Bobby's Restaurant, Publix, Fresh Market, Grander Mountain, Cotton Mouth Armory, and much more! Partnering Organizations are the National Navy UDT-SEAL Museum, The Indian River County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit, and the Veteran's Council of Indian River County.

To register for Treasure Hunt and Car Rally contact DFL by email at: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net, or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org, to pre-register for the Treasure Hunt and be eligible for prizes download and print the registration form here.

Ten Volunteers are needed and will be invited for **FREE to the Finish Line Party.** Please call Shelly before Wednesday April 23, to register as a volunteer at 567-8969.

The Voice of Experience
VETERAN VOICE

Dogs For Life awarded grant

Mary Kemper
STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Dogs For Life, Inc., Vero Beach, a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people by training dogs to assist with hearing and mobility challenges as well as the effects of post-traumatic stress disorders for veterans, is proud to announce that it has been selected to receive a donation from Masco Corporation Foundation.

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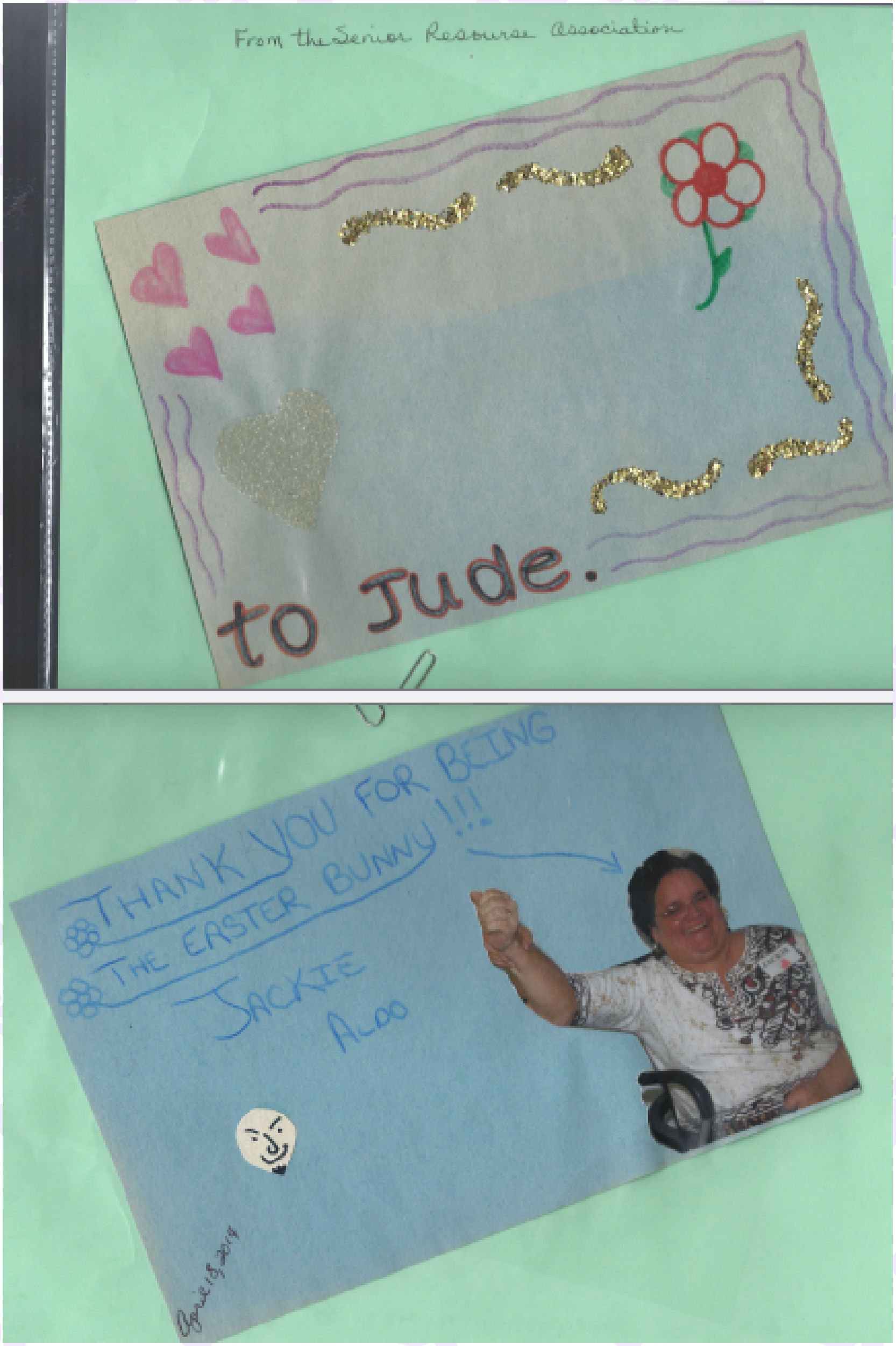
"The mission of Dogs For Life clearly aligns with the objectives of our veteran initiatives, and we are proud to support its efforts," said Timothy Wadhams, president and CEO of Masco Corp.

"Masco values the service and sacrifice of our U.S. veterans, military troops, and their families, and is committed to supporting

Photo courtesy of Shelly Ferger
Tigger is a hearing service dog trained at Dogs For Life Inc., Vero Beach.

Dogs For Life, Inc. will use this generous grant toward our Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center, where we will be training veterans to train hearing and service dogs for their comrades.

For more information on Dogs For Life, contact Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO, at (772) 567-8969 or by email at dogsforlifevb@bell-


From the Senior Resource Association
to Jude.
THANK YOU FOR BEING
THE EASTER BUNNY !!!
JACKIE
ALDO

MARCH

Mardi Growl 5K

Certificate of Appreciation

The Blue Ribbon Charitable Foundation Hereby Recognizes

Dogs For Life

for participating in the

MARDI GROWL 5k

On the 15 Day of March Year of 2014

MARDI GROWL 5K
5K FOR PEOPLE & PETS

Administrative Center Update

Dogs For Life

DOGS FOR LIFE ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINING & ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

Christopher Bryant of Bill Bryant & Associates takes a look inside the Training Center to inspect the rafters. So far, we are 2 weeks ahead of schedule!

New Assistance Dog Team in Training: Phil & Duke

Dogs For Life would like to introduce you to a new Team in Training, Phil & Duke. Phil is a retired Deputy Sheriff from the great state of Michigan, where he worked as an instructor in educational programs for his department's youth group. We are so happy to be helping such a wonderful person and so far, training is going great!

Phil & Duke pose with the Indian River County Sheriff's Explorer Scouts, at the recent Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ on March 5th, while Dogs For Life Trainer, Jay Harris, explains to the Scouts how they can volunteer and help Dogs For Life. It was a great event!

Dogs For Life

DOGS FOR LIFE ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINING & ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

Bob Bowman and Margie Owens, Founding Members of Dogs For Life, visit the Dog Park campus and Training Center to see contractors work on the new roof! We love all of the interest and enthusiasm!

Dogs For Life

DFL Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center
February 2014

Christopher D. Bryant
Bill Bryant & Associates, Inc., General Contractors

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Dogs For Life will have a booth at the upcoming Indian River County Sheriff's Office 20th Annual Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ on Wednesday, March 5th, from 2 to 7 pm. The BBQ will be held at the Sheriff's Office Complex located at 4055 41st Avenue. Pork and Chicken dinner tickets are $5 for adults and children 5+. There will be displays, SWAT & CERT demonstrations, and Jail/911 Center tours.

- Dogs For Life will also have a booth at the Vero Lake Estates Health Fair on May 15th from 9 am to 12 pm. More details will follow about this event as it nears.

If you are able to volunteer for a 2-hour shift at either event please contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or via dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net. Volunteers will also be needed for set-up and clean-up. If you can't volunteer, we hope you can still stop by and visit us at each event.

Dogs For Life

DOGS FOR LIFE ASSISTANCE DOG TRAINING & ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER

This week the walls of the Training Center have been formed. We are so thrilled to report that construction is proceeding quickly!

Please continue to help Dogs For Life grow and succeed! Once our Training Center is complete we will need your help to furnish and put the finishing touches on our new facility. If you would like to help, please Click Here to donate.

To help Dogs For Life with the Training Center or in any other way, please contact:

Shelly Ferger, Founder & CEO
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

For frequent updates about the Training Center LIKE us on:

Articles

What you may not know about service animals

BY THE DOCTORS

Many are golden retrievers and Labradors, but none is considered a pet: Service dogs are actually working animals that are individually trained to perform tasks for people with disabilities.

Here's what else you should know:

Job descriptions vary. What service dogs do depends on the person's specific needs. Tasks can include opening and closing doors, retrieving medications, assisting people who are blind or deaf, pulling a wheelchair or alerting to an impending seizure, among other duties.

They're not pets. They are at work.

ID vests are not required. Other than a few exceptions, service dogs are allowed in places open to the public, according to the Americans with Disabilities Act. They must have a harness or leash, unless the tether gets in the way of the animal's tasks. (In those cases, the handler must have control through voice commands, hand signals or other means, the ADA says.) The dog does not, however, have to wear an identifying vest or special badge. If the need for the service animal is not obvious, business owners are only allowed to ask whether the animal is required because of a disability, and what work has it been trained to perform.

Don't pet without asking. Don't offer the dog any food, and most importantly, don't interrupt or distract the animal while it is performing its task.

Service dogs are different from comfort dogs. Emotional-support animals are prescribed by mental health professionals to provide therapeutic support and security for people with psychological limitations; therapy animals offer affection and comfort, typically in facilities such as hospitals and retirement homes. People with emotional-support animals don't have the same public-access rights as those with service dogs. ◙

THE DOCTORS is an award-winning TV show. Check local listings.

Visit us at usaweekend.com

To spotlight your Indian River County business on this page, contact your Scripps account executive or call 772-978-2248.

PREPARED BY SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT

PRINTING

LEB Printing and Design

Personized service backed by skill and experience

By Sharman P. Moore
Correspondent

Laura Bonney makes office calls. Traveling to her customers' places of business to help commercial clients save valuable time is just one of the reasons her Vero Beach company, LEB Printing and Design, is developing a loyal following.

"My No. 1 goal is customer service and one way I can demonstrate that is to show my clients that I will set up meetings at their offices when they have printing needs," said Bonney. "That saves them time in their busy schedules."

Clients certainly appreciate the free pickup and delivery service, which has helped Bonney grow her business in just two years.

However, she is not a newcomer to the printing profession. She has 30 years experience in typesetting and design, having worked for Vero Beach Printing for 24 years.

PHOTO BY SHARMAN P. MOORE

Laura Bonney combines her 30-years experience and tireless service to customers to become the area's premier printer.

"When they retired and closed their office, I had people who I had worked with for many years ask me to continue doing their printing work," she said. "That's how I started my own business and it has grown steadily."

Some of the most common print jobs produced at LEB Printing and Design are brochures, business cards, color copies, invitations, door hangars, stationery, envelopes, advertising flyers, menus, newsletters, post cards, programs and general typesetting. She takes care of commercial clients and also people who have personal printing needs.

> "My No. 1 goal is customer service and one way I can demonstrate that is to show my clients that I will set up meetings at their offices when they have printing needs. That saves them time in their busy schedule."
>
> Laura Bonney

Bonney built her successful business model with a three-pronged approach: excellent customer service, quality print work and reasonable prices.

By returning all telephone calls and emails promptly, making sure her completed print jobs exceed expectations and helping customers save money with her low pricing system, she is ensuring a bright future in her chosen profession.

"I am always willing to give people free quotes and my goal is to try to save them money," she said. "Most people are pleasantly surprised when I give them cost estimates."

If you desire printing work with a custom look, not the generic style you receive from Internet purchases, give Bonney a call at 772-532-5735. Her vast knowledge of the industry enables her to create the all-important first impressions that will set your company a notch above your competition.

For more information, visit the web site: www.lebprinting.com.

FEBRUARY

Jefferson Award Nomination

here's what the nomination looked like. maybe pass this on to boardmembers or whomever. :)

also, i will be in town and can make the PAT re-cert on 3/8.

To: gavnightstalker@hotmail.com
Subject: Submit Jefferson Award Nomination
From: no-reply@wufoo.com
Date: Fri, 21 Feb 2014 08:16:41 -0800

Thank you for your nomination.

Submit Jefferson Award Nomination

Nominee's Name *	Shelly Ferger
Nominee's Age *	53
Nominee's Title and/or Role *	President/Founder
Nominee's Email *	dogsforlife@bellsouth.net
Nominee's Address *	25 5th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32962 United States
Nominee's Home Phone *	(772) 567-7990
Nominee's Cell Phone *	(772) 696-2306
Your Name *	L. A. Bykowsky
Your Relationship to Nominee *	friend
Your Email *	gavnightstalker@hotmail.com
Your Address *	7726 99th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32967 United States
Your Home Phone *	(772) 589-9096
Your Cell Phone *	(772) 563-3391
In this section please write a brief sentence on the individual you are nominating. *	Shelly has built a fledgling non-profit organization from the ground up and her impact with Dogs for Life can be seen and felt not only in physical examples such as the dog park in Vero, the recent ground breaking for the training center there, but also in the people she's helped, whose lives she's touched and changed, including everyday citizens, seniors, children and our veterans.

In this section explain how your nominee stands out in the community or is unique or heroic. *

I've only known Shelly for about 3 years, having stumbled upon Dogs For Life when I wanted to do pet assisted therapy with my dog in the Sebastian area. Total time I've spent with Shelly is probably less than 10 hours, but even that short exposure has convinced me that she is a force to be reckoned with and completely devoted to her work. Shelly's dedication to providing assistance dogs to those in need has resulted in many people taking back their lives and in some cases, probably saving lives.

Shelly can be a taskmaster, she is an incredibly strong-willed woman and handles all projects with fierce determination. But I mean that with all due respect because how she does what she does, is how the job gets done. Whether it's training an assistance dog, breaking in a therapy dog team or running a fund-raising event, Shelly takes control with a firm hand and does everything she can to ensure the best outcome in every endeavor she faces. Shelly leads by example, striving for perfection and asking of others what she demands of herself. She enriches the lives (both human and canine) of those she meets and I think many would echo my sentiment that we are better people for knowing her.

Shelly Ferger is an incredible asset to the Treasure Coast community and beyond, selflessly dedicating her time, money and efforts to making life better for as many people as possible. I believe she exemplifies what the Jefferson Award stands for and should be counted amongst the winners.

In this section, share with us the positive impact on the community that your nominee has had. *	Not only does Shelly work tirelessly to help people in need, she's rescued shelter dogs, giving them new lives as assistance partners and every year, DFL's pet-assisted therapy program provides hundreds of hours of joy and entertainment to seniors and children in our community.

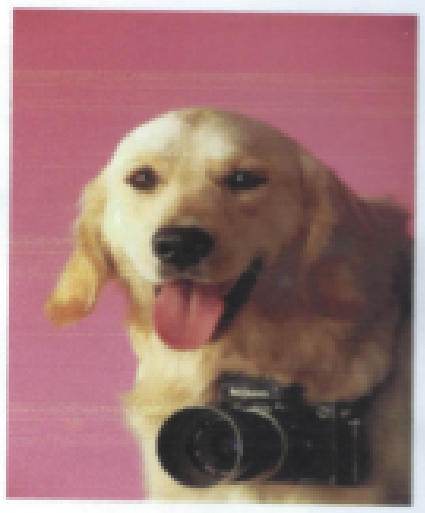
Meadowood Community Dog Show

Meadowood Community Dog Show

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 2- 4:30 p.m.
Near the Parking Lot by the Tennis Center

Dogs for Life Presentation on:
Service Dogs for Vets
Assistance Dogs
Therapy Dogs

$10.00 per dog Entrance Fee
Help Build a Training Center for Dogs for Life!

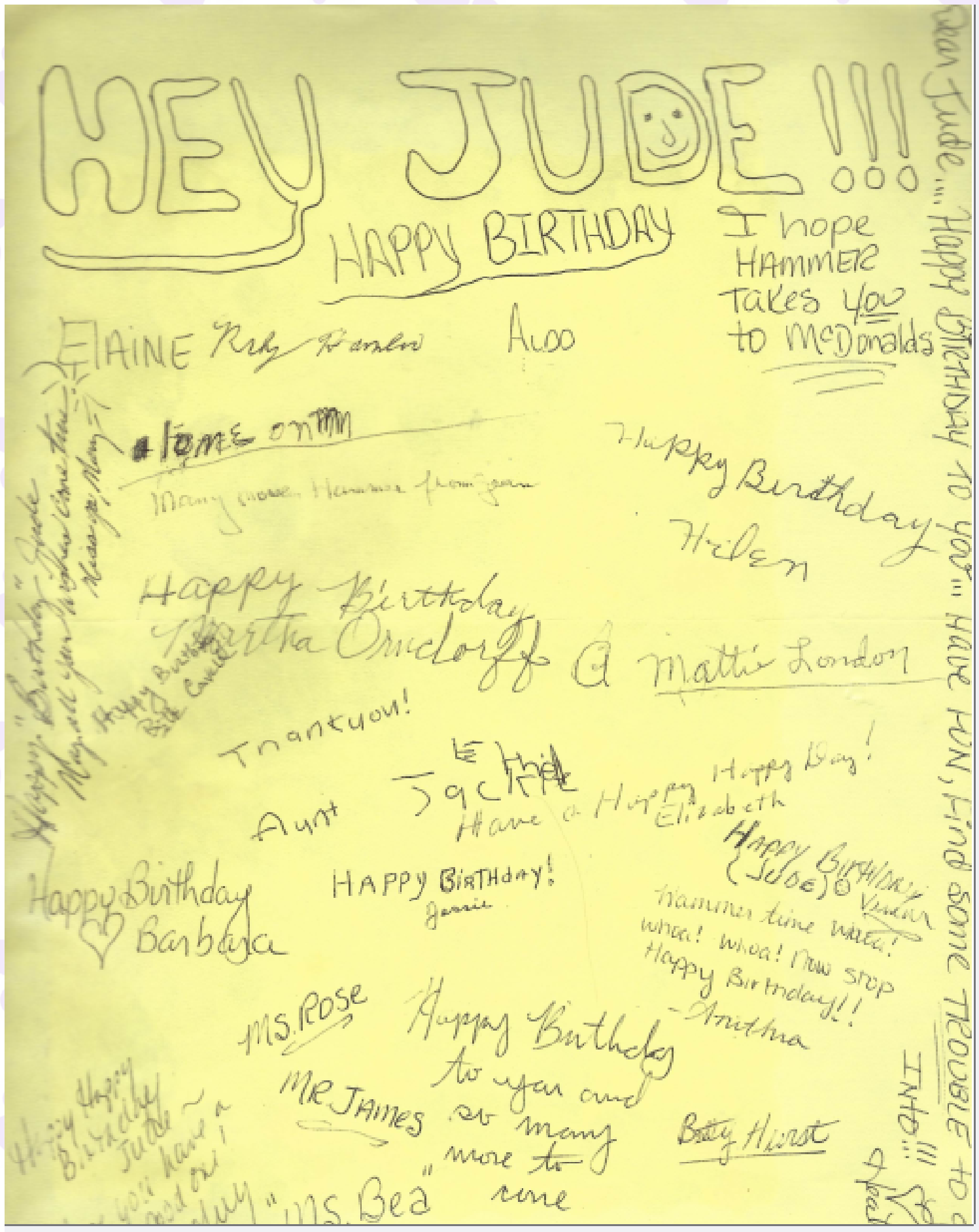


Your Dog Can Enter
A Costume Parade
The Dog that Most Resembles Its' Owner
Most Handsome Male
Prettiest Female
Best Trained Puppy (less than a year old)
Dog Tricks

Club Members, please invite other residents to join us.
Contact Diane Nagel 772 234-7473 or Silence Andrews 772 468-6994 to let us know how many will be coming. Bring a chair to watch!

Bridge Tournament

Hey Jude


HEY JUDE!!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
I hope HAMMER takes You to McDonalds
ELAINE
Aloo
Dear Jude... Happy Birthday to you! Have fun, find some Treats
Happy Birthday
Helen
Happy Birthday
Martha Orndorff & Mattie London
Thankyou!
Aunt
Have a Happy
Happy Day!
Elizabeth
Happy Birthday!
(Joe)
Hammer time whoa!
whoa! whoa! Now stop
Happy Birthday!!
-Martha
Happy Birthday
Barbara
HAPPY BIRTHday!
Janice
MS. ROSE
Happy Birthday
to you and
MR JAMES so many
more to
come
Betty Hurst
"MS. Bea"

Cultural Connection

Arts MATTER

Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

Dear Shelley,
Welcome to our ***Monday Morning Cultural Council Connection***.

THE CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH WILLI MILLER

Every Monday on WAXE 1370 AM or 107.9 FM
5 to 5:30 p.m.

Marte McMurry, Sebastian Art Studio Tour
Robin Dunlap, Environmental Learning Center

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE CULTURAL CONCIERGE

Author Liz Curtis-Higgs
The Girl's Still Got It!

February 15, 2014
9 am to 2:30 pm
at
First United Methodist Church
Download the Flyer

Kristin Lee, Violin

SHARE THIS EMAIL WITH A FRIEND!

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THE CULTURAL CONNECTION WITH WILLI MILLER

Tune in to WAXE 1370 AM or 107.9 FM from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Every Monday

Thank you to our sponsor:

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www.RiversideTheatre.com

ONGOING EXHIBITS
JANUARY 2014

Art Mundo
Members Exhibit

Laments & landscapes
Mario Mutiz

Drawing on Dreams
Terri Joelle Bennett

News Articles

f February 3, 2014 » SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS » LUM

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

1- Dancing With Vero's Stars celebrity Tony Donadio (far right) kisses Kelly, a lab mix service dog as Shelly Ferger (kneeling), founder of Dogs for Life and Kelly's owner Norine look on.

Dogs For Life definite boon for suffering vets

Mary Kemper
STAFF WRITER
mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

Shelly Ferger, foreground, stands in front of the administrative and training center being built at the Dog Park in Vero Beach by Dogs For Life.

Dogs For Life is a "labor of love" for founder and CEO Shelly Ferger — with almost equal emphasis on the "labor" as on the "love."

"It's definitely been a challenge, that's for sure," Ferger said, sweeping an arm to encompass the sprawling Dog Park grounds in Vero Beach.

Nearby, a construction crew worked on putting up a building that, one day, will be the main administration and training center for dogs and vets to get to know each other.

Many returning vets suffering from PTSD or traumatic brain injury, hearing loss or blindness, can benefit from a relationship with a dog, Ferger said. It's her aim to be able to help connect every veteran with his or her own dog to help them live happier lives.

But it hasn't been easy for Ferger to fulfill her dream.

"It's been one thing after another," she said. "Originally, this was the town Dog Park, and Dogs For Life was a separate organization. Now, they're merged — but it took three years (of effort) to get to that point."

Other problems included purchasing additional land, irrigation issues, construction issues and, of course, funding.

Surprisingly, though, in the case of funding, the necessary money has always seemed to show up at

"That dog came over to him, and you could just see the change in him. His face, his body. It was incredible."

Mary "Mim" Dunn
past president

"When we were really struggling, one anonymous donor sent us $200,000 — and within a week, another $100,000 came in," she said.

"We even have a lady who won the $25 million lotto who donated to us."

There are four main Dogs For Life programs and services: assistance dogs, for those with special needs 24 hours a day; pet-assisted therapy dogs; community outreach programs, including a dog-behavior hotline, dog placement referral program, workshops and obedience classes; and the service dogs for veterans training program.

According to literature published by Dogs For Life, there are 231,000 Florida veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan. Three in 10 will have a service-related disability, and 30 percent will suffer from PTSD. Of that number, 50 percent will not seek treatment.

"It's so important to reach these veterans," Ferger said.

The range of ways dogs can help vets is astonishing. They include:

- Waking up the vet from a nightmare;
- Creating a barrier around the vet to allow distance from people in a crowd;
- Sitting back-to-back with the vet to alert of approaching people;
- Making a perimeter of the home before entering;
- Calling a suicide hotline on a special K-9 emergency phone;
- Providing a soothing touch when a vet feels emotional overload;
- Serving as a vet's "combat buddy" to provide security and ease loneliness.

One veteran whose life has changed for the better is former Army staff sergeant Jim Taylor, who lives in Vero Beach. His dog, a pug named Pia Pia (pronounced "pay-pay"), goes with him every-

See DOGS page 10

DOGS from page 4

where he goes.

He has agreed to assist Ferger in speaking at Dogs For Life fundraisers, and she said the Taylor-Pia Pia duo is very effective.

"You could literally see the change in him because of the dog," said Mary "Mim" Dunn, of Vero Beach. She is a past president of Dogs For Life, and remains active in the organization.

Dunn attended a fundraiser at her bridge club, and Taylor was the speaker. At one point, he broke down, and had to hand the microphone to his wife, Dawn, to continue where he left off.

Mary "Mim" Dunn, Vero Beach resident and former president of Dogs For Life, on seeing how a service dog helped veteran Jim Taylor, who suffers from PTSD.

"That dog came over to him, and you could just see the change in him," Dunn said. "His face, his body. It was incredible.

"If anyone didn't know just how much those dogs help someone who's suffering, that told you right there. It made my whole day."

Dunn, herself, has hearing loss, and depends on her assistance dog, Chance, a boxer, to help her get out and about.

The Dog Park has separate enclosures for large and small dogs to run free, as well as one for agility and other training purposes.

There's even a Memorial Garden, where people can either put up a memorial to a beloved pet or scatter a pet's ashes.

There are lots of trees and other plants throughout the grounds, as well as benches. To help keep the grounds clean, owners are required to dispose of their dogs' waste as soon as the dogs have "gone."

While Ferger was talking, several dogs and their owners came in and turned their dogs loose. One, a black standard poodle, kept racing around the entire enclosure, stopping only to sniff the other dogs, while the owners conversed.

"This park brings people together, not just dogs, as you can see," Ferger said.

Each enclosure has a water station. When the administrative and training building is completed, there will be offices and up-to-date equipment.

Along the fences in the training area are "bone boards," which are square poster-sized boards containing dog bone-shaped plaques listing the names of donors. Ferger arranged them chronologically, from the earliest planning stages to the present. "There's always room for more," she said.

Ferger stressed the need not only for donations, but in helping locate dogs to match with vets, and getting vets to become more involved.

"If a vet becomes a trainer, for example, he's not only helping himself but also his fellow vets," Ferger said.

"We're really trying to get the word out both for them and for dogs."

Not every dog is suitable for training. Dogs For Life is one of only four organizations in Florida accredited by Assistance Dogs International, and Ferger and her associates are familiar with various dog traits. Anyone wishing to have their dog participate should meet with Dogs For Life staff and learn the guidelines ahead of time.

Looking ahead, Ferger isn't quite sure where the funding will come from to keep operating regularly, but, "somehow, it just keeps coming, and I'm so grateful. We really need it," she said.

Donations not only help with the building and grounds, but enable Dogs For Life to offer their services to veterans free of charge.

"Our vets are so important to us," Ferger said. "Let's give them a way to start living a happier life."

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969, or by e-mail at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

Staff photo by Mary Kemper
Above, Shelly Ferger is founder and CEO of Dogs For Life. At right, this boxer assists Vero Beach resident Mary 'Mim' Dunn, who has a hearing loss.

ON SCENE WITH ...

DOGS FOR LIFE

Dogs for Life held its ground-breaking ceremony for the new Assistan Dog Training & Administrative Center, where immediately following ceremony, our own Tania Ortega-Cowan was given the Media Award on be of Luminaries.

1 – Laura Bonney, Volunteer of the Year
2 – Nancy and Bill Bryant
3 – Penny Chandler, Kathi Schumann, Shelly Fergie, Tony Donadio and Chris
4 – James Taylor and Jay Harris
5 – Tony Donadio and Penny Chandler

4th Build a Bridge Tournament to benefit Dogs for Life. 11 a.m.. Lunch, duplicate and party bridge tournaments, silent auction. $75 per person. Vero Beach Country Club. 772-567-8969

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FEBRUARY 2014
CAPTURING THE MOMENT
WITH DEREK GORES

FEBRUARY 2014

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE | VOLUME XVII, NUMBER 2

ON THE COVER:
Derek Gores' artwork for the Windsor Charity Polo Cup includes elements representing both the event and the community. See story on page 76.

CAPTURING THE MOMENT WITH DEREK GORES
An innovative artist produces a complex collage for the Windsor Charity Polo Cup.
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HELPING OUT WHERE HELP IS NEEDED MOST
The John's Island Foundation is making a difference in the lives of many who are less fortunate.
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A couple from Naples buys a home in Vero Beach, then transforms it with the help of its original owner.
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SCRIBBLING ON SANDFLY LANE
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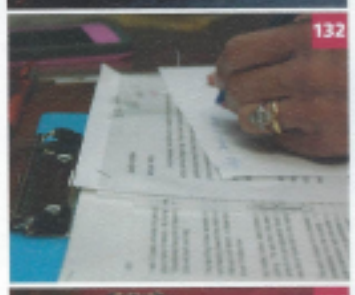


TRUE TAILS

Take two leash walks and call me in the morning.

WANT A PERSONAL TRAINER? TRY A DOG!

BY AMY ROBINSON

Lively breeds like this Vizla can act as four-legged fat-busters.

All my pants are tight. Every last pair. This is, of course, the result of denying myself precisely nothing during the holiday season. Instead of hauling out the free weights or rescuing the dusty Zumba DVD from its permanent resting place in the bottom drawer, I just look down at the eager, furry face at my knee, grab a leash and hit the sidewalk.

The health benefits of dog ownership are still being studied, but so far, the results are compelling. Dog owners walk an average of 300 minutes per week, compared to 160 minutes for non-dog owners. A brisk walking pace burns up to 200 calories an hour. Just getting up from the computer to take your dog on a brief break in the yard shakes out the cobwebs and fills your lungs with fresh air.

Michelle Fournier, owner of Durty Harry's Doggie Boutique & Dog Wash in Boston, lost weight and found a companion and a career, all by acquiring a lab mixed puppy. "Harry got me up off the couch and out walking. We put in four to five miles a day," she says. Her habit of sleeping in and skipping early exercise class was officially over. "Do you know how much energy a long-legged, teenaged dog has? I am in full stride with him by 6 a.m., giving me plenty of time to make the 7:30 a.m. yoga class I had always wanted to attend." She lost 12 pounds in less than a year, easily fit into her skinny jeans, got married, and started a new career. "I own two doggie boutiques and pen the 'Harry's Picks' blog, and I'm feeling great. This dog changed my life!"

Dog ownership has been shown to benefit the inside of our bodies, too. Mounting evidence of better circulatory functioning and lower amounts of the stress hormone cortical is being recorded. Noted author and expert Dr. Carole Lieberman of Beverly Hills notes the effect pets can have on reducing stress: "Stress causes everything from headaches to heart attacks. It wreaks havoc on the body because the distressed brain sends signals to the body's most sensitive areas." Lieberman contends that any condition a person has is exacerbated by stress. "It may cause flare-ups of diabetes in one person or arthritis in another and decreases the immune system's efficiency. By increasing exercise and decreasing stress, pets contribute to overall human health."

A group of stockbrokers in New York, arguably among a highly stressed subgroup of type-A persons, engaged in a study at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Twenty-four hypertensive individuals due to begin drug therapy for high blood pressure were separated into two groups. The first were assigned to adopt a dog or cat from local shelters, and the second remained without pets. While the medication lowered resting blood pressure readings for all the stockbrokers, those who had adopted a pet showed only half the increase in blood pressure when subjected to stressful situations.

Research results are in line with non-scientific

Ask Amy

My dog Stella wants to chase passing cars, bikes or skateboards. She gets excited as they approach and lunges as they go by, and once I tripped and fell trying to hold her back. Make her stop!

– *Linda*, Aiken, S.C.

Stella is blissfully unaware of the dangers of lunging towards moving wheels.

Rotating wheels are right at your dog's eye level and seem to beckon her to follow, so give her an alternative activity. Try saying "This way!" and make a smooth u-turn. Lure her with a meaty treat or favorite toy at her eye level as you turn. I hope your knees are in good shape because Stella's eye level is just inches off the ground. Practice first when no cars are passing until she responds happily to the verbal cue and turns with you. Try to find a neighbor or friend with a bike to act as your helper, and have them go by several times while you put the new skill into practice. Your timing has to be good: give your cue and lead her at nose level with the treat *before* the bike goes by, not as it passes. You are counter-conditioning, which means you are changing her old learned behavior – that of being stimulated by turning wheels – and giving her a new learned behavior. Now when a bike or car goes by, consistently give your verbal cue, use your treat, and praise her for leaving that bad habit in the dust.

Miller's best begging technique includes a doleful expression.

My two-and-a-half-year-old dog, Miller, gets fed every night at the same time we eat. He quickly devours his food and then goes from person to person whining for some of ours. We have never fed him from the table so I am not sure where this persistent begging is coming from. What can we do to stop this behavior so we can enjoy dinnertime again?

– *Jean*, Vero Beach

Dogs are ever the optimists. Any reaction from you is likely interpreted as a possible weakening of your resolve. First, feed him only when you are through with dinner. In the natural world, the pack leaders would get to eat the choicest bits first. Consider leashing him while you eat and teach him to lie down at your feet. If you have a tile or wood floor, place a bathmat or similar small rug down where you want Miller to relax. Wait until you sit down with your plate in front of you, then ask him to sit, and place a chew bone down between his feet, stepping on his leash to keep him from maneuvering around the table. The bone should only be available to him at this particular time so he values it. This keeps him from getting his nose up to your knee level to goad you into action and gives him something to do. Dogs love a good routine, so establish a pattern that Miller can really sink his teeth into.

To ask Amy Robinson about your dog's behavior, visit www.verobeachmagazine.com and click on *True Tails*, or mail your question to "Ask Amy," *Vero Beach Magazine*, 956 20th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960.

BEHIND THE SCENES

February 2014

Carole Crowe

I've always been a dog lover. A joyful greeting when I arrive home, a soulful look and sweet nuzzle – so much unconditional love can be hard to resist. Even now I feel a bit of longing for a canine companion, though I chose a pet-free condominium complex when I moved to Vero Beach in 2000, for I knew that irresponsible dog owners, not the dogs, would drive me crazy.

So what a delight it was to meet Shelly Ferger and to learn about the numerous programs that Dogs For Life provides. Shelly, along with her dedicated staff, volunteers and donors, not only loves dogs, but is committed to teaching responsible pet-ownership, running a safe, off-leash dog park, providing training for pets and assistance dogs, and building a training center that will further aid the community, including returning war veterans. I was especially touched by the story of Iraq veteran Jim Taylor and his wife Dawn, and to hear how a little pug had transformed their lives. Writing this article about Dogs

With more than 80,000 veterans expected to retire to Florida in the next two years, Vero Beach's new $350,000 assistance-dog training center will be completed just in time.

SERVICE DOGS TO THE RESCUE

BY CAROLE CROWE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY DENISE RITCHIE

Although Vero Beach certainly has its share of wonderful parks, some residents may not be aware of one of its finest. With lush oaks for cool shade, numerous benches for rest, grassy areas for playing and trails for walking, the park is very similar to others. It does have a few special characteristics, however. A long fence separates visitors by size, water fountains are very close to the ground and squirrel-chasing is quite popular – not at all surprising for a dog park.

The Off-Leash Dog Park, over four acres on 12th Street and 16th Avenue, is run and maintained by Dogs For Life (DFL), a nonprofit organization "devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs." The park has separate large and small dog areas, with their own benches and wicker chairs and numerous water stations for both species. It even has a Memorial Garden, with a sign that reads, "In memory of our beloved pets who have gone over the rainbow bridge." A statue of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, graces this area.

Jacquie MacWilliam has been bringing her beagle to the park for more than eight years, since Molly was just a puppy. She doesn't mind paying the "reasonable" fee for dog-park usage. After all, "grass has to get mowed and trees have to get trimmed," she points out. In addition to the off-leash security provided by a fence, a strict screening process also ensures safety. Dogs

This pug is more than just a pretty face. Pia Pia is a well-trained service dog whose devotion transformed the life of an Iraq war veteran suffering from hearing loss and PTSD.

Many dogs and their member-owners regularly visit the Off-Leash Dog Park run by Dogs For Life (DFL) on 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. While dogs romp, drink water from metal dishes by the fountain, or curl up for a quick nap, owners can relax on shaded benches and in wicker chairs. A separate section of the park is reserved for training. Here, Kelly receives a treat as positive reinforcement for a job well done.

must be inoculated and neutered, for instance, and evaluated for temperament around other dogs and people. New members must attend a Canine Behavior Workshop, "where dog behavior, body postures, communication and canine park structures are explained," according to the membership brochure. There may be other dog parks in the county, but Jacquie wouldn't even bother checking them out. For her, the location is perfect, the park is beautiful, and the other dog owners are friendly. "This is where I want to be," she says.

It might seem that owning and operating a dawn-to-dusk dog park is a sufficient commitment for a nonprofit organization's mission of improving "the quality of life for people and dogs," but not when the

founder and executive director is Shelly Ferger. And not when Dogs For Life actually runs this dog park to help fund other significant programs – Canine Companions for Comfort, for one.

Volunteer owner-dog teams visit many institutions so that patients and residents can enjoy the benefits of animal companionship. The program provides this unconditional pet-therapy through weekly visits to hundreds of people in area nursing homes, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers and other nonprofit organizations.

Dogs must go through rigorous training and extensive certification, along with their volunteer owners. Of course, each dog must be assessed for temperament, as conditions in a nursing home, say, can be very stressful for an animal. Will a dog remain gentle with so many strangers showing physical affection? How will the dog react if someone accidentally steps on its tail? Obviously, a canine won't be much comfort if it growls or bites an ankle.

Even when a dog has a great temperament, conditions can still cause stress, what with wheelchairs, walkers, clattering stainless steel, raised voices and bustling staff. According to Shelly, "One of the biggest things is teaching the owners how to recognize stress in their dogs." In addition, volunteers are taught various methods to help people engage with their canine visitors. "It's a wonderful thing the volunteers do," Shelly says, "bringing comfort to people with their dogs. It's truly a labor of love."

Dogs For Life also trains "assistance dogs" as part of its mission, an umbrella category that includes assistance for different types of

Shelly Ferger is the founder and executive director of Dogs For Life. In addition to running the dog park and training assistance dogs, DFL has an agreement with many local nonprofit facilities to provide visits from Canine Companions for Comfort teams. There is no charge for these weekly visits. With the help of dedicated volunteers, staff, directors and donors, DFL raised $350,000 to build a much-needed Assistance Dog Training Center to further aid the community and Florida's combat veterans. Ground-breaking took place last month, and tax-deductible contributions are still needed, according to Shelly, to support DFL's many programs and furnish the new center.

disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is very clear that a "service dog" is never just a pet – no matter how much the owner might love the animal or feel physically or emotionally better for having it. "By law, a person has to have a diagnosed disability," says Shelly. The dog must be "task-trained" to mitigate the effects of the specific disability and to enjoy public-access rights for the animal. Dogs For Life never charges for training a service dog. The nonprofit organization relies on tax-deductible donations.

Shelly also helps many individuals understand their rights under ADA guidelines – especially those who might otherwise fall through society's cracks – and often guides them through the legal process of attaining these rights. If the phone rings at DFL, Shelly answers. If someone asks for information or help, she gives it, whether the caller is a client or not.

Dogs For Life does not train guide dogs for the blind or visually impaired. However, assistance dogs can be trained for a surprising number of tasks to help with many other disabilities, physically apparent or not. Mobility assistance might include tapping 911 on a special K-9 phone, opening and closing doors or helping brace a human partner who falls down. A service dog might be trained to circle and create a barrier around the human partner when a crowd is causing a panic attack. A dog can even wake the human partner from a bad nightmare. Hearing dogs are trained to help the deaf or hearing impaired by alerting for smoke alarms, visitors at the door, ringing telephones, even intruders; once trained for specific sounds, hearing dogs sometimes alert for other sounds they were never trained to notice, such as a dripping faucet under a sink.

The extensive training takes time and commitment, for the dog-human team as well as for DFL. Two trainers go into the home once a week and show the owner what to do; the owner must then spend at least 15 minutes a day or longer teaching the dog each task. The trainers return each week for more guided instruction, with regular assessments determining the team's progress. The training also includes visits to public places, including restaurants, grocery stores and doctors' offices. Depending on the type and number of disabilities, task-training could take eight months to a year, and DFL has even worked with a team for up to two years.

Federal guidelines permit individuals to task-train their own animals for public-access rights, with no certification required. Unfortunately, this sometimes leads to a dog's poor behavior in public. Shelly believes a dog's obedience and manners should be "impeccable" in public

Some service dogs are trained to push a large button with their paws on a specially designed phone that dials 911. Pia Pia has even dialed for help without being told when she believed her owner needed emergency assistance.

places, and DFL's training and certification strive for nothing less. Among its other affiliations, Dogs For Life is one of only three organizations in Florida that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International.

Having a well-trained assistance dog can be life-altering, as Iraq war veteran Jim Taylor discovered. Jim suffered from severe hearing loss when he retired from the U.S. Army after 20 years, but he thought this was his only military-related condition. He believes many soldiers who serve for any number of years suffer hearing loss. "Even during training," he says, "they're around guns going off. You're always practicing for war."

It wasn't the hearing loss that almost made him a recluse, however. It was the panic attacks that began without warning two years after he left the military. He had the first attack in a crowd at Disney World while he and his wife, Dawn, were waiting in line for a ride. The attacks soon became so frequent and intense he was afraid to leave the house. Dawn says his condition, eventually diagnosed as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), became so severe "he couldn't be around people anymore. He couldn't even handle large family gatherings."

Dawn and Jim decided to adopt a dog from Halo Animal Rescue in Sebastian. The dog – Pia Pia (pronounced Pay Pay) – was intended to be only a "comfort dog," not a service dog, a sweet-tempered pet that might make Jim feel a little better, and perhaps help him leave the house to walk her around the neighborhood. They found an obedience trainer for the dog, also a veteran, who knew about yet another significant DFL

one individual – Jim – rather than a whole family or audience. Although the dog did pass a temperament test, Shelly still had strong reservations. She agreed to give Pia Pia a try but insisted Jim would have to spend a lot of time working with the dog on his own. Jim was willing to do whatever it took. As it turned out, so was Pia Pia.

The pug has mastered multiple tasks to help Jim overcome his hearing disability and PTSD symptoms, in public and at home. And the moment Jim takes out the dog's little blue vest to leave the house, Pia Pia is all work and no play. Jim can usually go into busy stores now, knowing Pia Pia will protect him and help him leave if he has an attack. He still feels like he's "battling the war, every single night." But now his pug brings him safely home. "She just gently comes over, pats me on the face, and calmly wakes me up," he says. She's trained to alert him to a smoke alarm or doorbell. If the alarm clock goes off, the dog licks Jim's face until he wakes up. Jim laughs recalling how he once fell and, too weak to get up, yelled for Pia Pia to get help. He meant for the dog to get Dawn, who was in the house at the time. But Pia Pia raced to the emergency phone and tapped 911 instead. The pug wasn't taking any chances. This unlikely bundle of devotion gave Jim back his life and the Taylors their home life. "She's one in a million," he says.

Patricia Scott attended the Christmas luncheon with her hearing dog, Holly, who appears to be watching and listening attentively to provide immediate assistance if required.

With so many important programs and other outreach endeavors, DFL might reasonably accept that it can do no more to achieve its mission. But Shelly Ferger has a dream – one she won't give up until it's realized. Dogs For Life is raising funds to complete its new Assistance Dog Training Center on the Off-Leash Dog Park campus. The new facility will offer numerous benefits to local residents: a doggie day-care, year-round obedience training classes, a canine assessment center, restroom facilities for park members, additional options for park membership, more space for training assistance dogs and a hurricane shelter for assistance-dog owners and their dogs.

But the facility will serve another purpose, the one closest to Shelly's heart: It will make it possible to help more disabled war veterans. According to one veteran fact sheet, "Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Iraq war and has the third largest overall veteran population." A 2012 statistic states: "Local Veteran Groups estimate over 80,000 veterans [from Iraq and Afghanistan wars] will retire to the state of Florida in the next two years." Thousands will return with physical and emotional disabilities, and a task-trained dog could give many of them self-reliance and a more fulfilling life.

Right now Dogs For Life must train dogs in an owner's home, which means only local veterans can take advantage of this opportunity. With the new center, however, DFL will finally have the room to pre-train assistance dogs for wounded veterans, no matter where they live. When disabled veterans reach out for help, says Shelly, "We can tell them, 'Come to Vero Beach. We'll have a dog for you.'" ❀

program: Service Dogs for Veterans. Although the Veterans Administration does not yet recognize the benefits of a service dog for PTSD, Jim's severe hearing disability certainly qualified him for a hearing dog. The trainer introduced the Taylors to Shelly Ferger.

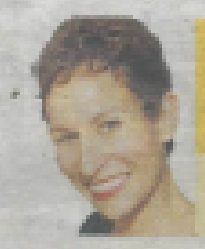
Clients generally bring their own dogs to DFL for assistance training, but certain breeds can have the wrong temperament for task-work. Take a pug, like Pia Pia, for instance. The Taylors still laugh about Shelly's shocked reaction to first meeting their dog. "This is a pug!" Yes, so, what's the problem? Well, the problem was the typical pug-personality: always the clown, living for getting and giving love, all play and no work. Shelly didn't know if a pug could ever learn tasks, especially tasks that focused on only

Dawn and Jim Taylor are deeply grateful that Pia Pia joined their family. When the pug isn't wearing her service vest and helping Jim cope with his disabilities, she can browse a closet filled with stylish doggie-outfits to show off her good looks.

DFL staff and assistance dog teams enjoy a Christmas luncheon in Elizabeth's Garden Café, at McKee Botanical Garden, while waitress Joye Sullivan takes several orders. Among those in attendance (left to right) were Fred Jones and his assistance dog, Sissy Girl; Jay Harris, a war veteran and staff dog trainer, and Kathi Schumann, a DFL director who hosted the luncheon.

■ **Dogs for Life** will hold its 4th Have a Heart & Help build a Bridge bridge tournament and lunch on Tuesday, February 18th at the Vero Beach Country Club. There will be prizes, a 50/50 drawing and auction items to raise funds for training service dogs. The price is $75. Visit DogsForLifeVB.org for a reply card (RSVP by February 10) or call (772) 567-8969.

Dogs For Life



BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

By Tania Ortega-Cowan

BUILD A BRIDGE

Tigger the hearing dog tells *Bright Lights* that he is sponsoring the 4th Dogs For Life's "Build a Bridge" Bridge Tournament on Feb. 18 at Vero Beach Country Club. Register at 11 a.m., then enjoy lunch and Duplicate and Party Bridge tournaments. Orchids from The Fresh Market are this year's prizes, and guests will receive gifts from Mark's at the Pointe. Exciting silent auction items include a Save the Chimps sanctuary tour, a unique hand-painted chair by Vero Beach artist Teri Barrett and more. The entry fee is $75 per person. For information, call (772) 567-8969.

Arts MATTER

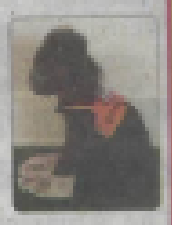
Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

COMMUNITY EVENTS & FUNDRAISERS

■ The **Hibiscus Children's Center** *3rd Annual Passport to Wine and Dine* will be held on Monday, February 10th at the Vero Beach Yacht Club from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Sample culinary delights from Spain, Italy, France, Germany, Argentina, Australia and the United States with expertly paired wines from each region having your event passport stamped in each country you visit. For tickets ($75) can be purchased online at HibiscusChildrensCenter.org.

■ The **Italian American Civic Association,** 1600 25th Street in Vero Beach is holding a Luncheon and Fashion Show with a silent auction featuring models' wearing fashions by Stein Mart on Saturday, February 8th beginning at 11:30 a.m. For tickets ($20) call IACA 778-1522 by February 5th.



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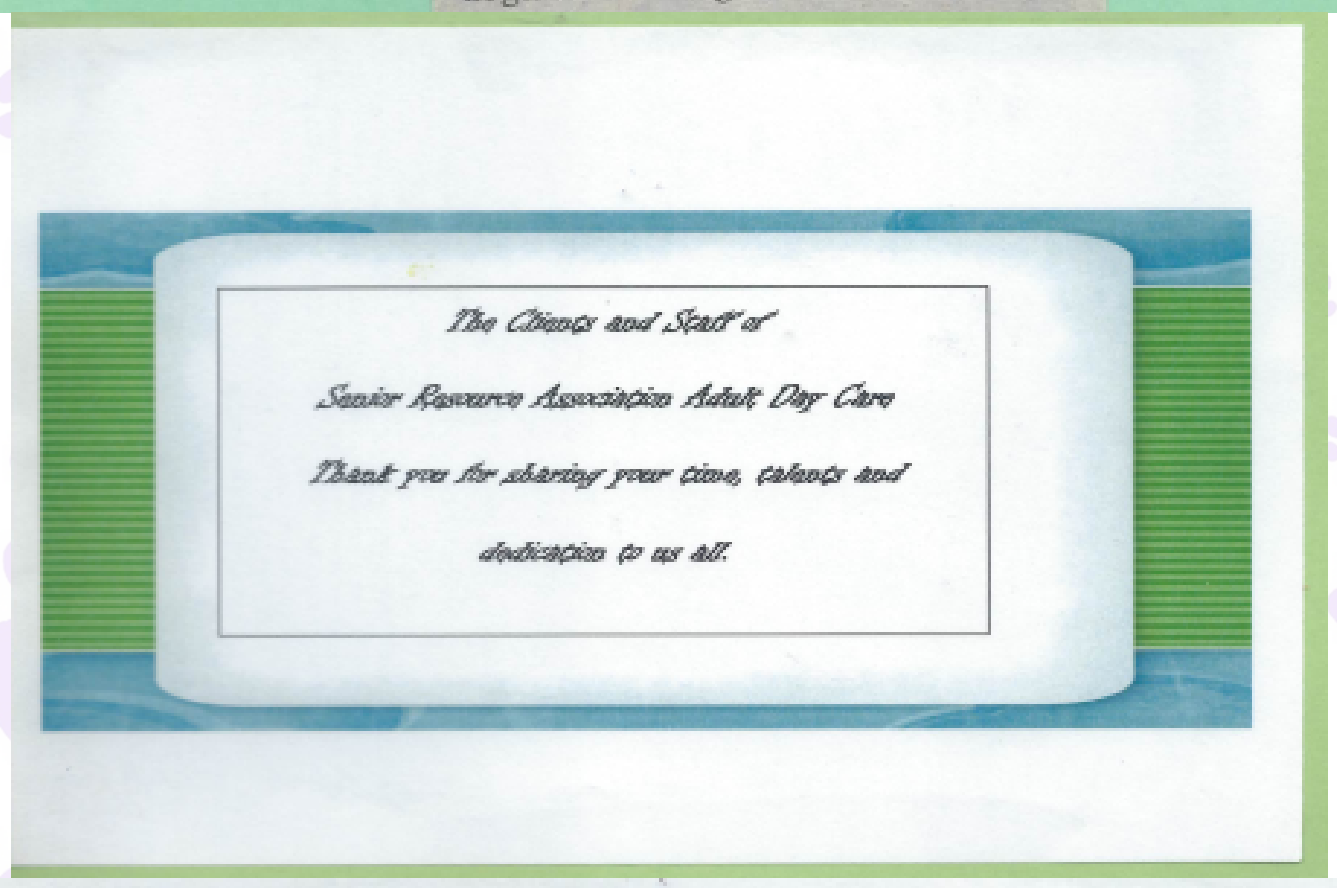
■ The **Vero Beach Elks Club,** 1350 26th Street, presents an *Evening with Derek Warfield and The Young Wolfe Tones* on Saturday, February 8th to benefit the 2014 Indian River County St. Patrick's Day Parade. Enjoy cocktails at 5 p.m. with a light menu until 6:45. The show starts at 7 p.m. Purchase advance tickets ($20) by calling 772-562-8450. *Tickets will not be sold at the door.*

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

By Tania Ortega-Cowan

A SOLID FOUNDATION

Bill Bryant & Associates gave **Dogs for Life (DFL)** an early valentine! **Christopher Bryant**, general contractor, was on hand Feb. 13 as the foundation for DFL's new Training Center was poured. I drive on 12th Street often and have enjoyed watching the progress. Seems like we were just there breaking ground on Jan. 11, when I was honored with the **DFL Media Award** on behalf of *Luminaries*! Visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.



JANUARY

Newsletters

Volume 20, Issue 6
ADI NORTH AMERICA NEWSLETTER
Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry Since 1987

Mission Statement for Assistance Dogs International (ADI):

- Promote standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog Programs
- Facilitate communication and learning among organizations
- Educate the public to the benefits of these programs

More Than a Friend

Increasingly, dogs are being used as valued therapeutic companions for autistic children. By CJ Puotinen

Kids and dogs. Everyone agrees they go together, but for children with autism, dogs can be far more than best friends. They can be therapists, comforters, mood stabilizers, and conversation starters. They can help wandering children stay home, help distracted children stay focused, improve a child's communication and social skills, and help everyone in the family relax.

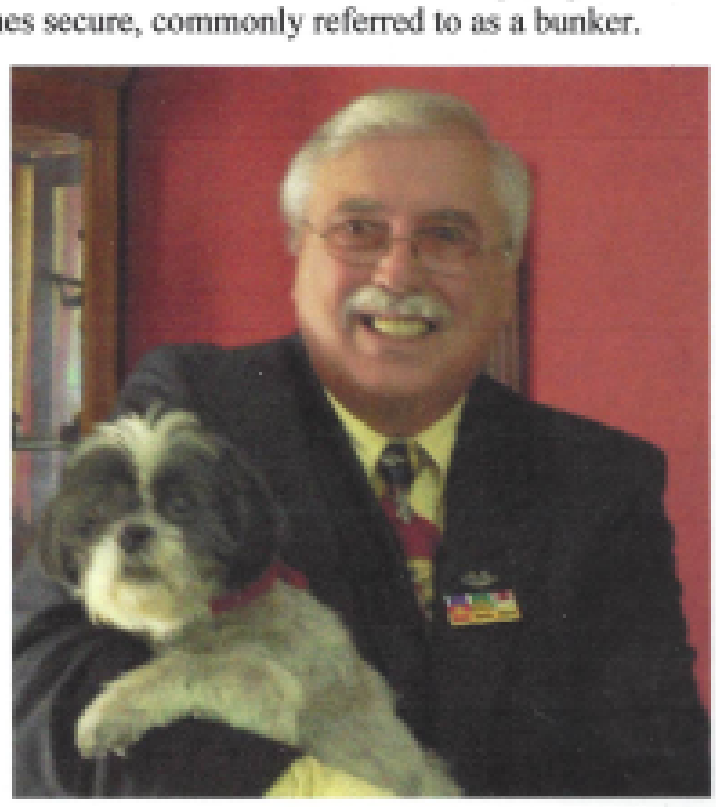
Wisconsin residents, Rachel and Terry, knew their daughter, Prudence, was different. Two years ago, at age four, she was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (AS D). Prudence didn't interact with other children, had a short attention span, struggled to express herself, was easily distracted by sounds, tastes, smells, and movement, often felt anxious, and found comfort in repetitious behaviors and language. "The autism diagnosis scared us but it made sense," says Rachel. "We searched for anything that could help her."

Rachel discovered Blessings Unleashed, a nonprofit organization that pairs autism service dogs (also called autism assistance dogs) with children. In early 2011, a yellow Labrador Retriever named Kaiya officially became Prudence's service dog. According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, service dogs have been trained to do work or perform tasks that benefit individuals with disabilities and must be allowed access to businesses and organizations that serve the public. As soon as the two met, Prudence lay next to Kaiya and didn't want to leave her side. At the family's initial orientation at Blessings Unleashed, Prudence said without prompting, "Kaiya makes me feel better."

Now, six months later, Rachel and Terry are amazed at how in tune Kaiya is to Prudence's needs. "If Prudence cries or screams," says Rachel, "Kaiya is immediately at her side to provide comfort. Kaiya sleeps on Prudence's bed every night and we often wake to hear Prudence talking to Kaiya, which is wonderful for her speech development and pragmatic language skills. One day we went to a party

LETTER FROM A VETERAN
Dogs For Life, Inc., Paw Prints Newsletter

To the outsider, the Veteran looks like any normal person. Sometimes they are stand offish but as they get to know you, their persona changes. Some of them may tend to react to unexpected loud sounds, walk close to buildings, and sit in the back of the restaurant with the wall to their back, always aware of their surroundings constantly scanning the surroundings. What the combat Veteran doesn't share about is the hell they may live in. They tend to be homebodies because they have made their homes secure, commonly referred to as a bunker. They usually have an escape room that is their safe haven. Nightmares and flashbacks are the norm, they let us know we are alive today.



When the Veteran goes out into the public, they are hyper vigilant and on edge. They want to know their back is covered and long for life without fear of unknown.

I have the symptoms mentioned and have been in PTSD therapy for over 20yrs. It has helped me to be better equipped to cope with life on life's terms. It is easier to face life today but I am a work in progress. I still have the flashbacks, nightmares, survivor guilt, fear of the unknown and other medical problems, some related to the war or because I am just getting old.

Muffie, came into my life 13 years ago when I got married for the second time. At first all I saw was a fur ball which I knew would be maintenance and extra cost. Needless to say she trained me and secured her spot on our bed. One night while I was having a nightmare, I remember a wet nose and something licking me which woke me from my firefight I was in the midst of. At first I was on guard for this intrusion into my space but quickly felt the comfort that only a pet can give. She continues to awake me either by touch or barking, she has found it is best not to get near me when I am thrashing about in my imaginary battle. She is a God send. She also alerts me when someone is in yard or at the door. She gets me out of my isolation so I can walk her while she gives love offerings to the neighbors

DFL Veteran's Program presents an opportunity for Veterans to get a Service Dog who can assist them with balance, picking things up they can't reach, be an extra ear, tap a specially designed phone to call 911 when an emergency arises, give comfort and support only a pet can give and make the Veteran aware of medical symptoms that not obvious. This is one reward a Veteran will be appreciative of. I know for me, Muffie has given me a better appreciation of life around me.

I am proud to be a member of DFL Board of Directors. With your support, DFL can expand the outreach to Veterans and seek other ways dogs can be of assistance to our Disabled Warriors.

Ben L. Humphries, SSGT, US Army, Ret.
President, Vietnam Veterans America, Chapter 1038
Indian River County

To learn more about ADI Accreditation visit the Members Only section to review the Accreditation documents: www.assistancedogsinternational.org

Please send all inquiries about Accreditation to info@assistancedogsinternational.org

MEMBER NEWS

Dogs For Life, Inc. Breaks Ground on Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, kicked off its new year by hosting a Ground Breaking Ceremony on Saturday, January 11, 2014 at its off-leash dog park located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Construction of the Dogs For Life Training Center will begin this month and will be used primarily for the pre-training of hearing and service dogs for disabled individuals in our community and veterans struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorders. Additionally, the Center will allow DFL to offer more basic obedience and behavior classes and daily and short-term use of the dog park.

Attending were Members of the DFL Board of Directors and several DFL certified assistance dog teams. Speakers included Penny Chandler, President, Chamer of Commerce of Vero Beach and Indian River County; Colonel, USAF (ret.) Martin J. Zickert, President of the Veterans Council of Indian River County; Christopher Taylor, Pastor of Antioch Primitive Baptist Church; Anthony Donadio, Donadio and Associates Architect; Chris Bryant of Bill Bryant & Associates Inc.; Shelly Ferger, Dogs For Life, Inc. Founder, President & CEO; James Taylor, US Army (Ret.), with his service dog Pia Pia, and Beth Sexton-Stryker, a DFL Board Member, with her hearing dog, Tigger. James Taylor and Beth Sexton-Stryker provided remarks about their experiences with Dogs For Life and how their specially trained dogs have changed their lives.
micheleholl@hotmail.com

Dogs For Life

Press Release

Dogs For Life, Inc.

Contact: Shelly Ferger, Founder/President & CEO
Date: January 17, 2014

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It was a joyous event attended by many donors, friends, and dog park members. Immediately following the ground breaking ceremony was the Annual DFL Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event.

Photo Caption: Left to Right Guest Speaker and Chamber of Commerce President, Penny Chandler; DFL Board Member and philanthropist, Kathi G. Schumann; Founder and CEO; Shelly Ferger; Project Manager and Architect, Anthony Donadio; and Contractor, Chris Bryant of Bill Bryant & Associates, Inc.

Photo by Kailey Faith

Dog park versus City Marina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a 20-year deal to protect the group's investment.

"I've been a dog lover my whole life and I cannot tell you what this means to me and our other seniors," Welles said.

Rob Slezak, who oversees the city's parks and recreation department, thinks a compromise could be reached. He acknowledged that the long-standing plans to expand the city's marina would mean more money for the city's operating budget. But those plans have gathered dust instead of speed.

Ray Neville, who grew up in Vero Beach, is one of those pleading for not only a water-related recreational use of the property, but also for a compromise.

Neville, who does not own a dog, said the space is not only too valuable to give away, but much larger than what dog enthusiasts need. He believes the city and all vested parties can find a spot of nearby land that'll make everyone happy.

"This is the only piece of property left that can be used at some time for aquatic river purposes," said Neville. "To put a park in that place is essentially pretending the river isn't there. And once it's done, it's done and I can assure you it'll never get undone.

"The notion that Vero Beach is not dog-friendly is just silly in my opinion," said Neville.

Neville adds that he does not want the city to compete with another dog park, Dogs For Life, Inc., which charges an annual fee of $365 to utilize its park just outside city limits.

Shelly Ferger, founder and president of Dogs For Life, which trains service dogs for people with physical challenges, said she has no objection another dog park within city limits.

Ferger said the main reason people tell her they don't like the island's present informal park is because it's not fenced in. "Not having a fence," she said, "is irresponsible."

Dell Ross, who is over 80 years old and walks her dog, Riser, to the park each day, said she'd be happy with a smaller official dog park on the island.

"If they take this away from us, my life will not be the same," she said. "My dog's life will not be the same. We want it nearby because there are so many elderly adults that use it. We pay so much money in taxes and utilities that we should be entitled to something." ■

Dogs For Life

Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center
Ground Breaking Ceremony
January 11, 2014

Opening Remarks & Introductions	Shelly Ferger DFL Founder & President
Guest Speaker	Penny Chandler President, Chamber of Commerce Vero Beach & Indian River County
Pledge of Allegiance	Colonel, USAF (Ret.) Martin J. Zickert President, Veterans Council of I.R. Co.
Benediction	Pastor Christopher Taylor Antioch Primitive Baptist Church
Ground Breaking Ceremony	Shelly Ferger Penny Chandler Kathi G. Schumann, DFL Director Anthony Donadio, Donadio & Associates Bill Bryant, Bill Bryant & Associates, Inc.
Comments of Ceremony Participants	Anthony Donadio Bill Bryant Colonel Martin Zickert
Comments from DFL Service and Hearing Dog Recipients	James Taylor, US Army (Ret.) Beth Sexton-Stryker, DFL Director
Gift Distribution	Linda Liss, DFL Director
Dogs For Life, Inc. Annual Volunteer & Donor Awards Ceremony	Immediately Following DFL Memorial Pavilion *All Welcome To Attend!*

Dogs For Life breaks ground on $350,000 training facility Reply

by Mark Schumann • Vero Beach

(http://indianrivertoday.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/jan-16-dogs-for-life-1b.jpg)

(http://indianrivertoday.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/jan-16-dogs-for-life-2b.jpg)
(http://indianrivertoday.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/dogs-for-life-logo.jpg)Shelly Ferger (pictured above), CEO and founder of Dogs For Life, Inc., spoke at the January 11 groundbreaking for a new Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center to be built next to the organization's off-leash dog park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue. The new facility will be used to train service, pet therapy and hearing assistance dogs for armed forces veterans and local residents.

Funds for the $350,000 center were raised entirely from private donors, including a $100,000 anonymous challenge grant that helped stimulate sufficient donations to move forward with the Center. Bill Bryant & Associates is contractor for the project and architect Tony Donadio, a long-time supporter of the organization, designed it and will also act as project manager.

Construction is expected to begin within the next 30 days. The organization's off-leash park is a fenced-in, member and user-supported facility run for years by Ferger. For more information about Dogs For Life, visit the website, www.dogsforlifevb.org (http://www.dogsforlifevb.org) or call Ferger at 772-567-8969.

I was delighted when Shelly Ferger asked me to be here today to speak at the ground breaking for this new Dogs For Life facility. I was introduced to Shelly when I moved to Vero Beach in 1995 with Curry - my Golden Retriever. Curry was a young, untrained and spirited 1-year old that I had recently adopted. With Shelly's professional guidance, I was able to train my pup who went on to live a very happy life with me and my husband Cliff Norris.

Through the years I have kept up to date and somewhat involved in Shelly's programs and was excited when Dogs For Life was started twelve years ago. How can anyone not enjoy a success story like rescuing dogs and training them to assist veterans and other individuals? That part of your program has and will continue to be a huge success.

All the Dogs For Life programs and services have great outcomes, including this dog park. The new training and education center will be another feather in the cap of your Dogs For Life Organization.

Your new facility will provide Dogs For Life a place for classes and a facility for your members. It will provide your staff a great space from which they can manage the park and all the great programs you have to offer. And, give you the space for a doggie day care and shelter for local service dog owners not able to evacuate in the event of a hurricane.

My staff at the Chamber and I know how important adequate working space can be and the difference it can make in how you feel about going to work each day.

You have a great plan and have selected a great builder. From my own experience and that of our own Chamber volunteers and members, I assure you the coming months will be exciting as you watch your dream of this facility becoming a reality.

Congratulations to every volunteer, each person on your Board and to Shelly Ferger on this wonderful accomplishment.

Penny Chandler
Chamber of Commerce

Bags For Life

Bags For Life

Bags For Life

In Memory of our Beloved Pets
who have gone over the Rainbow Bridge

Dear Shelly Ferger,

Your email, named Dog Park is reopened!, was sent on 01/17/2014 around 4:12 PM EST.

Below is a copy of the HTML version your contacts received. Don't forget, you can easily monitor the effectiveness of your email with real-time metrics and stats. Log in to your Constant Contact account and visit the **Reports** area under the Emails tab.

Subject: Dog Park Open - Read for Important News!

Dogs For Life

January 2014

Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park is Open - Fence Relocation and Important News!

New Park Outline:

- The main (paved) parking lot is closed until construction is completed.
- The new (gravel driveway to the north) will be the temporary driveway for members. PLEASE be careful. Only one vehicle will fit through the driveway at a time. This gate is to be kept open at all times.
- Do not attempt to park beyond the chain that separates the gravel driveway from the paved parking lot. The paved parking lot is for construction use ONLY.
- The new SMALL DOG entryway is just south of the shed. This entryway is for small dogs ONLY.
- The LARGE DOG entryway is the same as before.
- THERE IS A DOG WALKWAY (ON LEASH ONLY) that runs along the whole east side of the park. This walkway allows for access from the Training Area to the Memorial Pavilion. (Do not attempt to use the area behind the large dog area if there has been a recent rain, as this area does hold water and there is a man-made ditch in that area, which will be addressed in the future.)
- The Memorial Pavilion is a new off-leash area and is to be used the same as the Training Area (for those who agree with large dogs and/or small dogs). The flowers under the Cypress Trees will be removed next week. So if your dog has medium or long hair, we suggest not using this area until these plants are removed to prevent you dog's hair from getting tangled with burs.
- The Training Area is available for use, but you must go through the main entryway and then through the eastern gate(s) to access this area.
- PLEASE do not allow your dogs off-leash in the eastern walkway.

Thank you for your patience during this week while the park was closed. We are looking forward to having construction completed and the driveway becoming a one way drive from the south to the north. Please be careful entering and exiting and while parking. I expect this area to be busy, so let's all look out for each other and our dogs.

Reminder:

Dogs For Life will have a booth at the Humane Society of Vero Beach's *Bark in the Park* **tomorrow, Saturday, January 18th** from 10am - 2pm. Please come visit Riverside Park and support Dogs For Life and your favorite dog park. We will see you there!

BARK IN THE PARK

VERO BEACH
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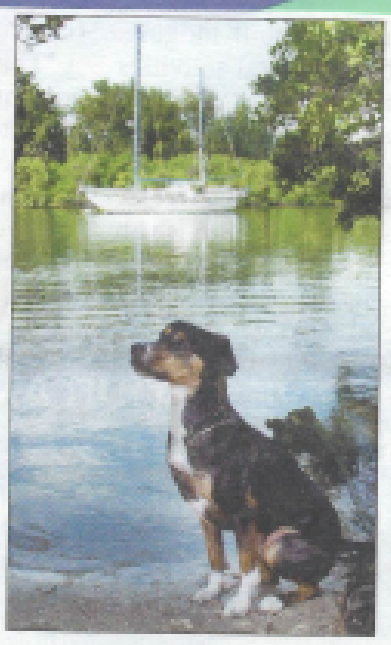
www.vb32963online.com

Dogs battle boaters over riverfront park

BY EILEEN KELLEY
Staff Writer



For about 10 years, people have been letting their dogs run free on a riverfront tract of land that had been earmarked for a possible future expansion of the Vero Beach City Marina.

Now, with marina expansion plans still stalled, and before anything else happens to the land, a group of dog lovers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

January 9, 2014 Volume 7, Issue 2

Dog park versus City Marina

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has formally asked the city to lease it to them for 20 years at $1 a year for a dedicated dog park.

Their bid has raised growls from boating interests who don't want to let the site, with 1,200 feet of frontage on the lagoon, "go to the dogs" permanently.

The tiff has pitched dog lovers and boaters against each other in a land use battle that has spilled over from the chambers of city hall into the press and the airwaves.

The topic has even invaded the cocktail party circuit, with erstwhile friends now in opposite camps on the issue glaring at each other over drinks and canapes.

The land in dispute, surrounding the Bob Summers ballfield just north of the Barber Bridge, doesn't have structures for dogs to leap over or drink from, or even benches for people to sit. It's just a place to unleash the dogs, ranging from well-coiffed poodles to bedraggled mutts, and let them run.

It's one of two informal dog exercise areas in the city. The other, a hard-scrabble piece of land on the mainland in western Vero by the Elks Club, is sparsely used, but several hundred people a week use the one on the island next to the marina.

Dog lovers have mounted a well-organized and vocal campaign on behalf turning the site into an enhanced, fenced-in version of what they now unofficially have.

But boat lovers want to see the 6.85 acres of land, estimated to be worth between $1 to $2 million, put to some marine use: perhaps an expanded marina, or a launching area for kayaks and crewing vessels.

recently, the boating crowd has mounted their own counter-offensive.

"I'm afraid (city council members) do not understand the ramifications to our city if they vote in favor of letting this property 'go to the dogs,'" wrote St. Christopher Lane boating enthusiast Bill Walker in a letter sent to the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce as well as to **Vero Beach 32963**.

On top of that, as some arch-tax-hawks contend, the city may need to realize revenue from the land once it loses the millions currently contributed to the general fund by Vero Electric.

"I don't know if the marina needs expanding or not, but to have that land only used for dogs, well, that is not something I am in favor of. I would like to see the dog park moved across from the cemetery on Old Dixie," said Mark Mucher, a member of the Indian River County Taxpayers Association.

Dog lovers say officially securing the park near the ballfields is about protecting green space. Their vision of a dog park would be for all to enjoy, not just animals.

"We're concerned they're going to try and develop that. Before we know it, someone is going to come in and we're going to lose out on that green space. This is about preserving green space for future generations and there's very little time left," said 75-year-old Jim Welles, a South Beach resident who's leading the charge to have the city lease the park to his recently created group for the nominal $1 fee.

His group of 2,800 people who signed a petition promises to create and maintain a true fenced-in dog park. With about $25,000 in donations, the group wants to erect a fence on three sides of the unofficial dog park; the lagoon would be on the fourth side.

The park would be created in phases with the group promising to pay for routine maintenance such as mowing the grass. Welles is asking for

BRIGHT LIGHTS &RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Dogs For Life

Dogs For Life (DFL), Inc., a non-profit dedicated to improving quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs, met an anonymous $100,000 **Challenge Grant** to build an **Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center** on its **Off-Leash Dog Park** at 12 St. and 16 Ave. Founder **Shelly Ferger** says, "Thanks to dog park members and DFL supporters who worked diligently to raise the remaining $120,000 this past spring, and prior donations from supporters, the estimated $350,000 goal to build the Center has been achieved! DFL chose **Bill Bryant & Associates** as its contractor. Supporter **Tony Donadio**, who designed the Training and Administrative Center, will act as project manager." The ground-breaking ceremony is at 11 a.m. on Jan. 11. Call (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

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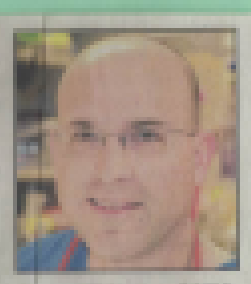
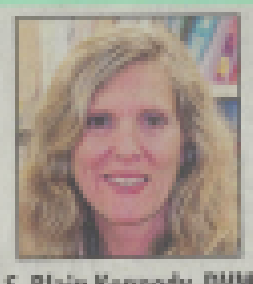


Darrell Horn, DVM
Founder & Chief Veterinarian

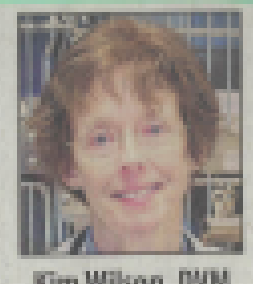
Renee Mansfield, DVM
Staff Veterinarian

Cindy Eselby, DVM
Staff Veterinarian

Darrell Nazareth, BVSc
Staff Veterinarian



S. Blain Kennedy, DVM
Staff Veterinarian



Kim Wilson, DVM
Staff Veterinarian

PET PHARMACY CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN HOUSE

Good For You

Donadio is architect for new dog facility

Anthony "Tony" Donadio, one of 10 star dancers in this season's sixth annual Dancing with Vero's Stars benefiting the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition and Riverside Theatre, is playing an integral part for the new dog training facility on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

Donadio is going to be the architect and volunteer construction supervisor for facility.

Dogs for Life is ready to break ground on a facility to be ready this spring that will enable the group to train many more hearing and service dogs for local residents, as well as pre-train service dogs for the influx of veterans expected to retire to Florida during the next two years.

Donadio serves as the owner's representative for the 2,400-square-foot indoor facility, where he has donated the architectural services for this community project.

For more information on the training facility contact Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969.

Indian River County

3 - Hearing dog Tigger shows Shelly Ferger, founder of Dogs For Life, where to sign the construction contract for DFL's new Service Dog Training & Administration Center as board member Eleanor Bengyak looks on.

PEOPLE

'Tigger, a 5-pound toy poodle, gave me back my life'

BY PIETER VANBENNEKOM
Staff Writer

Seeing-eye dogs for blind people have become a common sight in public places, but service dogs for deaf people? What can they do? Even if they bark to warn of impending dangers, how would their owners hear it?

The general public in the U.S. isn't yet used to service dogs for the deaf or people with other ailments, and outside of the U.S., even less so.

When Beth Sexton-Stryker, granddaughter of Vero Beach patriarch Waldo Sexton, tried to board an Iberia flight in Miami for Madrid with her first hearing dog, Bandit, a miniature Dachshund, the station chief first told her, "No dog!" She quoted FAA regulations and showed the dog's certifications, but the airline wouldn't budge.

"Yes, dog!" Sexton insisted, and finally, Iberia gave her two boarding passes, an extra one for the dog. Once in Madrid, Sexton, who's fluent in Spanish, spoke at a seminar to educate the Spanish public about hearing dogs, but even so, the Prado Museum at first wouldn't let her in with her dog.

"I asked them, would you let a blind person in with a seeing-eye dog?" Sexton said. "When they said yes, then I told them, 'Well, at least I can look at the paintings'," and they relented.

Sexton, daughter of Waldo's youngest son Randy, became deaf and developed balance problems when stricken with meningitis, randomly, in 1994 while she was running a high-powered marketing agency in Connecticut.

"I grew up across the street from my grandfather's house and across from the dairy in what we called the country then," Sexton recalls, "and when I left for Spain and for the big city in New York, I swore I'd never come back to this Podunk town. But like so many others, I have returned and I'm happy I did. When I got ill, I lost everything: my job, my company, my husband.

"I came home and I stayed in my father's rental house because I had nowhere else to go. Even though I knew I was lucky to be alive – my doctor told me I would have died if I hadn't made it to the hospital as quickly as I did – I'll never forget how hard it was that first year before I got my first hearing dog. I did not even know what a hearing dog was! A friend told me to contact Shelly Ferger (of the Dogs For Life organization) and it changed my life. It was a miracle."

Sexton is on her second service dog now and her present faithful companion, Tigger, is a very smart 6-year-old toy poodle who weighs barely 5.6 pounds, but "size doesn't matter."

Beth Sexton-Stryker and Tigger. PHOTO BY BENJAMIN HAGER

Tigger has been trained to tap her leg when there's a knock at her door, when the telephone rings (she has a keypad phone), or when smoke or burglar alarms go off. He will also gently tap her arm in bed when the alarm clock goes off in the morning.

Depending on people's needs, service dogs could also be trained to warn their owners if the oven timer goes off or when they hear a baby crying, but Sexton didn't need that latter type of training.

"When I got Tigger, Dogs For Life sent two trainers to my house to train," Sexton recalls. "At least two trainers are always necessary, and often a third volunteer is needed. When training for the door knock, one trainer was stationed at my side and a second trainer was next to the door. But then we also needed a third individual to be our door knocker.

"It was challenging to train Tigger and required a real commitment and discipline on my part because I was required to practice every single day and keep a diary, which I had to turn in each week," Sexton recalls. "Before I could even start training Tigger, he had to pass a temperament test and I had to complete a lengthy application. Then, we were required to attend basic and intermediate obedience classes.

"Tigger needed additional training to pass the international access test – no eating off the floor or begging for food," Sexton recalls. "An entire pizza was put under the table during one test – believe me, I was praying!!"

Tigger learned the "stay" command in basic obedience and "crate" to obediently crawl into his carrying case during the Intermediate class. All service dogs are required to be "invisible" when in a public place, and that allows Sexton to engage in one of her passions, playing bridge at the Vero Beach Bridge Center where fellow-players don't even notice him during a three-hour duplicate event.

"I learned to play duplicate because of my hearing loss," Sexton recalls. "My mom tried to teach me, but I had too much trouble following the bidding when I couldn't hear what people were saying in a friendly game. But once we took a cruise, and I used the bidding boxes – in duplicate you can't say your bids anyway – I was hooked. As soon as I arrived home, I went to the center and started playing in the Friday student game! And I've graduated to the Open game since."

working dogs. They understand we need them and they have a job to do. They take pride in the work. When the jacket goes on, I can almost see Tigger's chest puff up; he becomes more alert, and the way he carries himself changes. Service dogs are tuned into our every mood. If I'm having a bad day, my negative energy goes right down the leash to Tigger. If I'm happy, his tail wags throughout the day."

Is it all work and no play?

"Service dogs are dogs!" Sexton explains. "It's healthy to take a break and play, and they do! They like to socialize with other dogs. Tigger's favorite activity is to go to the off-leash dog park on 12th Street. He has many canine friends in the small dog area and gets the exercise I can't give him because of my balance issues. But, even in the dog park, Tigger checks in with me. I watch him run to the far corner with the pack, but now and then his head turns to make sure I'm still OK.

"If there is any miscommunication, it's usually because the human member of the team is not being consistent," Sexton explains. "Once, at my Mom's house she wanted her friend Marilyn to come down. I didn't feel like going up, so I sent Tigger. Ever since that day, whenever Tigger enters the house, he immediately takes it upon himself to look for Marilyn. Once, she wasn't there and Tigger stayed upstairs a long time. Finally, he trotted down with her sock in his mouth! He may not have found her, but he found something!"

Sexton is so grateful to Dogs For Life for having hooked her up with Bandit and now Tigger that she become a volunteer and then a director. "If I can help just one other person not to have to go through what I had to go through, it's worth it," she said.

Tigger hosts his own duplicate bridge tournament Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m. at the Vero Beach Country Club to raise funds for Dogs For Life.

The worst thing people can do around a service dog is to approach the owner-dog team from behind and start to pet the dog. It invariably startles the dogs and takes their minds off their job while they investigate.

"The relationship (between dog and owner) is symbiotic," Sexton explains. First and foremost, service dogs are

"After I lost my hearing, I became a recluse and was afraid. My hearing dog gave me the confidence to go out and greet the world. I knew I had to give back and help others receive the same gift I had been given.

"This is a very exciting time," Sexton says. "Until now, we've been an in-home training program. This limits the number of dogs we're able to train. We recently raised funds to build a Service Dog Training & Administrative Center at the dog park. We'll be able to train many more dogs by pre-training them at the center. We'll break ground in just a few weeks."

Among other people whose lives were changed by a service dog is Jim, a veteran who came back from the Mideast wars with a severe case of post-traumatic battle stress. His service dogs pokes his head around corners to tell his master it's safe, creates a circle around him when he's crowded in a supermarket checkout line, and even wakes him from nightmares. ■

In Memoriam

Subject: With Sadness from DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.

Dogs For Life

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. DOG PARK MEMBERSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN MEMORY of AL KANTNER

It is with a very heavy heart that we share the sad news that Al Kantner, a devoted dog park member, passed away on Friday, January 24th.

Al, a well-known visitor to the small dog area, and Gloria were mom and dad to Sassy and Lucky. Al will be remembered for his love of antique cars and dogs. He rescued many dogs from the Humane Society throughout his lifetime.

A Memorial Service will be held this Saturday, February 1st, at 11 AM at Cox Gifford Seawinds Funeral Home located at 1950 20th Street, Vero Beach.

Dog Park members are invited to return to the Dog Park training area after the Service, where a donor bone will be displayed in Al's honor.

PRAYERS AND WELL WISHES FOR CAROL HARTWIG & BAXTER!

To the DFL Board,

...y my
...tmas
...his year.
...e DFL
...sing
a
Thank you again,
Debbie

so proud of you

January 2014

congratulations

for Sticking through the "thick & thin" for DFL.

Sincere thank you for Sponsoring all our Christmas Bonuses!!

Shelly

As many of you may already know Carol Hartwig, small dog park member and her beloved pet-assisted therapy dog, Baxter, have been very ill. If any members would like to forward a card or note to Carol and Baxter please forward them to Dogs For Life at PO Box 650023, Vero Beach FL 32965, and we will be happy to make sure Carol receives them.

Please keep Carol and Baxter in your prayers and thoughts during this difficult time.

DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, Florida 32965
772-567-8969

Annual Meeting

ADRON FENCE
Dogs For Life
Corporate Philanthropist Award
Presented to
Travis Chambers
Adron Fence Company
In Recognition of Your Outstanding Generosity and Continued Service
January 11, 2014

Dogs For Life
The Assistance Dog Award
Presented to
Joan Freeman and "Daisy"
In Recognition and Appreciation of Your Loyal and Continued Service
January 11, 2014

Dogs For Life
Pet Assisted Therapy Team Award
Presented to
Shirley Schindler and "Sara"
In Recognition of Your Outstanding Service and Dedication

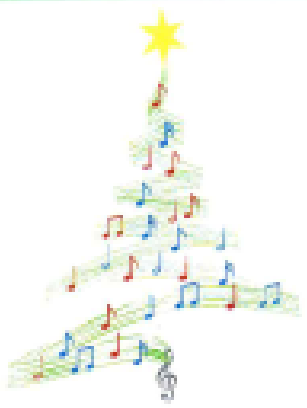
Laura Bonney
Dogs For Life
Volunteer of the Year
Presented to
Laura E. Bonney
LEB Printing & Design
In Recognition of Your Outstanding Dedication and Hard Work
January 11, 2014

Scrapbook

2013

DECEMBER

Dogmus



Dogmus 2013

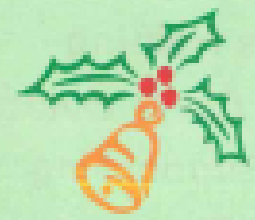
Dear Santa Claws,

On the first day of Dogmus
Will my true donor give to me ...

A Vest To Meet My Service Dog Needs
2 Tons of Training Treats
3 Vet Bills Paid
4 Calling Plans
5 Golden Retrievers
6 Service Dog Sponsors
7 Pails of Postage Stamps
8 Volunteers Helping
9 Shopping Carts Overflowing
10 Staff a Supporting
11 Trainers Training
12 Months of Giving

And your donation to pay for all of these.

Promise I've been good,
Service Dog Sid



Happy Holidays!
From
Dogs For Life, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Website: www.dogsforlife.org • E-Mail: dogsforlife@bellsouth.net • (772) 567-8969

Dogs For Life
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Dear Jude & Hammer,
Thank you thank you thank you
for all your time talents and love you
share with us. "Happy" Woof Woof" Holidays &
Thank you for all Bertha!

Thank You so much
Bell Buckle

We loved
Hammer
Bea

Jean Coffee - & just love dogs!!

Thank You for all the gifts
Martha Olmsdorff

your puppy
is very pretty
Bea

Ethel

Thanks so
much Jude.! We
look forward to
Friday's - A M

THANK YOU!

aunt
Jackie

Bless Hammer & Jude.

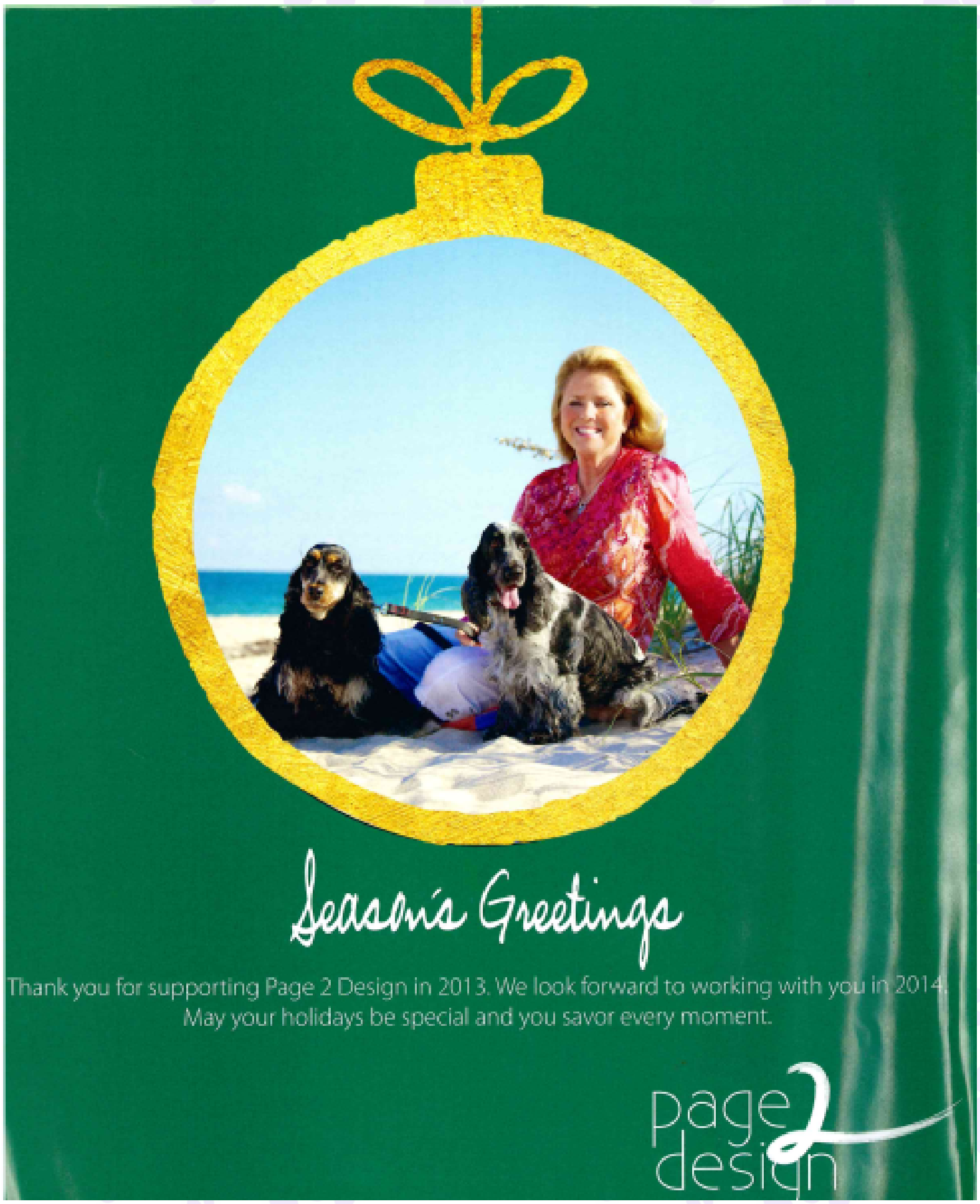
Parole Christmas

Dear Jude & Hammer....
Thank You so very much
for all the joy you bring us...
Merry Christmas to You both!

Home

THANK YOU FOR SHARING
YOUR TIME FOR US
HERE AT THE
CENTER.

Vivian
& Heather


Season's Greetings
Thank you for supporting Page 2 Design in 2013. We look forward to working with you in 2014.
May your holidays be special and you savor every moment.
page 2 design

Dogpark News

Dogs For Life

December 2013

Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park Nose for News Member Newsletter

A monthly newsletter to keep you informed.

December's meeting is this Sunday, the 8th, at 4:00 PM!

Breaking News: The Ground Breaking Ceremony for the Dogs For Life Training & Administrative Center is scheduled for January 11, 2014 at 11:00 AM. We hope you can all attend this joyous occasion, which will coincide with DFL's Annual Awards Ceremony!

Agenda:

- Update on Construction and Changes in Fence Line
- Hedge recommendations for east side of property and palm tree trimming
- Reminders about chairs, water bowls and poop pick-up
- Big dog water station problem
- Plants around bald cypress trees available for members if they want to remove
- Question and Answers
- Suggestions and/or comments
- Upcoming Annual Meeting and Awards
- A volunteer is needed to take minutes at the meeting. If you would like to help, please contact Eleanor Bengyak at (772) 567-4257.

LET'S WELCOME 2014
HAPPY NEW YEAR
News
VERO BEACH Hometown News
Vol. 11, No. 17 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, Dec. 27, 2013

Assistance-dog training facility coming next year

By Jessica Creagan
jcreagan@hometownnewsol.com

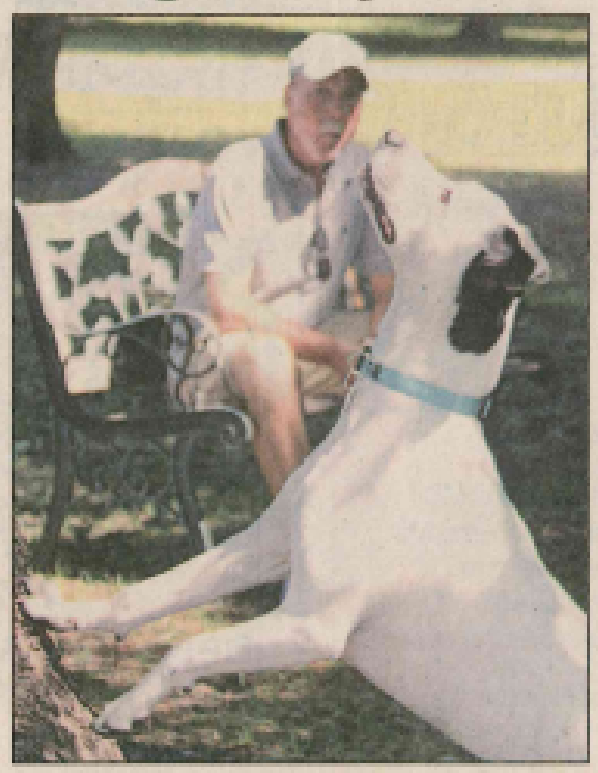
VERO BEACH — The Dogs For Life assistance dog training program will have a place to call home next year, thanks to a $350,000 fundraising capital goal that was reached this winter after several years of campaigning.

The nonprofit organization dedicated to improving quality of life for people and dogs through training mobility and hearing assistance dogs and service dogs for veterans will celebrate their fundraising feat with a ground breaking ceremony on the property at 11a.m. on Jan. 11.

The nonprofit owns about 4 acres of land at the corner of 16th Avenue and 12th Street, and the facility will be constructed on that site, which also has a membership-only off-leash dog park.

"We're a very small organization compared to the area we live in and

See TRAINING, A8



File photo

Vero Beach resident Harry Taylor watches as Dixie, his 10-month-old Dalmatian hound mix, tries to climb a tree to get to a squirrel in the Dogs For Life Off-leash Park in March.

Training

From page A1

we just couldn't pull it off by ourselves, but we had an anonymous $100,000 matching grant that really helped us," said Shelly Ferger, CEO and founder of Dogs For Life.

Since 2002, nearly 100 dogs have received training as mobility or hearing assistance dogs through the Dogs for Life training program, Ms. Ferger said.

Hearing dogs are trained to alert their companion of a door knock, a ringing telephone or even smoke alarms.

Mobility assistance dogs are taught to help their companions by retrieving fallen objects, acting as a guide, or help with anything that could be daunting to a person with physical challenges.

Since there hasn't been a building on the property, the dog training has been taking place outdoors, when the weather permits, or in the dog's home, Ms. Ferger said.

"With the building, we will be able to train year round, and we will be able to train dogs before they go into homes," she said.

Kathi Schumann donated a substantial gift to help Dogs For Life with operations and start-up costs of the assistance dog training and administrative Center, a press release said.

Mrs. Schumann has also joined the nonprofit's board of directors to offer critical help in expanding the veteran dog training program, the release said.

One of the newest Dogs For Life training programs is equipping dogs for veterans with both physical challenges and post-traumatic stress disorder.

"It's estimated that 80,000 veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years. These are young men and women and they aren't wanting medication, wheelchairs and crutches, they want dogs," Ms. Ferger said.

Dogs trained to assist veterans perform tasks such as creating a barrier between their companion and other people if the veteran becomes nervous, looking both ways before entering a room and protecting their companion from behind, according to the Dogs For Life website.

"I receive calls from all over the country wanting to know if we have pre-trained dogs, and with this facility, we can hopefully expand our dog training program so we have dogs ready to go when they are needed," Ms. Ferger said.

The nonprofit is fully accredited by Assistance Dogs International, a coalition of not-for-profit organizations that train and place assistance dogs.

The Dogs For Life off-leash dog park is located at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

For more information about training programs by Dogs For Life or to make a donation , call Ms. Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

NOVEMBER

Brennity
Dog Show & Parade

Dogs For Life

Calling all Dogs For Life, Inc. Volunteers, Assistance Dog Teams, Pet-Assisted Therapy Teams and Dog Park Members to Join us at the . . .

Tuesday
November 12. 2013
From 10am to
12pm

The Brennity
7955 16th Manor
Vero Beach 32966

Brennity at Point West Dog Show & Parade

Vendor Fees to benefit the local Humane Society

In lieu of admission, please bring a dog toy, treat or food for Meals on Wheels to be delivered to seniors with pets. Enjoy hot dogs with gourmet toppings, chips, drinks and awards!

RSVP Now

Will Your Dog Be Best in Show?

Bring your dogs to The Brennity for our Dog Show and Parade! The local humane society, low-cost vaccinations, free pet I.D. tags, as well as many other pet vendors will be on-site. Enjoy hot dogs with gourmet toppings, chips, drinks and awards!

In lieu of admission, please bring a dog toy, treat or food for Meals on Wheels to be delivered to seniors with pets.

Tuesday, November 12 at 10 a.m.

RSVP to (772) 299-7900 by November 9

THE BRENNITY
– AT VERO BEACH –

COTTAGES | INDEPENDENT LIVING
ASSISTED LIVING | MEMORY CARE

8: 68!27u !N bops/Wspl Cf bdi -IGM43: 77!
)883*13: : .8: 11!!Csf oojuzWspCf bdi /dpn

Bttjtuf e!Mjwjoh!Cbdjnuf!Mjdf otf!$BM!1941

Muster & Music Festival

NATIONAL NAVY UDT-SEAL MUSEUM - 2013 EVENT SCHEDULE

28TH ANNUAL MUSTER & MUSIC FESTIVAL

THURSDAY, 7 NOVEMBER

2:00 P.M. .....ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - MEMBERSHIP DINNER TENT-MUSEUM GROUNDS
3:00 P.M. .....BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - CONFERENCE ROOM-MUSEUM

FRIDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

9:00 A.M. .....MUSEUM OPENS
11:00 A.M. .....DEMONSTRATION REHEARSAL
5:00 P.M. .....PRE-DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MEDAL OF HONOR STATUE FOR MUSEUM MEMBERS
5:30 P.M. .....ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DINNER – CELEBRATING 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII-SEAL
NCDU & UDT SPONSORED BY COOKS FROM THE VALLEY AND USMI
MUSEUM MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ONLY $30.00 PER PERSON
6:00 P.M. .....LIVE MUSIC FEATURING THE BIG BAND SOUNDS OF F.D.O. 18 PIECE BIG BAND

SATURDAY, 9 NOVEMBER

7:00 A.M. .....ANNUAL BEACH RUN/WALK
11:00 A.M. .....SEAL DEMONSTRATIONS, INCLUDING:

SEAL PARACHUTE TEAM

SLC K-9 CAPABILITIES

SEAL SNIPER DEMO

SEAL TACTICAL ENEMY APPREHENSION

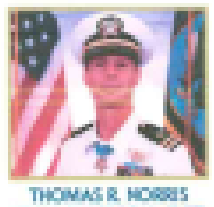
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: | SPECIAL GUEST: | MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS:

ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. MCRAVEN COMMANDER USSOCOM

U.S. CONGRESSMAN PATRICK E. MURPHY (D) FL - 18TH DISTRICT

H. ROSS PEROT

MICHAEL E. THORNTON LT. U.S. NAVY SEAL (RET)


THOMAS R. NORRIS LT. U.S. NAVY SEAL (RET)

12:45 P.M. .....OFFICIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR MEDAL OF HONOR STATUE
COME PARTY WITH THE NAVY SEALS AT THE CHIEF'S AFTER MUSTER BASH FEATURING:
1:00 P.M. .....LIVE MUSIC FROM UPROOT HOOTENANNY
5:00 P.M. .....CONCERT FEATURING THE KILLBILLIES
7:00 P.M. .....CONCERT FEATURING THE AMERICAN ROGUES
GATES OPEN AT 4:30 PM–FREE FOR MEMBERS/$3 PER PERSON NON-MUSEUM MEMBERS
CASH ONLY-BYO CHAIRS/BLANKETS-ATM AVAILABLE (SEE REVERSE FOR MORE INFO)

SUNDAY, 10 NOVEMBER

7:00 A.M. .....SUNRISE SERVICE – BEACH
8:00 A.M. .....MEMORIAL CEREMONY AT
THE MUSEUM MEMORIAL WALL

CHECK FOR UPDATES AND MORE INFORMATION AT: WWW.NAVYSEALMUSEUM.COM - OR CALL: 772-595-5845
NATIONAL NAVY UDT - SEAL MUSEUM - 3300 N. HIGHWAY A1A, NORTH HUTCHINSON ISLAND, FT. PIERCE

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 11/10/2013 8:24:51 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: DFL & Navy SEALS Muster Day

Attached are a couple of pictures of DFL's Booth at the Navy SEALs Muster Day (yesterday) what a turn out. Rick you must be proud... And was that really you who parachuted onto the That's what the Military Moms thought...

Thank you Rick for the GREAT location, things got off to a slow start, but AFTER the demons belive everyone who attended, walked right by our booth.

Many stopped because of our **Dog Representative Daryl, pic attached**. And, right at $50 v deposited in our donation jar!!
We were able to hand out a lot of DFL's brochures and talk about our future training center a able to train more assistance dogs for Veterans.

I must share in conversation with one of my new friends.. A Military Mom, Lynn, while at thei during the Air Show a few weeks back, she told me her son was coming home "that day" on ask her how was his homecoming. She said it was wonderful, but then went right into how d was to "send him off again". My heart ached for her, her son, and her family, as she told me gets easier, no matter how many times we see him off." But how they tried to be brave, until boarded the plane and then they cried for an hour.

We are inspired more than ever to be proud to step up and do the very best job we can to he who have and are serving our country.

Happy Veterans day and we hope to see you on Memorial Island Monday.

Sincerely,

Shelly

Dogs For Life
Shelly Ferger, Founder
President and CEO
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifevb.org

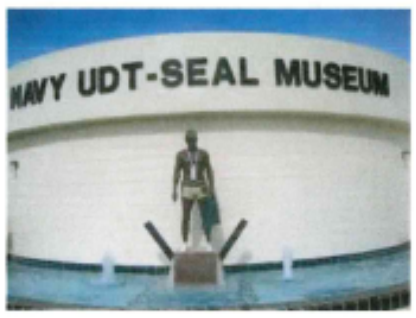
"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~Mark Twain.
Please consider including Dogs For Life, Inc. in your will, trust or other estate plans.

Member International Association of Assistance Dog Partners
Notice of Confidential Information: The information contained in this email message, including any attachments, is confidential and may also be privileged, intended only for its apparent purpose, and only for the individual, or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this document is strictly prohibited. If you have received this document in error, please notify the sender and destroy the original message. Thank you.

Attachments Preview: Upload all photos to Facebook

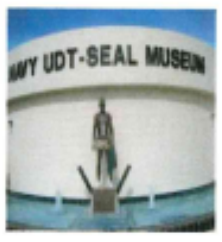
navy seal.jpg

Email this photo | Upload photo to Facebook



Be on the look-out for details about our **DFL Bridge Tournament at the Vero Beach Country Club** on February 18, 2014!

Treasure Hunt Car Rally on April 26, 2014 sponsored by Kathi Schumann! Participants will start at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park and everyone can enjoy the Finish Line party at the Heritage Center. Partnering Sponsors are the Vero Beach Auto Elite Club & Einstein Brothers Bagels. First Prize will be $5,000!



Please come help us at the **Navy UDT-Seal Museum's 28th Annual Muster & Music Festival** in Ft. Pierce this Saturday, November 9th! Enjoy demonstrations, keynote speakers, live music and more. Volunteers are needed from 9am to 1pm to help at the DFL Tent. Please contact Shelly at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net or 772-567-8969!

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

Off Leash Dog Park
Memberships Available
Dogs For Life
www.dogsforlifevb.com
567-8969
12TH ANNUAL HOWL-O-WEEN
PAWRADE OCT. 19 2-5
THANK YOU PRINZ SCHU
10/14/2013

vero beach
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Pet Sitter Plus, LLC
"We Come To You"
Licensed, Bonded, Insured
& Pet First Aide Certified
772-494-8575
Owned-Beth Brown

Raffle Tickets
DONATION:
$1 for 1
or
$5
Come On In
My
Pretties!

Come On In
MY
Pretties
CAUTION
CAUTION
Come On In
My
Pretties!
LEB PRINTING & DESIGN
Dogs For Life
MIKE VERGARA
PRECISION KUTS

Rock with Heather Buchko and Danica

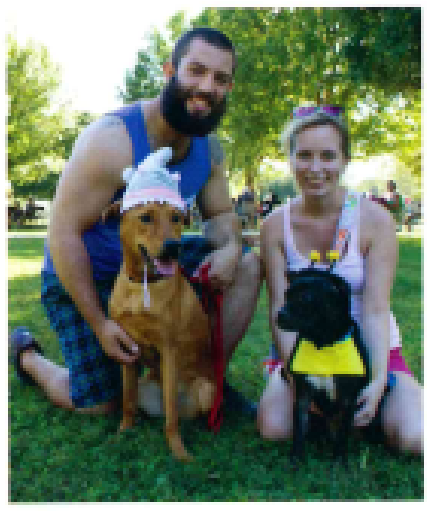
Dogs For Life volunteer Ed Boatwright leads the parade with Sassy and Tetley

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANIE RUSSELL-HENRY

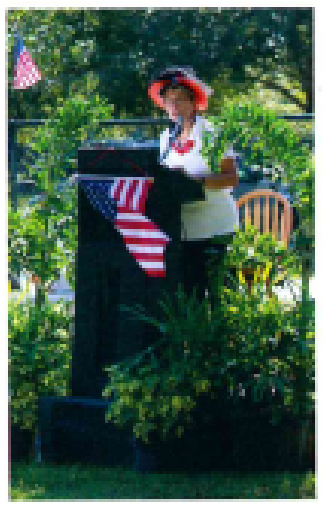
Pawrade Raises $19,000

Sponsored by Prinz Schumann; CenterState Bank; Donadio & Associates Architects; Coast to Coast Landscaping; Vero Insurance; Atlantic Coastal Land Title Company; Frances Graves; Norman Hensick

OCTOBER 19: Over 55 dogs big and small were in costume for the 12th annual ***Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo*** at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park. The event includes a costume parade, prizes and vendors, and raised $19,000 for Dogs For Life.



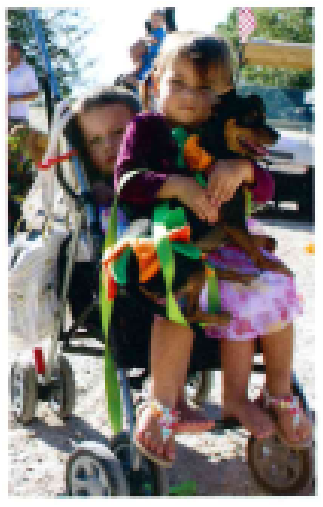
Rugger with Chris Faga and Cricket with Melissa Barry



Dogs For Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger

Dogs For Life volunteers Beth Stryker with Tigger, her hearing and 911 working dog, Patti Schell and Toni Tirezi

Maggie with Mickey Kelley and Dixie with Mary Kelley



Jayden and Alexa holding her dog Reese

Debbie Henderson with Phoenix and Jaime Henderson with criminal Lynx and sheriff Bentley

Nav Pansuriya holding Nikki and Tonia O'Neill holding Nikko

Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade

OCTOBER 19: Dress your dogs up in their cutest costumes for the 12th annual Dogs For Life ***Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo*** at the off-leash dog park.

The expo is from 2 to 5 p.m. and the parade begins at 4 p.m. The event draws over 100 dogs in costume and is free to the public. Activities include prizes for all dogs in costume, vendors, raffles and food.

Call (772) 567-8969 for more information or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANIE RUSSELL-HENRY

Allison with her pup Micky

Arts MATTER

Cultural Council CONNECTION

www.Cultural-Council.org 772.770.4857

HALLOWEEN FUN & FRIGHT NIGHT WEEKENDS

■ **Dogs for Life** presents its *12th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade* on Saturday, October 19th from 2 to 5 p.m. with the Pawrade beginning at 4 p.m..This canine and family friendly event will be held at the Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Admission is FREE to the Public. Vendors and exhibitors wanting to participate may call 772-567-8969.

Off Leash Dog Park
Memberships Available
Dogs For Life
567-8969
12TH ANNUAL HOWL-O-WEEN
PAWRADE OCT.19 2-5
THANKYOUPRINZSCHU

Vero Beach - Indian River County
Newsweekly
WEDNESDAY • OCTOBER 30, 2013 • VOL. 3, ISSUE 31
CELEBRATING WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

INSIDE

Pets are put on parade to support Dogs For Life

BY STEPHANIE LABAFF
THE NEWSWEEKLY

Pumpkins, sharks, hippos and superheroes invaded the Dogs For Life Off Leash Dog Park at the 12th annual Hall-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo.

More than 50 pooches pranced around the park in costume and numerous others attended with their humans for the community day.

Many attendees dropped by to observe, leaving their own pets at home. About 350 people and an additional 50 dogs without costumes enjoyed the show from under the oak trees.

The mission of Dogs For Life is to "improve the quality of life for people and dogs." It's hard not to smile as you see a beagle dressed as a beach bum or a Great Dane/Doberman mix buzzing by in a bee costume.

Before the parade, there was plenty of opportunity for the dogs to make new friends, play with old ones and stroll around checking out the pet vendors on hand selling their wares.

Tuxedo, with owner Larry Brachfeld, is a 7-year-old standard poodle disguised as a skeleton.

Cowgirl Heidi is a 4-year-old Tibetan spaniel rescued by Corina Turner.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE LABAFF
Jonathan Cortez brought Charlie, a 3-year-old pug, to his first parade.

More than $3,000 worth of pet related items was raffled off after the pawrade.

The annual event was established to increase "awareness that DFL is an assistance (hearing and service) dog training organization and not just a dog park," explained Shelly Ferger, founder, president and executive director of the organization.

"We wanted to allow people to 'come out and see' the park in an effort to encourage membership and of course have some fun, fun, fun!"

No animal-related event would be complete without a little chaos. One cunning canine got loose and a chase ensued.

"Everyone in attendance did everything possible in an attempt to catch this dog, which was determined to run back to its owner's vehicle," recounted Ferger.

The dog made its way safely back to the car presenting a reminder of the importance of a secure collar and a reliable "come" command.

The Dogs For Life program is a symbiotic relationship. Through the programs and training offered, dogs are rescued and trained as service dogs that in turn support people in need of assistance.

"We are so grateful to the community for supporting the building of our Assistance Dog Training Center at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park," said Ferger.

"Dogs For Life is here to help people in Indian River County train their own dogs for hearing, physical and emotional support. DFL operates a safe, clean and conveniently located off-leash dog park to any dog that is inoculated, neutered and social."

Annual membership fees are $385, with $65 being fully tax-deductible and going directly to the training of assistance dogs. The remainder helps maintain the dog park.

For more information, visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

MORE PHOTOS ON 7

What do a hippo, a jailbird and a sheriff have in common? In this case they all love bones. Debbie & Jaime Henderson with Phoenix, a four-year old rottweiler, Lyra, a three-year -old chihuahua/rat terrier, and Bentley, a five-year old dachshund/Jack Russell.

I love a pawrade
Pooches and their proud owners parade in costume at a fundraiser for Dogs for Life in Vero Beach • Page 6.

Oslo the clown is a part of the pet assisted therapy program.

Rock, a two-year-old golden retriever does not appear interested in wearing his sorcerer's hat.

Eagerly waiting in the wings, these good friends are ready for the parade to begin.

Tyler, 11, & Brooke Gomez, 7, with friend Chase Lathrop, 11, and Darth Vader a three-year-old basset hound.

Minnie Mouse parades past the crowd in a fashionable ensemble.

Tippy waits his turn sitting like a true royal dressed as Prince Charming.

TREASURE COAST

HOBIE HILER/SPECIAL TO TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Get along, little doggies

Corina Turner of Vero Beach holds her Tibetan terrier, Heidi, as both dressed as cowgirls for the 12th annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade and Pet Expo at the Dogs for Life Off Leash Dog Park in Vero Beach on Saturday. "I think it's fun for us to get all the animals together to play and hang out," said Turner, smiling. "Heidi loves to dress up."

Dogs For Life

(772) 567-8969
12th Street & 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32965

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 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!

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

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The sobering fact is that suicide is rampant[5]:

Almost <u>once an hour</u> – every 65 minutes – a military Veteran commits suicide

Almost <u>once a day</u> 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!

231,000[4] Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record[1].

80,000[4] Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years[2].

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

- **3 in 10 will have a service-related disability**
- **30[6]% will suffer from the effects of PTSD**
- **50% of those with PTSD will not seek treatment**
- **19% will report PTSD symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"**
- **1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans,** and 45% of them will suffer from mental illness[1]
- Florida is home to the highest number of **amputees** from the Gulf War-Era wars[3]

DFL is committed to capitalizing on our 12 years of experience to train Service Dogs for these Florida Veterans in need.

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[+] million Veterans have served our country since September 2001[4]

- 307,000[+/-] members of our armed forces are likely to leave the military in each of the next four years[5]

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

The Statistics Are Staggering

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

Veterans Are *Disproportionately* Homeless[3]:

- **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)

PTSD, Physical Disabilities & Homelessness:

What does PTSD have to do with homelessness? The sad fact is:
- ***2/3 of homeless Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD***[6]

PSTD is even far more common than physical wounds among troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan:
- **336,000**[+] have been diagnosed with PTSD (some studies indicate that up to 70% of Veterans suffer from PTSD)[7]
- 50,409 have been wounded[7]

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[3]:
- **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**[6]

Moreover, the VA says the numbers could be higher because they include only the homeless the department is aware of[8].

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."*[9]

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 crossed-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 Disorder. 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 PTSD

The Department of Veteran Affairs has long recognized the effectiveness of Service Dogs for Veterans*. The Department is currently sponsoring a study to evaluate the effectiveness of Service Dogs as a treatment method for PTSD. While the results of this study will not be available until January 2014:

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

Other programs indicate[10]:

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

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) Service Dogs *already* help Veterans with PTSD 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 PTSD by:

1. Waking up the owner from nightmare
2. "Creating a Barrier" around the owner to allow distance from people in a crowd
3. "Watching my back" - dog sits/downs 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 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 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 PTSD 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.

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

[1]Florida Department of Veterans Affairs
[2]According to local Veterans Groups
[3]Walter Reed Army Hospital estimate
[4]Current Population Survey (CPS) 2012, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor's Veterans' Employment and Training Service
[5]Department of Veterans Affairs
[6]January 2012 HUD national "point-in-time count" of the homeless
[7]The Rand Study; Department of Veteran Affairs; Department of Defense
[8]VA's specialized homelessness programs
[9]Anne Murphy, LA Salvation Army program director
[10]Operation Wolfhound

Jim Taylor, SSG, US Army Ret. & Service Dog Pia Pia

By Dawn Taylor, Jim's Spouse

Pia Pia attended many outings in 2012 with friends, neighbors and families, which included dinner at the Olive Garden and breakfast at Cracker Barrel. We've been to Texas for 10 days, visited the Spaghetti Factory, Steak & Shake and the Burleson Mall where she performed perfectly. She attended Jim's son's wedding reception and stayed right by Jim's side. When we stayed in hotels, she took to the elevators really well and comforted Jim while he was in the elevator by licking his face and holding onto him. There was a time when Jim was unable to go into an elevator and Pia Pia walked up five flights of stairs with him.

Pia Pia goes with us for normal shopping at Target, Air Force Bases, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club. She goes to Jim's Chiropractor and Counseling appointments and she was right on Jim's lap when he had to give blood at his doctor's appointment. She also attended a DFL fundraising event at the Vero Beach Country Club. When Jim needed to get the windows tinted on his car, Pia Pia was with him. The employees were impressed with her behavior and her attendance to Jim. She also attended the DFL Howl-O-Ween event in October at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Last year, Pia Pia attended a blessing for caregivers at the West Palm Beach Veteran's Hospital Chapel. December was a tough month for Jim. Pia Pia stayed right by his side at all times, in the kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. When Jim became sick downstairs, Pia Pia came upstairs to get me from my office. She spun in circles until I got up to follow her, then she led me to Jim who was on the floor in the kitchen, too weak to get up by himself.

Many times during our trips, Pia Pia helped Jim to stay calm so that he can be patient enough to hear people talking to him. She will "speak" for him, so that he may excuse himself from a stressful situation and she alerts him when someone is at the door in a hotel, just like she does at home. She is able to pick up on his moods and distracts him with her playful antics.

Jim & Pia Pia attended a fundraising luncheon with DFL to tell his experience of having his dog trained as a service dog through Dogs For Life, Inc. Jim explained that without his dog he would have become a recluse. Pia Pia has given him a quality of life he would not have had without a service dog, and we are grateful for Jim's service to this country and the independence he gave to us all.

Pia Pia taps special K-9 emergency phone.

Spirit Saves The life of Her Owner By Tapping 911 Phone

By Dorothy Davidson

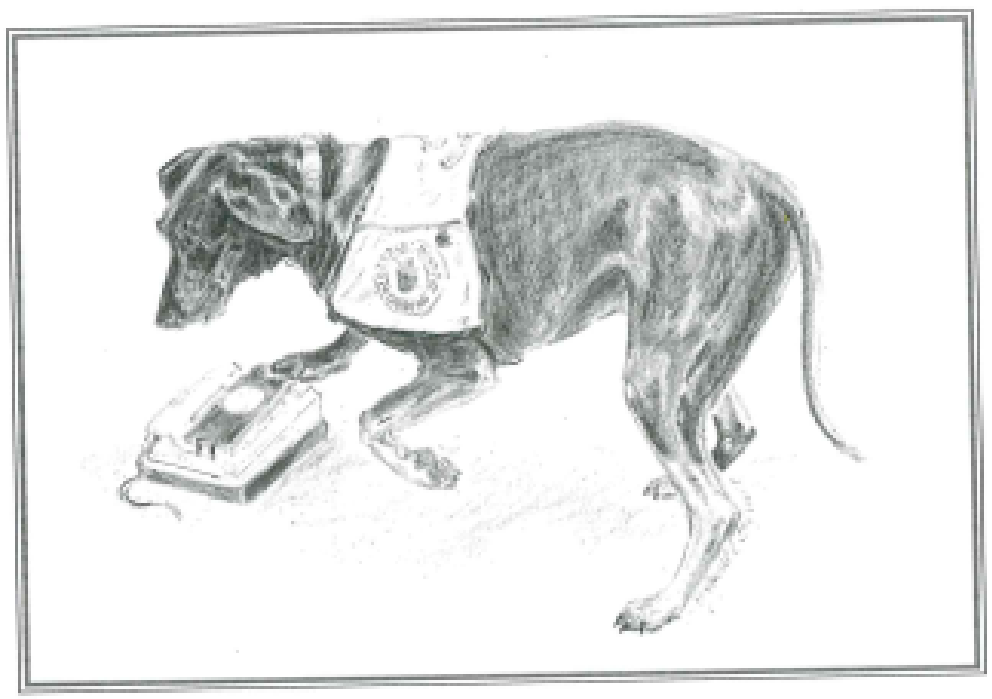
Two eyes are watching me. One is blue and the other is brown but they both belong to my dog, Spirit. She is never far from my side, waiting for something she can do for me and this was never more important than at 2:00 one morning when I found myself flat on a cold, tile bathroom floor tangled up in a walker and a wheelchair, too sick and too weak to get up. That is when I asked Spirit to "go tap help." She went to her 911 phone, activated it and two big, handsome EMS men came and took me to the hospital.

Spirit has been picking things up for me since she was a pup like bringing me my grandson's dirty socks. So when I wanted to get her certified, I turned to my friend, Shelly Ferger, and Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, FL to complete her training, especially the necessary public training that I was physically unable to do myself. They trained Spirit to tap the K-9 911 phone.

I could tell many stories about this dog like how many times she has retrieved my bird feeder or my portable phone that fell off my porch then down the bank into the woods, to how she won the hearts of all the staff and patients at Care Partners in Asheville, NC, the rehab center where we spent two weeks after coming out of the hospital. There are no words to tell you how grateful I am to have Spirit and the many people who have been so good to us along the way.

Dorothy Davidson with "Spirit", trained and certified to tap a 911 Emergency phone by DFL, as featured on ABC, Ashville, TN.

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965 • (772) 567-8969
E-mail address: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net • Website: www.dogsforlifevb.org



Thanks you to the "Dogs for Life" family for your kindness and prayers during Abby's illness and passing.

Your support is deeply appreciated during this stressful time.

Sincerely,
Nonie Cordy

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 1038
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 1038
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

ARY MOMS
ROUP

Photo Blog

GIVING BACK

Hair of the Dog

a blog for pet photographers

Read Blog | Meet Nicole | Workshop | Resources | Submit | Contact | Subscribe | Search

Greetings!

Thank you for joining me here at The Hair of the Dog, a blog for sharing business and marketing tips specific to the pet photography niche. In order to be successful in a pet photography business, or any photography business, it must be treated first and foremost as a business. I have created this resource to share tips and tricks to help you create a sustainable (ie. profitable) photography business, as well as share some inspiration along the way. The pet niche of professional photography has exploded in the past few years and shows no signs of slowing down. While there are many blogs dedicated to growing and marketing your portrait business, there are very few resources dedicated to the professional or aspiring professional pet photographer. I am happy to share the resources that I have discovered and I would love to hear from you. If you would like to submit a session to be featured on the Hair of the Dog or if you would like to share a guest post check out the details under the submissions tab.

Enter the blog here!!

Friday, August 30, 2013

Session Spotlight – Emma Grace Photography

Please welcome Tampa Area Pet Photographer Darci from Emma Grace Photography to the Session Spotlight!

I did this session with Pia Pia (pronounced pay-pay). Pia Pia was rescued by her mom and dad from a rescue group in Sebastian, FL when she was just 6 months old. She was nearly blind when they adopted her but thankfully they found a great vet who was able to save her sight. To this day, Pia Pia has no problems seeing at all. In fact, Pia Pia is now a Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) service dog for her dad. She has been one for the last 3 years. If anyone knocks on their door or rings the doorbell, she alerts them. She can even dial 911 too! Her story was featured on Fox News in West Palm Beach, FL as well as Fox News in Orlando and CNN. You can see more of her talents and what she can do for her dad in this video, which was featured on their local news: http://www.wptv.com/dpp/news/region_indian_river_county/vero_beach/trained-service-dog-taught-to-dial-9-1-1-for-owner-with-post-traumatic-stress-disorder I had a great time with Pia Pia at our session. She really is a special pug!

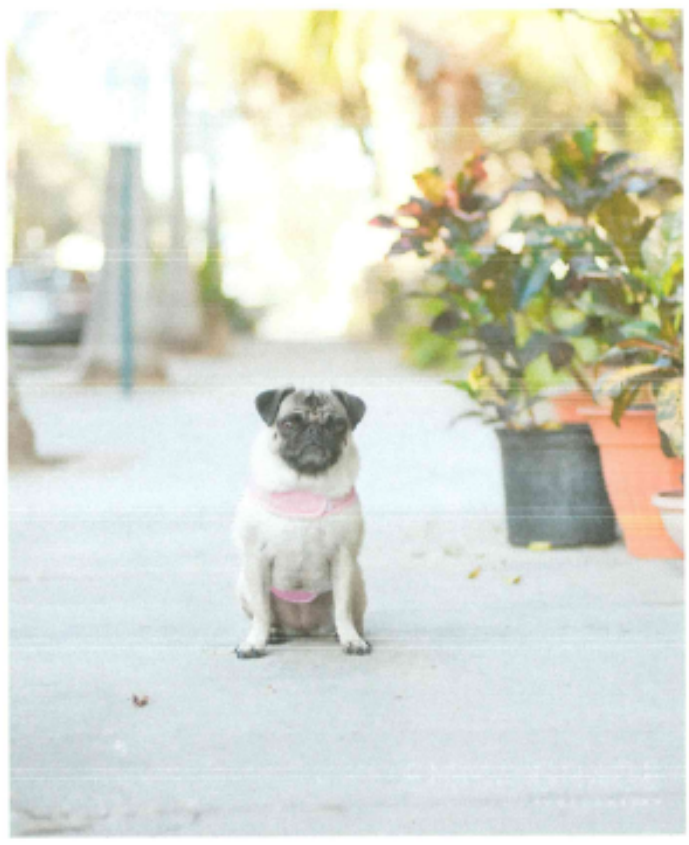
Join us!

Hair of the Dog Retreat photography and business workshop. South Florida - Feb.14. Registration is OPEN!

Email Goodies

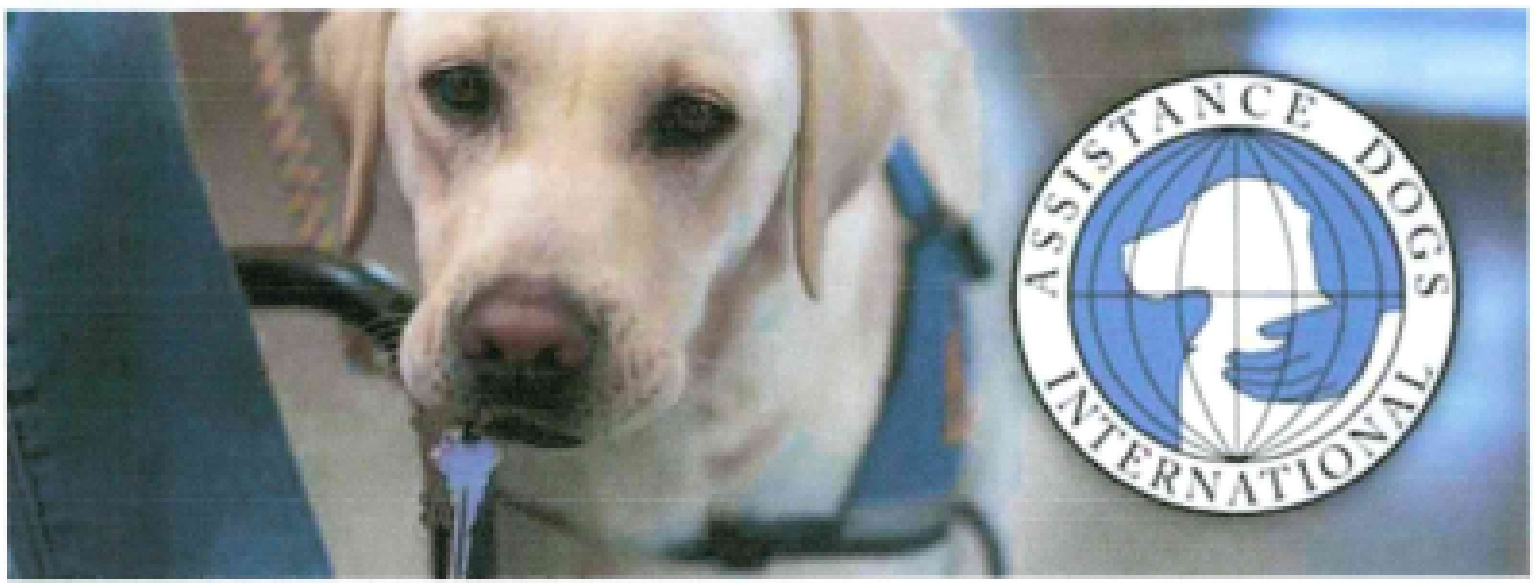
Would you like to receive periodic updates from Hair of the Dog straight to your email? Of course you do!! Simply sign up below. I promise to respect your privacy and your email

GIVING BACK



AUGUST

International Assistance Dog Week



In This Issue

Amazing dogs, incredible programs and cooperative growth abounds in this Assistance Dogs International member newsletter - enjoy!

- Mark Your Calendar
- Happy International Assistance Dog Week
- Newsletter News
- 2013 Trainers Conference
- Bogus Assistance Dog Backpacks and ID cards
- Good Girl Spirit!
- Task Blueprint
- US Airways Welcomes Puppies In Flight!
- Dog Finds Boy
- Service Dog Hero
- Prison Puppies
- Congratulations to newly (re)accredited members!
- Canine Companions for Independence Salutes the First Family
- Announcing the launch of

Happy International Assistance Dog Week

During International Assistance Dog Week, we 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.

Support IADW & Save on Kurgo
Kurgo is offering International Assistance Dog Week (IADW) supporters a 30% off coupon code (SX4A9ED)

TAKE ACTION:
Tell the Department of Justice the Sale of Fake Service Dog Products Needs to Stop

Time to unite and do something about this issue, time for all ADI organizations to rally together and send their own individual letter to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to encourage the Feds to do something about this issue and to meet with ADI reps to work on a solution.

Good Girl Spirit!

Dogs for Life

Spirit, a golden retriever mix, was trained by Dogs For Life, Inc. to tap a 911 phone for her owner Dorothy Davidson who now lives in NC, has been credited with saving Dorothy's life.

After a late night fall, Spirit tapped the K-9 911 emergency phone that alerted emergency personnel that her owner Dorothy Davidson needed help. Spirit spent the next two weeks with Dorothy in a rehab center, when WLOS channel 13 in Asheville NC picked up the story.

Spirit is pictured above during her stay in Vero Beach with Al Turner (DFL Vice President), Shelly Ferger (DFL Founder & Executive Director), and Darrell Horn, DVM (DFL Board Member).

Myra Fourwinds

Task training is the definitive work that makes a service dog. Tasks are built from a series of behaviors, or **parts**. The Task Blueprint asks five questions to identify the **parts** a dog needs to be trained to do to build a **task**.

Task blueprint

1. Direction | Relative to the handler, which direction is the dog going to go? There are only four possibilities:

- Stationary (no movement)
- Moving together
- Moving to handler
- Moving away from handler

2. Event | What is the sound, cue, or event that will signal the dog to start?

3. Dog part | What part of the dog's body is going to do the action?

4. Action | What action is the dog going to start doing once the initiatory event has occurred? The action taken by the dog comes from the parts list of target behaviors: go find, go to, nose nudge, paw tap.

5. Destination | Where does the action end?

Using a Task Blueprint is an easy and systematic way to identify the parts of a task. All parts must be trained separately before putting them together to build a task.

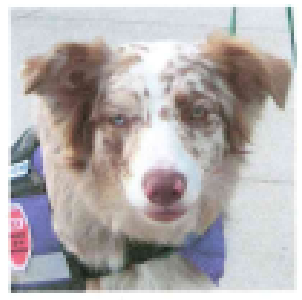
US Airways is now accepting applications year round for the Puppies In Flight program. This program allows US Airways employee volunteers to become trained to work with assistance dogs and take them on transports and test flights (short turnaround trips). US Airways and their employees are dedicated to serving the ADI community.

If your organization would like to participate in the program, please review the program guidelines before submitting an application. If your member organization has previously been accepted into the Puppies In Flight program and wish to continue your participation, we ask that you complete the application again to ensure we have your current contact information.

Please submit your application via email to puppiesinflight@usairways.com.

Dog Finds Boy

Myra Fourwinds



By age four, Harriet and Robert had a diagnosis for their son, Ravi: Autism. An educator herself, Harriet immediately began looking for resources that could help her son.

One day, at the mall, Harriet saw service dogs being trained by Dog Services. She approached the trainer to ask if they could train a service dog for a child with autism. This was the beginning of a relationship that changed both of their lives.

Four years later, the same trainer, Myra Fourwinds, got a call from Harriet. "I am having dinner out with my son." An event to celebrate, this was never possible before they had their service dog, Rosie.

Ravi can walk calmly in public with Rosie at his side. Rosie will paw tap Ravi when he begins

Service Dog Hero

Patriot PAWS

Going Above and Beyond Her Training

The mission of Patriot PAWS is to train and provide service dogs of the highest quality at no cost to disabled American veterans and others with mobile disabilities in order to help restore their physical and emotional independence. Since Patriot PAWS began in 2006, we have been able to place over 50 service dogs which have changed the lives of disabled American veterans for the better.

Patriot PAWS' service dogs are trained to do many things to assist disabled veterans and are even trained to perform certain potentially life-saving tasks when needed. However, one of our placed dogs recently went above and beyond her training and ended up saving the life of her veteran.

Richard Heath of Rowlett, TX, served in both the Navy and the Army and received his service dog, Wendy, a black Labradoodle, from Patriot PAWS in December 2009. In July 2011, Richard had a stroke while home alone with Wendy. He was sitting at his computer one moment and found himself on the floor and unable to move the next. Richard is not totally clear about what happened over the next few minutes, but Wendy was able to drag Richard to his chair in the next room so he could crawl up onto it and get himself off the floor. Wendy also brought him his phone without being told offering it to his right hand as usual. When Wendy realized that Richard's right hand was not working, she offered it to his left hand instead, something she had not been trained to do. Richard managed to call his wife, Elaine, who was at work, and as soon as Elaine heard Richard's garbled speech, she knew he was in trouble. Richard has since mostly recovered from the effects of his stroke and credits Wendy with saving his life. The fact that Wendy relocated Richard to help him get off the floor, brought him his phone on her own and had the intuition to see if he could dial the phone with his left hand when she saw that he could not with his right is a prime example of how a

Prison Puppies

Freedom Service Dogs

Pets and People Gain Skills and Experience in Colorado's Correction Facilities.

For many souls, both dog and human, winding up behind bars signals the beginning of the end. But Debi Stevens, founder of the Colorado Correctional Industries (CCI) Prison-Trained K-9 Companion Program, sees hope every day on the faces of her training teams and the dogs they are helping: "It's a win-win-win for everybody on both sides of the fence and for the dogs."

Stevens started the entirely self-funded program in 2002 after witnessing positive results from the Prison-Pet Partnership program at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. These days, she is constantly on the move, managing the eight training teams—consisting of 12 to 24 offenders—currently in place in five of the state's prisons.

Offenders must undergo a complex screening process (sex offenders are not eligible, for example) in order to become part of the program. They must be free of any infractions for at least six months, have their GED or a high school diploma, and possess good reading and writing skills. The trainers are given written instructions to supplement the directions they get from Stevens or one of her staff members on a weekly basis. In addition, they must keep a journal of the dog's progress, make reports, and give a final presentation when the dog is ready to graduate.

The dogs themselves fall into two groups. The first are pets belonging to exasperated owners who have reached the limits of their ability to cope with behavioral problems. These four-week boarders are in for training, for socialization, and to address specific issues, such as jumping, barking, or other naughtiness. Stevens says this often represents a dog's last, best chance to stay with his or her family and be a good pet.

The rest—approximately 40 percent of the dogs—come from shelters and other rescue situations. These dogs have been lost or abandoned and are in desperate need of both love and discipline. They are taught basic commands, good manners, and sometimes a trick or two to up their chances of being adopted. In addition, dogs whose size and temperament might make them good service dog candidates, are evaluated by Freedom Service Dogs (FSD) trainers for possible inclusion in its rigorous service dog–training program. Freedom Service Dogs is the only such organization to receive dogs from the CCI program.

ibe Share Past Issues Transl

Currently, 140 dogs are in training with CCI, and over the past 10 years, more than 7,000 wagging tails have found their way into and out of the prison yard with some very happy results.

Stevens calls dogs "ambassadors", helping the corrections officers and the offenders relate to each other as human beings, for example, giving them something to talk about other than the business of incarceration. And, more importantly, she says, the program builds confidence in offenders who may believe they have hit bottom. "Dogs don't judge," she says. "Dogs accept them for who they are. And these offenders, who sometimes feel or are made to feel like they are no good to anybody, they care for and meet the needs of the dog and learn that they do have something to offer. It's pretty phenomenal."

Many of the dogs rescued and trained by Freedom Service Dogs in Englewood, Colorado, come from the Prison-Trained K-9 Companion Program. Above, the recently graduated team of Lonnie and Gander show off their bond. Lonnie, a veteran, says of his service dog Gander: "Who rescued who?"

Canine Companions for Independence Salutes the First Family

On January 21st, Canine Companions for Independence had the privilege of marching down Pennsylvania Avenue in the 57th Presidential Inaugural Parade.

"Canine Companions was honored to be chosen to participate in the Presidential Inaugural Parade. We're grateful to have shared in the historic day and to share our mission of serving people with disabilities worldwide," said Corey Hudson, CEO.

Canine Companions had nationwide participation with 130 marchers from 14 states, along with 56 dogs. Dressed in bright yellow jackets, the marchers included people with disabilities and their assistance dogs, puppy raisers and volunteers.

"I was so proud to be walking with Sajen. He has been my best friend and helper for nine years and will be retiring soon, but it was so special to walk with him down Pennsylvania Ave.," said Canine Companions graduate Caroline Elgin. "He trotted along and wagged his tail the whole time like he knew this was something special."

be Share Past Issues Translat

One of 60 organizations chosen from over 2,800 applications, this is the second time dogs marched in the parade but a first for an assistance dog organization. Close to one million people attended the inauguration festivities in Washington D.C., which were broadcast worldwide.

Announcing the launch of Animal Assisted Intervention International - AAII

Key objectives of our Association are to:

Establish and promote standards of excellence in all areas of Animal Assisted Intervention:

- Selection, training, implementation and work.
- Facilitate communication and exchange between members
- Disseminate information to the public about the benefits of Animal Assisted Intervention

The first AAII Conference will be held on 5-6 November 5 & 6 2013 in Spa, Belgium (back-to back with the ADEu Conference | 3-5 November 2013), where we will have the opportunity to meet and discuss in person. During the First General Meeting the first AAII Board will be chosen.

To find out more, and to join as a member, please read the Letter of Invitation of Interim President Melissa Winkle, Dogwood Therapy Services, Inc., Albuquerque NM, USA, and visit the website www.animalassistedintervention.org. Membership application is open to both individual practitioners and/or organizations from all countries around the world.

On behalf of the AAII Interim Board:
Graham Ford, ThiMev, Germany
Peter Gorbing, Dogs for the Disabled, UK
Sven G Hultman, Svenska Vardhundskolan, Sweden
Lucija Katalenic, Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association, Croatia
Teo Mariscal, Fundacion Bocalan, Spain
Jennifer Rogers, PAALS, USA
Danny Vancoppernolle, Dyadis, Belgium
Melissa Winkle, Dogwood Therapy Services, USA
Elma Burg, Assistance Dogs International / Assistance Dogs Europe

Help Inform Research for Assistance Dogs & Their Partners

Maureen White, a sophomore, in the Engineering program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) located in New York State, has always had a strong desire to be of assistance in the world, and she is anxious to start putting her skills to use even before graduation.

To this end, she is designing a Special Project whose goal is to create an easy to use Automatic Feeding System for Assistance Dogs whose humans might have challenges in reaching, cleaning, remembering, or otherwise accessing the way they feed their beloved companions.

An important aspect of this project is researching exactly what Assistance Dog Owners would want in such a device. What do they see as the needs? What details would be most useful to them? What problems have they encountered that they really would like to see solved? Once these are clearly identified, these budding engineers can go to work applying their new skills on the best design possible. But, the concepts have to come from the people, and their dogs, who will use this device.

Please share the short questionnaire her team has developed to help them get feedback from Assistance Dog owners. It would be a great value to this project if you could help distribute this to as many Service Dog owners as possible so the student engineers can get a

Mac the German shepherd: An aspiring therapy dog

Hi Dog Buddies!

Mac, an 18-month-old German shepherd who lives in Castaway Cove with his human mom Toni Teresi, recently emailed me saying: "Bonzo, I love your column BUT ..."

Uh oh. Nothing good ever comes after the word but.

"I read your interview with that puny little Jack Russell terrier named Havana a few weeks ago. I have to be straight with you, Bonz," Mac said. "I don't know what you were thinking when you chose to interview her."

"Well," I sputtered. I knew the instant Havana uttered the words "ridiculous German shepherd" that it was going to be trouble.

"Bonzo, even though I'm a laid back dude, I would like to meet this Havana nose to nose and see if she wants to call all 100 pounds of me ridiculous. Unlike Havana, I don't chug beer because I'm in the beginning stages of training." Uh oh.

"Now don't get your tail all twisted in a knot, Mac. You don't need to sink down to Havana's level, literally. Why don't you tell me why you're in training?"

"Oh sure, Bonzo," Mac said. "I aspire to be a therapy dog and to wear that super cool vest. Mom thinks I need to be a bit more 'mature,' though. Whatever that means."

"Fantastic," I said. "But I can understand your mom's thinking, Mac. After all you are just a pupster."

"Yeah, I guess." Mac said. "But don't let my age fool you, Bonz. When I was younger, my life wasn't as wonderful as it is now. My mom found me living under a shed and brought me home with her. That's why I'm really stoked about becoming a therapy dog. I want to pay it forward."

"Good for you bro," I said. "So, since you're in the preliminary stage of training, what do you do with the rest of your time?"

"Well, mom and I hang out together a lot," Mac said. "I like to get her up at 6 a.m. and get her to take me for a long walk on the beach. I like to chase the sea foam. Then breakfast at Cravings on Ocean Drive where I can socialize with everyone.

"Mondays are my favorite day because Barry the pool guy comes to clean the pool," Mac said. "I like to help him because I want to make sure he does a good job. When Barry leaves, I give the pool a final inspection by walking the perimeter of the pool.

"While I'm in inspection mode, I survey the yard to make sure all is well and trot back to the table where Barry has left me a cookie for all of my efforts.

"By now it's lunch time," Mac said, "And mom and I head out to the Arby's drive through where mom buys me a cup of roast beef. Then it's off to the off-leash dog park where I get to run and play with all of my dog buddies. When mom thinks I'm ready, I will continue my training at the dog park to become a certified therapy dog.

"But for now," Mac said, "I'm cool with just hanging out by the pool and enjoying life with my pawsome mom."

"You are living the life, Mac," I said. "But can you do me a little favor and swing by my house the next time your mom takes you to Arby's for roast beef?"

Till next time,

Dogs For Life

PRESS RELEASE

April 30, 2013
CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Founder/President, and CEO
772-567-8969

Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital
Sponsors Annual Assistance, Hearing and Service Dog Eye Exams

Kattis Stengard, DVM, CVA owner and operator of the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital is sponsoring an annual FREE eye exam for all Service Dogs on Saturday May 4.

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) a 501(c) (3) tax deductible, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD will be the receipient of donations received on the day of the event.

Contact The Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital for an appointment at 772-562-0200, located at 1905 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL.

For additional information on how to make a tax-deducituble donate to the trainign of service and hearing dogs or to apply for assistance dog training, please contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

APRIL

Yacht Club

Vero Beach Yacht Club

Vero Beach, Florida 32963

Richard Rogers, Shelly Ferger, Jim Taylor with Pia-Pia, Dawn Taylor and Ed Burnett

Card Created by Richard &Annie Rogers April 2013

Dear Shelly,

Thanks so much for the wonderful and enlightening presentation on Dogs for Life on Thursday, April 11. With your enthusiasm and your teams support you have a "go" machine working toward your goals of helping and improving the lives of both man and dog.

I hope the time spent at the Club was as rewarding for you as it was for our members.

Wishing you all the best. We'll be in touch.

Richard & Annie

News Articles

Luminaries seen at . . .

Donor & Volunteer Appreciation

April 6, 2013

It was a great day at the Dogs for Life Donor & Volunteer Appreciation event held at the off-leash park. Indian River County Commissioner Joseph Flescher was the guest speaker, applauding DFL for running a top-notch dog park and for the commitment to training service dogs. Awards were presented, 4-H Dog Masters presented a demonstration and everyone enjoyed a barbecue lunch.

Jack Saucerman and Shelly Ferger

Sydney Liebman and Shelly Ferger

Elsebeth Sexton-Stryker with Shelly Ferger

Carol Hartwig

Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher

Fred Jones with Shelly Ferger

Press Journal Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Wednesday, April 10, 2013 »

Quick Read

4-H DOG SHOW COMING SATURDAY

Dogs For Life, Inc., is sponsoring the 4-H Dog Masters Annual Dog Show at the off-leash dog park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The club will be asking for a $5 donation to help with community service projects.

Members will show their dog obedience and agility training skills. Bring your lawn chairs. A dog park membership will be given to a family with a dog that is inoculated, neutered and social. The club is open to children ages 8 to 18.

Call Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969 or Lindsay Adams, Indian River County 4-H extension agent, at 772-770-5030 for more information.

Darel, retired ATF bomb detection dog

RETIRED BOMB-SNIFFING DOG TO BE AT DOG SHOW

Retired Special Agent L.A. Bykowsky has agreed to bring her dog, Darel, a retired ATF bomb detection dog, to "lend a paw" at the 4-H Dog Masters Club Dog Show and fundraising project.

The show is at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Off-Leash Dog Park at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

A $5 donation is requested.

Country club sponsors training

Photo provided

James Taylor, SSG US Army Retired, and DFL trained and certified service dog Pia Pia receive a donation on behalf of the Dogs For Life, Inc. Veteran Dog Training Program from Russell Mann from Vero Beach Country Club.

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD, has received sponsorship toward the DFL Veteran Dog Training Program.

The DFL Board of Directors is grateful to the Vero Beach Country Club for helping to sponsor training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Syndromne.

The Assistance Dog Training Center Campaign is underway and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. For additional information, call Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

APRIL 10, 2013 › CONTENTS PREPARED BY SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NICHE DEPARTMENT › VERO BEACH ~ INDIAN RIVER COUNTY NEWSWEEKLY

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dogs for Life seeks money for canine training center

VERO BEACH — An Assistance Dog Training Center may be on the horizon for the Dogs for Life dog park on 16th Avenue after an anonymous donor pledged $100,000 to the cause.

Dogs for Life president Shelly Ferger said the nonprofit must raise an additional $100,000 needed for construction. Dogs for Life previously raised $100,000 for the $300,000 center and during the past two months, members and benefactors have contributed an additional $50,000.

Ferger said the Assistance Dog Training Center will enable Dogs for Life to train even more hearing and service dogs for local residents, expand the "Canines for Comfort" program and offer a new "Service Dogs for Soldiers" program for local veterans returning from war. It will also offset the costs associated with

Press Journal | Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Thursday, April 4, 2013 »

Canine training center in the works

Dogs for Life hopes to open facility; looking to raise $100K for site

By Janet Bagley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

VERO BEACH – An Assistance Dog Training Center may be on the horizon for the Dogs for Life dog park on 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Dogs for Life president Shelly Ferger said an anonymous donor pledged $100,000 toward the training center if the nonprofit can raise an additional $100,000 needed for construction.

Dogs for Life previously raised $100,000 for the $300,000 center, and during the past two months, members and benefactors have contributed an additional $50,000.

Ferger said the Assistance Dog Training Center will enable Dogs for Life to train even more hearing and service dogs for local residents, expand the "Canines for Comfort" program and offer a new "Service Dogs for Soldiers" program for local veterans returning from war.

It also will offset the costs associated with operating the dog park, which Ferger said will remain open throughout 2013 thanks to an anonymous donation.

Last year, the 4.5-acre park on 16th Avenue and 12th Street was slated to close Dec. 31 when Ferger said the nonprofit organization could no longer afford the costs associated with running the off-leash park. At that time, Ferger said she was interested in selling the park to someone who would commit to operating it for years to come.

ANNUAL EVENT

Dogs For Life will hold its annual Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Event at 11 a.m. April 6 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.
Awards will be presented to volunteers and admission is free. All are invited to attend.

But members of the dog park rallied to save it and offered to help with expenses at least through February. Now, an anonymous donor has offered to cover expenses through the rest of the year.

To help increase membership from the current 130, Ferger has been offering "get acquainted" rates of $25 per month to allow the community to try out the park. New membership rates are $300 annually, plus a $65 donation to the capital campaign. The fee covers all dogs from the same household.

"We've come a long way," Ferger said. "We are very grateful to the people who stepped up, especially those who have been with us since the beginning."

Beth Stryker of Vero Beach serves as an advisory board member for Dogs for Life and said she's hoping many Vero Beach dog owners check out the dog park during its trial run.

"We are hoping many dog owners will take advantage of the trial offer to see for themselves just how beneficial the park is for their canine companion," Stryker said.

With the dog park on solid ground for the rest of the year, Ferger has turned her attention to building the Assistance Dog Training Center. She said the organization needs to raise another $50,000 before it can break ground.

"We have to raise it quickly," Ferger said. "We're hoping to build over the summer since we already have all of the permits in place."

But once the training center is completed, the future of the dog park is practically assured, Ferger said.

"The dog park will be there forever," she said.

VERO BEACH

Dogs for Life plans appreciation event

Dogs For Life is having its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at 11 a.m. April 6 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., in Vero Beach.

Fred Jones and Sissy Girl will be presented with the Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award. Carol Hartwig and Baxter will be presented with the Pet Assisted Therapy Team Award. Jack Saucerman will be presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. Sydney Liebman, editor of Luminaries of Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers, will be presented with the Media Award. Elsebeth Sexton Stryker will be presented with the Individual Philanthropist Award, and Anthony Donadio will be presented with the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Dogs for Life is a nonprofit organization that trains and certifies hearing and mobility assistance dogs, as well as "Service Dogs For Soldiers" and "Canines For Comfort."

Staff reports

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INDIAN RIVER

DOG PARK

WINNER

SEBASTIAN BARK PARK

FAVORITES

DOGS FOR LIFE DOG PARK

VERO BEACH CANINE COUNTRY CLUB

Sebastian Bark Park
150 Kaan Terr., Sebastian
772-228-7054

Dogs for Life Dog Park
12th Street & 16th Avenue in Vero Beach
772-567-6969

Vero Beach Canine Country Club
[illegible] Vero Beach

PEOPLE

Golf outing at Moorings benefits SEAL causes

BY MARY ANDERSON
Correspondent

The beautiful riverfront setting of The Moorings Golf Club was the site of the inaugural golf tournament and luncheon to raise money for dual Navy SEAL causes.

The UDT-SEAL Museum, just south of Vero, and Trident House, an Indian River neighborhood residence recently donated to the museum by Bill and Teddy Nowak, were the beneficiaries Tuesday of this first-ever event.

Nearly 200 people turned out for the tournament and luncheon, among them former and active SEALs, Navy personnel, museum volunteers and staff, and a strong contingent of Vero Beach residents.

Museum volunteer Tom Juliano chaired the organizing committee. Mike Hall, co-chair of the event, and Dave Goddard, also co-chair, a retired SEAL and museum board president, were grateful for The Moorings' support. Goddard brought the idea to Juliano, a Moorings resident.

A bit of teasy exists in convening a SEALs benefit golf tournament.

Both retired and active SEALs recognize that they lack proficient golfing skills. "If you meet a SEAL who's a good golfer, he's probably not a good SEAL," said Rick Kaiser, the museum's new executive director and Vero resident. "They don't spend that much time on land."

It's a sentiment echoed by Mark Lubensky, an active SEAL participating in the tournament. "It's bad golf," he said, but his foursome did very well and ended up seven strokes for the day.

Among the incentives for good golf were two "hole-in-one" contests. Audi of Melbourne donated a chance to win an Audi A4, and Coggin BMW donated a 128i. Neither car went home with a golfer, but Steve Menello, a Moorings member, managed his first-ever hole-in-one on the 17th, which netted him a trip to Las Vegas. The Moorings Realty Sales Co. also offered inspiration with a $10,000 prize in the putting contest.

The SEALs are a very close-knit community with a life-long bond. They have three main organizations: The Navy SEAL Foundation takes care of active duty and fallen SEALs; the UDT SEAL Association helps vets and retired SEALs; and the museum which focuses on education and history.

Trident House offers no-cost R&R to injured and battle-fatigued SEALs or families of fallen SEALs and their families. "Just because their loved one has died, it doesn't mean that they're going to be forgotten," said Kaiser.

Chuck Williams, Jack Swickard, Jim "Mad Dog" Madison.

Rick Woodard and Jim Coe

Steve Goddard, Mark Lubensky and Tom Juliano.

Martin Eckert and Buddy Rogers.

Many distinguished SEALs participated, including Rick Woodard, a retired SEAL team commander and bagpiper at the annual reunion held at the museum. Jim "Mad Dog" Madison, UDT-SEAL Association executive director, and Goddard and Williams.

"We've started taking care of our guys who make it through combat and into retirement, so when they get out, somebody's there to help them," said Chuck Williams, president of UDT-SEAL association.

Island residents Joe and Denise Coe were co-sponsors of the tournament and have taken their kids to the museum for many years. They invited Susan and Ted Perry, 25-year Vero residents, into their foursome.

"This is an easy one," said Ted Perry. "For everything they do for us, the least we can do is play a round of golf."

Goddard praised Juliano's dedication to the inaugural event. "Tom went out on his own initiative and created this event," Goddard said.

Juliano credited numerous volunteers and their efforts, including Andy Brady, volunteer coordinator at the museum, Dorothy Frances, Ron Knaggs, Lisa Fulton, Susan Cooper, and all those who gave their time. ■

Foundation Forum Focuses On The Lagoon

APRIL 9: The Community Foundation launched a *New Foundation Forum*, which focused on the Indian River Lagoon and provided an opportunity for board members and employees of private foundations to learn and discuss the area's critical needs.

Indian River Community Foundation Executive Director Kerry Bartlett with Al DeCrane

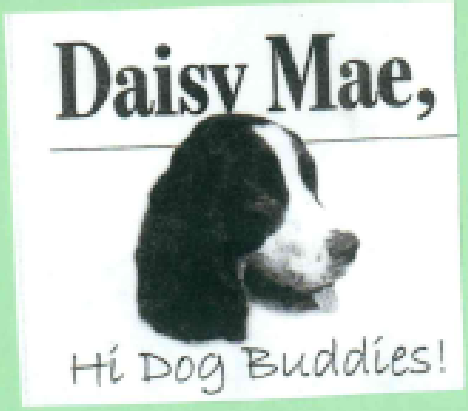
Georgia Wilder, Carolyn Dietz and GFCA President Dr. Judy Walker with Dr. Willard Enoch and Sharon Enoch

Dogs Have Their Day At Masters Club Show

APRIL 10: Dogs and their owners from Indian River County gathered to show off their obedience and agility training skills for the *4-H Masters Club Dog Show* at the off-leash dog park. The day featured a demonstration by L.A. Bykowsky and her retired ATF explosives detection dog Diesel.

Seated: Skyler with Max, Isabella with Daisy and Ally.
Standing: Holly, Isabell and Journey with Cyan

MARCH



PETS

the certified hearing and service dog

This week I got an email from Daisy Mae Smith, a 9-year-old beagle/springer spaniel mix who lives in Sebastian with her humans Lawrence (Opa) and Hildegard (Oma) Smith.

In case you don't speak German, Oma and Opa are colloquial terms for grandma and grandpa.

The Smiths are hard of hearing, and Daisy Mae is a certified hearing dog as well as a service dog.

Were you raised to have such an important job?" I asked her

"Heck no," replied Daisy Mae. "I was given to Oma and Opa by their grandson, and my 'job' was originally supposed to be being a D-O-G. When I was a puppster, all I wanted to do was play, play and play.

"But one day, Oma and Opa were in their room lying on their bed reading. I heard the smoke detector screaming and something told me I had to alert Oma and Opa."

"Wow," I said impressed."Was that when you started your job?"

"No Bonzo," Daisy said rolling her eyes. "It's not that easy to be a service dog even though I did have the talent for it.

"A couple of weeks later, Oma and Opa were walking through the mall. They saw a woman sitting at a table with a sign which said 'Dogs for Life'."

The lady turned out to be Shelly Ferger, the organization's founder, who explained to Oma and Opa that the Dogs for Life assistance training program could prepare Daisy Mae to respond to and serve Oma and Opa with their special needs. Oma and Opa signed Daisy Mae up right on the spot.

"I was so NOT into being told what to do and met the training with great resistance," Daisy Mae recalled. "I was what they call a 'not so easy to train dog,' but then I realized-if I did what I was told to do, I'd get a treat.

"Shelly told Opa, Oma and me my training would begin with basic obedience at the DFL off-leash dog park," Daisy Mae said. "Then we moved into the hearing trained tasks which included the smoke alarm, alarm clock, and door knock."

"I'm even certified to tap a K-9 emergency response phone," Daisy Mae said with pride. "Everybody is always surprised when they find out I have my own phone. And get this, Bonzo. Not to brag but I even went beyond the basics, learning how to 'get Oma' when Opa commands me to do so. I also 'get Opa' when Oma commands me.

"These days I wake up and start my training. Opa starts breakfast and when he says 'get Oma,' I go to the bedroom, wake her up and bring her to the kitchen.

"My favorite parts of the day are when Opa, Oma and I go walking by the river at the park." Daisy Mae said. "But hanging out with my humans and knowing my job is to help make their lives safer and less stressful is what makes me happy and content."

"Daisy Mae, you forgot to mention all of the treats you get," I said.

"Well young Bonzo," she said,"at first it was all about the treats. But now, it's all wanting to please, love and be my humans' best friend and protector."

I still think the treats are important.

Till next time,

The Bonz

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 3/16/2013 8:59:38 AM
To: bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com
Cc: Smith L&H; Schell Patti
Subject: Re: Daisy Mae Smith

Dogs For Life, certified Daisy Mae in 2006 as a hearing dog as well as a service dog that was trained to tap a K-9 emergency response phone.

Her training began with basic obedience at the DFL off-leash dog park and then moved into the hearing trained tasks: the smoke alarm, alarm clock, and door knock.

Both Hildegard and Lawrence were dedicated to training a "not so easy to train - (follow my nose) Beagle". But with the guidance of DFL Trainer Patti Schell they were able to perform all of the required tasks. Once Daisy Mae knew what she was to do, she became quite a committed worker. Even going beyond the basics and "going to get either Lawrence or Hildegard on command".

Even through a very difficult illness last year, Daisy Mae has recovered and never forgot her duties, and was certified again in 2013.

DFL is very proud of this team, it takes a dedicated owner to follow through with the 8 months to 1 year and sometimes beyond, of "in-home" training that DFL currently provides. And to Daisy Mae (Woof! Job Well Done!) ~ Shelly

PS Jennifer, could you possibly scan and forward the article for our scrapbook as I do not receive the Seb. River News. Thank you.

Dogs For Life

Shelly Ferger, Founder
President and CEO
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifevb.org

"Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." ~Mark Twain.

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

Member International Association of Assistance Dog Partners

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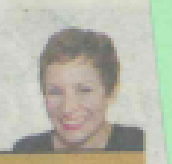
BRIGHT LIGHTS &RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com



Indian River County

It's alive!

Dogs for Life continues to live! Working to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities, but in jeopardy of having to close its off-leash park, Dogs for Life has received a generous donation that will fund the dog park through the end of 2013. Want to help? Call founder **Shelly Ferger** at (772) 567-8969.

BRIGHT LIGHTS &RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Doggie do-gooders

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) has a lot to celebrate! At 11 a.m. this Saturday, April 6, volunteers will be honored at the **2013 Annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event** at the **Off-Leash Dog Park**. The event is sponsored by **Dr. Darrell Horn** of the **Florida Veterinary League**. Our very own **Sydney Liebman**, editor of ***Luminaries***, will be presented with the Media Award. Other awards to be presented are: **Fred Jones and 'Sissy Girl'** with the Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award, **Carol Hartwig and 'Baxter'** with the Pet Assisted Therapy Team Award, **Jack Saucerman** with The Volunteer of the Year Award, **Elsebeth Sexton Stryker** with the Individual Philanthropist Award and **Anthony Donadio** with the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award. Call (772) 567-8969.

Dogs For Life

PRESS RELEASE

March 1, 2013

CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Founder/President, and CEO
772-567-8969

Dogs For Life, Inc.
Vero Beach Country Club Sponsors Veteran Dog Training Program

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) a 501(c) (3) tax deductible, non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with the effects of PTSD has received sponsorship toward the DFL Veteran Dog Training Program.

The DFL Board of Directors are grateful to the Vero Beach Country Club for helping to sponsor training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Syndromne.

It is estimated that over 80,000 retiring veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars will be retiring to Florida in the next two years. DFL is committed to preparing to help meet their needs through pre-training service dogs.

The Assistance Dog Training Center Campaign is underway and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For additional information on how to contribute to this worthy campaign effort or apply for assistance dog training, please contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

TCPALM
FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES

Printer-friendly story
Read more at tcpalm.com

Vero Beach off-leash dog park membership continues

By news release

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life Inc. has received a donation to help keep the off-leash dog park open until the end of 2013.

In addition, the donation has allowed the organization to continue raising money to build an assistance dog training center on the dog park site at 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

In recent months, the board was concerned it would have to close and sell the park because membership fees were not covering the cost of operations. Meanwhile, the board was raising money for its capital campaign as well as general operational funds for the charity portion of the organization, the Assistance and Pet Assisted Therapy Dog programs.

The nonprofit organization trains assistance dogs as hearing and mobility dogs as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

For more information on how to join the park or contribute to the campaign effort or apply for assistance dog training, contact Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969.

Press Journal Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Tuesday, February 26, 2013 »

Quick Read

VERO BEACH COUNTRY CLUB SPONSORS DOG TRAINING

Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training assistance dogs for hearing and mobility dogs, as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, has received sponsorship toward its Veteran Dog Training Program.

The Vero Beach Country Club is helping to sponsor dog training for veterans with disabilities and who suffer from PTSD.

The Assistance Dog Training Center campaign is under way, and the training center will be built at the off-leash dog park property at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For additional information on how to contribute to this campaign or to apply for assistance dog training, please call Shelly Ferger at 772-567-8969.

Staff reports

VERO BEACH
Hometown News
Vol. 10, No. 28 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, March 15, 2013

Community supports dog therapy mission

Off-leash park to stay open another year

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

VERO BEACH — A puppy park is staying open for another year and a training center campaign is underway, thanks to generous community members.

After a few weeks of an uncertain future, Dogs for Life of Vero Beach, a nonprofit organization focused on improving the quality of life for people with disabilities by training dogs, announced it's private, off-leash dog park will stay open through the end of the year with the help of an anonymous donation.

The Vero Beach Country Club is also backing the nonprofit by helping to kickstart a campaign to build a training center for assistance dogs on the dog park site, said Shelly Ferger, founder of Dogs for Life.

Within the assistance dog program is a subsection for dogs to be trained to work with war veterans with post-traumatic stress disorders and Vero Beach Country Club has stepped up to the plate as a sponsor for that program, Ms. Ferger said.

An estimated 80,000 retiring veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars will be retiring to Florida in the next two years and Dogs for Life wants to help meet their needs by pre-training service dogs, a press release said.

Pia Pia is one of the dogs trained by Dogs for Life to work with her companion, retired U.S. Army Veteran Jim Taylor.

Panic attacks in crowded areas are a common result of post-traumatic stress disorder, and dogs like Pia Pia can be trained to stay close to their companion so that no people get to close and trigger the panic attack.

Other assistance dogs trained by Dogs for Life learn how to help them cope with hearing or seeing loss or other limited mobility issues.

The dogs are trained to alert their companion when a knock is heard at the door, or when a doorbell, telephone, alarm clock or smoke alarm is rung. Some dogs can even be trained to operate a special phone that dials 911 when their companion is in distress.

Dogs for Life does not receive government funding and relies on membership fees and donations to get through the year.

An anonymous donation in February has allowed the off-leash dog park to remain open through the end of 2013, but on a regular basis membership fees are used to maintain and operate the 4.5 acre park.

A one-year membership fee for one dog is $300, a second dog would add on $75, a third, $50.

Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Prior to membership, an orientation at the park is scheduled with the dogs. Once the membership is finalized, members have their own security code to access the park from dawn to dusk all year round.

The off-leash dog park is located at the intersection of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

For more information about Dogs for Life, contact Ms. Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
Vero Beach resident Harry Taylor watches as Dixie, his 10-month-old Dalmatian hound mix, tries to climb a tree to get to a squirrel in the Dogs For Life Off-leash Park Friday afternoon.

School Zone

WABASSO
PHOENIX

Wabasso School

The days have been chilly but we are keeping warm during our weekly visits with Oslo our new friend and therapy dog. Oslo visits with our students and participates with us during PE. The students have a wonderful time. Oslo likes to walk with the students and appreciates a gentle pat on the head. He puts a smile on many faces and we all look forward to his visits. Oslo is a great conversation starter for discussions about being a responsible pet owner. Oslo is a welcome addition to our campus.

Katie and Oslo enjoying each other's company.

Annual Meeting

Scrapbook

2012

DECEMBER

Mutt Derby

2013 Treasure Guide

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • TCPALM.COM • TREASURE GUIDE • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012

Photo by Doreen M. Poreba

The Mutt Derby, presented by the Fur Seasons, is the only event of its kind on the Treasure Coast.

DOG DAYS ALL YEAR LONG

BY DOREEN MARCIAL POREBA
FOR TREASURE GUIDE 2013

Plenty of opportunities are available for pet owners living on the Treasure Coast.

If you're looking to rescue a pet, there are several shelters that offer adoptions. The larger organizations are the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast in Palm City, the Humane Society of St. Lucie County in Fort Pierce and the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County in Vero Beach.

A number of restaurants in Stuart welcome you and your dog, including the Pelican Café, East Ocean Bistro, Duffy's, Alice's restaurant, Osceola Street Café, Key Lime Café and Grille and Carson's Tavern. In Vero Beach, the Osceola Bistro is pet friendly as well as Mulligan's in Stuart, Jensen Beach, Vero Beach and Sebastian. The dog must be on a leash, under the owner's control and seated outdoors.

Dog-friendly parks also are becoming more common. In Stuart, Poppleton Creek Park has been established to accommodate both large dogs and small dogs, each with their own areas. Dogs for Life, a nonprofit organization, offers a $300 annual membership fee for members to bring their dogs to run free at The Vero Beach Dog Park.

PET-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES ON THE TREASURE COAST

Call these respective organizations for more information or visit online.

Bark in the Park: This fundraising benefit will take place on Jan. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Riverside Park in Vero Beach. Features a one-and-a-half mile dog parade and much more. Contact the Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County, 772-388-3331, www.barkintheparkvero.org.

Pup-arazzi Canine Fashion Show & Parade: This event will be held on Jan. 19 from 9 a.m. to noon at The Fur Seasons in Stuart. Dogs will compete for Top Dog, Blinding Bling, Fashionista, Pet and Owner Look Alike, and Most Talented designations. Benefits Treasure Coast Hospice, (772) 403-4500, http://www.tchospice.org.

Doggie Date Night: Presented by the Lyric Theatre and the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, this is one movie where dogs are welcome. Dogs may even mingle with other tail waggers in the complimentary doggie lounge. The next movie night will be held in January. Contact the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, 772-223-8822, www.hstc1.org for an exact date.

Mutt Derby: Spectators line up to watch and cheer on dogs of all sizes and breeds as they literally race toward a finish line at The Fur Seasons. More than 100 dogs are expected to compete in these annual spring races, grouped by dogs 'weight, on March 23. Call 772-286-8283 or visit www.thefurseasonsresort.com.

Mutt March: The largest animal event on the Treasure Coast and a huge fundraiser for the Humane Society, this annual fall affair attracts hundreds of pet owners and their creatively costumed dogs. Contact the Humane Society of the Treasure Coast, 772-223-8822, www.hstc1.org for a date for the 2013 march.

IAADP Webcast

Partners Forum
International Association of Assistance Dog Partners
VOLUME EIGHTEEN • NUMBER 1 & 2

Spring 2013 - Exciting IAADP Webcast Scheduled

Our Heartfelt Thanks to *Nutramax Laboratories and Bayer Animal Health* for sponsoring this double issue

By Joan Froling

IAADP's pioneering venture into cyberspace in lieu of holding a conference in a distant city is an initiative to broaden the opportunity for IAADP members and others with a personal or professional interest in the topics to attend our educational workshops. You will have to travel no further than the distance it takes you to reach a computer with internet access. This should enable most members to view the workshops from the comfort of their own homes or places of business or perhaps at the nearest public library.

To further remove barriers to attendance, we have decided against charging a registration fee for this upcoming two-hour event.

IAADP's President, Toni Eames, will introduce one workshop and I will introduce the other. We will provide a five minute refreshment break between the two.

The date of the webcast is tentative as we go to press, but I anticipate it will be in March 2013. We will post the exact date and time on IAADP's website in the Conference section as soon as we can firm up contract details with the production company after the holidays.

A few days before this event, the company will provide IAADP with a link for me to post on our website Conference section, so you can access this webcast. That sounds easy enough. I shall also provide whatever instructions are necessary to enable you to easily log in.

If you have questions for our guest speakers on either topic described herein, please submit them as soon as possible so the speakers can include as many answers as feasible when they prepare their presentations.

First Workshop - Hospital Access

In our last issue we published a press release about a precedent setting case on hospital access rights. I was puzzled to read this case was decided under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act rather than the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Which law prevails?

Over the years IAADP has received distraught calls from assistance dog partners denied access when they inform the hospital they plan to keep their assistance dog with them during their stay. Others are denied access when they ask if

Continued on page 2

Service Dog In Action: Journey, a Standard Poodle, trained by Sterling Service Dogs, provides Sydney, disabled by two strokes, with balance support to reduce injuries from falls.

Features You Shouldn't Miss

Restrictive Law on VA Access . . . . . Page 3
•
Please Participate In Survey!!! . . . . . Page 5
•
New Books of Interest. . . . Page 23 & 28
•
New VCP Grant Rules . . . . . Page 28

Editor: Joan Froling, IAADP Chairperson
Date of Issue: December 2012
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Partners Forum
International Association of Assistance Dog Partners
VOLUME EIGHTEEN • NUMBER 1 & 2

So Appreciative!

By Dorothy Davidson

Two eyes are watching me. One is blue and the other is brown but they both belong to my dog, Spirit. She is never far from my side waiting for something she can do for me and this was never more important than the other morning when at 2AM I found myself flat on a cold, tile bathroom floor tangled up in a walker and a wheelchair too sick and weak to get up. That is when I asked Spirit to "go tap help." She went to her 911 phone, activated it and two beautiful, big EMS men came and took me to the hospital.

Spirit has been picking things up for me since she was a pup bringing me my grandson's dirty socks but when I wanted to get her certified I turned to my friend Shelly Ferger and Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, FL to complete her training, especially the necessary public training that I was physically unable to do myself. They trained her for the 911 phone.

I could tell many stories about this dog from how many times she has retrieved my bird feeder or portable phone that fell off my porch, down the bank into the woods, to how she won the hearts of all the staff and patients at Care Partners in Ashville, NC, the rehab center where we spent two weeks after coming out of the hospital. There are no words to tell you how grateful I am to have Spirit and for the many people who have been so good to us along the way.

Dogs For Life, Inc. Founder and Executive Director, Shelly Ferger brings "Spirit" home to Dorothy Davidson.

Park Closing

75 cents

Indian River Press Journal

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Friday, December 21, 2012

TCPalm.com

Dog owners seek ways to keep park open

By Janet Begley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Judy Cornell watched as Brandy, her 16-month-old Brittany spaniel, played at the dog park on 16th Avenue and 12th Street operated by the nonprofit group Dogs for Life.

Last week, the park gave members a reprieve, vowing to stay open through the end of February, instead of its announced closing date of Dec. 31. An anonymous benefactor offered to cover the costs associated with the park through Feb. 28 to keep it open.

For pets like Brandy and owners such as

See PARK, 12A

Kyle Zugelter throws a stick for his dogs while exercising them in 2008 at the Dogs For Life Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park. The park is at the intersection of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.
FILE PHOTO

Cornell, the closing of the members-only, dog park came as a shock.

"We had no idea that there was any kind of problem," Cornell said. "And when we heard the park was initially closing on Dec. 31, we wanted to know what we could do."

Dogs for Life director Shelly Ferger said the economy took its toll on the dog park, with paid memberships dropping significantly over the past several years. The park now has 116 members who pay about $300 annually to use it.

The influx of municipally organized dog parks that don't charge for use in Indian River County may have led to decreased memberships, she said when she announced the park would close. There were few other parks when Dogs For Life opened its facility a decade go.

"We had to make some business decisions," Ferger said. "When it stopped making money, we decided to try to sell it to someone who would continue to operate it as a dog park."

The fenced-in, 4.5-acre parcel, on 16th Avenue and 12th Street in Vero Beach, is assessed at $137,050, according to the Indian River County property appraiser's website. Ferger said she is having an appraisal done to determine what the property is actually worth.

But the dollars and cents are just part of the dog park's value, Cornell said.

"We have no other place to go," Cornell said, adding it is the only fenced-in park in Vero Beach. "We understand the money issue but I think if the dog park members had known we were heading over a financial cliff, we would have tried to help."

Cornell is one of several members serving on a committee investigating what options are available to keeping the park open. She said the group met for the first time Sunday and talked about leasing the property, but Cornell said Ferger is only interested in selling.

"Dogs for Life needs to sell this property as quickly as possible," Ferger said. "But we absolutely want it to remain as a dog park."

Beth Stryker is leading the group determined to save the dog park. She said many people think the park is a "canine country club for dogs," but nothing could be further from the truth.

"The dog park is all about people who have dogs," Stryker said. "People who have nowhere else in Vero Beach where they can get together and safely exercise their dogs."

She added the dog park is special because it also encourages human interaction and builds friendships.

"We members are there for each other throughout illnesses, deaths, divorces and other life challenges," Stryker said. "Our dogs are also there for us, and they never judge. We are a community of dog lovers."

In addition to operating the dog park, Dogs for Life trains service and therapy dogs for people with disabilities and is working closely with veterans organizations to provide dogs to veterans returning from war.

But Ferger said its dog park operation has confused people about the Dogs for Life organization, and the mission of training service animals got lost in the shuffle.

"People just don't understand what we do," Ferger said. "We need to make a break from the dog park. It's all been worth it, but it's time to move on."

INDIAN RIVER
Treasure Coast Journal
SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS
75 cents
Saturday, December 8, 2012
TCPalm.com

Dog park dreams coming to an end

Membership drop leads to Dec. 31 closure

By Lamaur Stancil
lamaur.stancil@scripps.com
772-978-2304

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Shelly Ferger fulfilled a dream in 2001 when her nonprofit Dogs For Life opened its off-leash, fenced-in dog park on 12th Street near 16th Avenue.

She'll be closing the door on that dream when the calendar turns to 2013, she announced Friday.

A drop in paid memberships for the park means she and the board of directors will close the park on Dec. 31 and put the property on the market.

"I believe the park has meant a lot to many people and many dogs," said Ferger, founder and executive director of Dogs For Life. "There's people who wouldn't own dogs if it weren't for the park because they don't have anywhere else to take them for exercise."

Looking ahead, Ferger said she'll meet with her board next month to chart a new business plan for the nonprofit, which will focus on continuing its program for training dogs to assist military veterans who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or social anxieties.

The plans likely will include a new name for the agency to help its branding as a training outfit.

"When people think of Dogs For Life, they only think of the park," Ferger said.

Dogs For Life charged $300 a year for membership and use of the park,

See DOG, 10A

Beckett Horner (center) and Chris Dillaha (left), both of Vero Beach, watch as Horner's French mastiff Riley, 2, chases a ball while visiting the dog park in September.

DOG
from 1A

Ferger said. That's up from the original $200 membership a decade ago. During the early years, about 200 people annually were paying members she said.

When membership began dropping a few years ago, the agency increased its fees. But with membership dropping to 130 this year, it was no longer feasible to continue operating the park, she said.

Two-legged members and their four-legged companions enjoyed a 4 ½-acre fenced-in property. Dogs had to be neutered, inoculated and approved for friendliness by the agency. Those types of conditions appealed to its members, said Dr. Melissa Mueller, a veterinarian at Planet Pet in Vero Beach, which is a corporate sponsor for the agency.

"They felt they could take their dogs there, and they would be safe and wouldn't get sick," Mueller said Friday.

The influx of municipally organized dog parks that don't charge for use in Indian River County may have led to decreased memberships, she said. There were few other parks when Dogs For Life opened its facility a decade ago.

Despite the park's closing, Ferger called 2012 a good year for the organization. Some success stories, highlighted in the media and social networks included dogs trained to call 911 if their owners need help.

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Shelly Ferger Founder/Executive Director
(772) 567-8969

Dogs For Life, Inc. Closing 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the Board of Directors has made the difficult business decision to close, and put on the market for sale, the 12th Street & 16th Avenue off-leash dog park as of December 31, 2012. This decision was made due to the fact that membership dues do not support the costs of maintaining the dog park. Over the last few years, the membership in the park has declined due to a number of factors, including the state of the overall economy.

We are more dedicated than ever to focus our efforts to increase the number of professionally trained hearing and service dogs in Indian River County with disabilities and beyond to help our veterans with the debilitating effects of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. DFL is one of the few organizations in the state with ADI (Assistance Dog International) accreditation who can provide the necessary certification required for dogs owned by veterans, to receive benefits through the Veterans Administration.

This has been a good year for DFL. We have many success stories which demonstrate that a task-trained dog can save an individual's life by being trained to tap a 911 emergency phone as in the case about the service dog team of Spirit and Dorothy Davidson, wich was a CBS feature story. In addition, the amazing story of how Pia Pia, a DFL Certified hearing and service dog, enhances the life of Jim Taylor, a retired veteran from the Iraq War, by allowing him more freedom and mental wellbeing.

We also want to announce that in keeping with our mission to train assistance dogs, moving forward, DFL will be changing our name to help brand our organization as an assistance dog training organization, that we feel more clearly defines our mission to the community and our donors.

DFL would like to thank our donors and members who have supported us since 1998 and know that we need your support now more than ever to help fulfill our commitment to our assistance dog training teams, disabled individuals veterans and the facilities who benefit from our pet-assisted therapy dog program.

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Spirit, the golden retriever mix pictured here and trained by Dogs For Life in Vero Beach, was able to tap a 911 call for her owner in North Carolina, saving the owner's life. Pictured with Spirit are Shelly Ferger, founder of DFL, Al Turner and Darrell Horn, DVM.

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Dog park closes

It makes me so sad to share this news, but it must be done. **Dogs for Life's Board of Directors** has made the difficult business decision to close and put on the market for sale the 12 Street and 16 Avenue off-leash dog park. I shared my sorrow with founder **Shelly Ferger**, and she said with great optimism, "We'll be in touch as we expand our assistance dog program. We are looking forward to working with veterans and focusing on our assistance dog and pet therapy dog programs."

TREASURE COAST

Briefs

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Off-leash dog park to remain open

A dog park on 12th Street off 16th Avenue has received donations to remain open two more months.

An anonymous person donated an undisclosed amount of money to keep the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park open until Feb. 28, according to a news release from Dogs for Life.

The anonymous donation was enough to cover two months of the park's operating expenses. Dogs for Life had planned to close the park Dec. 31.

The 4.5-acre dog park, which has been opened since 2002, does not receive any government funding to pay for its operations.

The property is for sale and dog park members have formed the News Dog Park group to discuss fundraising efforts.

A meeting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the pavilion in the park. Attendees are asked to bring a lawn chair. No dogs are allowed in the pavilion, the release states.

Indian River County

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

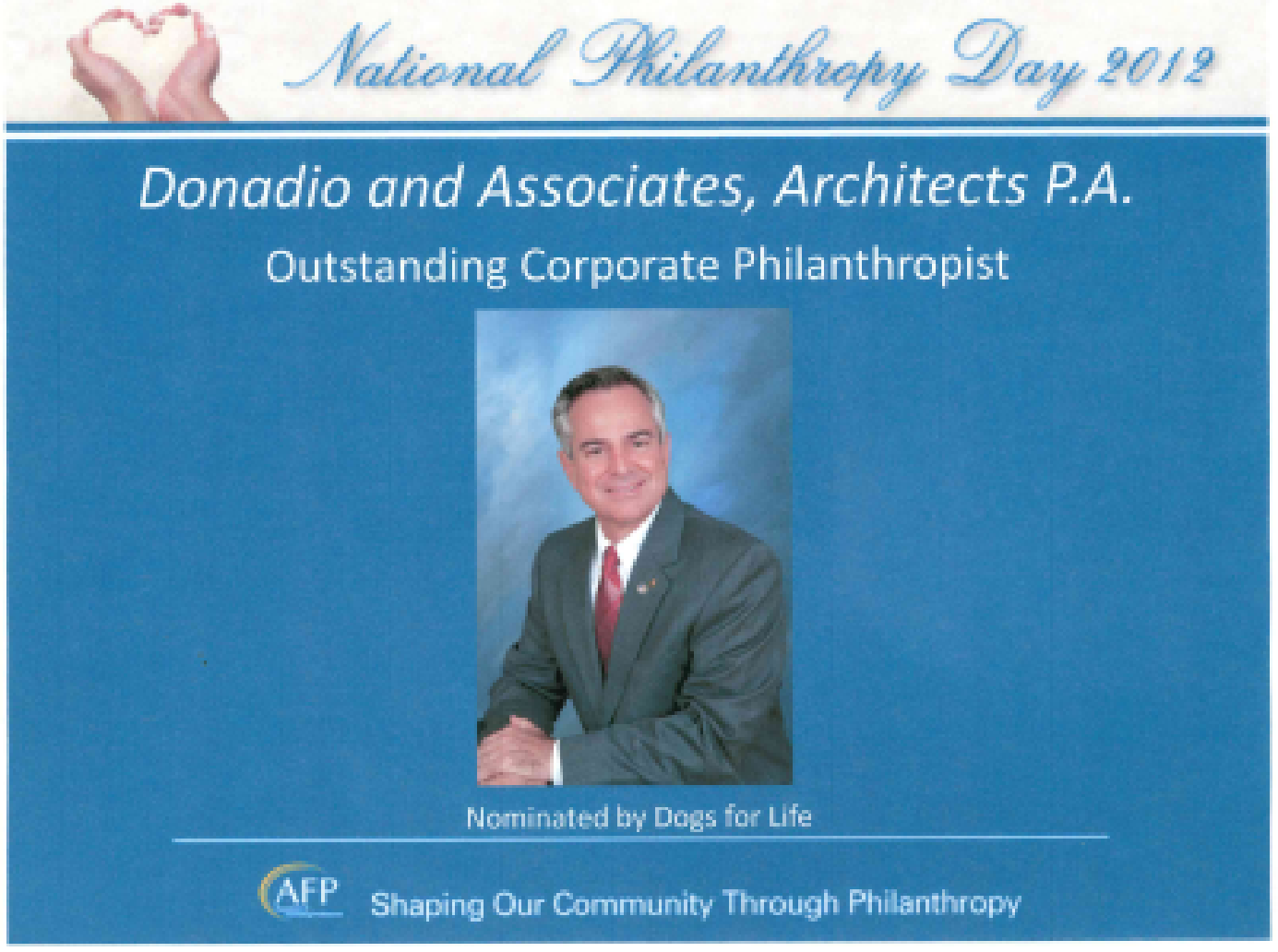
Dog park to stay open

It's a Christmas miracle! **Dogs for Life (DFL) 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park** in Vero Beach thought it had to close, but thanks to a 'Christmas Angel' will stay open for now. This "Very Good Person" donated the necessary funds to continue operations at Dog Park until Feb. 28, giving members more time to organize in an effort to continue operations at the park. Call (772) 567-8969 and visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

NOVEMBER

AFP Award

National Philanthropy Day



Outstanding Individual Philanthropist
Marilyn C. Link
Nominated by
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute Foundation and
Indian River State College Foundation

Arriving on the Treasure Coast in 1974, Marilyn Link became trustee and managing director of what is now Florida Atlantic University's Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. Marilyn Link's charitable giving is tied closely to her education-oriented family foundation, the Link Foundation, which has provided more than $13 million in grants to scholars and researchers in fields related to ocean energy, ocean engineering and instrumentation, and simulation. Additionally, Marilyn's commitment to education has benefited Indian River State College through support of a laboratory, creation of a scholarship, and establishment of an electronic library. Her dynamic energy and passion, particularly for education and the environment, will have a long-lasting impact on the Treasure Coast.

Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist
Donadio and Associates, Architects P.A.
Nominated by Dogs for Life, Inc.

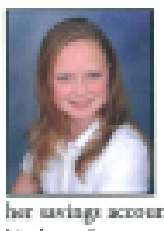
Tireless is a word used to describe Anthony Donadio, president of local architecture firm, Donadio and Associates. For 20 years, the firm has supported more than 12 nonprofits with in-kind donations to help in the planning and design of various structures. Each year, the firm budgets more than 10 percent of its total revenue for charitable contributions. Donadio and Associates is currently working with Dogs for Life to build a new facility to expand its dog training program to meet the needs of local veterans. Tony Donadio's confidence and support have given Dogs for Life and other organizations the courage and ability to expand its services in the community.

Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
Wanda W. Lincoln
Nominated by
The Education Foundation of Indian River County and
Quail Valley Charities

Once quoted that she wanted her epitaph to read, "she made children's lives better," Wanda Lincoln is doing just that in Indian River County. A former teacher and educational consultant, Wanda has used her expertise and passion as a committee chair and board member for a litany of organizations focused on education— Boys & Girls Clubs, Childcare Resources, Education Foundation, and Impact 100. She also founded and continues to chair the Quail Valley Charity Cup, now in its tenth year, which has raised $2.5 million since its inception. Admirably on a quest for quality education, Wanda is clearly one of the Treasure Coast's most valuable gems.

Unsung Hero
Roger T. Sobkowiak
Nominated by The Homeless Family Center, Inc.

As vice president of the Homeless Family Center, Roger Sobkowiak is not only described as one of the most intelligent guys in the room, but also one of the most humble. His passion for eliminating homelessness has caused him to support the Homeless Family Center in all manner of ways— from co-authoring the five-year plan to playing Santa Claus at the annual Christmas in July event. He has also worked tirelessly to build awareness of the plight of the homeless. In 2010, he created a car "live-in" that ultimately reached 10,000 people and raised $44,000, and 3,000 pounds of food. A soft-spoken man, never one to place himself in the spotlight, Roger is truly an unsung hero.



Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy
Lauren Weaver
Nominated by The Source

Now merely 12 years old, Lauren Weaver developed a passion for helping the homeless at the young age of seven. Moved by an encounter with a homeless man, she emptied her savings account to buy him several Christmas presents. This simple act of kindness has grown into a movement called "Lauren's Way," which in 2011 alone was responsible for 150 board gifts, $3,215 in cash, 2,500 canned goods, and $2,000 in gifts-in-kind to benefit clients of The Source and the Homeless Family Center. With Lauren's maturity, clarity of purpose, and innate ability to encourage others to get involved, she's sure to continue to have a positive impact on this community into adulthood.

Retriever saves former resident

Spirit, a golden retriever mix trained by Dogs For Life Inc. to tap a 911 phone for her owner Dorothy Davidson — who now lives in North Carolina — has been credited with saving Davidson's life.

After a late night fall, Spirit tapped the K-9 911 emergency phone that alerted emergency personnel that her owner needed help.

Spirit spent the next two weeks with Dorothy in a rehab center.

Spirit is seen during her stay in Vero Beach with Dogs for Life Founder and Executive Director Shelly Ferger and Dogs for Life Vice President Al Turner and board member Darrell Horn.

Philanthropy Awards announced

The Association of Fundraising Professionals Indian River Chapter announced the recipients of this year's National Philanthropy Day awards.

An award presentation will take place at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 13 at Riverside Theatre, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, followed by light hors d'oeuvres and cocktails.

This year's award recipients are: Outstanding Individual Philanthropist, Marilyn Link; Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist, Donadio & Associates, Architects; Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser, Wanda Lincoln; Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy, Lauren Weaver; and Unsung Hero of the Year, Roger Sobkowiak.

Additional individual honorees include: the Rev. Scott Alexander, Becky Allan, Delaney Cooksey, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Covelli, Ned Dayton, Don Drinkard, William Helmly, Dr. and Mrs. David J. McKenna, Burke Michael-Neely, Keith Pelan, Bill Pratt, Bob Samuels, and Vicki Suplizio.

Additional corporate honorees include: Carter Associates, Vero Beach Country Club, and Vero Beach Magazine. Tickets to the celebration are $30 and reservations are required in advance. For more information, visit afpindianriver.afpnet.org.

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

Dogs For Life Dog Pawrade

Sponsored by Dyer Subaru; Page 2 Design; Vero Insurance; Web Presence Partners

OCTOBER 20: More than 90 dogs in costume and 300 people helped make the 11th annual ***Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo*** a howling success. More than $8,000 was raised, which will help fund the organization's Veteran Dog Training and Pet Assisted Therapy programs.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANIE RUSSELL HOWORTH / VERO BEACH MAGAZINE

Ali, Page and Jerry Frenzel, Pat Theriault, Shelly Ferger and Ziggy

Samantha Grubbs and Vanessa Bartoszewicz with Rocky

Griffin and Dawn Wagner with Luna

Jim, Nicole and Cali Gazlay with Benji

Sara, Sosh and Heather Buchko with Rock

Allison Bank with Micky

Board members of Dogs for Life Margaret Wall, David Johnson, Karen Mann and Debbie Burton

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Senior Bulletin Board

A newsletter from the Vero Beach Recreation Department
Covering all of Indian River County

VOLUME XV, NUMBER 1 — OCTOBER 2012

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL EVENTS

HOWL-O-WEEN

PAWRADE

DOG COSTUME PARADE

- Sat., Oct. 20.....3:00-5:00 p.m.
  at Dogs for Life, off-leash park,
  12th Street & 16th Avenue, Vero Beach
  Prizes, raffles, K-9 demos, dog shows, guest speakers.
- Free, open to the public
- Contact: Shelley Ferger, 567-8969
  www.dogsforlifevb.org

at Dogs for Life-No Leash Dog Park
1230 16th Ave.,(12th St.&16th Ave.) VB

- 6 week class starting
  Sat., Oct. 6.....9:00 a.m.
- Inst/Info: Shelley Ferger, 567-8969
- Fee: $75.00 (membership in Dog Park not required)

COMMUNITY & SOCIAL EVENTS

HOWL-O-WEEN
PAWRADE
DOG COSTUME PARADE
- Sat., Oct. 20 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.
  at Dogs for Life, off-leash park,
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  Prizes, raffles, K-9 demos, dog shows, guest speakers.
- Free, open to the public
- Contact: Shelley Ferger, 567-8969
  www.dogsforlifevb.org

Community Calendar

OCTOBER 20

Dogs for Life
Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo and Fundraiser, 2-5 pm, free, pet costume contest, raffle, prizes, K-9 demos. 772-567-8969.

Business

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Nozzle Nolen
Planet Pet Animal Hospital
Seacoast National Bank
TD Bank
Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital
Village Pet Shop of Vero Beach

Dogs For Life
P.O. Box 650023 • Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969 • www.dogsforlifevb.org

11th Annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo: Saturday, October 20th

Off-Leash Dog Park corner of 12th St. & 16th Ave., Vero Beach

2:00 Welcome - DFL Founder/ Executive Director Shelly Ferger
2:15 4-H Dixie Wranglers Line Dancers
2:45 Hobo Jim Keyboard & Vocalist
3:00 DFL Assistance Dog Teams "Speak"
3:30 DFL President David S. Johnson
4:00 Howl-O-Ween Pawrade with Grand Marshall Vero Beach Mayor Pilar Turner and the VFW Post 3918

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Planet Pet Animal Hospital, LLC
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IN SEASON

October 2012

• Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade and Pet Expo. Dogs for Life, Vero Beach, 2 p.m. A costume contest and parade with raffles, live entertainment, food and drinks. Rain date: Oct. 27. Cost: free. *Website:* www.dogsforlifevb.org.

The record

Briefs

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Costume 'pawrade' planned for Oct. 20

Dogs For Life's 11th annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo is planned from 2 to 5 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

The Pawrade is at 4 p.m. at dog park.

The Howl-O-Ween Pawrade is Dog For Life's signature annual fundraiser and has drawn more than 100 dogs in costume and more than 300 spectators for the past three years.

This event is supported by business vendor and sponsor participation and is free to the public.

This year's guest speaker is Indian River County Commissioner Gary Wheeler.

The Pawrade Grand Marshal is Vero Beach Mayor Pilar Turner.

For more information on how to become a sponsor or vendor, contact Shelly Ferger, at 772-567-8969. www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Staff report

BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

4-H Dog Masters

Did you know that in 1997 the **4-H Dog Masters Club**, made up of a group of enthusiastic children, was instrumental in helping to start the **Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park** at 12th Street & 16th Avenue? (How ironic and totally unplanned: as I write this, I happen to be wearing the Dogs for Life T-shirt that founder **Shelly Ferger** gave me when I shot their March 2012 cover photo.) Dogs for Life continues to host the 4-H Dog Masters Club, where youth aged 8 to 18 are encouraged to join the Club with their dogs to learn how to care for, train and show their pets. The Club meets on Saturday mornings at the dog park, and they will have an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. on Sept. 13 at the **Indian River County Administration Building** in room B-501. Bring the children after you leave the Growing Healthy Kids Educational Extravaganza. The timing is perfect. Visit www.dogsforlifevb.org and call (772) 567-8969.

Howl-O-Ween to be best ever

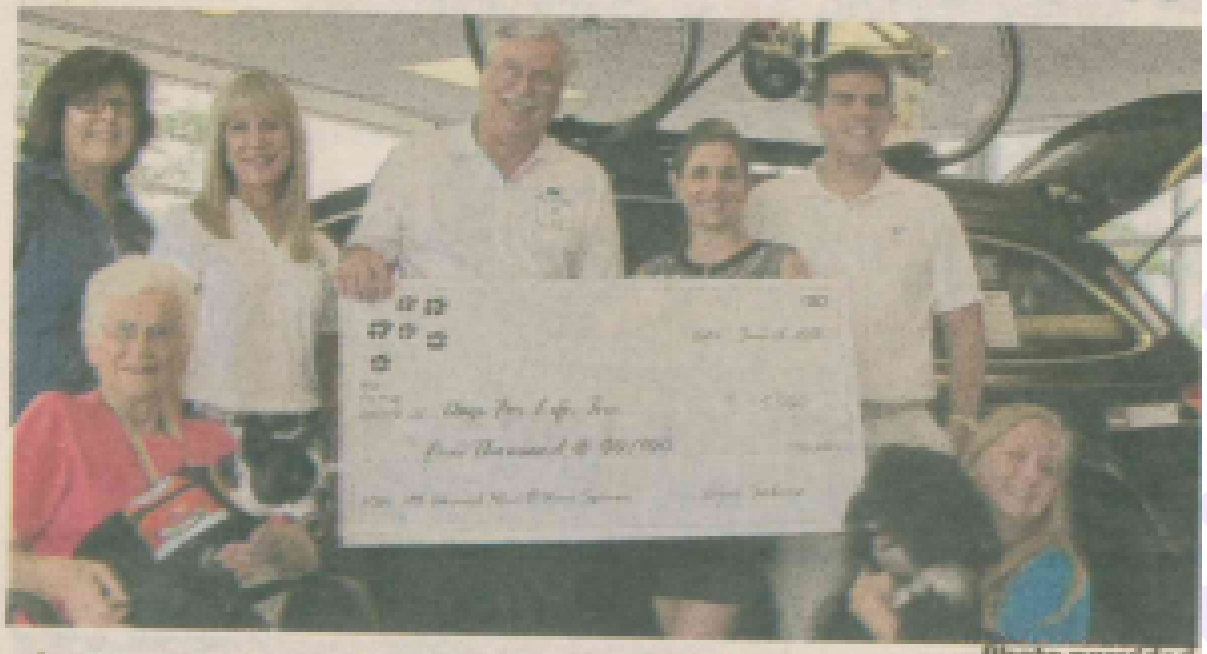

Photo provided

(Back) Karen Mann, Margaret Wall, Ben Humphries, Tatiana and John Dyer, (front) Patricia Soott and DFL hearing dog Holly, and Natalie Fincik of Dyer Subaru and her companion dog Molly make plans for the 11th Annual Howl-O-Ween Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo.

Dyer Subaru has become a Pawrade Sponsor for Dogs For Life's 11th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to be held Oct. 20 at DFL's Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

The Howl-O-Ween Pawrade is DFL's signature annual fundraiser and has drawn more than 100 dogs in costume.

Past Howl-O-Ween Pawrade activities have included raffles, prizes, a military color guard presentation by Veterans of Foreign War Post 3918, a multi-law enforcement K-9 demonstration organized by the Indian River County Sheriff Department's K-9 Unit, fun dog shows and so much more.

For additional information or to help by becoming a committee member, sponsor or vendor, call Shelly Ferger at (772)567-8969 and visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

Local

Quick Read

HOWL-O-WEEN DOG COSTUME PAWRADE IS OCT. 20 IN VERO BEACH

Dogs For Life's 11th Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo is Oct. 20 at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

The event has been the park's signature annual fundraiser for the past three years. It is supported by vendor and sponsor participation and is free to the public.

Dogs For Life Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs and owning and managing an off-leash dog park.

For information or to help by becoming a committee member, sponsor or vendor, contact Shelly Ferger, dog park founder and executive director at 772-567-8969 or www.dogsforlifevb.org.

SEPTEMBER

4-H Dog Masters

DFL Sponsors 4-H Dog Masters Club
Since 2002

Dogs For Life

Dear Shelly,

Since 2002, DFL has sponsored the 4-H Dog Masters Club. Youth from ages 8 - 18 are encouraged to join the Club with their dogs to learn how to care for, train and show their pets. The Club meets on Saturday mornings at the Dogs For Life,Inc. Off-Leash dog park.

In 1997 the 4-H Dog Masters Club was instrumental in starting what we know and enjoy today as the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street & 16th Avenue. With the help of the 4-H Club the vision for a place for community dogs to enjoy the freedom of a safe environment where they could run "leash-free" was quite a task for a group of enthusiastic children.

DFL applauds their efforts and continues to sponsor their Club year after year. The Dog Masters will hold an organizational meeting: Sept. 13 at 7 PM at the IR Co. Administration Bldg, Room B - 501.

We would like to ask you to help our our Club by helping to recruit great families with great children and great dogs. You may also want to help by becoming a 4-H Sponsor. Your donation is fully tax-deductible and will help to cover the cost of membership fees for the children, the cost to train their dogs, purchase t-shirts, dog treats and special training equipment if needed.

DFL will host a dog show at the end of the year, of which you will be an honored guest.

Please contact Shelly Ferger Club Leader right away to make your pledge or donation. Or you can visit the DFL Website www.dogsforlifevb.org to make a direct donation.

Thank you in advance for your generosity. As you know, part of 4-H Training, is for our leaders of tomorrow. Three 4-H Graduates already volunteer for DFL. What better investment could we make in DFL than our youth to carry on our programs.

Shelly

4H
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY
DOG MASTERS

Sponsor the 4-H Dog Masters Club and make an investment in Indian River County and DFL's Future.
www.dogsforlifevb.org
(772) 567-8969

AUGUST

HALO Golf Tournament

'In the Ruff'

HALO Rescue, Stray No More helps four-legged friends

BY CHRISTINA TASCON
VERO BEACH NEWSWEEKLY

Animal lovers enjoyed HALO's Rescue and Stray No More's cocktail kickoff to their main fundraiser at the "In the Ruff" Golf Tournament.

The reception offered music by The Dog Bones by the pool with a Mexican themed buffet and a K-9 police dog demonstration on Indian River Club's putting green.

As the sunset over the lush golf course setting, guests sat enthralled as two of the Indian River County's top K-9 dogs, Taz and Buddy, put on an amazing show of control and strength with their human partners, Kevin Keats and Ron Adamson.

Bruce McCullers of Reliable Septic stepped up to sponsor the cocktail reception for the event this year. McCullers was just one of the many attending who had found his best four-legged friend at HALO.

After he lost his dogs, Magoo and Maggie, HALO's director Jacque Petrone introduced him to his current dog, Bentley.

PLEASE SEE PAGE 7

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TASCON
HALO's director Jacque Petrone with Rob Kyzar

Kim Gardner, Linda and Larry Depew with Dest

David Richards, Shelly Ferger, Bruce McCullers with Bentley

Beverly Wolfe, Joe and Kim Kern, Laurel Wood Lenker

FROM PAGE 6

"She knew I was a Yorkie nut," said McCullers. "Anytime we can find an animal a home, it makes it all worth it," said Petrone.

Between the cocktail reception and the golf tournament Petrone said she hoped to raise approximately $14,000 which would be split between HALO Rescue and Stray No More.

Shelly Ferger of Dogs for Life also was there for the pets in need of a home.

"We are all supporting the same cause," said Ferger. "Unfortunately the need is even greater now so this is a wonderful event to support the animals."

> "We are all supporting the same cause. Unfortunately the need is even greater now so this is a wonderful event to support the animals."
>
> Shelley Ferger, Dogs For Life

Bruce McCullers of Reliable Septic stepped up to sponsor the cocktail reception this year. He found his best four-legged friend at HALO.

International Assistance Dog Week

Dogs For Life, Inc.
July 17, 2012
Indian River County
And
City of Vero Beach
Proclamation
International Assistance Dog Week

Norine Coody & Abby, Don Shaffer & Milo, Patty Ruble, Patty Schell, Margaret Wall, Ben Humphries & David Johnson

Don Shaffer, Patty Ruble, Norine Coody, Patty Schell Ben Humphries, Margaret Wall & David Johnson With Indian River County Commissioners.

Don Shaffer & Milo, Patty Ruble, Norine Coody, Patty Schell, Ben Humphries, Margaret Wall & David Johnson With City of Vero Beach Council.

Patty Ruble, Patty Schell, David Johnson, Margaret Wall, Ben Humphries, Don Shaffer & Norine Coody With City of Vero Beach Council.

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNIZING AUGUST 5 - 11, 2012 AS INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE DOG WEEK

WHEREAS, assistance dogs transform the lives of their human partners with physical and mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, they serve as devoted companions, helpers, aides, best friends and close family members; and

WHEREAS, assistance dogs include service dogs, guide dogs hearing alert dogs and alert/seizure response dogs; and

WHEREAS, 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, etc.; and

WHEREAS, 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 as well as smoke, fire and clock alarms; and

WHEREAS, 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; and

WHEREAS, medical alert/medical response dogs alert or respond to oncoming medical conditions, such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, epilepsy, panic attack, anxiety attack, and post traumatic stress disorders; and

WHEREAS, ***International Assistance Dog Week***, August 5-11, 2012, provides an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the selfless way all types of assistance dogs assist individuals with mitigating their disability-related limitations; and

WHEREAS, Dogs For Life, Inc. is joining forces with assistance dog partners, organizations, and concerned citizens throughout Indian River County, Florida and America to raise awareness of assistance dogs and observe ***International Assistance Dog Week***

THEREFORE, be it proclaimed that the Indian River County Board of County Commissioners recognizes August 5 - 11, 2012 as ***International Assistance Dog Week*** in Indian River County, and reaffirm Indian River County's commitment to respect, celebrate and recognize assistance dogs and their partners this week and throughout the year in our community

Adopted this 17th day of July 2012.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

Gary C. Wheeler, Chairman

Peter D. O'Bryan, Vice Chairman

Joseph E. Flescher

Wesley S. Davis

Bob Solari

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY FLORIDA

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 8/7/2012 4:52:01 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Cc: Dogs For Life
Subject: DFL WQCS 88.9 @ 6:01 PM tonight

Radio Spot **Attached** for a segment on DFL & Hearing Dog Team Pat & Holly by Jill McDermott with WQCS 88.9 FM.

Thank you Pat & Holly for helping to recognize International Assistance Dog Week, August 5 - 11, 2012.

Shelly

DFL Board Member, Dr. Darrell Horn, Pat Scott with Holly And Indian River County Sheriff's Deputy Attend DFL Assistance Dog Workshop in 2011.

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF JULY 2, 2012

4

BRIGHT LIGHTS &RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

A week for the dogs

On July 17, **Dogs For Life, Inc.** will receive proclamations by the **Indian River County Commissioners** at 9 a.m. and by the **City Council of Vero Beach** at 9:30 a.m. recognizing Aug. 5 – 12 as **International Assistance Dog Week.** Call (772) 567-8969 for more.

Dogs for Life representatives receive a proclamation from members of the Vero Beach City Council. Pictured are: (front) Patty Ruble, Patty Schell, David S. Johnson, Margaret Wall, Ben Humphries, Don Shaffer with Mila, Marion Coody with Abby, (back) City Council members A. Craig Fletcher, Pilar Turner, Tracy Carroll, Jay Kramer and Richard Winger.

Indian River County

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

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SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

ATTEST:

Tammy K. Vock
City Clerk

Jay Kramer
Councilmember

Tracy M. Carroll
Councilmember

CITY OF VERO BEACH

Pilar Turner
Mayor

A. Craig Fletcher
Vice-Mayor

Richard Winger
Councilmember

JUNE

Senior Resource Association

SENIOR RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

The Senior Resource Association (SRA) provides recreational, cultural and educational programs for active older adults, assists seniors and their families in finding resources, and delivers quality, professional services that meet a senior's individual needs.

GOOD NEWS and there is always good news.

June 18, 2012

Prevent Elder Abuse

Sheldon Kleger, SRA Director of Client and Health Services and Leila Heptinstall, SRA Nutrition Manager, offer Marie McManus, a carnation in recognition of Annual World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. June 15 was established as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day to bring awareness to the much-ignored problem of elder abuse and neglect on an international level.

A Hot Diggity Dog Great Time

A great time was had by all last week when SRA held it's first annual Hot Diggity Dog Day Best Dog Contest. There were eight contestants who showed off tricks or were just darn cute. Sebastian the Pekingese won Best in Show. Pictured are Shelly Ferger, Founder, Dogs for Life, Aidan Deluca, Sebastian, Lyndy Doran, Ginna O'Connor, SRA VP of Programs and Barbara Power, SRA Board Member.

Carrie Biggers Named Director of Development

SRA is pleased to announce the appointment of Carrie Biggers as the new Director of Development. She joins SRA after serving for three years as Director of Institutional Advancement at St. Andrew's Academy in Fort Pierce. Carrie's new duties for SRA will include achieving the organization's fundraising goals and plans.

MAY

Memorial Day Ceremony

Veterans Council of Indian River County

Col. Martin Zickert, President
Vic Diaz, Judge Advocate
Michael Weiss, 1st Vice-President
Lt. Col. Scott Carson, Secretary
Col. Sam Kouns, 2nd Vice-President
Steve Sackman, Treasurer
Lt. Col. Eric "Rip" Wieler, Immediate Past President
Capt. Richard Flick, Chaplain

Member Organizations

Air Force Association, Cape Canaveral Chapter 309
American Legion Post 39, Vero Beach
American Legion Post 189, Sebastian
American Legion Riders, Post 39
American Military Retiree Association
American Security Council Foundation
American Serving Veterans Foundation
BPOE Elks Lodge 1774
Dogs for Life
First Marine Division Association, Central Florida Chapter
Indian River County Sheriff's Department
Italian-American War Veterans, Post 3
Knights of Columbus, Father Charles Brady Assembly 1932
Korean War Veterans of Indian River County, Chapter 318
Marine Corps League, Indian River Detachment
Military Moms Prayer Group of the Treasure Coast
Military Officers Assoc. of America, Indian River County Chapter
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 494
Navy League of the U.S., Treasure Coast Council 34
Postal Connections of Vero Beach
Republican Veterans of Indian River County
Supervisor of Elections Office, Indian River County
Treasure Coast Daughters of the American Revolution
Treasure Coast Children of the American Revolution
U.S. Army Special Forces Association, Chapter 85
U.S. Navy Seabees Island X Chapter 10
Vero Beach Veterans, Inc.
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 3918
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 10210
Veterans Mall Foundation
Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary Committee
Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 1038
82nd Airborne Division Association, Space Coast Chapter

Memorial Day Ceremony

Master of Ceremonies - Col. Martin J. Zickert, USAF (Ret.)

Parade Marshal - HMCS/FMF Michael Bodnar, USN (Ret.)

Parade Adjutant - Mack Dent, American Legion Post 39

8:30 Assembly and Massing of the Colors

9:00 Welcome and Introduction of Distinguished Guests - Col. Martin Zickert

Reading of General Order No. 11

Invocation - Lorne Coyle

National Anthem - Vero Beach High School Band

Pledge of Allegiance - Alma Lee Loy

Patriotic Medley - Vero Beach High School Band, Band Directors, James Sammons & Page Howell

Memoriam for Rear Adm. Roland Guilbault

Moment of Silence and Placing of the Wreath - SGT Delgado, US Army & SGT Nadeau, US Army

Bag Pipes - Michael Hyde, USMM

Ship's Bell - Marine Corps League

Keynote Address - Kurt Wallach

Rifle Volley and Taps - VFW Post 3918 Honor Guard

Benediction - Lorne Coyle

Color Guards "Pass in Review"

Ceremony Conclusion

Guide Dog Rights

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

Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs

Attachment
For Emergency Response Personnel

Dogs for Life, Inc. have provided the attached brochure to businesses and the general public regarding service animals.

Here are some additional facts for your consideration.

In the event a service animal is involved in an emergency situation where the owner may be unconscious or otherwise unable to communicate with emergency response personnel, the service dog must remain with the person at all times, until a family member or otherwise appointed person is given possession of the dog.

Every assistance dog recipient should have instructional information pertaining to their service animal with their driver's license or other personal identification information.

Under no circumstances is the dog to be left running at large or taken to any animal shelter.

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

Assistance Dog Presentation
Information for Businesses

This insert should accompany the Dogs for Life, Inc. Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs.

The only way to verify a Service Animal from a Pet is to ask the person any or all of the following three questions:

1. **Are you disabled?** Do not ask, "What is your disability?" (That's getting too personal)

2. **Has the animal been trained for your disability, or is that a pet?** (pets are not service animals) Do not ask someone to "prove" the animal has been trained.

3. **What does the animal do for you?** Do not ask someone to "show" what the animal does.

Size, shape, make and model doesn't matter!

Remember, it's not the clothes or id cards that make us legal, it's the fact that we have been trained to do tasks.

Besides it's good publicity and it's the law.

Legal Reasons to
REMOVE the animal
(The person must still be allowed service.)

1. **Service Animal out of control**
   Lunging on leash, sniffing tables, relieving itself inside, not obeying commands of handler.

2. **Barking excessively out of control**
   Must determine first if this is an alert to dangers or doing its job.

3. **Aggressive behavior**
   Barking, growling, lunging, attacking.

Florida Statue 413.04 - Only **ONE** Legal Reason to Deny Access (e) A public accommodation may exclude or remove any animal from the premises, including a service animal, if the animal's behavior poses a **direct threat** to the health and safety of others. Allergies and fear of animals are not valid reasons or denying access or refusing service to an individual with a service animal. If a service animal is excluded or removed for being a direct threat to others, the public accommodation must provide the individual with a disability the option of continuing access to the public accommodation without having the service dog on the premises.

If you would like additional information please contact:

Dogs for Life, Inc
(772) 567-8969

State Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have trained service animals.

State and local laws which protect the rights of individuals who have disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals are:
Florida: FSS Title 30, 413.08 SS 1-8.
Locations allowed: Full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges on all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motorbus, streetcars, boats, and other public conveyances or modes of transportation and at hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.
Statute Regarding Interference:
413.08(2) Interference includes: Any person, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person, firm or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to, or enjoyment of, the public facilities enumerated in subsection (1) or otherwise interferes with the rights of a deaf person, a totally or partially blind person, or an otherwise physically disabled person under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

Statute Regarding Housing: 413.08(4).
Housing includes: All housing accommodations except room in a single family residence.

Trainers allowed with dogs: 413.08(7).
Any trainer of a guide, hearing or service dog while engaged in the training of such dog, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the same liability for damage as is provided for deaf, blind or mobility impaired person.

Summary of Law: Florida law guarantees a blind, deaf or physically disabled person has the legal right to be accompanied by a specially trained dog in housing, all public accommodations 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.

This is a brief summary of the law. For complete information be sure to review the complete statue or code listed above.

Acknowledgements:

* Assistance Dogs International
* Delta Society
* Intl Assoc of Assistance Dog Partners
* State Attorney General's Office
* U.S. Department of Justice

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs And Service Dogs

P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

(772) 567-8969

WHAT IS AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Assistance dogs are highly trained professional dogs.

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

2 . Hearing Dogs assist their deaf or hard of hearing partners by **ALERTING** them to sounds such as the smoke alarm, alarm clock, telephone, intruders, sirens, stove, or dryer timers.

3 . Service Dogs assist their physically-disabled partners in a number of ways. They can be custom trained for the particular needs of the individual. Examples are retrieving keys, the telephone, a cane, crutches or anything the person drops. Other helpful tasks are helping people up if they fall, pulling a wheelchair and helping maintain balance opening doors and carrying objects such as groceries.

HOW DO I RECOGNIZE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Most assistance dogs wear a tag, vest, harness, or backpack. However, these forms of identification are not required.

MAY I PET AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

NO, not when the dog is working. Petting will distract the dog and it needs to focus on the instruction of its human partner.

CAN I TALK TO THE PERSON?

YES, if they are not busy and are able to hear you. Most enjoy talking to members of the public about their assistance dogs.

HOW DOES A DISABLED PERSON ACQUIRE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Most apply to non-profit training centers which raise funds and grant the dog free of charge. Some buy a dog and pay for all training; a few people even adopt from a shelter and train the dog themselves.

SOME PEOPLE DO NOT "LOOK DISABLED". WHY DO THEY NEED AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

When you see an Assistance Dog "on duty", be assured there is a good reason for it, even if the human partner does not use obvious equipment such as a wheelchair, crutches, or a hearing aid. The human partner undoubtedly has something known as a "hidden disability" such as chronic back pain, a neuro-seizure disorder, or a serious hearing impairment for example.

Federal Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have trained service animals.

The federal civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III,28CFR Sec 36.104 defines a service animal as any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability (the disability might not be visible). By law, a service animal is not considered a pet. Most service animals are dogs; they can be any breed or size, and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. The ADA does not require proof or "certification" of the service dog's training. Service animas are trained to do specific tasks for the benefit of people with physical or mental impairments.

Federal (e.g.,28CFR Sec 36.302) and state laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service animals in taxis, buses, trains, stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, schools, parks, hotels and other public places. Federal laws which protect individuals with disabilities include the ADA; the Fair Housing Amendments Act (1988); Sect. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973); The Air Carrier Access Act (1986), and other regulations.

Become a Member

As a member, you will be the foundation for an organization that benefits our community, now and in the future.

Your Support Sponsors

Assistance Dogs

Hearing Dog. A door knock, a ringing telephone, a smoke alarm, and an alarm clock are sounds a person with a hearing impairment may be missing.

Service Dog. Rising from a chair, picking up a phone, and retrieving a fallen object are simple tasks that can be daunting to a person with a physical challenge.

Our assistance training program prepares dogs to respond to and serve people with special needs such as tapping a 911 emergency phone. Experienced trainers work with individuals and their dogs. This unique program offers **in-home** training for the dog and owner.

Pet-Assisted Therapy

"Read to Dogs." Provides an uninhibited setting for children to read to dogs. It offers a warm, dog- friendly environment for children to improve their reading skills and to achieve success.

Trauma Dogs. Provides warmth, love, and comfort to adults and children who experience post-traumatic stress, depression, and other disorders. Trained Volunteer and Dog Teams work with children and adults.

Dog Park

The 4-1/2 acre Best Friend's Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue serves as a focal point for canine activities and fundraisers. Individual and scheduled group memberships are available. Dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Pre-screening and orientations required. One-quarter of the membership fee to the Park is tax-deductible and funds the Assistance & Pet Assisted Therapy programs.

Community Outreach Programs:

Companion Dogs

Dog Obedience Classes. Basic , novice, agility, AKC Canine Good Citizen training and companion dog obedience classes available to the public.

Dog Behavior Telephone Hotline. Provides free counseling for dog behavior problems.

Dog Placement Referral Program. Provides service for dogs needing homes and people looking for dogs.

What Is An Assistance Dog?

An Assistance Dog is a dog that has been specially trained to perform tasks for a person with a disability. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines a service animal as a guide dog, signal dog, or other animal trained to provide assistance to an individual with a disability.

Assistance dogs can benefit people with disabilities associated with varied diagnoses, including (but not limited to) spinal cord/ head trauma, visual or hearing deficits, arthritis, ataxia/poor balance, multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal bifida, seizure disorders, and psychiatric disabilities.

What Is a Therapy Dog?

In recent years, new value has been placed on pets to assist in the well-being of individuals. This was poignantly brought to the forefront during 9/11 when rescue dogs took on the role of therapy dogs. When the rescue dogs could no longer find any survivors in the rubble, they provided comfort and solace for the rescue workers in those long dark days.

In everyday life, therapy dogs provide warmth and comfort to individuals in need of support and unconditional love.

What Is a Dog Park?

A dog park is a place where our loyal dogs can run leash-free, socialize with one another, and have a good romp.

By providing a safe, clean environment for dogs and their owners, a dog park promotes responsible pet ownership.

Educational workshops on dog obedience and behavior further the cause of responsible pet ownership that benefits not only the dog and owner, but the entire community.

For your convenience you may now give on-line at the DFL website: www.dogsforlifevb.com.

Bronze Contributor $5,000	Major Benefactor $1,000	Benefactor $500	Patron $250	Supporter $100	Friend $50

Donations of $100 or more may be recognized on the "Donor Bone" display at the entrance of the dog park in various sizes: $100 (small), $500 (medium), $1,000 (large) and $5,000 (x-large).

Yes, I will give $100 or more and would like the following displayed on my donor bone - please limit to 30 characters

_____

Donor Bones may be used as an "In Honor of " or "In Memory of " a pet, person's name or a business may be listed.

I would like to Pledge $_____ to be payable to Dogs for Life, Inc. in the following installments:

$_____ payable before June and $_____ payable before December.

PLEASE HELP US! - Send your tax-deductible donation today.

Donor $25 Other $_____ No amount is too small.

Dogs For Life
PO Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

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VERO BEACH, FL

Dogs For Life

Making a difference in your community.

Assistance Dog "Prescious" Taps a 911 Rescue Phone

Mission Statement

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

Garry Trudeau

Opinion

Learn more about Trudeau plan to help our veterans

GUEST COLUMNIST

Had someone told me that I'd attend an event featuring a liberal cartoonist and a retired brigadier general who was the recent head psychiatrist in the Army, I'd have said, "No way!" But that's what happened the other night as I attended a get-together with Garry Trudeau of Doonesbury fame and Brig. Gen. Loree Sutton as they talked about a project they're working on called Homeward Bound Adirondacks, which is designed for veterans returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

It has always been my belief that anyone who has been in a combat situation has some form of post-traumatic stress disorder and the only difference between each is how the PTSD manifests itself outwardly. In general, the public has had little exposure to people affected by PTSD, and most colleges/universities have little idea how to handle the situation.

A few schools, such as Pensacola State College, due to its large military population, have recognized the problem and have made an effort to create a "veteran friendly" atmosphere. The program that Gary and Loree are designing is very in depth and will be of significant help to those returning from action. The program is very comprehensive and includes not only the veteran but also the family.

I believe this program could be the cornerstone for similar programs throughout the United States and we should make every effort to support it. To learn more about their program go to homewardboundadirondacks.org.

I was particularly impressed reading the Homeward Bound Adirondacks' "Gratitude" page:

■ First, Homeward Bound acknowledges our debt to the Vietnam Veterans of America, whose motto, "Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another," serves as the moral compass guiding our journey.

■ Second, we recognize the service — on the battlefield and home front — of all who throughout our nation's history have sacrificed so much for the greater good.

In Vero Beach, the Veterans Council of Indian River County is making similar inroads by working with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038, Mental Health of Indian River County, Dogs for Life, the Indian River County Sheriff's Office, the Victory Center Mall Foundation and other organizations who recognize the needs of those coming home.

Today, we salute our warriors, veterans and their loved ones for their unprecedented sacrifice. We owe them our best. There simply is no greater privilege. I can only add the motto of the Veterans Council of Indian River County that, "It's the Right Thing to Do."

If you'd like to know more or to get involved, please call me at 772-633-6298.

Martin J. Zickert, Vero Beach, a retired Air Force colonel, is president of the Veterans Council of Indian River County and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038.

Articles

BRIGHT LIGHTS
&RED CARPETS
Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com
Indian River County
$15,000 for veteran dogs
Dogs for Life's Certified Hearing & Service Dog Team Jim Taylor and Pia Pia have been nominated for the American Humane Association's American Hero Dog Awards. Help them win $15,000 for the DFL Veteran Dog Training Program by casting your vote at www.hero-dogawards.org/vote/?nominee=36159566.
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Luminaries seen at . . .

By The River's Health and Wellness Fair

March 27, 2012

By The River (BTR) hosted a large-scale health and wellness fair geared for those 55 and up. Many local health care professionals, both traditional and alternative, were on hand to offer complimentary advice, strategies for longevity and vitality and to answer attendees' questions. Guests sampled healthy foods and organic vegetable juices. Free health screenings were offered, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical costs.

Suzanne Lentini and Gita, BTR's certified pet therapy dog

Nancy Heinrich of Growing Healthy Kids

Briefs

VERO BEACH

Dog park offering summer special

Dogs For Life is offering a new member special at the 12th Street and 16th Avenue Off-Leash Dog Park.

Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. The special will be a one-month trial membership for $50. After the month, the $50 will go toward the annual $300 membership fee.

Dogs For Life is dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing and service dogs, training volunteers to provide pet assisted therapy and owning and managing its off-leash dog park.

Orientations are required and scheduled by appointment. Call Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net or visit www.

Joe Oakley with Bhagavati Hausman of HART of Compassion

MARCH

Bridge Tournament

Indian River County ★ Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday · March 5, 2012

Luminaries

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Lani Becker and Eleanor Bengyak

Cover photos by Tania Ortega-Cowan: Lani Becker with Ruby, Margaret Wall with Huck, David Johnson with Maggie, Shelly Ferger with Sunny (Sir Georgia Sunshine) and Eleanor M. Bengyak with Mitzi as they all prepare for the March 19 Bridge Tournament to benefit Dogs For Life.

Cover Story

3rd Annual Bridge Tournament Benefits Dogs for Life

By Tania Ortega-Cowan
luminaries@scripps.com

"Some of my best friends have four legs," says Lani Becker, quite definitively.

If you have ever loved a dog, this is easy to understand. There is a powerful and enduring relationship between dogs and their owners, and among dog owners, as well.

With this truth as a foundation, Dogs for Life (DFL) began.

Founder Shelly Ferger explains, "Dogs for Life is a non-profit organization founded in 2002 as a grassroots organization to improve the quality of life for people and dogs by rescuing and training hearing and service dogs. DFL has also evolved with the generosity of Indian River County residents to include an off-leash dog park."

David Johnson got his first dog Maggie when he moved to Vero Beach from New York City. "I became involved with DFL two years ago when Maggie needed an exercise regimen. I enjoy making friends with other dog lovers at the dog park and watching my dog interact with others, but when I saw first-hand what DFL could do with assistance dogs trained to help veterans, especially veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, I applied for a position on the board and am honored to become president."

To raise funds for DFL, the group is presenting the "Have A Heart" Bridge Tournament at 11 a.m. on March 19 at the Oak Harbor Club House. Proceeds benefit the DFL Assistance Dog Training and Veteran Dog Training Program and the DFL Training Center Capital Campaign.

Lani Becker and Eleanor M. Bengyak are chairing/sponsoring the event.

"I have been involved with bridge for more than 25 years," says Eleanor. "I managed the Vero Beach Duplicate Bridge Center for almost 22 years and now teach and direct bridge at John's Island. I do play when I get a chance, and I'm a Silver Life Master."

She most appreciates DFL's training of therapy and service dogs.

"My dog Mitzi is both a therapy dog and an in-home service dog," says Eleanor. "She will start training soon to help my husband in whatever way she can. He just underwent an amputation of his leg and a finger."

When DFL was developing the dog park, Eleanor took great interest. "I live directly behind the park and owned a Golden Retriever at the time. We felt it would be great to see dogs running and playing from our front yard, so I decided I would do whatever needed to help their dream come true."

Lani adds, "I have been involved supporting Dogs for Life since 2002. My dog Ruby is a pet-therapy dog and I bring her over to Health Consulate to meet with individuals there. Whenever she goes to residents' rooms. Their faces just radiate with happiness at seeing her."

Margaret Wall, a certified trainer, has been part of dog rescue for many years, and she became a board member just over a year ago. "I am very passionate about the ability of DFL to train service dogs for those in need. And, as a fairly new resident to Vero Beach, I have really enjoyed that the dog park has allowed me and my rescue dog Huck to make new friends."

Tickets to "Have a Heart" Bridge Tournament are $75 per person, which includes lunch and bridge. Call (772) 567-8969, visit www.dogsforlifevb.org or e-mail dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

SCRIPPS
Treasure Coast Newspapers

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Dogs For Life

"HAVE A HEART"
and help Build A Bridge
Bridge Tournament

Menu

Creamy Three Onion Soup

Pecan and Grape Chicken Salad
served over Mixed Greens, with Fresh Fruit.

It will also be accompanied with
an Egg Salad Finger Sandwich,
Cucumber Salad Finger Sandwich,
and a Shrimp Salad Finger Sandwich.

Dessert Trio: Cream Puffs, Mini Eclairs,
& Assortment of Mini Cookies

All served buffet style in the Harbor Room

Ruby Becker invites you to
"HAVE A HEART"
and support the 3rd Dogs For Life, Inc.
Bridge Tournament

Dogs For Life

"HAVE A HEART"
and help
Build A Bridge
Bridge Tournament

Benefitting the
DFL Assistance Dog Training
Veteran Dog Training Program
and
DFL Off-Leash Dog Park
Training Center Capital Campaign

Oak Harbor Club House

March 19, 2012

Registration 11:00 a.m.

$75 Bridge/Lunch
($45 tax deductible)

Lunch 11:30 a.m.
Bridge 12:30 p.m.

Silent Auction and Prizes!

Master Points / First Overall
Flight A, B & C

Limited Seating ~ Reply Early

Committee Members:
Eleanor Bengyak
Lani & Ruby Becker

Articles

2012 AMERICAN HUMANE ASSOCIATION

HERO DOG AWARDS™

OCTOBER 6TH AT THE BEVERLY HILTON HOTEL

VOTE! donate

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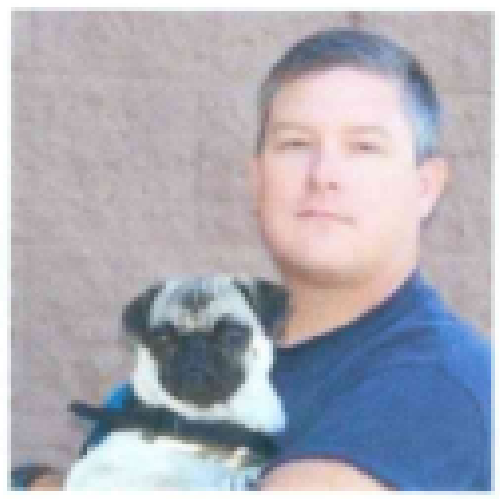
Vote for Pia Pia - Hearing Do... !

Pia Pia - Hearing Dog

Entry Category Hearing Dogs
Charity Partner Dogs For Life, Inc.
Location Y, Florida



Description

Pia Pia became a hearing dog for my husband about a year ago. After he retired for the U.S. Army it became more evident of his hearing loss. Pia Pia has proven to be a major asset for him and was able to give him more of his life back. He stopped wanting to go places, he didn't want to be involved in family events because he was not able to hear what was going on and he began to feel left out. He felt out of place and was very miserable. Pia Pia notifies him if someone was calling him, if the doorbell rang, if someone is knocking on the door, if the fire alarm goes off, and so much more. He is able to be a part of family events; he is able to go out to places and feel comfortable and confident because he knows she is there for him and to help him. They are a team and even though she is small and he is tall they are the perfect team. They both give each other wonderful gifts - he gives her love and support and she gives him confidence and love. Love is boundless and plentiful, support and confidence are priceless.

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As seen recently on Ch. 5 News, Pia Pia is a Dogs For Life Certified Hearing & Service Dog trained to sense owner's moods and contact emergency responders

Florida Veterinary League

Affordable Compassionate Pet Hospital

MEET PIA PIA

Service Dog and Man's Best Friend

1 SPAY, 13 VACCINES, 22 DOSES OF FLEA & HEARTWORM PREVENTION, POPPED PATELLA (KNEE CAP) UN-POPPED (SURGICALLY)

Client & Owner, Jim & Dawn Taylor

We've been through so much together.

From routine well visits to emergencies – Florida Veterinary League's award-winning, experienced and compassionate team of veterinary professionals are here to help your pet in times of sickness and in good health.

(772) 567-3070 1360 US Highway 1, Vero Beach

(Across from Crispers & 12th Street Publix)

SAYLUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

The Florida Veterinary League celebrates its 15th anniversary at which Dr. Horn is presented with the Dogs For Life Corporate Philanthropist of the Year award. Pictured are James Taylor, SSG, US Army (Ret.) with service dog Pia Pia, Al Turner, Pilar Turner, Dr. Horn, Susan Horn and Joan Freeman with hearing dog Daisy.

VERO BEACH Hometown News

Vol. 9, No. 29 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, March 23, 2012

Pets can be more than companions

By Jessica Tuggle
jtuggle@hometownnewsol.com

Norine Coody and her Dogs For Life therapy dog, Abby, are best friends. Abby is a hearing-assistance dog who can call 911 in an emergency or alert Ms. Coody to a knock at the door.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

VERO BEACH — Some dogs are good at sleeping, others eating, others running and others sitting contentedly on their companion's lap, but not all dogs are all play and no work.

Abby is a petite black lab mix with an eager curiosity, but she is also a hard worker, said Norine Coody, her companion.

Though she enjoys playing and exploring with other doggy friends at the Dogs for Life park in Vero Beach, her 24-hour job is being the ears for her human companion.

Abby is a certified hearing dog trained to assist hard-of-hearing individuals such as Ms. Coody, who is partially deaf.

Dogs like Abby are trained to help their companions know when the doorbell, telephone, alarm clock or smoke alarm rings, or even when someone is calling their name and trying to get their attention, said Shelly Ferger, executive director of Dogs For Life, who runs training for hearing assistance and pet therapy dogs.

"It took about a year and a half to train with her," Ms. Coody said.

Ms. Coody has had pets

See PETS, A9

Community Calendar

Free Assistance Dog Screening: Dogs trained for owners with hearing, physical disabilities in Vero Beach. By appt. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com.

SATURDAY

ANIMALS/PETS

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Dog training, companion, assistance, pet assisted therapy, canine good citizen. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 9 am. $75. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

Friday, March 23, 2012

Pets

From page A1

before, but rescued Abby from the animal shelter to train her to be a hearing assistance dog, because she has started suffering hearing loss.

"I'm really grateful for her, it's wonderful really. Eventually I will go completely deaf, so having her now, working and training is good," Ms. Coody said.

Dogs for Life is a nonprofit organization in Indian River County that is accredited by Assistance Dogs International to train and place assistance dogs.

In addition to hearing-assistance dogs, pet-therapy dogs, like Buford, a golden retriever, are trained to visit people and provide a different form of therapy and interaction, Ms. Ferger said.

In 2011, 18 pet-therapy certified animals visited 11 facilities in Indian River County 76 times per month. Some of the facilities include Sun Up of Indian River County, the Family Homeless Center, the Hibiscus Children's Center and St. Francis Manor.

Buford, the golden retriever that runs 3 miles on the beach daily just for fun, has a standing appointment at the Mental Health Association complex to visit with anyone in the building, said Nancy Beah, his companion.

Studies show that therapy with animals yields better health, increased calmness, decreased aggression and increased social interaction with people suffering from loneliness and trauma, according to a Dogs for Life report.

"So many people just love seeing him, they get down on the ground with him, they take pictures with him. They invite him to all their parties," said Ms. Beah with a laugh.

The war veteran dog-training program trains dogs to assist combat veterans with the effects of post traumatic stress disorders, Ms. Ferger said.

With all of the programs going on within Dogs for Life, the organization is hard at work to raise funds for a capital campaign to build a facility on the 4.5 acre off-leash dog park property at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach.

"The dog park is like our thrift store," said David Johnson, president of the Dogs For Life board.

Some nonprofits have thrift stores to help them raise funds for projects and programs, but Dogs For Life uses the membership-only dog park instead, he said.

Donations for the building are welcome and will help the nonprofit increase its ability to train more service dogs, provide a gathering place for volunteers and provide an onsite presence at the dog park to inform potential new members, Ms. Ferger said.

For more information about Dogs For Life of Vero Beach, call (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.

PEOPLE

Dogs for Life: Training service dogs for veterans

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

She's only 12 pounds, has a tendency to snort, and bears a remarkable resemblance to Yoda from Star Wars, but little Pia Pia has packed a big punch, becoming a poster pug of sorts to promote the Dogs for Life Veterans Dog Program.

Pia Pia and Jim Taylor, a former Army staff sergeant who served in both Iraq wars, were the first veterans' dog team trained and certified by Dogs for Life. Duel certified in hearing loss and post-traumatic stress syndrome, Pia Pia has given Taylor the confidence to integrate back into society.

The pair was on hand last week at a reception hosted by former DFL board president Al Turner to encourage the continued support of donors in the capital campaign to build a veterans and service dog training facility at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Shelly Ferger, Beth Stryker with Tigger, Mayor Pilar Turner and Al Turner. PHOTOS BY MARY SCHENKEL

Kattie Stensgard, Tony Donadio and Lori Becker.

David Johnson, Wilda Kramer, Jim Taylor and Pia Pia.

"Alaska Airlines said Pia Pia was one of the best service dogs they had ever had," said Dawn Taylor, speaking of a recent trip to Seattle, the dog's first on an airplane. "She had her own seat with a certified car seat. She tapped Jimmy on the arm every time the service light would come on with a ding to fasten seat belts. She saw me doing it, and picked up on it."

Dogs for Life, accredited for hearing and mobility service dogs and pet therapy dogs, provides the training at no cost to veterans, with funding provided by private donations, local grants, and a percentage of the Off-Leash Park memberships.

"We want to get this building built and train 10 service dogs for returning veterans each year," explained DFL board president David S. Johnson. "Those we train will train others; it's going to be exponential. I'm guessing at least 10 each year, and by year three it should be 20 or 30."

A self-professed dog lover, Tony Donadio of Donadio and Associates Architects generously donated his services to draw up the architectural plans, and will oversee the entire construction project.

"I've had dogs all my life," said Donadio. "I couldn't say no. I love this community; this is just a great way to give back."

Describing the facility as economical, functional and durable, Donadio said there will be both indoor and outdoor training areas, as well as a mock bedroom set-up.

As he introduced Taylor, Johnson said, "This is the beginning of what we can do."

Cradling Pia Pia in his arms, Taylor spoke of the numerous ways she had improved his life adding, "We read each other now. I don't even need to give her a command now."

He also thanked Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and executive director, stressing, "I owe her my life."

"Having a hearing dog made a dramatic difference in my life," added volunteer trainer Beth Stryker, speaking of her service dog Tigger. "I had felt very isolated. This is going to mean so much. We're going to be able to train so many more dogs." ■

140 SAGO PALM ROAD: JOHN'S ISLAND

This Georgian- inspired home is situated in a serene landscape on Lake Reams and brilliantly combines sophisticated elegance with casual living and boasts 8,675 +/- gross square feet with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and 2 half baths. Beyond the 2-story marble foyer, you enter the expansive living room which features a stone fireplace, Brazilian walnut floors bordered with marble, coffered ceilings and French doors that open onto the expansive verandah overlooking the pool, spa and Lake Reams. The gourmet island kitchen, family room and dining areas are located adjacent to the living room as is the mahogany paneled library with fireplace. The master bedroom suite, guest bedroom suite and office are located on the second floor. A guest house is located adjacent to the main house and consists of a family room, wet bar, washer and dryer and 2 bedrooms and a full and 2 half baths. Anchoring the pool, spa and guest house is a gazebo with summer kitchen. The owner is FREC registered. **Offered at $3,850,000.**

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Your Vero Beach Newsweekly

Dogs for Life: Training service dogs for veterans

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

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Dog Park Capital Campaign

Shelly Ferger, Beth Stryker with Tigger, Mayor Pilar Turner and Al Turner. PHOTOS BY MARY SCHMIDT

Kattie Stengard, Tony Donadio and Loni Becker.

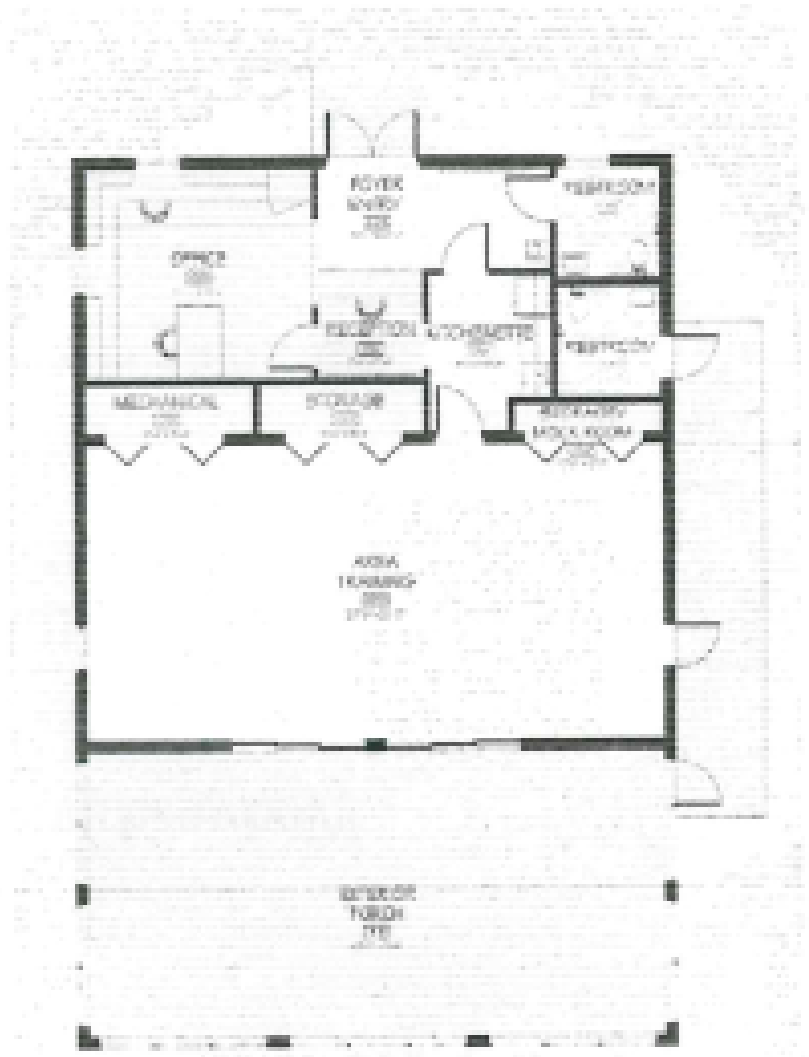
David Johnson, Winks Kramer, Jim Taylor and Pia Pia.

Dogs For Life

You Are Invited

Dog Park Capital Campaign
Training Center Update

- DFL board members will discuss the progress of the Capital Campaign and answer questions on the impact of the new training center on DFL's mission.
- Architect, Anthony Donadio will outline the Training Center Design.
- A site plan showing the location of the training center and the new design of the Off Leash Park will also be presented.
- As featured on CNN, DFL Certified Service Dog Team Sgt. Jim Taylor will share his story on how his service dog, Pia Pia, and you have "Joined Forces" and helped to change his life.



DONADIO

Proposed Training Facility
for
DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.
Vero Beach, Florida

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

5 - 7 PM

1600 Indian Bay Drive
(home of Al & Pilar Turner)

Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments

RSVP please by March 17, 2012 with reply card
(772) 567-8969, or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

FEBRUARY

Florida Veterinary League Celebrates 15 Years

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 3/1/2012 8:35:32 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Cc: Dogs For Life
Subject: DFL Celebrates with FVL

Florida Veterinary League / Celebrates 15 Years!

Pic 1: James Taylor, SSG, US Army (Ret.) service dog Pia Pia, Al Turner, Pilar Turner, Dr. Horn, Susan Horn and Joan Freeman with hearing dog Daisy.

Pic 2: Judges for the owner/pet look-a-like contest Martin Lavender, DFL Volunteer Julie Vargara and John Treadwell

Dogs For Life, Inc. Celebrates with Florida Veterinary League February 26th

What a great day we had at the FVL 15 year Anniversary Celebration Saturday. Members of the public were given tours of the Stem Cell Therapy laboratory and newly opened pet pharmacy and an open house of their fabulous facility went on throughout the day. Free hot dogs, hamburgers, sodas & Amanda's special Cotton Candy was a special treat. The owner/dog look-a-like contest was a hoot, with great prizes awarded and fun was had by both two and four footed guests.

Mayor Pilar Turner presented Dr. Horn with the City of Vero Beach Proclamation for 15 years of providing outstanding, high quality, affordable and compassionate pet care to residents in Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard and Martin counties.

DFL Vice President Al Turner presented Dr. Horn with a DFL's Corporate Philanthropist Award for his donated services to the DFL Assistance Dog Training Program. Dr. And Susan Horn, made a surprise announcement of an additional $3,000 pledge to the DFL Assistance Dog Training Program.

Thank you Dr. Darrell and Susan Horn for your commitment to the community and to Dogs For Life, Inc.

Shelly

Shelly Ferger, Founder / Executive Director
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifevb.com www.dogsforlifevb.org

FLORIDA VETERINARY LEAGUE

Florida Veterinary League

Affordable Compassionate Pet Hospital

CELEBRATES 15 YEARS!

Proclamation

WHEREAS, *for the last 15 years, Florida Veterinary League has been providing outstanding, high quality veterinary care to residents in Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard, and Martin counties; and*

WHEREAS, *Florida Vet League is a full-service animal hospital that provides comprehensive medical, surgical, dental, and wellness veterinary care, including emergency and urgent care; and*

WHEREAS, *Florida Vet League is proud to offer Stem Cell Therapy and it is the only practice on the east coast to have a dedicated in-clinic stem cell laboratory; and*

WHEREAS, *Florida Vet League operates an open hospital allowing owners to be with their animals during any medical procedure, whether a simple vaccination or a complex surgery; and*

WHEREAS, *the foundation of a thriving City includes the willingness of its citizens to work together to provide and promote services and to honor organizations for their many contributions to the vitality and strength of our community.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Pilar Turner, Mayor of the City of Vero Beach, Florida, do hereby proclaim February 26, 2012 as the 15th Anniversary of* ***FLORIDA VETERINARY LEAGUE*** *and call on all citizens in recognizing and commending them for providing affordable, compassionate pet care in our community.*

ATTEST:

Tammy K. Vock
City Clerk

Jay Kramer
Councilmember

Tracy M. Carroll
Councilmember

CITY OF VERO BEACH

Pilar Turner
Mayor

A. Craig Fletcher
Vice-Mayor

Richard Winger
Councilmember

Florida Veterinary League

Celebrates 15 Years!

In celebration of
our anniversary, Florida Veterinary League
would like to invite you to our

Open House

Sunday, February 26th
from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

FOOD! FUN! GIVEAWAYS! AND...
FUN INTERACTIVE TOURS OF OUR NEW MODERN FACILITY!

DON'T MISS OUR PET LOOK ALIKE CONTEST

February marks Florida Veterinary League's 15th year of providing high quality, affordable pet care to our community! We provide outstanding veterinary care to pet families in Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard, Martin Counties and beyond.

As the only clinic with a dedicated Stem Cell Laboratory on the premises, Florida Veterinary League is a full service animal hospital that provides comprehensive medical surgical, dental and wellness veterinary care including emergency and urgent care.

Dogs For Life

SPCA of Indian River County

Pfizer

All Pet Rescue

Webster Animal Health

H.A.L.O. RESCUE
HELPING ANIMALS LIVE AND OVERCOME

Thank You to Our Community for Allowing Us to Care for Your Pet Family!

Dr. Darrell Horn | Dr. S Blain Kennedy | Dr. Darrell Nazareth

Dr. Michael O'Connor | Dr. Todd Rieke

Florida Veterinary League

Affordable Compassionate Pet Hospital

Platinum Award Winner of PressJournal's Reader's Choice Award

1360 US Highway 1, Vero Beach
(Across from Crispers & 12th Street Publix)
772.567.3070

In celebration of our anniversary,
Florida Veterinary League would like to invite you to our

FUN

FOOD

OPEN HOUSE

GIVEAWAYS

on SUNDAY, February 26th From 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Self-Guided Tours of New Facility

February marks Florida Veterinary League's 15th year of high quality, affordable pet care to our community! For the last 15 years, Florida Veterinary League has been providing outstanding veterinary care to residents in Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard and Martin counties.

As the only clinic with a dedicated Stem Cell laboratory on the premises, Florida Veterinary League is a full service animal hospital that provides comprehensive medical, surgical, dental and wellness veterinary care, including emergency and urgent care.

Thank You to Our Community for Your Continued Support for Our Services!

Past Platinum Award Winner of Press Journal's Reader's Choice Awards

Dogs For Life

H.A.L.O. RESCUE
HELPING ANIMALS LIVE AND OVERCOME

SPCA Sebastian
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1300 US Highway 1 | 772-567-3070 | floridavetleague.com

YOURNEWS • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

FURRY FRIENDS

Florida Veterinary League celebrates 15 years

BY TERESA HILTON
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH — Florida Veterinary League celebrated its 15th year anniversary on Feb. 26. The public enjoyed food, fun and tours of its new facility, including interactive displays, free giveaways and a Pet Look Alike contest.

Mayor Pilar Turner presented Darrell Horn, DVM, with a city proclamation for 15 years of providing outstanding veterinary care to residents in Indian River, Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard and Martin counties.

In addition, Dogs For Life President Al Turner presented Dr. Horn with a Corporate Philanthropy Award. Dr. Horn recognized all the partnering rescue agencies present that day and gave an additional pledge of $3,000 to HALO, All Pet Rescue, Dogs For Life and SPCA of Indian River County.

Florida Veterinary League is a full-service animal hospital that provides comprehensive medical, surgical, dental, orthopedic, wellness and emergency veterinary care, including a dedicated stem cell laboratory on the premises.

Good for You

TCPalm • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • Sunday, April 1, 2012 • 13A

Vet donates to rescue leagues

Florida Veterinary League's Dr. Darrell Horn recently awarded $12,000 to H.A.L.O, All Pet Rescue, Dogs For Life and SPCA of Indian River County, or $3,000 each, during its 15th anniversary celebration. Additionally, Dogs For Life Vice President Al Turner presented Horn with a DFL's Corporate Philanthropist Award and Mayor Pilar Turner presented Horn with a city proclamation for 15 years of providing outstanding veterinary care to residents in Indian River, St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Brevard and Martin counties.

Florida Veterinary League is a full-service animal hospital that provides comprehensive medical, surgical, dental, orthopedic, wellness and emergency veterinary care, including a dedicated stem cell laboratory on the premises.

A Florida Cracker Christmas

MENDED HEARTS • LESSONS IN FASHION • CARNEY HOME • VALENTINE'S DAY RENDEZVOUS • THE IMAGINATION OF LESLIE MCGUIRK • GIFT GUIDE

THE FIRST & THE ONLY

VeroBeach Magazine®

FEBRUARY 2012

A Florida Cracker Christmas

Sponsored by Hal & Barbara du Pont; Trisha Goff; Douglas Home Health Care; Florida Vet League; Blue Ribbon Boarding & Grooming

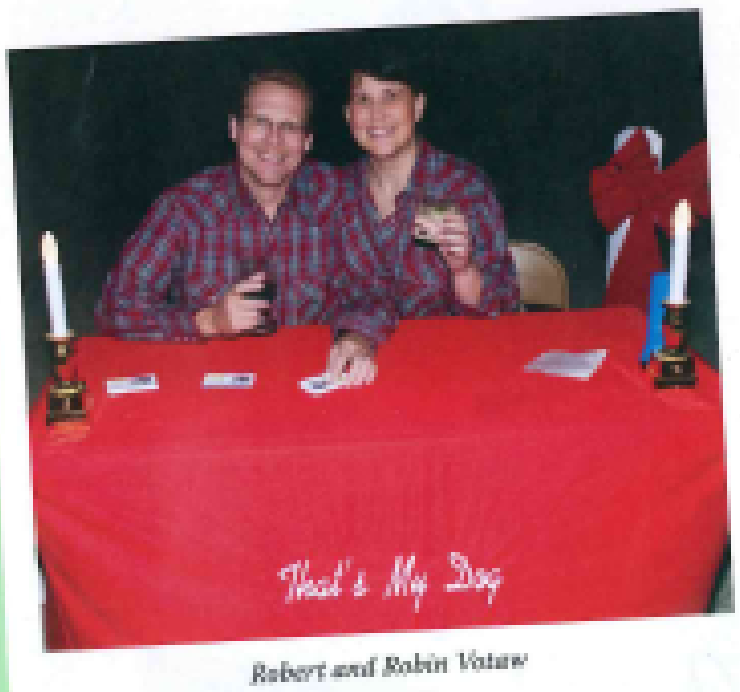
DECEMBER 2: Guests gathered at the Heritage Center for the ***Florida Cracker Christmas*** event benefiting the Blue Ribbon Charitable Foundation and Dogs and Cats Forever. Everyone enjoyed a catered buffet by Elizabeth D. Kennedy & Co., entertainment by the Lucky Dogs and silent auction. The event raised over $11,000 for the organizations.

Shelly Farger with service-dog-in-training Carly Simon

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ELIZABETH HOLMAN, VERO BEACH MAGAZINE

Anna Valencia, Leslie Steil and Hal du Pont at registration

Steve Dorrance, Judy Van Saun, Laura Allen and Bob Van Saun



Robert and Robin Vatue

David Thomas, Bud Holman and Jim Reid

Tricia Goff and Martin Lewander

JANUARY

Appreciation Awards

Dogs For Life

"The Measure of life is not its Duration, But its Donation." ~ Unknown

You Are Invited

DFL Donor & Volunteer Appreciation

Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award
Norine Coody & Abby
Volunteer of the Year Award
Eleanor Bengyak
Broadcast Media Award
Jill Roberts
Journalism Award
Mary E. Schenkel
Pet Assistance Therapy Dog Team Award
Nancy McCusker & Buford
Individual Philanthropist Award
Robert G. Bowman
Corporate Philanhtropist Award
Suzie Gomez / Beech Annuals

At the Off-Leash Dog Park

Memorial Garden Pavilion

1230 16th Ave. VB, FL 32960

RE-SCHEDULED RAIN DATE: Sat. January 21 2012

11 A.M.

Volunteers don't get paid, because they're worthless, but because they're priceless." ~ Sherry Anderson

RSVP 567-8969

FURRY FRIENDS

DFL gives annual appreciation awards

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life hosted its annual donor and volunteer appreciation awards ceremony at the off-leash dog park memorial garden on Jan. 21.

Guest speaker was Steve Higgins, vice president of the Bob Carter Companies,an international consortium of fund-raising companies. Higgins said the importance of volunteers and the impact they have on a community is important.

Al Turner, who has served as DFL president from 2009-2011, presented the following awards:

Volunteer of the Year — Eleanor Bengyak;

• **Pet Assisted Therapy Team of the Year** — Nancy McCusker and Buford;

GRAHAM STAFFORD • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Dogs For Life volunteer Al Turner is presented with the past president's award by incoming president David S. Johnson.

• **Assistance Dog Team of the Year** — Norine Coody and Abby;

• **Individual Philanthropist of the Year** — Robert G. Bowman;

• **Corporate Philanthropist Award** — Suzie Gomez of Beech Annuals

• **Broadcast Media Award** — Jill Roberts;

• **Journalism Award** — Mary E. Schenkel.

Incoming president David S. Johnson presented Turner with the past president's award and commended him on his three years of service as president as well as for co-chairing the Dog Park Capital Campaign Training Center.

Turner will serve as vice president for the group in 2012.

Awards went to Volunteer of the Year, Eleanor Bengyak; Pet Assisted Therapy Team of the Year, Nancy McCusker and Buford; Assistance Dog Team of the Year, Norine Coody and Abby; Individual Philanthropist of the Year, Robert G. Bowman; Corporate Philanthropist Award, Suzie Gomez of Beech Annuals; Broadcast Media Award, Jill Roberts; and Journalism Award, Mary E. Schenkel.

TCPALM
FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES

Printer-friendly story
Read more at tcpalm.com

DFL hosts annual appreciation awards ceremony

Shelly Fergar, a member of the Treasure Coast community. This story is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

Originally published 12:29 p.m., January 25, 2012
Updated 12:56 p.m., January 26, 2012

VERO BEACH — Dogs For Life hosted its annual donor and volunteer appreciation awards ceremony at the off-leash dog park memorial garden on Jan. 21.

Guest Speaker Steve Higgins, vice president of the Bob Carter Companies; an international consortium of fundraising companies. Higgins expressed the importance of volunteers and the positive impact they have on a non-profit organization and community.

DFL president from 2009-2011, Al Turner presented the following awards: Volunteer of the Year to Eleanor Bengyak; Pet Assisted Therapy Team of the Year to Nancy McCusker and Buford; Assistance Dog Team of the Year to Norine Coody and Abby; Individual Philanthropist of the Year to Robert G. Bowman; Corporate Philanthropist Award to Suzie Gomez of Beech Annuals; Broadcast Media Award to Jill Roberts; and Journalism Award to Mary E. Schenkel.

Incoming president David S. Johnson presented Turner with the past-presidents award and commended him on his three years of service as president as well as his co-chairing the Dog Park Capital Campaign Training Center. Turner will continue to serve as vice president in 2012.

This story is contributed by a member of the Treasure Coast community and is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

BRIGHT LIGHTS &RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com
Indian River County

Celebrating volunteers

At 11 a.m. this Saturday, Jan. 21, volunteers and donors for **Dogs For Life, Inc.** will be honored at the off-leash dog park in Vero Beach. You may be thinking, "Didn't they do this in December?" Well, there were plans for a fabulous celebration, but it rained cats and dogs. This year's awards are as follows: Volunteer of the Year, **Eleanor Bengyak**; Individual Philanthropist, **Robert G. Bowman**; Corporate Philanthropist, **Suzie Gomez**; Assistance Dog Team of the Year, **Norine Coody** and Abby; Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Team of the Year, **Nancy McCusker** and Buford; Broadcast Media, **Jill Roberts**; Journalism, **Mary E. Schenkel**; and Past President, **Al Turner**. They'd love you to join them. For more, visit www.dogsforlifevb.com.

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly™
PEOPLE
Vero Beach 32963 / January 26, 2012
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Dogs for Life honors donors, volunteers and friends

Dobson pin Hummer enjoys a warm Saturday morning at the Dogs for Life awards ceremony. PHOTOS BY BENJAMIN HAGER

Dogs for Life honors volunteers and friends with Appreciation Awards

Benjamin Hager

Dogs For Life Awards

Husky-mix Stevie Ray attends the Dogs For Life Award Ceremony. Staff photo: Benjamin Hager.

Posted: Monday, January 23, 2012 7:09 am | Updated: 8:05 am, Mon Jan 23, 2012.

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Posted on January 23, 2012 by Mary Schenkel

VERO BEACH — It's hard not to grin when watching a group of dogs frolicking together leash-free, running around at top speed; stopping only long enough to take time out for a good back roll in the grass. Dog lovers all, the honorees, volunteers and friends who gathered for the 2011 Dogs for Life Donor, Member and Volunteer Appreciation Awards Ceremony on Saturday were all happily enjoying the playful display.

While Dogs for Life (DFL) may be best known for its 4 ½-acre off-leash park, its true mission is working to improve the lives of others by training service, pet-assisted therapy and companion dogs. DFL is now also accredited by Assistance Dogs International to certify veterans service dogs so that their owners may qualify for cost assistance from the Veterans Administration.

After welcoming guests, Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and executive director, noted some of the organization's highlights for the previous year and introduced guest speaker Steve Higgins, vice president with Bob Carter Companies and a board member on the Indian River County Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Higgins spoke about what he calls LIV, which stands for Leadership, Impact and Vision, saying, "Success or failure comes down to leadership; that's the true game changer."

He advised volunteers to articulate the impact the organization's programs and initiatives have on the community and added, "Each of you should have your own Dogs for Life story that demonstrates the impact that Dogs for Life is having on your community."

"This is by far my favorite event of the year," said Al Turner, DFL board president 2009-2011 who presented the awards.

Suzie and Jeff Gomes of Beech Annuals and Coast to Coast Landscaping were presented with the Corporate Philanthropist Award for their generous contributions to the landscaping surrounding the Memorial Pavilion and Garden.

Nancy McCusker and her golden retriever Buford were presented with the Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Team Award for their work with the Mental Health Association where pats-loving Buford has become their mascot.

One of the advantages to working as the Society Editor for Vero Beach 32963 and Verobeach.com is the opportunity to learn about the noteworthy accomplishments of our local non-profits and the remarkable people they serve. I was honored to receive the DFL Journalism Award for a June, 2011 story on the DFL veterans' service dog initiative.

Eleanor Bengyak, a stalwart supporter and DFL board of directors since 2008, was presented with the Volunteer of the Year Award. She and dog Mitzi are a Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Team, and she has also coordinated several fundraising bridge tournaments.

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Calendar

January 2012

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

today's events
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Submit Your News!

We're always interested in hearing about news in our community. Let us know what's going on!

Submit news

Dogs for Life honors volunteers and friends with Appreciation Awards - VeroNews: Organizations

WQCS Public Affairs Specialist Jill Roberts received the Broadcast Media Award for helping to spread the word through her stories, broadcast on WQCS and Florida Public Radio, particularly her award winning piece on Winks Kremer and Bun, a DFL Hearing and Service Dog Team.

Robert Bowman, accompanied by his little Schnauzer Robbie, received the Individual Philanthropist Award. Bowman has supported every DFL fundraising appeal, and to date is the largest contributor to the Dog Park Training Center Capital Campaign.

The Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award was presented to the DFL Certified Hearing and Service Dog team of Norine Coody and Abby, a little black dog with big soulful brown eyes who she adopted from the Humane Society. Using the skills learned by working with Abby, Coody is now an active volunteer trainer.

David Johnson, DFL 2012 president, presented the Past President's Award to Al Turner for his tireless support, commenting not only on his fundraising efforts, but also saying, "He has given us as a board and as an organization, the confidence to build the Training Center."

Once completed, the Dog Park Training Center will increase Dog for Life's ability to train service, companion and therapy dogs, and will provide a physical headquarters for staff and volunteers.

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

It's hard not to grin watching a group of dogs frolicking together leash-free, running around at top speed; stopping only long enough to take time out for a good back roll in the grass.

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Washington Times

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The Washington Times

EDITORIAL: A victory for veterans

Community rallies to help those who served

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

-

The Washington Times

Friday, January 13, 2012

- Comments (0)(/news/2012/jan/13/a-victory-for-veterans/#disqus_thread)
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Supporting our veterans doesn't have to mean yet another expensive government program and unwieldy, impersonal bureaucracy. In the best of cases it comes down to the public-spirited efforts of citizens who care enough to make a difference.

Col. Marty Zickert(/topics/marty-zickert/), U.S. Air Force(/topics/usair-force/) (ret.), a Vietnam(/topics/vietnam/) veteran with 30 years of service, shows us how. Mr. Zickert (/topics/marty-zickert/) is president of the Veteran's Council(/topics/veterans-council/) in Indian River County, Fla., a group of 23 volunteer organizations, not all of which are service-related. Their mission is to provide transportation for elderly and disabled veterans to get to the Department of Veteran(/topics/department-of-veteran/)'s Affairs Medical Center 70 miles away in West Palm Beach. There are 18,000 veterans in Indian River County, many of whom are seniors who defended our freedoms in World War II and Korea(/topics/korea/) but today face trouble driving long distances. The Veteran's Council(/topics/veterans-council/) makes sure 250 vets per month get needed medical care.

The bus they were using was getting old and had limited accommodation for those with physical handicaps. They sought ways to raise funds to buy a replacement. Thanks to the

generous donation of local supporter Doris Jorgenson(/topics/doris-jorgenson/), they were able to open the Victory Center(/topics/victory-center/), a military retail store, that will help them generate cash.

The front of the center(/topics/victory-center/) is a retail outlet staffed with volunteers selling military-related items. Half of the money earned is devoted to the bus fund, the rest is put back into the community. Around back, the "R&R Bunker" serves as a place where veterans can come to relax, have coffee and donuts, watch TV or use the free WiFi connections. Two computers with Skype allow family members to talk to their loved ones overseas.

Unemployment is high for veterans, particularly in the first year after they leave the colors, so classes such as financial planning or physical therapy are offered based on their needs. Some vets require more intensive care. "The government doesn't do a lot for you if you aren't wounded," Mr. Zickert(/topics/marty-zickert/) told The Washington Times. "The guys coming back have PTSD [post-traumatic stress disorder] beyond belief. It's worse than what we had in Vietnam(/topics/vietnam/)." One group they work with is Dogs for Life, a nonprofit organization that trains dogs for assistance, companionship or pet-assisted therapy.

A "wall of honor" in the center(/topics/victory-center/) features photos of local veterans, and the center(/topics/victory-center/) honors two hometown men who went to war and did not come back. Lt. Col. Joseph "Trane" McCloud, U.S. Marine Corps, was killed in Iraq on Dec. 3, 2006. U.S. Army Specialist Dale Kridlow died on Nov. 7, 2010, of wounds from an insurgent attack in Afghanistan.

"We started out with a small idea and it grew to the point where we can't believe it," said Mr. Zickert(/topics/marty-zickert/). The Simon Mall chain considers it a model for other potential veterans centers. Future plans include a promotional golf tournament and a concert in August featuring Lynyrd Skynyrd. The Victory Center(/topics/victory-center/) demonstrates what vision, personal efforts and enthusiastic community support can accomplish. And, as Mr. Zickert(/topics/marty-zickert/) said, "all this came from buying a bus."

The Washington Times

Scrapbook

2011

DECEMBER

Articles

The record

2B » Wednesday, December 29, 2010 »

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IR

TCPALM.COM

Luminaries seen at . . .

Dogs for Life Awards

December 11, 2010

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) held its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at its 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park. President Al Turner presented all of the awards and thanked donors, volunteers and staff for their service. Linda Liss was named the Volunteer of the Year, while Janet Riley received the Individual Philanthropist award and Jeff Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping was named the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year.

Barb Bodnar and Maddux, Pet Assisted Therapy Team of the Year

VERO BEACH

Assistance dog workshop coming in January

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting an annual Assistance Dog Workshop at the United Way Building, 1836 14th Ave., Vero Beach on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m.

Federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places and training program for war veterans will be discussed.

For more information, contact Dogs For Life at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth or 772-567-8969.

Staff report

Janet Riley, Individual Philanthropist of the Year

Lynn Burns and Nat Jackson of the Garden Club of Indian River

Linda Liss, Volunteer of the Year

Jim Taylor, Assistance Dog Team of the Year

27

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST CLASSIFIED • HOMES.TCPALM.COM • REAL ESTATE SOURCE

The record

VERO BEACH

'Collarship' donations accepted

Dogs For Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training assistance dogs and owning and managing the Off-Leash Dog Park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue, is accepting tax-deductible Christmas donations toward the 2011 Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship "Collarship" Program.

The organization offers scholarship memberships to low-income families of dogs that are inoculated, neutered and social. Membership fees at the 12th Street & 16th Avenue Off-Leash Dog Park help to support 20 hearing and service dog teams and nine facilities in Indian River County with pet-assisted therapy programs for home-bound people.

The 2010 "collarship" fund is now depleted with 20 dogs and their families currently in the program. For additional information, visit Dogs For Life at dogsforlifevb.com.

Staff reports

IR « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Friday, December 10, 2010 « 5B

LOCAL

STANDING ITEMS

ANIMALS

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Accepting donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach.

Volunteer Opportunities

STANDING ITEMS

ANIMALS

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Accepting donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach.

IR « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPER

« Friday, December 17, 2010 « 5B

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Accepting donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach.

IR « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Saturday, December 18, 2010 « 3E

Volunteer Opportunities

ONGOING ITEMS

ANIMALS

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Accepting tax-deductible donations for Off-Leash Dog Park Scholarship Program. Off-Leash Dog Park, 12 St., 16 Ave., P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com.

Indian River COUNTY

INSIDE
In Biz
Local Sears, Kmart stores to stay open. 7B

Quick Read

MCKEE BOTANICAL GARDEN'S JAZZ SERIES STARTS JAN. 13

McKee Botanical Garden's "Jazz in the Garden" will be 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Jan. 13, Feb. 3 and March 9 and include Sunday brunch events noon-2 p.m. Jan. 22 and March 18. Evening jazz events also will offer dinner from Elizabeth's at the Garden Café.

The series will feature a diverse mix of talent from throughout the area adding their own musical styling to classic jazz favorites from such distinguished artists as Louis Arm-

Service pug 'saving grace' for retiree

Dogs for Life organization helped the veteran learn how to train the canine

By Rikki Klaus
WPTV NewsChannel 5

VERO BEACH – They say a dog is man's best friend, and there's a dog in Vero Beach who's living proof.

She may be tiny, but Pei Pei packs a powerful punch. Not only does her owner say she can sense his moods, she also can contact emergency responders when he's in danger. The service dog is part beloved family member and part diligent rescue worker.

"Go get help!" James Taylor shouted to his 11-pound pug. Pei Pei ran to a phone on the living room floor and pressed both paws onto the large, circular button. The dial tone sounded. Praise followed.

With the press of that single button, service dog Pei Pei can dial 9-1-1. That's a huge comfort for the retired Army police officer, who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and hearing loss. Sometimes Taylor falls, too — he calls Pei Pei his "saving grace."

"Without her, I couldn't imagine my life. I'd probably be homebound a lot because of what I suffer severely. I know if I have any kind of problems, she's going to help me right through it," said Taylor.

When the Vero Beach resident is in a crowd, he sometimes feels panic. Pei Pei is his buffer and companion.

"If I'm out, like in Walmart or somewhere, I give her a 'go out' command, and she'll actually circle around me to keep the people three and four feet away from me," Taylor said.

To help with Taylor's hearing loss, Pei Pei is all ears.

"If someone knocks on the front door, rings it, wherever I'm at, she'll find me in the house and then tap me, and I follow her," Taylor explained.

If the fire alarm goes off, she'll find him and turn in circles. If he's having a nightmare, he says she'll lick his face to wake him up.

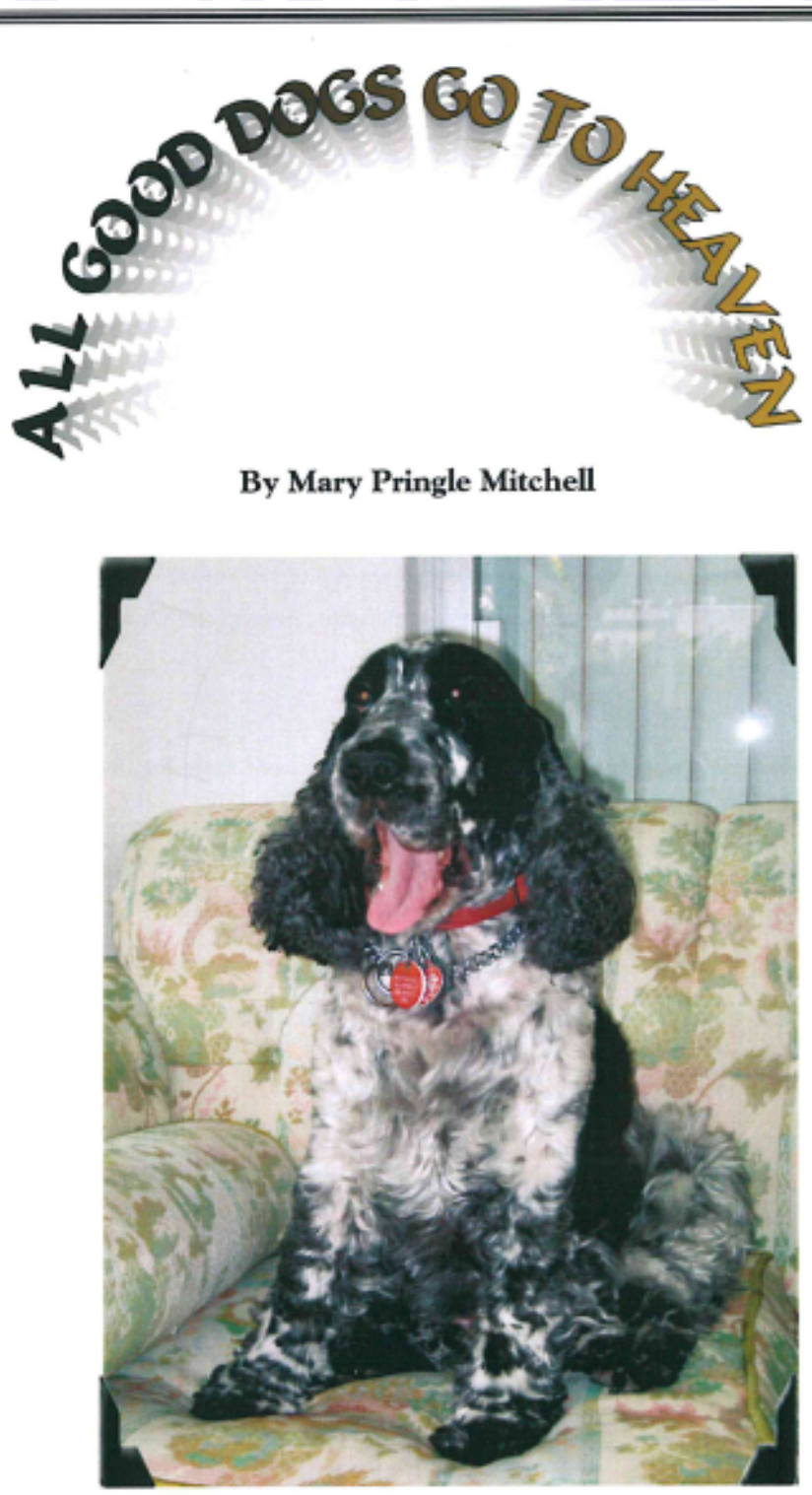
Taylor rescued the pug from Halo Rescue in Sebastian. The Vero Beach-based organization "Dogs for Life" taught him how to train her, which took two years.

Taylor and his wife dote on Pei Pei. She has her own room and her own wardrobe of 34 tailored outfits.

"She just learns something every single day, and that's what Dogs for Life has taught us; how to use her and live a happy, normal life," said Taylor. It's a life he's glad to have with a friend and ally by his side.

Dogs for Life is raising money to build a service dog training facility in Vero Beach, specially for veterans. So far, the organization has placed three dogs in veterans' homes.

All Dogs go to Heaven



By Mary Pringle Mitchell

Jasper
1999 - 2011

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I Would Like To Thank The Following People.

They Were My Inspiration.

My hairdresser Letha Rhodes in Vero Beach who suggested that I write this book.

All my friends and family for the wonderful support that they have given Walter and myself through this difficult time.

For all of the eMails, cards and kind words from friends who shared their dog stories with me.

How can I ever thank our friends Bob Welch and Shelly Ferger for being with us when Dr. Horn helped Jasper go over that Rainbow Bridge.

Many, many thanks to my friend and guru Paul Paulus at Desktop Publishing Resources for helping me publish this.

"Dogs are our link to paradise.
They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent.
To sit with a dog on a hillside on a glorious afternoon
is to be back in Eden, where nothing was not boring -
it was peace."
Milan Kundera

Dogs For Life

In Memory of
Jasper Mitchell 1999-2011

A sad note to report that Mary and Walter Mitchell
had to say good bye to their beloved Jasper on Saturday.
Jasper has gone to the Rainbow Bridge to meet Chloe, Sabrina, Maxx, and many of his dog park friends who have gone before him. There they will continue their dog park made friendships, where there are no leashes.

If you would like to send a note to Mary, I will be so happy to forward with your condolences, he will also be remembered at the off-leash dog park memorial garden.

Although only in Vero Beach for several months out of the year,
Mary and Walter are founding members of the DFL Off-leash Dog Park.
Mary sent many letters to the editor in 02 when while rallying for a dog park in I.R. Co.
Jasper was an original member of the park, joining in February of 2002.
We will miss you Jasper, but you will be forever in our hearts.
Mary, we will soon hang Jasper's Memorial Bone at the Dog Park too. With Love, ~ Shelly

We are so sorry to hear about Jasper, Ali & Ziggy loved playing with both their dogs.
We would love to send them a card if you can share their address, thank you
~ Page Franzel

Dear Mary and Walter,
I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. I hope the messages of love and sympathy can comfort your hearts. My memories are of the happiest times as we walked the trail at the dog park. I loved hearing about Jasper's summer every fall when you returned to Vero.
Thank you for sharing Jasper with all of us! ~ Patti Schell

Just this side of heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge

When an animal, who has been especially close to someone, dies, that pet goes to the Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for all of our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water and sunshine, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

Animals who were ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them from days and times gone by.

The animals are happy and content, except for one thing: they miss someone very special to them; the person they left behind.

All of the animals run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly he begins to break away from the group, flying over the green grass, his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. Happy kisses rain upon your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet, so long gone from your life but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross Rainbow Bridge together...

All Good Dogs Go To Heaven

By Mary Mitchell

When our dear dog Jasper went over the Rainbow Bridge I decided to write a story about our other dogs that preceeded him. Jasper died on December 10, 2011.

We've loved all of our dogs and this is my tribute to them. They were all loyal and loving companions.

LONESOME BERNARD
THE BASSETT HOUND

Bernie the Bassett hound was a real character. Bernie was the first dog that Steven ever owned. They were buddies and he slept on Steven's bed every night.

Bernie had his own chair by our fireplace. It was so loaded with dog hair that we never encouraged anyone to sit in it.

While Walter was home recovering from a heart attack, our oil man John Weaver-Bey from Pattison's General Store came to visit him. He was wearing a blue uniform and I wasn't home at the time or I would have stopped him from sitting in Bernie's chair. I came home just as he was leaving and the back of his blue uniform was completely covered with dog hair. I didn't know what to say so said nothing. I just wonder what his wife thought when he went home that night.

Bernie didn't have much ambition and his one trick was going to the cabinet and barking for a dog biscuit.

When Steven was in college Bernie started sleeping with us. One morning he fell off the bed. He evidently had a stroke. Steven was home for the weekend so the two of us took him to the vet. He encouraged us to put him to sleep because he was so near death. We decided that was the humane thing to do. Afterwards we all cried and cried. We buried him under a tree in our yard. He was 13 years old.

We all missed him very much.

BRUTUS

After Walter's heart attack in June, 1977, the doctor advised him to get on a walking program, and due to the fact that Bassett Hounds are not good walkers, Steven and I decided we should change breeds and so we gave Walter Brutus, a Springer Spaniel, for his birthday. It turned out that Walter wasn't at all pleased with our decision.

He turned out to be the wildest dog and he leaped all over the house and the furniture etc. etc. etc. One of the funniest things that I remember about that dog but at the time was not at all funny. In desperation I signed him up for an obedience course.

One week I had hurt my back and asked Walter to take him for his class. We were having company that night and I had a steak defrosting in the kitchen. So just before Walter came home to take him to class the steak disappeared . . . Brutus had eaten the whole thing. I didn't bother telling Walter about this and as soon as they left I went down to the store and bought another one. I thought he'd never know but boy was I wrong — just as they drove back into our driveway in a brand new car Brutus threw up the entire steak. Here I would have covered for him but he blew it.

Well gradually he became a wonderful dog and Walter's companion on long walks.

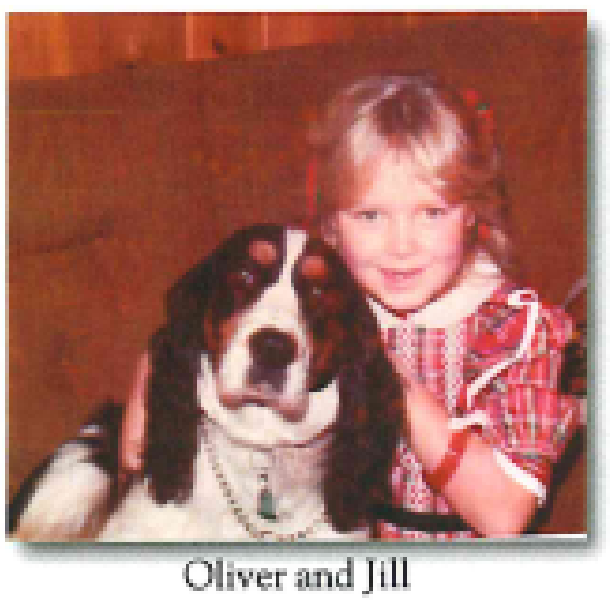
We went over to Austria to visit Susie and Robbie and the boys and left him in the care of a neighbor. That was a mistake I'll never make again. They are much safer in a kennel for an extended period of time. Steven came up to see him and felt sorry for the dog and took him to his house to be with his dog. Tragically the dogs broke loose and Brutus was killed on the road the same day we flew home. So that was the first thing we found out when we landed at Bradley field. Of course we all felt just awful and Steven felt even worse. I have never seen Walter so upset so I knew we had to get another dog as soon as possible.

We buried him under the tree in our yard with Bernie.

OLIVER

After ten days we found Oliver, another Springer Spaniel. He was tri-colored and a beautiful pet. We had him for 16 years and when we had to make the decision to say farewell we were all very sad.

When we started going to Florida Oliver was with us. We started out by driving down and gradually started flying. He used to hop into his crate and he was a good traveler and off we would go to Vero Beach with us. He loved to sit on my lap. I guess he thought he was a lap dog. Oliver walked miles with us. All I had to do was put on my sneakers and he was all set to go. When he died we buried him with Bernie and Jasper under the tree in our yard. So, now that makes 3 dogs that are buried under the tree in our yard.



Oliver and Jill

NEVER SAY NEVER

We decided that due to the fact that we fly back and forth to Florida we would not get any more dogs. Wrong again. Never say never.

JASPER

Two years later we got Jasper, an English Cocker Spaniel. We found him up near Gardener, Mass. in a breeder's kennel - he was 6 months old. I sat down on a step and he saw me and came right over and kissed me. He knew what he was doing because we brought him home. One week later he was barking at 5 a.m. out in the kitchen. I did a very foolish thing. Walter had put up a wooden barrier and instead of moving it I decided to step over it. My foot caught and I went flying across the floor and broke my shoulder and arm. So we ended up in the ER at Hartford Hospital on Father's Day. Now Walter was stuck with a new dog and a one armed wife. We really did some gear shifting that summer.

As the years went by Jasper became a wonderful friend and companion. He used to fly back and forth to Vero Beach with us. Then with security on the airlines so strict it became a hassle so Steven began to drive Jasper and all our stuff down to Florida. He just loved the Saab and was an excellent traveler. I think he thought of it as a big dog house.

Famous words when you get a dog .... No sleeping on the furniture. No begging from the table. No sleeping on the bed!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Well we broke every rule because he was allowed to do all of those things. When he thought it was time for us to go to bed he used to pace back and forth until we did what he wanted us to do.

When anybody was sick he was the nurse. When I had to have 6 weeks of daily radiation for breast cancer he rode in the back of the car for every treatment.

His bed was behind Walter's favorite chair in the family room in Simsbury. If we were going out and he couldn't go he'd go sit on his bed and I would give him a cookie.

He loved all the grandchildren and respected Mitch's dog Beaner but he wasn't very friendly towards other dogs that invaded his territory.

He loved to chase squirrels but to my knowledge he never caught one.

When we were in Vero Beach we went almost daily to the dog park. He used to love to play with the other dogs. When he got tired he'd sit under a tree and watch me walk round and round the park.

When I gave him to Walter for his 80th birthday Walter said "Well Mary, now I've got to outlive the dog." He told that to his heart doctor so every time we visited him he'd say "Walter, how's the dog?"

It is now 2011 and he was born in1999 Jasper was slowing down and showing signs of his age. Steven drove him down to Vero but he just wasn't his old self. Then on Dec. 10th he went to Doggie Heaven. He died of kidney failure. What a sad day that was to say good bye to our old friend and constant companion. We have his ashes and are going to take them back to Simsbury in the spring. We will bury them under a tree in our garden with Bernie and Brutus and Oliver. He has left a big hole in our hearts but his spirit will remain with us forever. Our friends Bob Welch and Shellie Ferger were such a help that sad day.

I am including in this story some of the poems and wonderful e mails we've received. So many people that are true pet lovers understand how we feel.

Jasper was dog of the week in the local *Vero Beach 32963* paper, February 24, 2011

PETS

A scary bedtime story: Jasper and the three bears

Hi Dog Buddies!

When Walter and Mary Mitchell bought a house here 27 years ago, they picked a street running off Riverside Park in part because dogs at that time were allowed to walk in the park.

Then one day a member of the City Council went to a picnic in the park, and stepped in some dog poop (*Bad owner! Bad!*). A few days later, dogs were banished from Vero's city parks, and my buddies and I are not allowed to stroll with our humans in the parks to this very day.

In any event, the Mitchells have had a variety of dog buddies over the years, but when their English cocker spaniel Oliver died in the late 1990s, Mary and Walter – who travel back and forth between Vero and Connecticut – said, no more dogs.

But that decision didn't stick very long. Mary, still pining for a dog buddy, found Jasper on the internet in a kennel in Massachusetts, and talked Walter into going to "just visit."

When Mary sat down to pet Jasper, he gave her a big kiss (*smart move, Jasper*). "That was it," said

Mary. "First thing you know he was in the car going back to our home in Connecticut".

Actually, Jasper turned out to be Walter's 80th birthday present, and he told his doctor: "Now I've got to outlive the dog." That was a decade ago. Now, every time he goes for a checkup, the doctor asks: "How's the dog?" Both, I'm pleased to hear, are going strong.

When the Mitchells come down to Florida now, they fly and Jasper rides in the car with their son Steve. "Boy, do I love riding in the car," Jasper tells me. "When we get to Vero Beach, the thrill of my day is to go for a ride to the drive up window at the bank. I sit and stare at the person that is handling my mom's transaction. They all know me and not only do they give me one cookie but sometimes I get two." (*What's the name of this bank again?*)

While going to the bank may be what passes for excitement here, Jasper has had some real excitement when up in Connecticut: bears. "You never know when they are going to wander into our yard," he told me. Last summer, as he was walking with Mary up their driveway, there stood a mama, papa and baby bear (*Gee, sounds like Goldilocks!*)

"I just went berserk," Jasper said. "Mom guided me into our garage and shut the door," and the bears wandered away. "I must have scared them silly," Jasper told me. (*Uh, okay, but not sure I would try it again.*) ■

The Bonz

"All things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

The Field Behind Our House In W. Simsbury is a Paradise For Dogs

The field behind our house belongs to the McLean home but so far they have not built anything back there so we treat it like we own it. Walter used to cut paths there to walk but now our neighbor, Jimmy, cuts the walks.

We have walked all of our dogs in that field. It is so beautiful in the winter with the snow and during all the other seasons with all the wild flowers that grow there naturally.

Oliver in the fall

Oliver in the winter

Oliver in the winter

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS.

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.

2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.

3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.

4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.

5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.

6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.

7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you and yet I choose not to bite you.

8. Before you scold me for being lazy, or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food. I have been in the sun too long, or, my heart might be getting old, or weak.

9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too will grow old.

10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

From Jane Witkowski

HE ONLY TAKES THE BEST

God saw that you were getting tired
And a cure was not to be,
So he put his arms around you
And whispered, "Come to me."

With tearful eyes we watched you,
And saw you pass away
Though we loved you dearly
We could not make you stay.

A golden heart stopped beating,
Tail and whiskers are at rest.
God broke our hearts to prove to us,
He only takes the best.

Walter with Jasper and Midget

Friends and Family:

Early this morning I had to put my dog Ace to rest. He was 13 years old and my close companion and best friend for 11 of those years (I got him from the Australian Shepherd rescue society when he was 2). Over the last year, Ace developed something called laryngeal paralysis. Makes it very hard to breathe, especially for larger dogs.

Anyway, that's what happened to Ace, but in memory of him, here are some things that he would want you to know about his life:

- He was a velcro dog. Loved to follow people around the house, especially me. If I walked up and down the stairs 20 times, he would follow me with a smile on his face the whole time.
- I was his alpha dog, but he was the alpha to anyone else around the house. When the kids were younger, he would herd them around the house as if they were cattle or sheep. At night, he would pace the floors, just to ensure that everyone was in their proper place.
- He loved to run. In his prime, he could run the 3-mile loop in my neighborhood without breaking a sweat. In fact, he would walk faster than most dogs would run.
- Ace knew that his bark sounded like a girl, but when he saw other dogs he would let it rip. Barking, spinning, and tugging non-stop. He knew that he was all bark and no bite, but he liked to put on a show.
- He loved going to the kennel during the times that I traveled and needed coverage. When he walked thru the doors, he would start barking and cause 100 other dogs to bark back at him.
- Ace could fart with the best of them. It was always silent and deadly. And, he never took credit, but rather blamed his owner.
- His preferred language was dog-talk with his Alpha owner (me). He would ignore everyone else.
- He loved to travel, visiting friends and relatives. If he saw a suitcase being packed, he would start whining and spinning in circles, ready to go.
- Whenever guests were around he would totally take advantage, breaking all kinds of rules, such as eating table food, hopping up on beds, couches, etc...
- If a gate was left open, he would be the first to walk right out of it and roam the neighbor hood for a day or so. On many occasions, I had to post lost dog signs or go to the local vet's office to retrieve him.
- His favorite laying spots were under my desk while I was working, or if outside, under the rose bushes on the side of the house, shading himself from the Texas sun.
- Ace was really good friends with his siblings over the years, Noel, Alyssa, Sam and Carmen. They will miss him greatly.
- Whenever we would leave the house, Ace would stand and stare out the window for along time, wondering where everyone went without him. Eventually, he would sit in front of the window and wait for our return.
- There's probably more, but I'll leave it at that. For those of you that knew or met him, I'm sure you have your own wonderful memories of Ace.

Ace, rest in peace, my good friend !!!

The young man who wrote this is a former Navy Seal, currently an executive at IBM. A really nice fellow.

Dear Mary,

Ace sounds like quite a dog. Let me tell you about my first dog, long ago.

My father was a butcher for A&P in St. Johnsbury, VT, and we didn't have much money in those days, so dad would do odd jobs for people when he could. One time, when I was 8 yrs. old, he went to Barnet, south on Rt. 5, to cut up a steer for Charlie Choat, a friend. When he came back home late that night, mom asked how much he made, and he said $50, which was a fortune in those days. Then he said that he also had a bonus, and he pulled from his coat pocket the cutest little puppy I had ever seen. She was a collie/shepherd, more collie than shepherd, so I can be forgiven for immediately naming her Lassie, the star of one of my favorite books. No one we knew even had a TV back then.

All the while I was growing up, Lassie was my constant companion and my dearest friend. I would often lie on the floor with her with my head on her beautiful soft side and talk to her. I would swear she understood just about everything I told her. She went fishing with me, hiking, played in the snow with me -- you name it, and Lassie was with me. I was the only kid in 6th grade who was allowed to have his dog beside my desk in class. Lassie would follow me to school sometimes, and she was so well behaved that Mrs. McCallister, our 6th grade teacher, would ask me if I wanted to have Lassie join the class. When we went out for recess, Lassie would go along and do her business, too, and then go back into class until it was time to go home again. She stayed right beside my desk the entire time and never made a fuss. Everyone loved her. She was the biggest dog in town, and every year, she would win "Biggest Dog" in the town's pet parade, and the prize was always 50 lbs. of Purina dog food. By then, we had a car -- a 1941 green Oldsmobile -- and I remember driving to the Purina store to get the dog food, with Lassie, of course, in the back seat. She loved to ride in the car. When I got my license at age 16, we had a VW bug by then, and I remember so well just jingling the keys, and Lassie would come running. She would get in the back seat and go everywhere with me. I got my first job at age 10 -- a paper route -- and Lassie would go on my route every day with me and keep me company. I wasn't supposed to have her on my bed, but sometimes I'd sneak her under the covers, and I loved sleeping with her. I knew the monster under the bed wouldn't get me with Lassie there to protect me.

I joined the Navy at 17, 2 wks. after high school graduation. I can't tell you how much I missed Lassie. No matter how long I was away, when I came home on leave, she never failed to know me and would jump on me and give me a lot of wet kisses.

I had Sunday dinner in Newport, RI, one day when I was 19, with a WAVE named Margaret Whittemore. On the way out of the restaurant, I asked Margaret if she would kindly wait for me to place a brief call to my parents, since there was a small bank of phone booths (remember them?) in the lobby. When my mother answered, I immediately knew something was wrong, and she said she wanted me to speak with my father. Then I really knew something was wrong, as dad hated talking on the phone. As it turned out, they had to put Lassie down, as she had reached that point. I had never planned for Lassie to ever die, and I didn't know how to cope with this dreadful news. I hung up and stayed in the phone booth for a half hour, just crying my eyes out. Poor Margaret -- I don't know what she must have thought. When I could finally talk, I came out of the phone booth and told her what had happened. We had planned to do something or other but cancelled our plans and headed for the bus stop to go back to the base. I cried the whole way and all the way back to the base on the bus. One guy kept staring at me until Margaret said, "What the hell are you looking at!" I cried for weeks, off and on, mostly in private, fortunately. I still, to this day, over 50 yrs. later, grieve for my Lassie, the best dog I ever could have hoped for in a million years. When I dream about a dog, it's always Lassie, and sometimes I wake up expecting her to be there, and I'm nearly 70 yrs. old. The pain never goes away, but neither does the joy in having Lassie as my dog friend for all those years growing up. I was blessed beyond measure.

And that's the story of my greatest friend and great love of my young life. Just thought you might like to hear it.

Love, Stuart

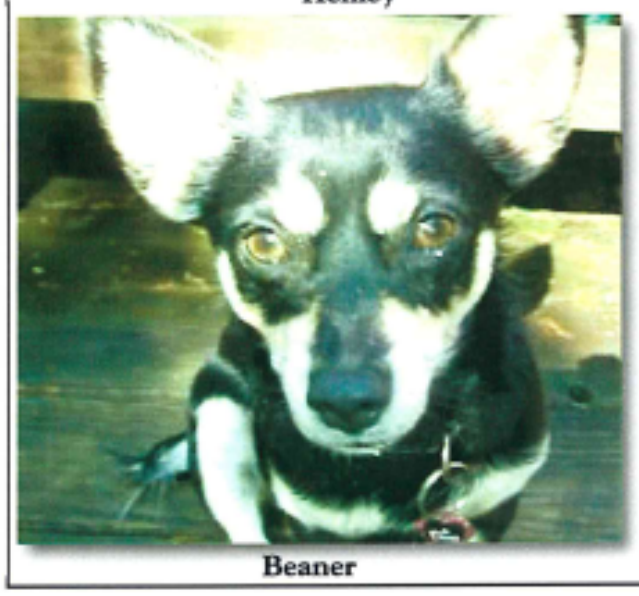
AND LIFE GOES ON

I would like to end this book on a positive note that Life goes on. Our son Mark said goodbye to his beloved lab Midget ,and granddaughter Jill said goodbye to her Golden Finn this past summer. Of course they miss them very much. Life does go on and now they have two adorable labs and named them Thelma and Louise to love and have as companions. You never forget the pets that have left you because their spirits live forever in your memory.

Some great dogs that are still bringing joy to other members of the family are Steven's dog Henley and Mitch's Beaner.

This book is for those of us who are left behind to grieve and celebrate and recover by remembering our beloved pets that have gone over the Rainbow Bridge.

Henley



Beaner

"Whoever said you can't buy happiness forgot little puppies."

Thelma & Louise

Mary with Thelma & Louise

DEDICATION

Dogs for Life Memorial Garden - Vero Beach, Florida

I would like to dedicate this book to Jasper and remember the happy days we spent together at The Dogs for Life dog park. There will be a Dog Bone Plaque placed in the Garden in his Memory.

Just A Dog

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog,"
or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog."

They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog,"
but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog,"
and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand
phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust,
and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person.

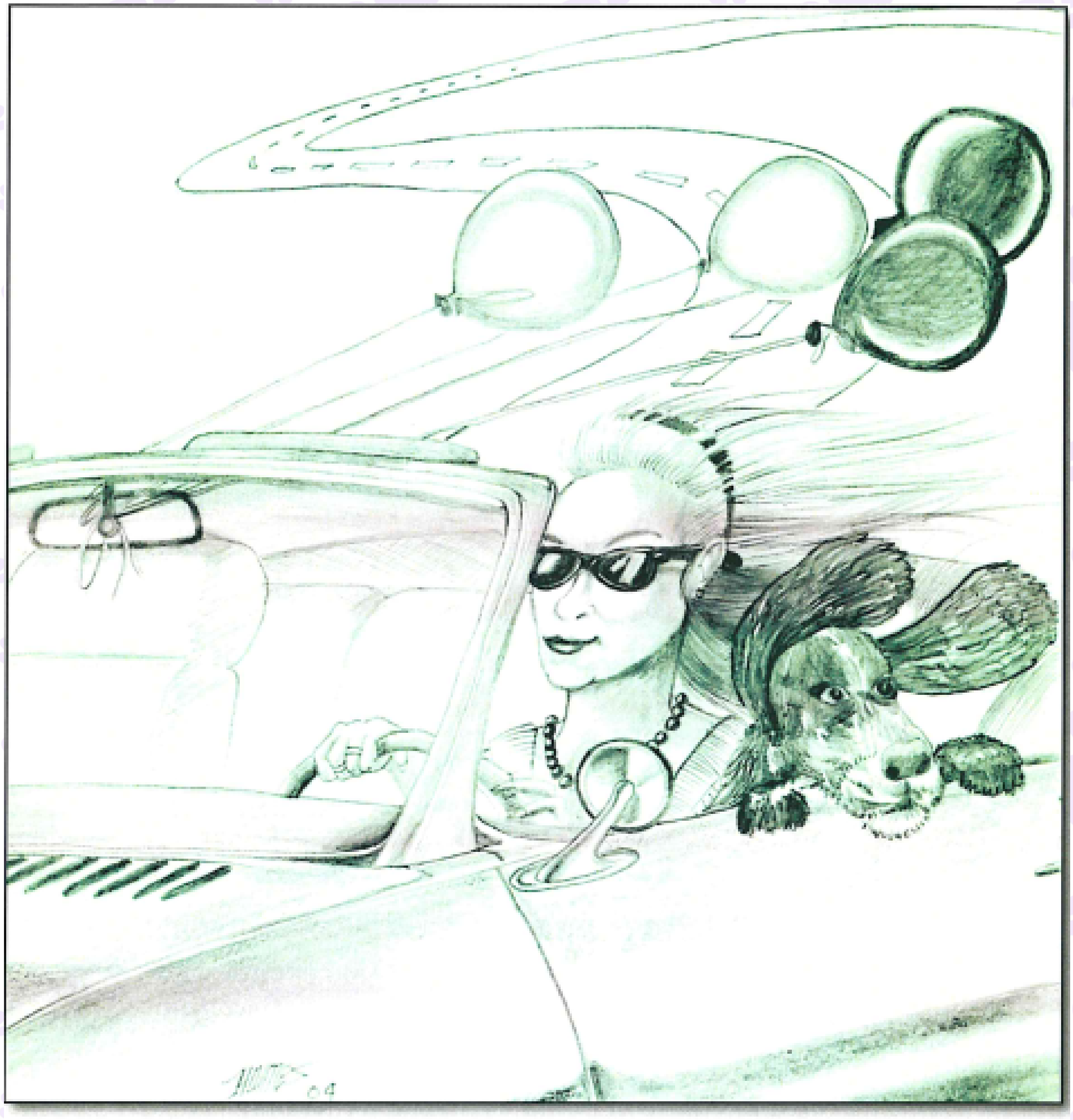
Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future,
the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away
from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog",
but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being
"just a man or woman."

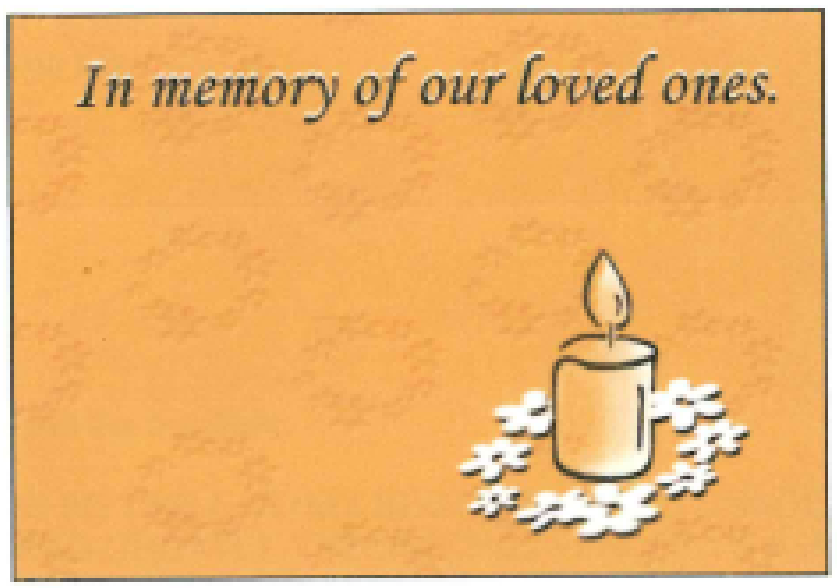
So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog"
just smile...
because they "just don't understand."
Written by an unknown Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.
From the Therapy Dog Inc. News Magazine



Mary's book "Shifting Gears" cover sketch depicting Mary and Jasper going up to the lake on a happy day in Walter's 1969 Pontiac convertible.

NOVEMBER

Chloe



From: Dogs For Life
Date: 11/27/2011 8:12:45 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Subject: A sad day for DFL and the Dog Park

You all know Patti Schell, she has been DFL's right hand at the dog park for many years. And, I'm sure you know her beloved dog Chloe. The two of them have become a fixture at the dog park, as Patti goes about her weekly chores.

Yesterday, Patti performed the "final act of kindness" and in an effort not to allow her constant companion to suffer, she was forced to make the painful decision to send Chloe on her way to the Rainbow Bridge.

Patti & Chloe had participated not only in the dog obedience classes, but Agility and Rally Obedience. Patti and her "sidekick" 4-H Member Kim, used Chloe as a dog park training demonstration dog over the years, showing others how to train their dogs.

Chloe played the role as Ambassador dog at the park, being a patient dog and helping us "humans," evaluate sociability, sometimes at her own expense and to that we owe her and Patti a huge amount of gratitude.

Patti & Chloe were part of DFL's Pet Assisted Therapy Program, serving the Abilities Resource Center in particular and other facilities when needed. Patti had even trained Chloe to tap a K-9 911 phone for Patti's mother before she joined the Lord, in the event she experienced an emergency when Patti was away from home.

Please show Patti your support when you see her at the park without her beloved faithful friend and companion, as we know this will be very painful for Patti for a long time.

Chloe's passing is a huge loss not only to Patti, but to the dog park and to Dogs For Life. She will be remembered in the dog park Memorial Garden with a memorial paw and memorial bone. If you would like to contribute to Chloe's memorial fund, Patti will be notified of your generosity. If you would like to send Patti a card, c/o DFL either e-mail or snail mail, I will make sure she receives it.

With Love and Appreciation to Patti in memory of Chloe, ❤

Shelly

Shelly Ferger, Founder / Executive Director
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023

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With Love and Appreciation to Patti in memory of Chloe, ~ Shelly

As those of us whose lives have been blessed by and shared with pets know all to well, their presence always seem to end way to soon. This not unlike a shooting star that brightens the sky and then fades before we would wish. We had to say goodbye to our beloved Elsie last month and while she is dearly missed, we are grateful to how she brightened our lives. Happily, we have Boston, our always hungry Rottie to help fill the void. Our thoughts are with Patti at this difficult time in her life. Herb & Becky Torbin

Berri and I went to the dog park this afternoon, and saw Patti, and got to hug her for support, and she told me the story..... How sad. At least she gave Chloe a wonderful life, and that was evident in Chloe's behavior. I was very impressed with Kim also, and heard a bit of that story.... Wonderful how those we help end up helping us in turn. They are lucky to have each other at a time like this. Please email this to her, as I do not know her address, phone., nor email, Thanks, Shelly. Just very comforting to know how wonderfully Dog Park members support each other. After she left me,there was a large group waiting to see her as she entered the large dog park. That made me happy too. Prayers for Patti in these difficult days ahead. Hugs, Margie

Please extend to Patti our best wishes in her time of sorrow. We send along with this message prayers and peace. In friendship, Jan and Phil Tyrrell

DEAREST PATTI, WE WANT TO OFFER OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES ON THE LOSS OF YOUR BEAUTIFUL CHLOE. YOU WERE A WONDERFUL MOTHER AND WE ALL LOVE YOU. CHLOE WILL BE MISSED BUT SHE WILL BE SENDING YOU ANOTHER FROM HER CONTACTS IN HEAVEN. PLEASE KNOW YOU BOTH HAVE AN INSCRIPTION IN OUR HEARTS. LOVE and WONDERFUL MEMORIES, KAREN & SCRUFFLES

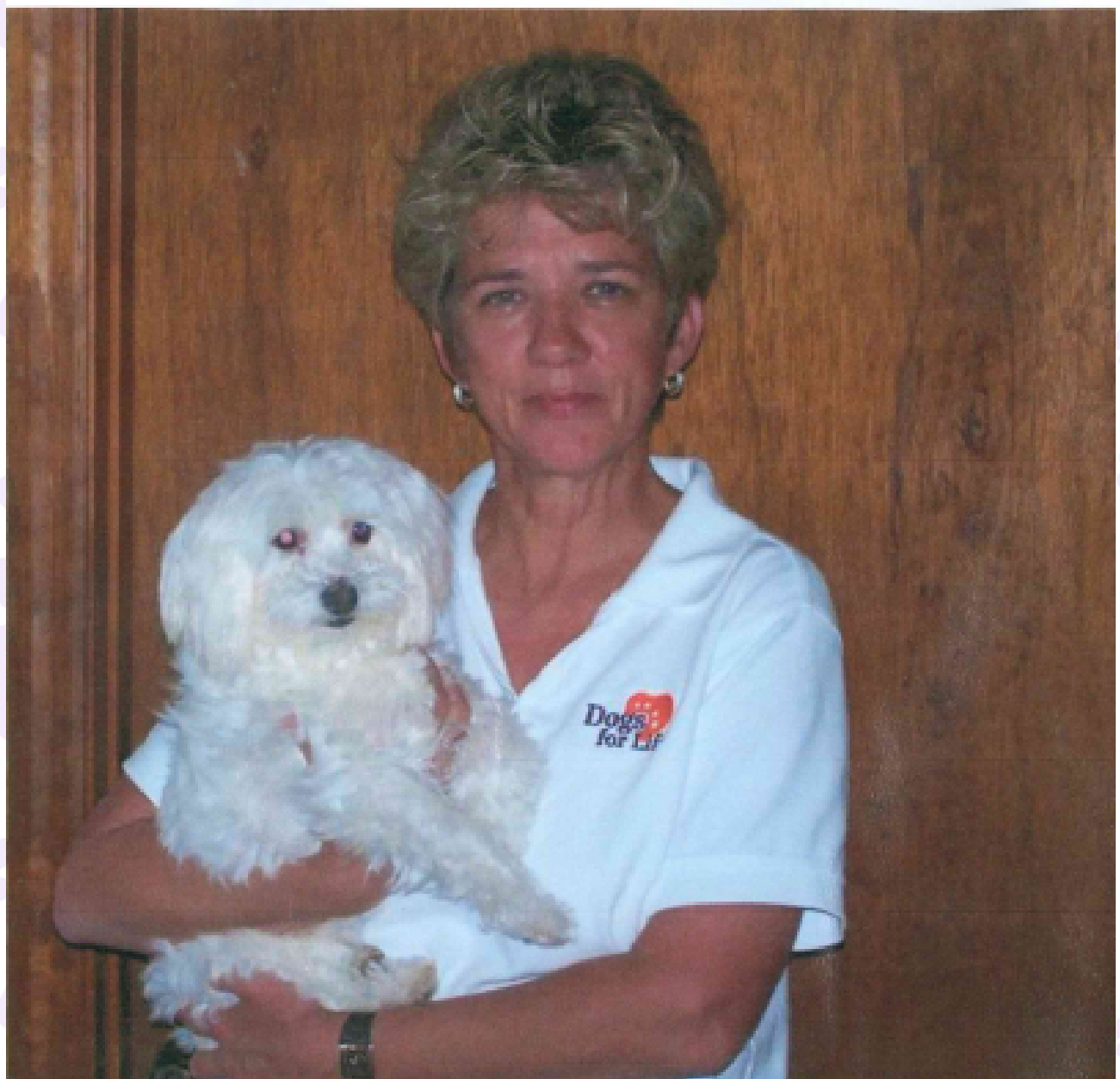
Dear Patti, my love and support go out to you through these difficult days as you mourn the loss of your beloved Chloe. What great joy she brought to all that knew her. Thank you for all you do for us at DFL.
Sincerely,Angela Conti

I AM NOT GOOD AT WRITING SO I WILL DO MY BEST, PATTI AND CHLOE WAS A VERY GOOD TEAM, CHLOE WILL BE MISSED GREATLY, I KNOW THAT IS ALWAYS A HARD DECISIONTO MAKE, JUST REMEMBER SHE IS NOT SUFFERING AND IS RUNNING AND PLAYING IN THE RAIBOW BRIDGE WITH ALL THE OTHER LOVING DOGS WHO ARE THERE WITH HER, MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU THROUGH THIS HARD TIME.
WE ALL LOVE YOU MIKE,HOLLY AND CAPTAIN

Dear Dogs for Life Board of Directors,

Thank you so much for the work you do for all the Dogs for Life programs. This moment in time was captured because of the value you've placed on the Pet Assisted Therapy program. Chloe's service dog pictures were kind of blurry (but precious to my mom, Elsie and me) Our main mission! of Service! Thank you, always!

Patti Schell



OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Parade

OCTOBER 22: Dogs in costumes were the main attraction at the 10th annual ***Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo.*** People and their pets took part in a costume parade, listened to live music, enjoyed food and drinks and visited the many vendors. Proceeds from the event benefited DFL assistance dogs, veteran dog- and pet-assisted therapy programs and the dog park.

Dogs For Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger with Jim Taylor, service dog Pia Pia and Hoy Wilkinson

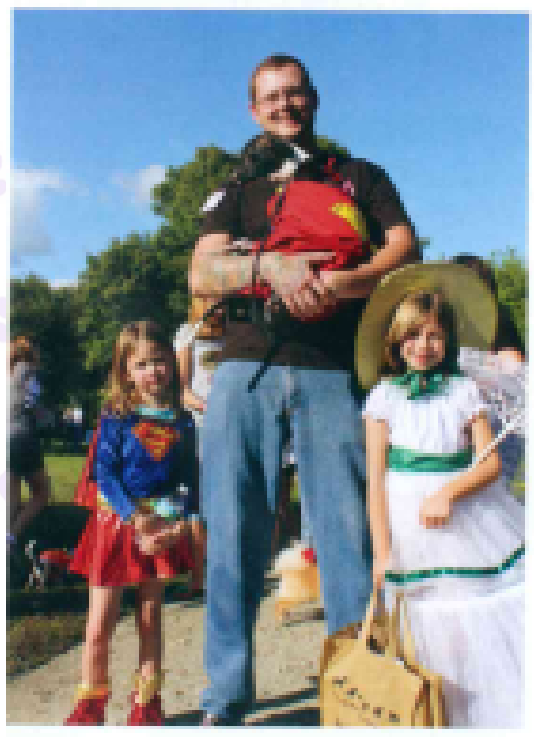
Art Spilios and Anne Draper with Shelby

Alexa Lopez, Elie Paugh and Ashley Evans with Bailey

Rina McCormick and Cynthia Bluewater with Simon

Allen and Sharon Springman with Beau the pirate and Lexi the ladybug

Marv Liss announces the start of the parade



Gail, James and Faith Barriteau with Bentley

Jaime Henderson and Debbie Henderson with Lynx the Superdog, Phoenix the mouse and Bentley as Batman

BRIGHTLIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

It's Howl-O-Ween time

Shelly Ferger of Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL) is asking for vendors to apply for space at the 10th anniversary of the **Annual Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo** to be held at the DFL **Off-Leash Dog Park** on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach from 3-5 p.m. on Oct. 22.

Vendor space starts at $100 and sponsorship starts at $25.00. Last year, 108 dogs attended in costume with more than 500 spectators. The event is free and open to the public. Call 772-567-8969, e-mail dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net and visit www.dogsforlifevb.com

Fall Events

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume/Pet Expo: Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 3-5 pm, Oct. 22. Bring your dog "on-leash" or "in-costume". 772-567-8969.

Vero Beach News Weekly
THURSDAY • OCTOBER 13, 2011 • VOL. 1, ISSUE 28

Oct 22: "Howl-O-Ween Pawrade" by Dogs for Life, Inc. dog costume parade and pet expo, 3-5 pm at 12th St. & 16th Ave. Dog Park. Call Shelly Ferger, 772-567-8969.

Vendors wanted for Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade and Pet Expo

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life's 10th anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo will happen Oct. 22, from 3 to 5 p.m. at DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

This is a special opportunity for a premier sponsorship or vendor location.

Donations of $100 or more will qualify your name, your business or your pet's name for permanent display on a donor bone at the off-leash dog park.

Nonprofit vendors have free space.

New this year will be live entertainment by Hobo Jim with food and beverages by the American Vets Post 6.

Every dog in costume wins a prize. Last year, 108 dogs participated in the Pawrade.

For more information, call 772-567-8969.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews.

Howl-O-Ween breaks record

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life's 10th anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade on Oct. 22 resulted in a record-breaking 113 dogs and their families registering for the free Pawrade at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

Music by Hobo Jim, a law enforcement canine demonstration by Sgt. Patrick White of the Indian River County Sheriff's Department and L.A. Bykowski and Daryl, retired bom detection dog, entertained the crowd.

More than 500 spectators enjoyed 17 vendor booths that displayed businesses for people and gave away treats to the dogs.

Twenty-seven committee members planned and coordinated an event without a hitch. T

hirty-nine sponsors supported the event with more than $3,000 in raffle items which were displayed and then raffled at the end of the day.

SHELLY FERGER - TCPalm.com/YourNews
Greta, dressed as a Komodo dragon, participated in the Pawrade with Greg Beenken and Rebeca Garcia.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews.

DOG MASTERS

Dogs For Life, Inc.
10th Anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo
October 22, 2011

Photo By Ed & Gail Boatwright

Photos by Shelly Ferger

Photo provided

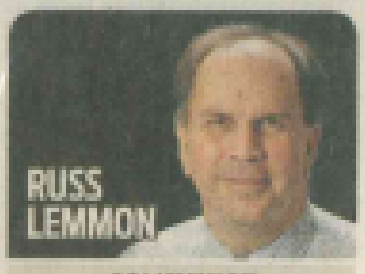
Owners dressed their dogs in costumes for Dogs for Life's Howl-O-Ween Dog Pawrade in 2008.

Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and pet expo will happen at Dog Park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, from 3 to 5 p.m. Oct. 22. Bring your dog on leash or in costume. For more information, call 772-567-8969.

10th Anniversary Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo to benefit Dogs for Life. Bring dogs in costume and win prizes. Military color guard, K-9 demonstration, entertainment and more. Dogs for Life Off-Leash Park, Vero Beach. 772-567-8969

Dog Park

INDIAN RIVER
Press Journal
SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS
Tuesday, October 18, 2011



COLUMNIST

Dog owners feel at home at Dogs For Life park

As she opened the gate, Shelly Ferger could tell I was a little bit apprehensive.

Probably because I had switched to tiptoe mode, and my radar was quickly scanning the terrain for piles of you-know-what.

"Owners do clean up after their dogs," she said.

Shelly Ferger

That put me at ease. I just remember reading a story about some irresponsible owners at the public dog park in Sebastian.

At the Dogs For Life off-leash park, just east of Vero Beach Elementary School, you get the feeling an irresponsible owner wouldn't last very long as a member.

The adage "you get what you pay for" seems to apply here.

The annual membership is $300.

What dog owners get for their money is a peaceful setting — two huge oak trees remain from the days when it was a horse pasture — and well-maintained grounds.

LEMMON
from 1A

system, they might be playing on dirt.

Incidents involving aggressive dogs are exceedingly rare, Ferger said. The fact that she "screens" canines, and their owners, for membership probably has a lot to do with that.

She said it's "sheer joy" to watch dogs running with other dogs at the park.

Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization, averages about 200 members annually. The 4 1/2-acre dog park is only part of the organization's total picture.

As Ferger put it, "We have a branding problem. People just think we're a dog park on 12th Street."

Dogs For Life trains hearing and service dogs for disabled individuals. It also offers dog obedience training.

The organization is trying to raise $300,000 to build a training center, which would allow for an expansion of its dog-training program to help war veterans.

"We train dogs for anybody," Ferger said, "but we're focusing more on dogs for veterans."

Among other things, the dogs are used to help veterans deal with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). For example, dogs can be trained to wake up a veteran who is having a full-blown nightmare about combat.

"I'm just as proud as I can be to be launching into this veterans program," she said.

"Most dog parks fail by their success — because they're overused," said Ferger, the founder and executive director of Dogs For Life Inc.

According to Margaret Wall, a Dogs For Life board member, three things usually work against public dog parks.

One, the grass area for walking often turns into dirt, which can turn into mud. Two, too many owners don't pick up after their dogs. Three, too many aggressive dogs run free.

With the latter two, there's a common thread.

"There's no accountability," Ferger said.

The Vero Beach park has separate areas for big dogs and small dogs. Regardless of their size, though, they are able to run and play on grass. If not for the irrigation

One of Dogs For Life's community-oriented events is scheduled for Saturday. The 10th annual "Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo" is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. It's free and open to the public.

Last year, 108 dogs were "in costume," Ferger said.

If you go to watch the "pawrade," take comfort in knowing you won't have to worry about switching into tiptoe mode.

After all, this off-leash park is home to responsible dog owners

Russ Lemmon is a columnist for Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers. This column reflects his opinion. For more on Indian River County topics, follow his blog at tcpalm.com/lemmon. Contact him at 772-978-2205 or russ.lemmon@scripps.com.

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Dog training open to public at dog park

With the "Dog Days Of Summer", officially ending, Dogs for Life Inc. will restart dog obedience classes at 9 a.m. Nov. 12 on at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., in Vero Beach.

Shelly Ferger, founder and executive director, will instruct this six-week course where an emphasis is applied to dog behavior, effective communication tools and positive reinforcement training methods.

Basic dog obedience, agility, rally obedience, pet assisted therapy, assistance dog and AKC Canine Good Citizen training are included in the class outline.

The six weeks, limited class size course is open to the public and costs $75. Preregistration is required. 772-567-8969.

Dog training open to the public at off-leash dog park

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life will restart its dog obedience classes at 9 a.m. on Nov. 12 at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 18th Ave. in Vero Beach.

Shelly Ferger, DFL founder and executive director, will instruct this six-week course where an emphasis is applied to dog behavior, effective communication tools and positive reinforcement training methods.

Basic dog obedience, agility, rally obedience, pet assisted therapy, assistance dog and AKC Canine Good Citizen training are included in the class outline. The limited class size course is open to the public and costs $75. Pre-registration is required.

SHELLY FERGER • TCPalm.com/YourNews
Dogs For Life will restart its dog obedience classes Nov. 12 at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park.

For more information, call 772-567-8969.

RECURRING EVENTS

THURSDAY

ANIMALS/PETS

Dogs For Life, Inc.: Dog Park membership orientations by appointment. Inoculated, netured, social. Off-Leash Dog Park, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 10 am. $300. Register: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifewb.com.

SEPTEMBER

United Way Day of Caring

Press Journal Section B

Indian River COUNTY

Sunday, September 25, 2011 » IR

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

Volunteers show they care at 30 sites

Trinity Mann, 7, paints a door frame in the Adult Care Center at the Senior Resource Association while volunteering during the Day of Caring held by the United Way of Indian River County on Saturday morning. Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as well as Marine Bank, spent the morning painting, cleaning and landscaping the organization's facility on 14th Street.

SAM ROLPE/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

By Janet Begley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY – Art Blanchet of Sebastian wiped sweat from his forehead as he helped paint the shed at the Dogs for Life park on 12th Street in Vero Beach on Saturday.

Blanchet, a member of a team from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Vero Beach, was at the off-leash dog park as part of the United Way's 19th annual Day of Caring. The event was sponsored by the Bank of America.

"It's our responsibility to serve others," Blanchet said. "We take community service seriously and do whatever we can to help with the time we have."

The annual Day of Caring drew more than 350 volunteers at 30 different sites throughout the county, according to Michael Kint, CEO of the United Way of Indian River County. Teams stretched out as far as Fellsmere to lend a hand to health and human service agencies and their clients. The event is the kickoff to the fundraising season for the United Way.

"Even though most people think of the United Way for our annual campaign, we have three words we live by," Kint said. "Give, volunteer and advocate are what the United Way is all about."

Kint said that in tough economic times, people may not have money to give but they are willing to donate their time to a worthy cause.

"Studies have shown that people, especially young people, are very connected to the idea of volunteerism," Kint said. "They want to have a hands-on experience so they can feel they made a difference."

At the Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition, volunteers put together a garage sale so clients could get free clothing and kid's items.

"It's a wonderful volunteer activity," said Rebecca Russell-Gootee, executive director of the Healthy Start Coalition. "We were looking for an opportunity to do as part of the Day of Caring, and we thought this would really help out clients who have young children."

After Blanchet finished painting the shed at the dog park, he helped Dogs for Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger load all of the agility equipment back in the shed. Ferger said she was grateful for the help, pointing out that many of the members who use the dog park are elderly and are unable to do manual labor.

"When you run a nonprofit, you never stop asking for help," Ferger said. "First, I asked for help painting the shed. Then I just kept tacking on more and more things. And the volunteers just kept saying yes, yes and yes."

Pet Cremations

AUGUST

In the Ruff Golf Tournament

Vero Beach
NEWSWEEKLY
THURSDAY ▸ AUGUST 25, 2011 ▸ VOL. 1, ISSUE 21

In the Ruff golf tournament is a top dog success

PHOTOS BY CHRISTINA TASCON

Dogs for Life Director Shelly Ferger, Linda Kline and Jim Bates

Aspen Ratelle with Maggie and Haley Kyzer with Pumpkin

Marlon Fisher, Barry Minette, Marybeth Cunningham, Chuck Cunning, Karen and Gene Mack

BY CHRISTINA TASCON
FOR VERO BEACH NEWSWEEKLY

Guests munched on hors d'oeuvres as canine cops tried to take a bite out of crime decoys at the cocktail reception held to raise money for H.A.L.O., a no-kill animal shelter.

This past weekend, H.A.L.O. & Stray No More Inc. topped their previous fundraising success from last year's event by filling all 120 openings for the golf tournament at the Indian River Club.

To kick off the animal friendly event, Director Jacque Perone and Coordinator Kim Kerns combined a cocktail reception with a Sheriff's Department K-9 demonstration as the "Dog Bones" band played hits by the pool.

H.A.L.O. is located in Sebastian and was founded by Perone five years ago. It is the only shelter in Indian River that does not euthanize stray animals no matter how long they are with them at the shelter. Their objective is to find every pet a happy home and give them a fulfilling life with a human companion.

They are constantly promoting neutering and spaying pets and have donated many hours to caring for stray animals and finding them homes.

Perone and H.A.L.O. has found a good friend in the Florida Veterinary League. They were at the golf tournament giving pet vaccinations but also are there when there is a sick or injured animal at the shelter and with those that cannot afford health care for their pets.

The Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit gives a attack demonstration at the cocktail reception

Amy Behm-Selby, Duane Selby with Bill and Terri Schmalfus

Guests Jody Zwergel, Tamara Priddy and Amy Robinson with the K-9 officers, Christian Mathison, Pat White, Jim Dixson, Kevin Keitz and Jeff Ledlow

At the reception on Friday night, K-9 Sergeant Pat White directed the K-9 exhibition in an informative as well as entertaining display of what the dogs could do.

First, he said, they are not considered pets but are called "partners" to the human officers. The dogs are paired with similar personalities of an officer in the team so that they work together better and bond faster. When the dogs get too old to work, they go to live with them and are cared for as long as they live.

A little known fact is that the officers speak German or similar languages when commanding their dogs. K-9 dogs are all brought in from Europe where dog breeding is under the strictest regulation.

America does not have strong regulation and many dogs, although they may have great papers, can be interbred or over-bred by owners. In Europe, dog competitions called Schutzhund are as popular as soccer and the handling, breeding and registry of the dogs are fiercely governed as closely as the horses in the Kentucky Derby.

Dogs have over a 1,000 times more

CONTINUES ON PAGE 16

IN THE RUFF

FROM PAGE 15

powerful sense of smell than humans and German Shepherds are considered the best for the job because of the shape of their snouts which was best for tracking the scents.

Surprisingly, the dogs have not been neutered. White said that once a male dog was snipped he sort of lost his will and took away instinctual aggression bringing an understanding laugh from the audience.

Most of the canines are male, but females are usually used for less aggressive work such as looking for disaster victims, Alzheimer patients and drug searches.

It is only rarely they are used as criminal trackers.

The dogs were put through their paces and seeing them fly through the air full force to attack a decoy officer or running all out at the speed of light amazed the guests and drew rounds of appreciative applause.

All the guests at the event were huge animal fans and said they were at the event because they loved their pets like their family and wanted to support the good works of H.A.L.O. Most owned multiple animals but that did not stop H.A.L.O. on Saturday at the golf tournament from trying to get them to take home just one more at the adoption tent.

They even took several of the animals on the golf carts around the course to tempt them. Kim Kerns said that one lucky little Pomeranian named Pumpkin found a home by the end of the day and that is what it was all about...finding a home for a dog, cat or other animal, one pet at a time.

To support H.A.L.O., or to donate cleaning supplies, pet toys, kitten and puppy milk or blankets, you can go to their website, www.halorescuefl.org or drop off at the shelter 710 Jackson Street in Sebastian.

ARC & Dogs For Life

TCPALM.COM'S
YourNews
Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2011
Vero Beach, Sebastian, Fellsmere, Gifford

ARC, Dogs for Life join forces

NOREEN DAVIS - TCPalm.com/YourNews

Patricia Moody teaches sign language to Patti Schell and Carla Schmidt at Abilities Resource Center, in Indian River County. It's all about teamwork and organizations helping each other. Every week, Dogs for Life brings dogs to visit ARC. It's amazing how much joy petting a sweet little dog can bring. In turn, Moody loves including members of Dogs for Life in her weekly sign language class.

INSIDE

JOINING FORCES
ARC and Dogs for Life join forces.
Page 4

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF AUGUST 29, 2011

SAY LUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

VERO BEACH

Dogs for Life plans Howl-O-Ween

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting the 10th anniversary of its Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo at the dog park on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on Oct. 22 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The public is invited to bring dogs "on-leash" or "in-costume" for the free parade. Vendor opportunities are available starting at $100.

Sponsorship opportunities start at $25. Nonprofit organizations are invited to have a vendor booth for free.

Dogs For Life is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs, and owning and managing an off-leash dog park.

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger, dog park founder and executive director, at 772-567-8969.

Staff reports

6B » Wednesday, August 31, 2011 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IR

IN THE LIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

ARC & Dogs for Life

"You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours"

It's all about team work and organizations helping each other. Everyone at ARC looks forward to seeing "Willy" and the rest of the wonderful dogs that "Dogs for Life" bring to visit each week.

It's amazing how much joy petting a sweet little dog can bring. In turn, Patricia Moody loves including members of "Dogs for Life" in her weekly sign language class.

ARC student Scott enjoys a trip to the dog park.

Richard, a student at ARC, spends time at the dog park.

Patricia Moody teaches sign language to Patti Schell and Carla Schmidt at ARC.

IR « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Sunday, August 7, 2011 « 15A

GOOD FOR YOU

ARC appreciates Dogs for Life visits

It's all about team work and organizations helping each other.

Everyone at ARC looks forward to seeing Willy and the rest of the wonderful dogs that Dogs for Life bring to visit each week. It is amazing how petting a sweet little dog can bring so much joy. In turn, Patricia Moody loves including members of Dogs for Life in her weekly sign language class.

2B » Wednesday, August 10, 2011 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IR

The record

Community Calendar

NEW LISTINGS

Assistance Dog Screening: Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave., Vero Beach, Aug. 10-13. Appointment: 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com.

Health Notes

ONGOING

Free Assistance Dog Screening: Dogs trained for owners with hearing, physical disabilities in Vero Beach. By appt. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com

ONGOING

Free Assistance Dog Screening: Dogs trained for owners with hearing, physical disabilities in Vero Beach. By appt. 772-567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com

IR « SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS « Tuesday, October 18, 2011 « 5B

JULY

Tribute to Maxx Ruma

Maxx Ruma

April 24, 1999-July 23, 2011

Guard of the gate and walker of paths;
Chaser of rabbits and sitter for treats;
Snoozer on couches and driver of cars;
Faithful and loyal and patient and sweet.

Sleeper on pillows so quiet and warm;
Well mannered at table but 'thief' later on;
Grabber of branches, Sea Grape or Palm,
Prancing and dancing to show off your charm.

Grooming for you was front row at the Ritz,
Like watching TV you would not want to quit.
But show you a mower and you would be off,
'Attempt to attack it and throw barking fits.

"My sweet boy", I'm crying- "I love you forever"
On beaches in parks and in all kinds of weather.
Admonished by all to watch out and beware,
I'd still give my heart free to you, Maxx, to tear.

Indian River Estates Health Fair

RODNEY NOWAK • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Residents participate of health fair at ACTS Indian River Estates West Retirement-Life Community.

Medical lectures, health fair conducted

BY COLLEEN WILSON
YourNews contributor

ACTS Indian River Estates West Retirement-Life Community literally filled the house at its recent health fair. Hundreds of seniors participated in free screenings, raffle giveaways, health and wellness lectures and more. Three medical lectures also took place with a question and answer time featuring Dr. Atwell, an urologist, Dr. Dawn Gordon, a Chiropractor and Dr. Eble, a psychologist.

Some of the exhibitors at the event were the American Cancer Society, Dogs for Life, Aftercare Nursing Blood Pressure Screening and Caretenders Blood Pressure Screening.

Most ACTS communities host a health and wellness fair each year; it's a favorite for residents, staff and community outreach.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews

From the
I.R.E. West
Nursing Staff,
Becky, Patty
& Peggy

Thank you
So Much For
Being A Part
Of Our
Health Fair

Foster Homes & Puppy Raisers

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Cheryl Marshall (USAF Ret.) with Swift; Meg Petersen with Chance, Judith Hansen and Pablo Gonzalez, Roxanna Hinzman with Stryker, and Steve Defren (US Army) with Bradley. PROVIDED BY LEE ORRE

Dogs For Life receives support

Shelly Ferger
Dogs For Life

VERO BEACH – Judith Hansen a local philanthropist, who first sponsored Rosie The Riveter, sponsored a puppy named Chance at a recent Dogs For Life volunteer and donor appreciation event.

Recognized at the event were DFL foster and puppy raisers for their dedication to the puppy raising program. Hansen is fully behind this program as she has seen first-hand how these specially trained dogs are able to give independence and self-reliance through legs that balance, paws that tap buttons, and comfort that saves lives.

DFL needs more foster homes and puppy raisers.

If you are interested in this program, visit DFL's website, open the educational tab, and watch the Puppy Raising and Foster Dog Program video.

You can also make a donation at dogsforlifevb.org.

JUNE

FOUNDING FAMILY
J.F. Schumann (1865-1946)
J.J. Schumann (1898-1985)
J.J. Schumann Jr., publisher emeritus

Opinion

YOUR VIEW

PET ADOPTION

Shelly Ferger, Vero Beach

There's expense, but it's worth it

In response to Leah Blendhein's letter, "Too expensive to adopt pets" (May 26): Anyone who adopts from the humane society, ASPCA, breed rescue group or animal control facility provides a service and should be commended. Adoption helps save lives and lessens the tragedy of the pet overpopulation, which also burdens the taxpayer.

Actually, $100 for a cat is a deal when you consider the cost of acquiring a family pet. My last rescue dog cost $350 and a road trip to Palm Beach, although I saved breeder cost between $600 and $1,200. And the grooming, neutering and inoculations were included!

Many of these groups have scholarship programs available. And may I mention the benefit of the warm, fuzzy feeling of being part of an effort to save homeless animals? Priceless!

The reality is that nonprofits must operate as self-sustaining businesses or they will not survive. Nonprofits make every effort to become self-sustaining through venues such as thrift shops, fundraisers, in-kind donations, and sometimes through charging user or service fees. Not only does this help with potential shortfalls in donations, but nonprofits cannot nor does the donor want them to be dependent on donations alone.

Over history, the trend is when the economy weakens, government cutbacks inspire philanthropists to come to the rescue. Government encourages tax-deductible donations to nonprofit organizations, as they recognize the value to the taxpayer and the underprivileged. Nonprofit services are provided to individuals that would otherwise not be received.

God bless the philanthropists who support nonprofits. Sometimes on a small scale, sometimes large, but they all make a difference in the quality of life of people and animals who suffer, thereby making a better world for us all.

The record

Uncle Sam and Vietnam

DONNA'S NEWS
DONNA CHANDLER

That first year apart
brought many cards and letters.
I knew that once he was home again,
everything would be better.
In the beginning he was a mechanic
for the helicopter squadron,
but the loss of men was so great
soon a gunner he'd become.
Flying in to get the wounded
was dangerous duty indeed.
While our young men were fighting,
many were injured and in need.
At home in warm houses,
as neighbors learned of their son's fate,
it seemed like all that we could do
was sit, and worry, and wait.
Then, there came a letter,
along with a call from the Red Cross.
His injury wasn't life threatening,
so it wasn't a total loss.
He would soon recover.
He was lucky, so they said.
But, he'd not be coming home.
It was back to his squad instead.
He'd ask for his R&R in Hawaii,
and I'd fly there that very same week.
Through the bitter disappointment,
we were making plans to meet.
Arrangements were hastily made
for me to join him there.
I'd never been on an airplane,
the anticipation impossible to bare.
Hawaii is a beautiful place
to spend a week on R & R,
But when you're so much in love,
does it matter where you are?
We had a wonderful week together
in this breath-taking place.
But, time flew by so quickly,
as if we were in a race.
Suddenly, back to the war for him,
to the mainland it was for me.
His tour of duty was half over,
patience seemed to be the key.
When he returns safe and sound,
we want to start our new life.
At long last we'll be together,
finally as man and wife.

Donna Hale Chandler's work can be found at http://poeticallycorrect.webs.com/

VERO BEACH
32963
Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™
www.verobeach32963.com

Dogs for Life:
Helping returning
veterans adjust. P16

Dogs for Life Board President Al Turner with his two labradoodles, Mick Dundee and Lola. Photos by Tom McCarthy Jr.

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VERO BEACH 32963 Newsstand Price $1.00
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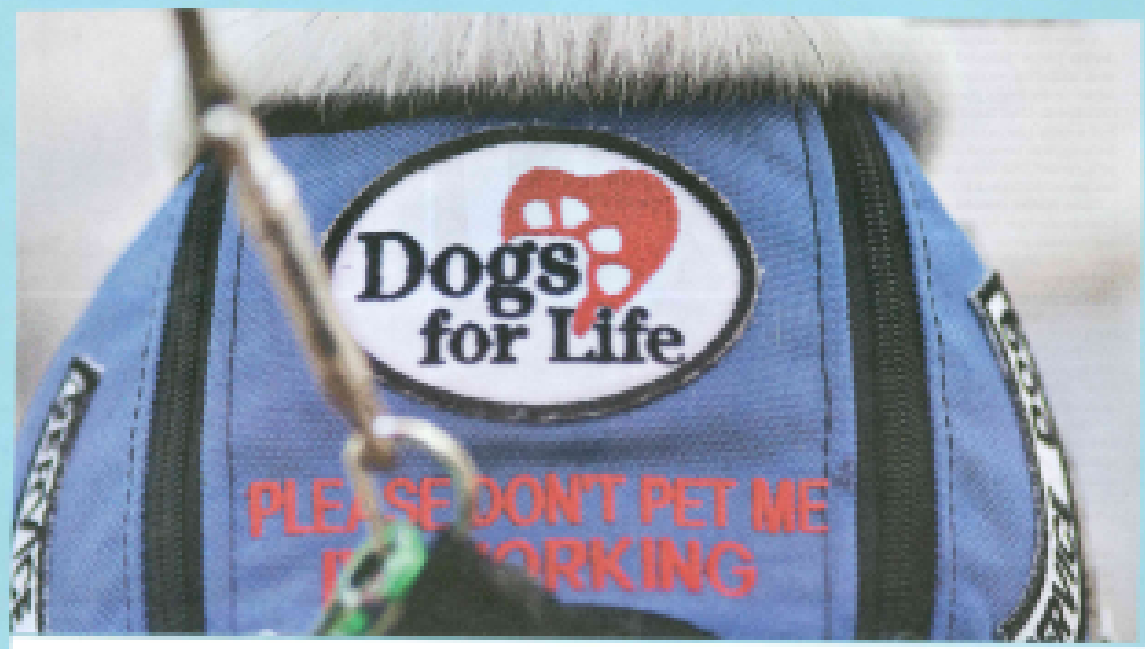
32963
PEOPLE

People P.16

DOGS HELPING
RETURNING VETERANS
ADJUST



PEOPLE

Dogs for Life: Helping returning veterans adjust

BY MARY SCHERMER
Staff Writer

As dog lovers attest, the bond that develops between pets and owners can lift the spirit and calm the nerves. Unconditionally devoted, dogs are frequently credited easing tensions just by an adoring gaze, wagging tail, or comforting snuggle.

Studies now show that for servicemen and women returning home from the horrors of war, a canine companion may also represent the difference between a life of anxiety-ridden isolation and a healthy assimilation back into society.

When Jim Taylor retired in 2008, after a 20-year career in the Army serving as a staff sergeant during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, he did so suffering from hearing loss and post-traumaticstress syndrome. Mendy leaving the house could trigger a panic attack.

"He got to the point where we couldn't go out anywhere," said Taylor's wife Dawn. "If I went out by myself, he was anxious about when I would return and would keep calling me on my cell phone."

Fortunately, a lovable pug named Pia Pia has turned his life around, and today Jim Taylor is an enthusiastic spokesman for the Dogs for Life (DFL) Veterans Service Dog Program.

Shelly Ferger, the group's founder and executive director, and a team of dedicated trainers, have been training service, pet-assisted therapy, and companion dogs since 2002. Last year, the group was accredited by Assistance Dogs International to certify veterans service dogs so that their owners may qualify for cost assistance from the Veterans Administration. Taylor and Pia Pia were the first team both trained and certified by Dogs for Life.

"This is a fledgling program," said board President Al Turner of the program. "We just started six months ago because we saw the need."

Turner and his wife, Vero Beach City Council Vice Mayor Pilar Turner, became involved with the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park about four years ago when the park's land was in jeopardy of being sold.

Dogs for Life Board President Al Turner with his two labradoodles, Mick Dundee and Lola. Photos by Tom McCarthy Jr.

He and a small band of members raised enough money to buy the initial 4.5-acre parcel, and later another $100,000 to expand and further develop the property.

Turner then set his sights on other aspects of the organization.

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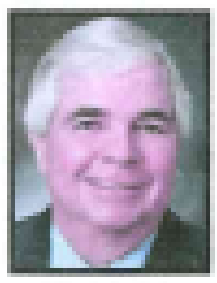
CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

July's Ruby Brings Peace, Health and Royalty

If you know someone who'd like to be royalty, consider a gift of ruby jewelry. The ancient Hindus believed that a gift of ruby to the god Krisha would result in rebirth into royalty. Not a bad trade. They called ruby the "king of precious stones", and believed that this gem would bring peace and health. Ruby gets its name from the Latin word for red. In ancient times all red stones were called ruby, but today we know that ruby is the red variety of corundum, which is the same family as sapphire. Ruby is nearly as hard, often more expensive, and infinitely more exotic than diamonds. It is the hardest mineral after diamond, ranking nine on the Moh's scale of hardness, and therefore is very difficult to scratch. One of the traditionally revered precious stone trio (ruby, sapphire, emerald) ruby continues to be a particularly valued gem. Traditionally a symbol of passionate love, ruby is the anniversary gem for the 15th and 40th years of marriage - and for babies born in the simmering heat of July!



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Certified Gemologist

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Vero Beach 32963 / June 30, 2011 15

Helping returning veterans adjust

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

As dog lovers attest, the bond that develops between pets and owners can lift the spirit and calm the nerves. Unconditionally devoted, dogs are frequently credited easing tensions just by an adoring gaze, wagging tail, or comforting snuggle.

Studies now show that for servicemen and women returning home from the horrors of war, a canine companion may also represent the difference between a life of anxiety-ridden isolation and a healthy assimilation back into society.

When Jim Taylor retired in 2009, after a 20-year career in the Army serving as a staff sergeant during Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom, he did so suffering from hearing loss and post-traumaticstress syndrome. Merely leaving the house could trigger a panic attack.

"He got to the point where we couldn't go out anywhere," said Taylor's wife Dawn. "If I went out by myself, he was anxious about when I would return and would keep calling me on my cell phone."

Fortunately, a lovable pug named Pia Pia has turned his life around, and today Jim Taylor is an enthusiastic spokesman for the Dogs for Life (DFL) Veterans Service Dog Program.

Shelly Ferger, the group's founder and executive director, and a team of dedicated trainers, have been training service, pet-assisted therapy, and companion dogs since 2002. Last year, the group was accredited by Assistance Dogs International to certify veterans service dogs so that their owners may qualify for cost assistance from the Veterans Administration. Taylor and Pia Pia were the first team both trained and certified by Dogs for Life.

"This is a fledgling program," said board President Al Turner of the program. "We just started six months ago because we saw the need."

Turner and his wife, Vero Beach City Council Vice Mayor Pilar Turner, became involved with the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park about four years ago when the park's land was in jeopardy of being sold.

He and a small band of members raised enough money to buy the initial 4.5-acre parcel, and later another $100,000 to expand and further develop the property.

Turner then set his sights on other aspects of the organization.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Your Vero Beach Newsweekly ™

"A lot of us vets are reclusive; we don't ask for help," said Jim Taylor. "I would highly encourage any veteran that needs help to get in touch with Shelly. Pia Pia has changed our life. I know that others could have their lives changed too with a service dog."

Dogs for Life trains the dogs at no cost to veterans, with funding coming strictly from private donations, local grants, and a percentage of the Off-Leash Park memberships.

To increase their training capacity, a capital campaign was recently launched to build a training facility on the property. Close to $200,000 has been raised already; enough to fund the first of a three-stage project which they hope will be completed by the end of 2012.

"That may be a little optimistic on my behalf," said Turner. "A lot will depend on the economy and the interest, but we're pretty excited about what we've done so far. The need for assistance dogs for returning vets is far greater than our ability to train them at this point. I think it's only going to grow."

Dogs are currently trained for task work at the owners' home, which means they must be physically able to work with the dog. With the new facility, they hope to have rescue dogs fostered at night by local veterans, trained during the day at the center and eventually transitioned to disabled veterans.

"Veterans just naturally want to help other veterans," said Shelly Ferger. "As comrades they're there to help each other. Without their support we wouldn't even try to take on this veterans program; it would be too big for us."

Ferger has heard that Florida will be among states with the greatest number of amputees returning from the war in Afghanistan.

"They want to be able to live on their own," she added. "They're younger and they want the independence. Veterans in the past have been over-medicated and haven't had the therapy they need. Instead of taking an anti-depressant, a dog can help them to integrate back into society."

For the Taylors the transformation has been life-altering.

The couple adopted the puppy from H.A.L.O. Rescue and brought it to dog trainer and veteran Jay Harris for obedience training. He then introduced them to DFL for service dog training.

Once Pia Pia passed the service dog temperament tests – and Taylor received an okay from his VA counselor and two physicians – they breezed through ensuing training and tests with flying colors and became dual certified for hearing and PTSD.

Dog trainer Jay Harris requires service dog Pia Pia to hold his gaze before entering the Greenhouse Cafe where he will complete further training with the pug's owner James Taylor.

"When Shelly told me she could make Pia Pia into a service dog I was skeptical at first; pugs are traditionally a stubborn breed," explained Taylor. "But she was persistent; she never said no. It's an outstanding organization."

The dog helps in many ways, such as alerting him to doorbells and alarms, and can use a special canine phone to dial 911. She gets Jim when Dawn tells her to "Go get Daddy," and once alerted her that he had fallen.

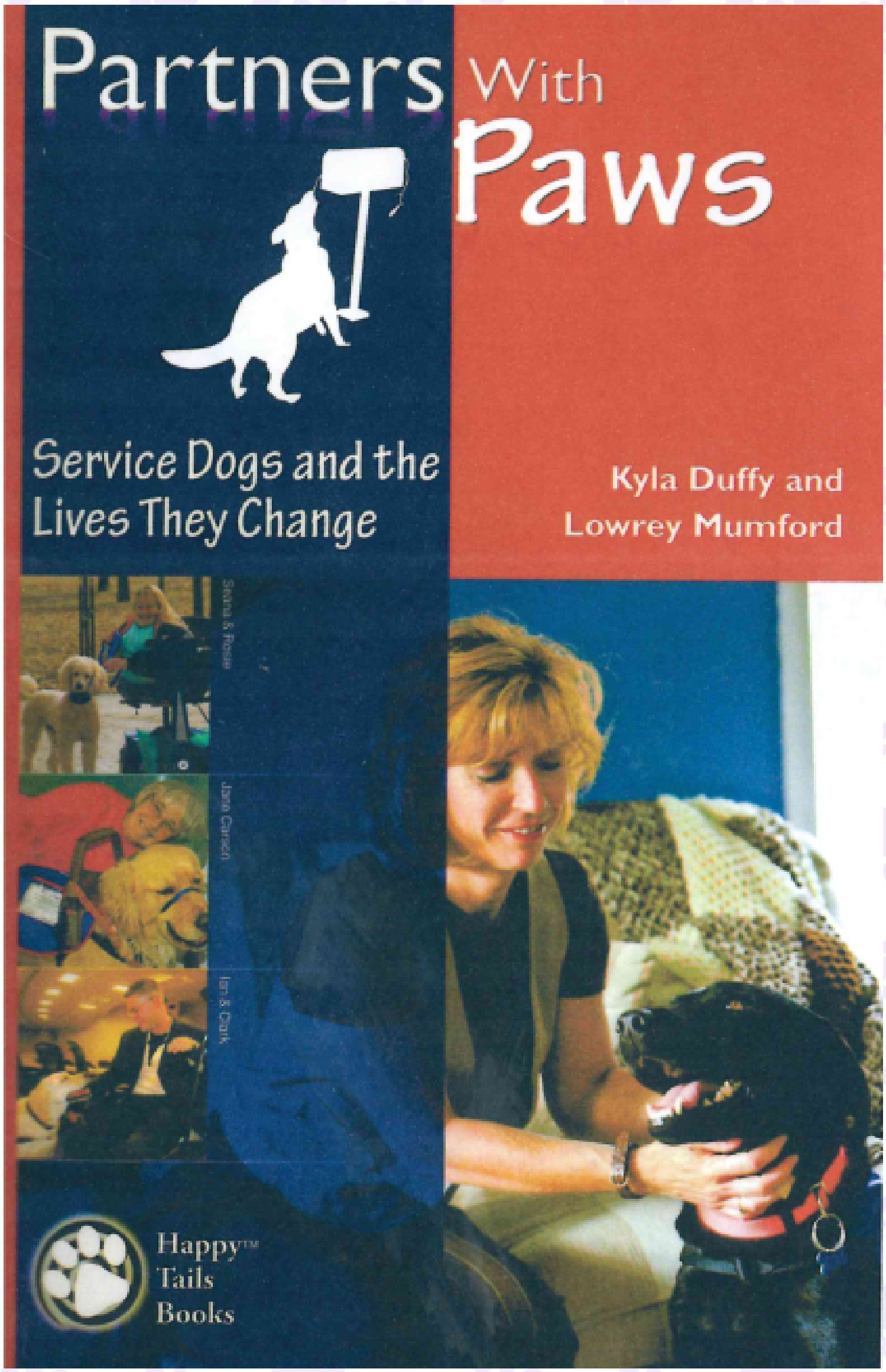
Taylor becomes anxious when people get too close and, at his command, Pia Pia creates a circle around him, keeping people away at leash length.

"What Shelly and her team did, the dedication they had, was amazing," said Dawn Taylor. "They were very patient and understanding; they definitely knew what they were doing, working together to train Jim and Pia Pia so quickly and so attentively. We have a life now.

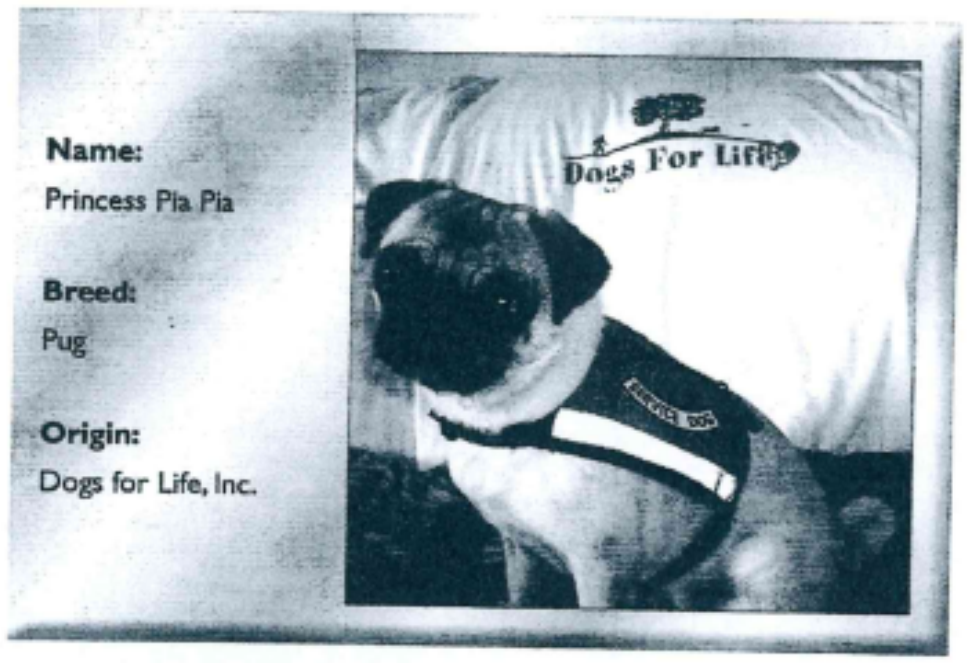
"We're just happy to help veterans any way we can," said Turner. "They sacrificed for the country and I think we should give something back to them." ■

James Taylor interacts with his service dog during a training session at the Greenhouse Cafe.

Partners with Paws



The Rescue Rescues



Princess was born on February 8th, 2009. Seven months later she was surrendered to the HALO No-Kill Rescue Shelter in Sebastian, Florida. Two days after she arrived at the shelter, we arrived alongside my in-laws to deliver food donated to the shelter by a local retailer. We decided to look around.

We went into a room lined with cages containing small dogs, who went crazy barking, jumping, and trying to get our attention. In the middle of the line was this lethargic little Pug puppy sitting quietly. We inquired about her and were told that she was surrendered because she had eye problems. She was nearly 50% blind. Shelter employees said that within a year or two, she could become completely blind unless she had surgery. Her previous

owner did not want to be bothered with fixing her eyes or trying to sell her, so she just surrendered her.

We filled out the adoption paperwork immediately. If you could have seen her, you, too, would have fallen in love and adopted her. The shelter accepted our application, and we paid the adoption fee, but we had to wait two weeks before she could actually come home because she had to finish up her puppy shots and get spayed.

Finally, the two weeks were over, the rescue completed their requisite home visit, and Princess was cleared to come home with us. We changed her name slightly to Princess Pia Pia (Pay Pay), but we just call her Pia Pia.

Pia Pia began beginner obedience classes within a few weeks of coming home. Here limited eyesight made her difficult to train at first, but when we showed her big treats to get her to sit, stay, lie down, etc. and subsequently fed her small ones, she caught on fast. She did well in both beginner and intermediate obedience classes.

We took a break before entering the advanced class, so we could have her eyes corrected. The doggy ophthalmologist we found is the best. Pia Pia's surgery went well, but we were unsure how her recovery would go. It turned out there was nothing to worry about. The stitches came out within two weeks, at which time she was able to close her eyes and sleep through the night. Even so, the ophthalmologist warned us that she would always have some blindness.

We continued on to advanced obedience training, where Pia Pia excelled, but this time we did not have to show her the big treats; she could see the small ones.

With obedience training completed and her eyes corrected, Pia Pia was doing great. One day I got to talking with her trainer about my husband's hearing problem, and he mentioned that perhaps Pia Pia could become his hearing dog. My husband is a military veteran who has health concerns beyond hearing loss, but the hearing loss is what depressed him the most. It was very sad for him not to be able to hear his own daughter when she spoke to him, and he became more or less a recluse.

The trainer helped us contact Dogs For Life, Inc., an organization that trains service dogs. They came to evaluate whether my husband was a candidate for a service dog and to see if Pia Pia had what it would take. Within a couple of weeks, they started service dog training with her. At the same time, Pia Pia received a clean bill of health from her ophthalmologist; she had regained her sight and no longer had any issues.

These days our formerly underweight, lethargic, half-blind little Pug is well on her way to becoming a hearing dog for my husband. Both she and my husband have new lives, as the trust he has put in her has allowed him to gain confidence and go out more. We're again enjoying life and no longer confined to our home. I am so thankful to Dogs For Life, Inc. for helping us all to have a better life. I am also thankful for Pia Pia and my husband who have been working very hard.

Dawn Taylor

Good for You

Dogs for Life honors new members

On June 10, Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony held at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion.

Fred with service dog, Sissy Girl, was trained by Paula Via and Jay Harris. She has been trained in advanced obedience and will tap an elevator button and automatic door open button, as well as pick up and carry items. She will pull Fred's wheelchair when needed and will be trained to tap a 911 emergency phone in the future.

Joan, with hearing dog, Daisy, was trained by Patty Ruble and Patti Schell. Daisy also has been trained in advanced obedience and will alert Joan to someone knocking at the door, the alarm clock, stove and dryer timer. She will go get Joan's husband, Al, on command and will be trained to alert to the smoke alarm in the near future.

Twenty family members, dog park members and friends gathered to celebrate with a cake and to see the teams receive their certification vests and identification cards.

Both teams have exceeded the required 60 hours of training — public and in-home — under the supervision of program trainers, and DFl is proud to add them to the Dogs For Life, Inc. Family of 15 certified service and hearing dog teams in Vero Beach and Indian River County.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fred (center) with service dog, Sissy Girl, and trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris during the Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony.

Dogs for Life

Trainers and dogs recognized

Dogs For Life, Inc. recently held its Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion in Vero Beach.

Trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris have been working with service dog Sissy Girl, who will tap an elevator button and automatic door open button, as well as pick up and carry items. She will pull companion Fred's wheelchair when needed.

Trainers Patty Ruble and Patti Schell worked with hearing dog Daisy, who has been trained to alert companion Joan when someone is knocking at the door, as well as alert Joan when clock, stove and dryer alarms are sounding.

Both of these teams have exceeded the required 60-hours of training (public and in-home) under the supervision of program trainers.

Fred (center) with service dog Sissy Girl and trainers Paula Via and Jay Harris at the recent ceremony recognizing assistance dog trainers.

Joan (center) with hearing dog Daisy and trainers Patty Ruble and Patti Schell at the recent Assistance Dog Certification Ceremony.

Good for You, Indian River County, June 19

By reader submitted

Friday, June 17, 2011

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Hearing and Service Dog Certification Ceremony

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 6/1/2011 6:13:53 PM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Cc: Dogs For Life
Subject: Fw: DFL INVITES YOU TO SERVICE DOG CERTIFICATION CELEBRATION

-------Original Message-------

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 6/1/2011 8:10:54 AM
To: Dogs For Life
Subject: DFL INVITES YOU TO SERVICE DOG CERTIFICATION CELEBRATION

You Are Invited

Dogs For Life, Inc.
Assistance Dog Program Celebration
Hearing and Service Dog Certification Ceremony

Friday June 10, 2011
6:30 PM

Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion
1230 16th Avenue, 12th St. & 16 Ave. Vero Beach

Join us to celebrate the certifications of

Fred & "Sissy Girl" Service Dog Labrador Retriever
And
"Joan & Daisy" Hearing Dog Miniature Poodle

Meet and socialize with service dog teams and their Trainers.

See how Service and Hearing Dog Teams are trained

DFL is proud to introduce them into the community

as

Public Certified Assistance Dogs!

Refreshments will be served

RSVP 772-567-8969

Shelly Ferger, Founder / Executive Director
Dogs For Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-7868
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
www.dogsforlifevb.com

Member
International Association of
Assistance Dog Partners

Accredited
Member

MAY

Yappy Hour

WOOF GANG BAKERY™
gourmet dog treats made with love

Please join us for our 1st Yappy Hour!

We will be having our very first **Yappy Hour on May 19th, from 6-8pm**. There will be "lite bites" and drinks, as well as treats for your 4-legged family member. **15% off everything in the store** to those in attendance. This event will benefit Dogs For Life, a wonderful non-profit organization that is 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. Woof Gang Bakery Vero Beach will be donating 15% of sales at the event to Dogs For Life.

Dogs For Life

We will be raffling off many wonderful prizes including a membership to the Dogs For Life dog park for 1 year, valued at **$250**. There will also be a raffle for a free groom by our dog groomer, Danica David, valued at up to **$75.00**.

You don't want to miss this wonderful event!

From: Dogs For Life
Date: 5/13/2011 11:44:25 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients
Cc: Dogs For Life
Subject: DFL & Woof Gang Bakery Invites You and Your Dog!!

WOOF GANG BAKERY™
gourmet dog treats made with love

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BRIGHTLIGHTS
& RED CARPETS
Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com
Indian River County
Woof!
In some more canine-related news, Dogs for Life and the Woof Gang Bakery have started a collaboration. Woof Gang Bakery has chosen Dogs for Life to be the non-profit organization to benefit from its first Yappy Hour in the Vero Beach store from 6-8 p.m. this Thursday, May 19. Bring your doggie and socialize with your dog park friends, while enjoying the 15-percent store discount. Woof Gang Bakery is then donating an additional 15-percent of the proceeds to Dogs for Life. The store is located just west of TooJays in the Treasure Coast Plaza. There will be "lite bites" and drinks - and treats for the doggies. Many wonderful prizes will be raffled, including a membership to the Dogs For Life dog park for one year, valued at $250. There will also be a raffle for a free groom by dog groomer, Danica David, valued at up to $75. For details e-mail Shelly at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.
SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF MAY 16, 2011
BRIGHTLIGHTS
& RED CARPETS
Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com
Indian River County
Enjoying Yappy Hour
More than 30 people and their dogs visited the Woof Gang Bakery for Yappy Hour to benefit Dogs for Life Training Center Capital Campaign. For two hours, canines and humans partied festively, and Woof Gang gave everyone a gift bag with dog goodies inside.
Woof Gang Bakery is located in Treasure Coast Plaza.
SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF JUNE 6, 2011

Senior Connection

Senior Resource Association

senior connection

...seniors in our community

The Senior Resource Association is a non-profit organization providing activities, education and services benefiting seniors

1102 friends

se you to meet our newest volunteer. Cody
one. Cody is volunteering as a student intern
rough the Education Resource Center. He
sists Kelly deLong with programs at the
nior Center and has recently started helping
SVP in the volunteer office.

If you know a high school or college
udent that would like to volunteer through
e internship program, please call Ryan Johns
772.469.3147.

MEALS ON WHEELS *by Leila Heptinstall*

Keeping Our Pets Healthy and Happy Keeps Our Seniors Happy and Healthy

Meet Kona, a certified therapy dog who is also our Pet Meals on Wheels mascot. Kona's owner, Dwight Hoffman, is one of our volunteers for Meals on Wheels.

Can owning a pet extend your life? Several studies say yes, and we see that many homebound elderly who own pets enjoy a fuller life. Senior Resource Association has teamed up with the Indian River Humane Society to assist homebound elderly in caring for their pets. Once a month, supplies are delivered to homebound clients with a pet – dog food, cat food, cat liter, pet snacks, anything necessary for their furry friend to stay happy and healthy. It can be very difficult for our pet owners to make it to the pet store due to their condition, so we are lending a helping hand with our Pet Meals on Wheels! We want our seniors to live life to the fullest and we can accomplish this by ensuring their pets are well taken care of, too.

For more information about Pet Meals on Wheels contact the Senior Resource Association Nutrition Department at 772.794.1142.

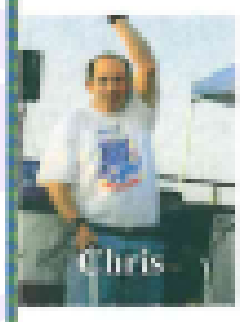
ADULT DAY SERVICES *by Carol Versak*

Pet Therapy Comes to SRA's Adult Day Care

Being around an animal can have a calming and comforting effect. Research backs up the important role our pets play in terms of mental and physical stimulation. Some of the important benefits are lower blood pressure, decreased anxiety and stress, and increased feelings of well-being. A pet is a nonjudgmental listener who won't notice the wrong word being used or show impatience when hearing the same story once again. Even nonverbal communication is welcome. This is the idea behind pet therapy in our Adult Day Services program. Every Friday morning Pat Ruble with Dogs for Life brings one of her two Australian cattle dogs to visit with clients. The ideal pet is calm and gentle with no aggressive tendencies. Beer and Patch fit this description perfectly. Pat knows when to allow her dog to approach and when to back away. She allows both the client and the dog time to get acquainted and then interact. The visit may spark memories of a childhood pet and lead to animated conversation. Others who rarely verbalize may extend their hands to stroke the dog. Everyone enjoys these interactions—as evidenced by wagging tales and big smiles!

Your Money at work.....

ARC's Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship



Our first recipient of the Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship joined the ARC family in January. Gary Simmons has taken to life at The Arc like a fish takes to water. Gary is very active in the community and participates in many of the Special Olympics sports and Special Equestrians. He is also an artist and has raised money for Special Olympics selling his paintings.

The scholarship criteria are that they must be at least 22 years old with developmental disabilities and be a resident of Indian River County. This 6 month scholarship is an introduction to the Adult Day Training program on Wednesday and Thursday of each week from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Scholarship recipients will need to make arrangements for transportation to and from the Adult Day Training facility. Interested applicants should contact Theresa Stewart at (772)562-6854 ext. 219. If you wish to support this scholarship program, tax deductible contributions may be made to : ARC of Indian River County, Christopher Coleman Memorial Scholarship, 1375 16th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960

THANK YOU GRAND HARBOR OUTREACH!

Because of your grant we now have a computer lab. The students enjoy their classes and are rapidly learning to be computer savvy!

Mark your calendars now for the
29th Annual "Ocean Grill Night"
Tuesday, May 10

What a terrific way to help ARC – enjoy an unbelievable evening of fine dining and donating to ARC at the same time! Profits from the evening meals are donated to ARC to service programs for the developmentally disabled in Indian River County.

Dining hours are 5pm to 10pm. For reservations of 5 or more call 772.231.5409. The Ocean Grill is located on Sexton Plaza at the end of Beachland Blvd, just east of A1A.

The return on Your "Investments" ~ "A lifeline to a better life"

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors Succeed!"

APRIL

Pinnacle Award

PEOPLE

Rebecca B. Colton honored with Pinnacle Award

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

A packed crowd of colleagues, friends and family attended the fourth annual Pinnacle Award breakfast at the Quail Valley River Club to pay tribute posthumously to Rebecca (Becky) B. Colton, the 2011 Pinnacle Award recipient.

Colton was just 57 years old when she died in September, leaving a legacy of professionalism, friendship and love that spans the entire community.

Colton had lived most of her life in Vero Beach, graduating in 1971 from Vero Beach High School, and eventually establishing the firm Rebecca B. Colton, CPA in 1986. Her husband, Bruce Colton has been the state attorney serving the 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida since 1985.

The room was brimming with fellow CPAs, attorneys, bankers and other charitable-giving professionals, along with numerous fund development representatives from many non-profit organizations.

Colton cheerfully counseled the various charitable groups with accounting and auditing services.

The Pinnacle Award recognizes excellence in charitable planning, honoring professional advisors for their outstanding voluntary service to local non-profit organizations in promoting charitable giving through estate and gift planning. The award is presented by the Indian River Estate Planning Council and the Planned Giving Council of Indian River.

The three previous recipients were attorneys Robin A. Lloyd, Sr. in 2008, Samuel A. Block in 2009 and John E. Moore, III in 2010.

Event chairman Richard Johnson, gift planning counselor at the Visiting Nurses Association, welcomed the gathering and thanked sponsors, and then turned the microphone over to Sue Tompkins, who had nominated Colton for the award.

"When I first heard that the Pinnacle Award was being established, my immediate reaction was - we have to make sure that Becky gets nominated. She needed to be recognized," said Tompkins, vice president/financial advisor at Merrill Lynch. "You could not help but like Becky. She was very good at what she did, and she loved what she did."

Tompkins related that the process of putting together all that Becky had done for the community, especially in helping non-profit organizations to get their financial houses in order, was a collaborative effort.

"Becky did so much, but did it qui-

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Easter Bonnet Pawrade

VERO BEACH
Hometown News
Vol. 8, No. 33 Your Local News and Information Source • www.HometownNewsOL.com Friday, April 22, 2011

Easter bonnet buddies

Dozens of vendors lined the streets of historic downtown Vero Beach last Saturday for the 2011 Hibiscus Festival. New events like the Dogs For Life doggie Easter bonnet parade, the Old Vero Man Ice Age exhibit and a model train display meant there was something for everyone. Chris Williams and her chihuahua, Mona, wore their best Easter outfits for the parade.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

Indian River
COUNT

Festival draws thousands to Vero Beach

By Janet Begley
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

VERO BEACH – Toe-tapping music, a Chinese auction and American Indian dancers drew thousands to Vero Beach on Saturday for one of the biggest Hibiscus Festivals in recent history.

About 15,000 people poured into downtown for the historic city celebration, which raises funds for the nonprofit organizations Main Street Vero Beach and Vero Heritage Inc.

Crowds clogged streets in the afternoon, vying for parking places so they could enjoy the 175 vendors who lined 14th Avenue.

"We've got a really great crowd," said festival chairman Milt Thomas, as he watched people entering the Heritage Center in time for the Chinese auction, which offered 133 different items. "Each year, we try to make the festival better and better so it brings more people downtown."

In addition to the auction, there were seven new activities at this year's festival, spokeswoman Beverly Paris said. A doggie Easter parade sponsored by Dogs for Life drew more than 32 entries, with people and pets participating in the walk down 14th Avenue early Saturday. A mini American Indian powwow, a model railroad display, an exhibit on fossils, and a shopping cart parade benefiting the Harvest Food & Outreach Center were part of the afternoon activities.

Paris said Saturday's event drew the most volunteers (200), the most runners at the morning 5K run (175), and the most booths (175), since the festival was revitalized in 2004.

"Everything went really smoothly, when you consider we had 175 booths setting up at the same time in the morning," said Paris. "Everyone was converging at the same time but it went off without a hitch. There were booths in every nook and cranny."

Under a tent on 14th Avenue, the Old Vero Man Ice Age committee offered various displays about the presence of fossils in Vero Beach, and the effort to raise funds to properly excavate them. The event also included the chance for kids to sift through sand from an excavation site find shells and other treasures.

A community street party began at the conclusion of the festival and ran until 8:30 p.m. along 14th Avenue. Featured musicians included the first Vero Beach appearance of the award-winning Solid Gold Band, a Dancin' Through the Decades variety show and an Motown Revue, all carried on a Jumbotron screen on the corner of 21st Street.

Paris said that the festival is designed to bring people into the downtown area for some fun and entertainment.

"It's a chance for people to get together, to meet people they haven't seen in a while," Paris said.

PHOTOS BY SAM WOLFE/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

With a freshly picked homegrown hibiscus flower behind her ear, Kerry Firth, owner and publisher of InsideTrack Almanac, laughs with visitors to the Hibiscus Festival on Saturday afternoon. "This is straight from my yard," Firth said.

Donavan Chesser (left), 19, and Danny Tat, 15, demonstrate dance for spectators during a powwow at the Hibiscus Festival on Saturday afternoon. Thousands of visitors attended t annual event, which featured food and craft vendors, musicians and various other demonstrations.

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF APRIL 17, 2011 24

Look for the Hibiscus Festival Special Section, April 14, in the Indian River Press Journal.

- 5K Race
- Pancake Breakfast
- **Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade-NEW!**
- Expanded Children's Activities
- Continuous Live Music- All Day throughout the Festival
- Salute to Youth
- **Chinese Auction-NEW!**
- Marketplace Booths
- Farmer's Market
- Juried Fine Art Show
- Shuffleboard Demo's
- **Mini Pow-Wow-NEW!**
- **Old Vero Man Ice Age Exhibit-NEW**
- Shopping Cart Parade
- **Model Train Display-NEW!**
- Food Booths
- Evening Street Party featuring Dancing Through the Decades with SOLID*GOLD

Inserted into the Indian River Press Journal on Thursday April 14.

Indian River Press Journal

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF MAY 8, 2011 24

SAYLUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

2011 Hibiscus Festival is one of largest ever

April 16, 2011

A shopping cart parade, a doggy Easter parade, Native American dancers, music, a railroad display, a Chinese auction, food, arts and crafts, a 5K run and much more drew 15,000 people into downtown Vero Beach for the annual street festival, raising funds for Vero Heritage, Inc. and Main Street Vero Beach.

8E » Saturday, April 23, 2011 » SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » 16

Robert and Robin Votaw with their pooch Sophie

Kathleen MacGlennon volunteers at the Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade

Thank You!

- To the 2011 Hibiscus Festival Committee
- To the Heritage Center, Vero Beach Community Center & Indian River County Sheriffs Department
- To the Hardworking Volunteers on Festival Day
- To the Thousands of People who Came and Enjoyed the Festival & Evening Street Party
- To the Many Generous Sponsors Who Made the 2011 Hibiscus Festival Possible

Presenting
Main Street Vero Beach
The City of Vero Beach
Evening Street Party
The Continental Group, Inc.
Children's Activities
George E. Warren, Corp.
Miss Hibiscus Pageant
Merrill Lynch/Nelson Morgan Wealth Management
Farmer's Market
Hale Groves
5K Run
Dr. Joe Thomas, DDS
Shopping Bags
Marine Bank
Marketplace
Vero Insurance
Signage
Green's Plus
Stage
All Florida Pest Control & Fertilization
Juried Fine Art Show
New Vision Eye Center
Décor
Bobby's Plumbing

Chinese Auction
Barker Air Conditioning & Heating, Inc.
Old Vero Ice Age Exhibit
Wachovia, A Wells Fargo Company
Salute to Youth
Center State Bank
Doggie Parade
Florida Veterinary League
Daytime Entertainment
Indian River Federal Credit Union
Sebastian River Medical Center
Vero Beach Magazine
Classic Video Game/Exhibit
Florida Virtual School
Patron
Florida Power & Light
TD Bank
General
Glendale Properties
RBC Bank
Richardson Family Foundation
Rossway Moore Taylor & Swan
Co-Sponsor of Doggie Parade
Dogs for Life

Friends of Hibiscus
Spring Hill Suites by Marriott Vero Beach
Waddell Insurance
In-Kind
Best Buy Vero Beach
Carrabba's Italian Grill
EmbroidMe
Everything Outdoors
Fat Cat Graphics
Gould Cooksey Fennell PA
Indian River Mall
Natalie's Orchid Island OJ
Publix
Road ID
Wasabi Anime
Media
Press Journal
WGYL 93.7 The Breeze
Printing
ABC Printing

2012 Hibiscus Festival – Friday, April 13 & Saturday, April 14

For more information, sponsorships or to be on the committee call: Milt Thomas 567-2897 or Beverly Paris 234-4412

Vero Heritage, Inc.

www.Hibiscusfestival.org

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2011 • HOMETOWN NEWS • WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

Dogs show best Easter attire

The 2011 Hibiscus Festival in historic downtown Vero Beach was a hit again this year. One of the highlights of the event was the Dogs For Life doggie Easter bonnet parade, where all of the best-dressed dogs went to show off their Easter outfits. Seven-year-old Calli Norris, left, and Emma Davis help get Mugsy, an English bulldog, ready for the event.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

A member of the community, who was not named, helped Dogs For Life kick start the capital campaign, donating $20,000. That same person has since donated another $25,000.

"Dogs For Life was not in a financial position to take on this campaign," Ferger said. But because of the donor's persistence and financial contributions, the group agreed to undertake the endeavor.

SAYLUMINARIES

luminaries@scripps.com

Indian Rive

Dog owners and on-lookers will want to get to the Hibiscus Festival early this year for the first time "Eas Bonnet Doggie Parade" to be held at 9:30 a.m. on April 16. Pictured are Shelly Ferger of Dogs for Life he "Sunny," while she visits with Darryl Horn of Florida Animal League and Kathleen MacGlennon of the Hib Festival committee.

HIBISCUS FESTIVAL HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

The annual Hibiscus Festival fun begins on Friday night, April 15, with the Miss Hibiscus Pageant at the Heritage Center beginning at 7 p.m. Seventeen young women will vie to become the 2011 Hibiscus Queen to preside over the Saturday festivities. All are invited to attend the pageant for a small $2 donation.

Saturday, April 16 is festival day beginning at 7 am with the 5K Run followed by a Pancake Breakfast. At 9 a.m., day-long activities include: Live music by the Community Center, Courthouse Executive Center and Bodega Blue; Stroll the booths of the Festival Marketplace and the Juried Fine Art Show and enjoy a tasty treat from the Food Court or the Farmers Market. Get souvenir posters, T-shirts and shopping bags available at the information booths. Kids will love the "Salute to Youth" (Community Center) and a variety of activities including Teen Karaoke on the Heritage Center Lawn. **Exhibits & displays** include Shopping Cart Display (Courthouse Executive Center), Old Vero Ice Age Exhibit, (Hibiscus Bldg.) Historical Society (Train Depot) Model Train Display (Community Center), Wasabe Anime Retrocade (Community Center). **Special Events** include Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade (9:30am), Pow Wow (Tennis Courts 1-2 p.m.) and the Chinese Auction (Heritage Center 12:30-2:30). At 4 p.m. OPM Band will entertain the crowd until 5:30 when the **Evening Street Party** begins ($2) featuring Dancing Through the Decades with SOLID"GOLD, Florida's #1 variety show band. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!** (Free T-shirt for a 3 hour shift) ~Visit HibiscusFestival.org to sign up.

Florida Veterinary League Presents

The Hibiscus Festival Easter Bonnet Parade

Saturday, April 16, 2011
9:30 am

Please Arrive For Registration
Beginning at 8:30 am

In The Parking Lot
Behind The Heritage Center
Historic Downtown Vero Beach

$5.00 Registration Fee

Bring Your Dog and Get in the Spirit of the Theme...
Wear the Symbolic Hibiscus Flower, Real or Artificial, and Proudly Walk the Parade Route Along 14th Avenue

A special gift for each participating dog!

Register to win a "Doggie Bag" filled with special gifts from your friends at **The Florida Veterinary League!**

Register to win One Year **"Free"** at the Dogs for Life Dog Park!
(good for an inoculated, neutered & social dog)

Free "poop bags" on hand... for everyone's convenience!

You and your dog will be introduced to the audience...so please share something special about your dog that everyone might want to know!

Stay after the parade and enjoy all the festival fun!

Florida Veterinary League

Co-Sponsored by Dogs For Life

Printing Sponsored by Printing Company

Graphic Design Sponsored by Fat Cat Graphics

DOG
EASTER
BONNET
Dogs For Life
VOLUNTEER

MARCH

American Legion

Vero Beach Theatre Guild

Vero Beach Theatre Guild

2010 - 2011 Season

53 Historic Years

Written by
Thomas Meehan

Composer
Charles Strouse

Lyricest
Martin Charnin

March 10th through March 27th

Sponsored By
Treasure Coast Financial Planning

Who's in the Cast

Brittany Gazdacko (Annie) Brittany is pleased to make her Guild dubut with this production of *Annie*. She plans to persue a career in film. Her theatre credits include *High School Musical, A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Everything's Coming Up Roses.* Brittany was also 2009's winner of Palm Beach Idol. She states that if she can be anywhere in the world, it would be the stage or behind a camera.

James Daly (Daddy Warbucks) As Board member and the recipient of multiple Genie awards, Jim has appeared, most recently, in *The Cemetery Club, Never Too Late* and *Cabaret.* Love for the Treasure Coast keeps Jim and family interested in staying involved with the Guild. Jim has been the lead for setting up all the computer systems for the Guild. Offstage, Jim is a broker with Coldwell Banker ed Schlitt Realtors.

Martha Kelly (Miss Hannigan) Martha has played a range of characters at the Guild, from the madame of a brothel to a singing nun, winning two Genies in the process. She studied acting at Elmira College and the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and earned a professional credit as Yvonne in *Pajama Tops.* Nana Kelly would like to reassure Caroline and Timmy that she really loves little girls and boys.

Vallery Thaw (Grace) Vallery, a single mother of two, is an
plished vocalist and a published author. She currently sings profes
with Soft Notes Jazz ensemble of Fort Pierce and Dragonfly Pro
of Vero Beach and makes appearances in many concerts, festi
productions worldwide. Vallery is not new to the Guild, winning
Actress and Outstanding Female Newcomer Genies for her role in
als, 2007.

Ben Earman (Rooster) Ben most recently appeared in this seas
ductions of *the Unexpected Guest* and *On Golden Pond.* He has b
forming with the Guild for many years and has won multiple Ger
directed last summers' production of *The Glass Mendacity.* He
holds a BA in musical theatre and has performed professiona
Busch Gardens. Ben is the drama teacher at Treasure Coast High S

Dana Rogers (Lilly St. Regis)
A 20-year VBTG trouper. Dana has appeared in many production
ing *Once Upon a Mattress,* for which she earned a Genie for bes
vocalist and best leading actress. She has also been awarded the
ious Bette Parfet Music Award and was so-recipient of the Gui
college scholarship.

Who's in the Cast

Paula Van Hooser (Chorus) Paula returns to VBTG after thirty years; when she played clarinet for *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Hello Dolly.* In the 1980's while Choral Director at the Vero Beach High School, Paula directed *Oklahoma, Carousel* and *No, No Nanette.* Currently Paula directs the Handbell Choir at the First Methodist Church and sings in the Chancel Choir.

Casey (Sandy) Making her theatre debut, Casey, a seven-year-old golden retriever, is a therapy dog who has listened to many elementary children read and brought joyful smiles to seniors in nursing homes. She enjoys running agility courses. She lives with her human parents Dan Thweatt and Paula Van Hooser and canine sisters Penny, Vero and Betty.

Rebekah Blumstein (Duffy) Rebekah is a 6th grader at Gifford Middle School. She has performed on the stages at Riverside, RCT and VBHS's PAC in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat, The Frog Prince, Alice Through the Looking Glass, A Little Princess, Doctor Doolittle, Honk, Aristocat Kids, Jungle Book, Wizard of Oz* and *101 Dalmatians.*

Kelly Muldoon (Pepper) Originally from Minneapolis, MN, Kelly recently moved to Vero Beach where she is attending Vero Beach Elemen-

Youth Ranch BBQ

Sheriff

DERYL LOAR • *INDIAN RIVER COUNTY*
MEMBER FLORIDA SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION
MEMBER OF NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION

4055 41st AVENUE VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960-1802 PHONE (772) 569-6700

March 9, 2011

Ms. Shelly Ferger
Dogs for Life
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Dear Ms. Shelly Ferger,

On behalf of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office and the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, I would like to personally thank you for participating in the 17th Annual Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ.

Because of the generous support you and our community provided for our annual barbecue fundraiser, we are able to present a check for $40,000 to the Youth Ranches this year! You can be very proud to have played a part in helping Florida's children.

Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Deryl Loar, Sheriff

DL:ltj

Indian River County Sheriff's Office

17th Annual

Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches BBQ

Wednesday March 2, 2011

4055 41st Avenue · Sheriff's Office Complex

FREE Parking and Shuttle Service

Pork and Chicken dinners

Tickets: $5.00 - Adults and Children 5 & over

FREE Hot Dogs - Children under 5

Dinners Served from **2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Static Displays, K-9, SWAT & CERT Demonstrations, Jail, 911 Center Tours & More...begin at **2:00 p.m.**

A ***GREAT*** way to help our youth and a ***GREAT EVENT***!

Since 1957 the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches have continued to answer the needs of troubled and neglected children. The Youth Ranches have redirected the lives of thousands of young people throughout Florida.

Produced by the Inmate Vocational Program of Design Publication

Static Displays & Vendor Booth

A huge Thank You to our many participants for your support of the Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranches

Alzheimer's Parkinson Association of IRC
American Legion
American Red Cross
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Classic Cars and Motorcycles
Council of Community Services
Crime Stoppers of the Treasure Coast
Dogs for Life
Drug Enforcement Administration
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Fellsmere Police Department
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Florida Highway Patrol
Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County
IRSC – Criminal Justice Academy
Indian River County Blood Bank
Indian River County Elections Office
Indian River County Emergency Services
Indian River County Public Shooting Range
Indian River County Sheriff's Office Explorers Post 556
Indian River County Victim Advocates
Indian River County Victim Rights Coalition
Indian River Shores Public Safety Department
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
Save the Chimps
Sebastian Inlet State Recreation Area
Sebastian Police Department
Sexual Assault Assistance Program
Starting Life Over, Inc.
State Attorney Victim Advocates
Substance Awareness Council
The Salvation Army
2-1-1
UDT Seal Museum
U.S. Army
U.S. Coast Guard
U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Vero Beach Police Department
Victim Rights Coalition
Youth Guidance

Lake County Sheriff's Office
Mounted Patrol and Posse

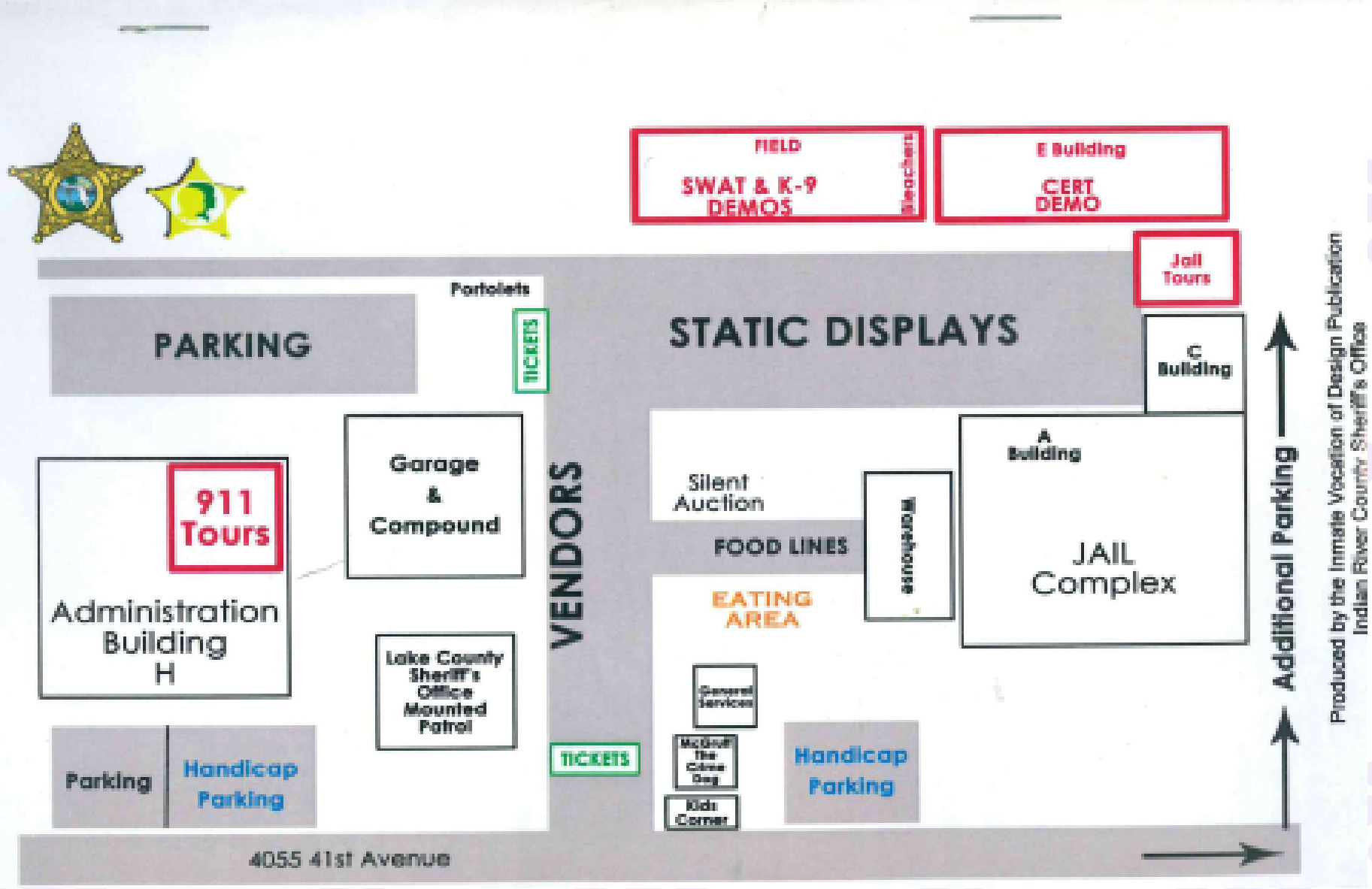
The Special Operations Division of the Lake County Sheriff's Office contains several specialized units. These units answer calls for service or respond to emergencies that would be impossible or impractical for regular Road Patrol Deputies to handle. The Deputies that work in these units are specialized deputies. They specialize in a particular area of law enforcement. This span of operation is dictated by the variety of calls for service received from the public. These special units absorb all calls for service, investigations or emergencies that cannot be handled by the other divisions.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Mounted Posse is a voluntary organization, working in conjunction with the Sheriff's Office. The basic purpose of the Mounted Posse is to assist the office, when the use of horses is advantageous, and to provide an organization wherein the Equestrians of Lake County can assemble and provide a variety of services to Lake County.

The Sheriff's Mounted Unit is utilized primarily for security in large parking lots, such as the Lake Square Mall. The Rider sits above the cars, which provides better visibility. This has proven very useful in deterring crime, particularly over the Christmas Holidays when the mall is very busy.

The Mounted Unit/Mounted Posse consists of two sworn deputies and their horses and approximately 20 Civilian Volunteers and their horses. These Deputies and Volunteers perform various types of patrols, civic functions and searches for missing persons and/or criminals.

IRC Sheriff's Office
Youth Ranches BBQ
March 2, 2011



In Memoriam

Veteran James Taylor SSG, US Army (Ret.)
And
Service Dog Pia Pia
Trained & Certified by Dogs For Life, Inc.

Dogs for Life

Vero Beach, Florida

In Loving Memory of

Phoebe A. Saucerman

The Brothers and Sisters of

Robert C. Saucerman

In Lieu of flowers, have made donations to

Dogs For Life, Inc.

Dog Training Program for Disabled Veterans

May The Road Meet You

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind blow at your back.
May the sun shine warmly on your face,
May the rain fall softly on your fields.
And until we meet again, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.
Amen

David Mansfield
A Celebration of Life
1963-2011

A Faux Effects International, Inc. Publication

Volume XIII

Faux Effects World®

The International Magazine of Decorative Finishing and Fine Art

Volume XIII, 2011 issue, Faux Effects World® magazine

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER

Meet the latest additions to our Faux Effects® Family

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization that trains assistance dogs for individuals and war veterans with hearing and physical challenges. Our volunteer pet assisted therapy program services eleven facilities in Indian River County, and DFL owns the 4 1/2 acre off-leash dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, where dog behavior and obedience classes are held for the public.

For information on dog park membership or how an assistance dog could help someone you love mitigate their disability contact DFL at (772) 567-8969 or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net. www.dogsforlifevb.com.

Dogs For Life

FEBRUARY

Service Dogs

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2011

INTHELIMELIGHT

luminaries@scripps.com

Dogs for Life

Importance of assistance dogs

In partnership with United Way of Indian River County, Dogs for Life, Inc., recently held an Assistance Dog Workshop, hosting more than 50 people anxious to learn more about training hearing and service dogs.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor spoke to guests about federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places.

For additional information, call (772) 567-8969 and visit dogsforlifevb.com.

Darrell Horn, Pat Scott and Indian River County Sheriff's Deputy Tony Consalo at the recent Assistance Dog Workshop hosted by Dogs For Life.

Darrell Horn, Tim Nightingale, Jim Taylor, Ben Humphries and David Martin are interested in learning more about the assistance dog program.

B14 • Vero Beach

Friday, February 25, 201

Hometown News

Clubs

From page B13

• Dogs for Life training classes: Hearing ear dogs assist with alerting owners to the telephone, someone knocking at the door, alarm clocks and smoke alarms. Mobility assistance training dogs are trained to bring a phone, pick up dropped items and help with balance stabilization. Pet assisted therapy volunteers and dogs are trained to sit quietly while children read or offer comfort and companionship.

Outreach programs: Leash dog park. Qualifying dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Call for orientation schedule.

The cost is $250 annually. Dog obedience classes at the Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Registration is $50. Drop in class is $10. *For more information call (772) 567-8969.*

CALENDAR

Classes, Workshops & Excursions

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE APRIL 2011

198

Dogs for Life offers training classes in dog obedience and behavior at the Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave. Park hours: dawn to dusk. Annual membership fee: $250/first dog; $50/each additional household dog. 567-8969.

ADI Newsletter

Assistance Dogs International

Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry since 1987

ROYAL VISIT FOR CANINE PARTNERS

Canine Partners for Independence, United Kingdom

Canine Partners welcomed a very special visitor to their National Training Centre and headquarters in 2010, which was the highlight of their 20th anniversary year. HRH Prince Harry, youngest son of HRH Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, spent 90 minutes seeing the facilities, meeting some of the puppies in training and talking to people who have benefited from having a canine partner.

On the Prince's arrival at the training centre, all the working dogs waiting in the courtyard to meet him broke out into a spontaneous welcoming bark, which made everyone smile and set the tone for a very informal and fun visit. Prince Harry was escorted around the training centre by Andy Cook, Canine Partners' CEO, and the first port of call was the training hall where several of the Charity's youngest recruits were waiting to impress the royal visitor.

Among the pups lucky enough to interact with Prince Harry were 14 week old Labrador Una, who happily shook paws with the Prince, and even showed off how good her recall was by running to him when he called her. Four-month-old Golden Retriever Trudy demonstrated how she was learning to put her front paws on a step, and went one stage further in front of Prince Harry by putting all four paws on the step and sitting down! But the pup that received the most royal attention was eight-week-old Veyron – named after the famous supercar the Bugatti Veyron. The image of the Prince cuddling the cute puppy was beamed all over the globe, and appeared in thousands of diverse publications and websites. As Prince Harry cuddled the pup, he commented on the little noises Veyron was making. Andy quickly responded by joking, "That is what he normally does before he is sick!" Later on, however, the Prince got his own back on Andy when they were watching a dog being groomed by jokily saying that he was allergic to dog fur.

Once the youngsters had performed, it was time for the older dogs in training to show off the more advanced skills they learn, including pulling bedclothes off, handing over a purse at a checkout and opening doors. Prince Harry was invited to get involved by putting some wheelchair gloves on and asking demonstration dog Doyle to remove them and put them in the washing machine. Undeterred by his famous temporary handler and all the world's media taking pictures, Doyle performed his duty and earned a pat on the head from the Prince.

Then it was on to meet two very new partnerships who were on their two-week residential course at the centre, learning the training and cementing the bond with their new dogs. Gwyneira Waters with her canine partner Nikki and Alison Wyatt with her new partner Maddy had a chat with Prince Harry about how they were looking forward to more independence and confidence when they took their new dogs home with them at the end of the course.

Prince Harry then had an opportunity to have a close look at the Charity's brand new state-of-the-art accommodation where applicants like Gwyneira and Alison stay when they are on their two-week residential course working with their new partner. The six chalets are fitted with a variety of hoists and other aids designed to allow people with even the most complex disabilities to stay there comfortably. *...continued on page 2*

The views and articles appearing in the ADI Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or policies of Assistance Dogs International, its members, officers, or Board of Directors.

Edited and published by Dogs for the Deaf, Oregon, USA

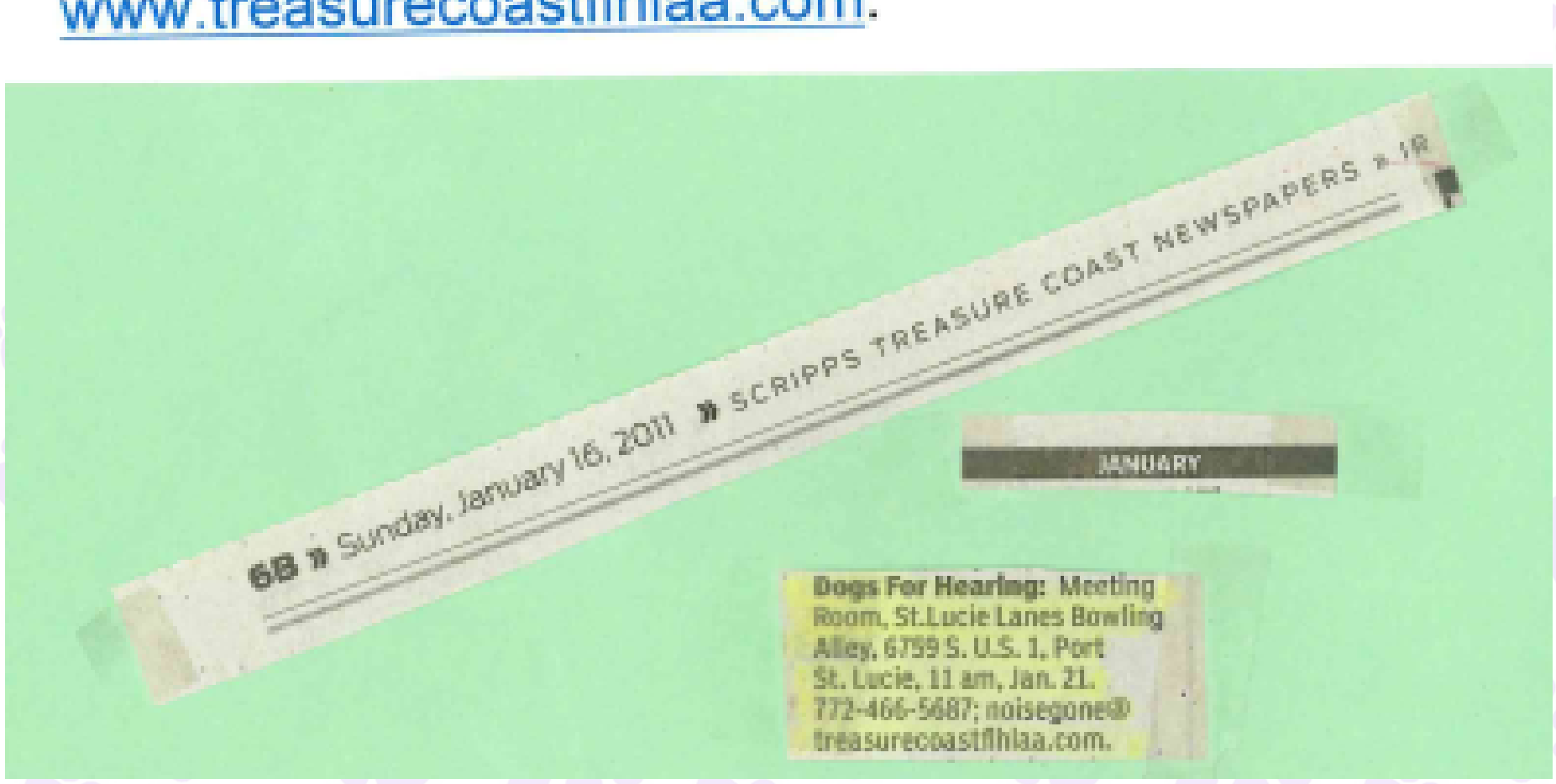
JANUARY

Assistance Dog Workshops

-------Original Message-------

From: William Nolte
Date: 12/27/2010 1:49:32 PM
To: Hearing Dogs
Cc: Rick Kottler
Subject: RE: Interpreter needed for DFL Assistance Dog Workshop in January

This is the Release I put together
DOGS FOR HEARING
On Friday, January 21, 2011, at 11 AM, the Treasure Coast Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America is hosting the Dogs for Life, Inc. for a presentation of their hearing guide dogs program, with a planned demonstration, at the meeting to be held at the St. Lucie Lanes Bowling Alley, 6759 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie.
Plans are for presentation by two hearing guide dog teams with Shelley Ferger, Founder and Executive Director of the Dogs For Life program. This is a "first ever" moment for the Chapter and the public is invited - meeting is free.
For further information, contact Bill or Cheryl at (772) 466-5687 or check the website,
www.treasurecoastflhlaa.com.



Assistance dog workshop offered

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

Dogs For Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs, and owning and managing the 12th Street off-leash dog park, hosted its annual Assistance Dog Workshop at the United Way Building, 1836 14th Ave., Vero Beach, on Jan. 11.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor presented an informative PowerPoint presentation and outlined the federal, state and local laws pertaining to assistance dogs in public places.

DFL Board Member Darrell Horn, DVM, announced the newly formed DFL assistance dog training programs for war veterans and DFL Executive Director Shelly Ferger explained DFL guidelines for training your own dog as an assistance dog.

The Assistance Dog Program is funded through tax-deductible donations at no cost to the recipients.

For additional information, contact Dogs For Life at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth or 772-567-8969 or www.dogsforlifevb.com.

SHELLY FERGER - TCPalm.com/YourNews
Jim Taylor holds a service dog, Pia Pia.

Dogs For Life, Inc.
Annual Assistance Dog Presentation

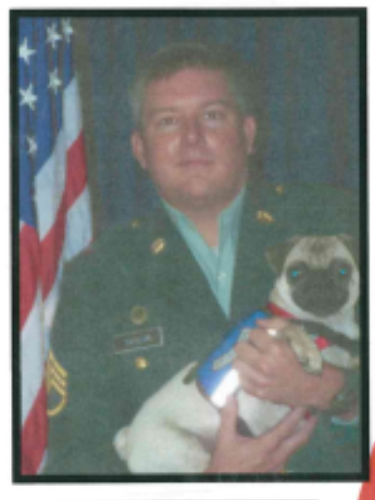
Guide Dogs for the Blind
Hearing Guide Dogs
Service Dogs

January 11, 2011
7:00 PM

United Way - 1836 14th Avenue Vero Beach, FL
FREE EVENT **FREE EVENT**

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

- How you and your dog qualify as an assistance dog team.
- How assistance dogs are trained.
- The local, state and federal laws governing assistance animals.
- How assistance dogs may affect your business.
- The penalties for interfering with an assistance dog team.



Speakers

- Chris Taylor, State Attorney's Office
- Darrell Horn, DVM- DFL Board Member and Chairman Assistance Dog Program
- Shelly Ferger, Founder/Executive Director Dogs For Life, Inc.
- Assistance Dog Demonstrations and Refreshments

Dogs for Life

What! Dogs In Public Places?

772-567-8969

Dogs For Life, Inc.
Annual Assistance Dog Presentation

Pre-Registration / Sponsorship Form

Dogs For Life, Inc.
PO Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
(772) 567-8969

Name _____ Business Name _____
Total attendees: _____

Corporate Sponsorship:	$500	$200	$100
Individual Sponsorship:	$100	$ 50	$ 25

Event Free To The Public

Sponsors will be recognized at the event!

Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Workshop, United Way - January 11, 2011

Presenter, Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor

Ilka Daniel, Humane Society VB & Norine with Abbie

Norine & Abbie, Pat & Holly, Fred & Sissy, Jim & Pia Pia, Phil & Deacon

Fred with Sissy Girl

Darrell Horn, DVM and Veterans Tim Nightingale, Jim Taylor, Ben Humphries, David Martin & Vic Diaz

Darrell Horn, DVM with Pat Scott and I.R. Co. Deputy Tony Consalo

Good for You

Dogs for Life conducts appreciation event

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs and owning and managing a off-leash dog park that helps to cover program costs, held its annual Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Event at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park on Dec. 11.

DFL President Al Turner presented the awards and thanked donors, volunteers and staff for their service. The Volunteer of the Year Award was presented to Linda Liss; the Assistance Dog Team of the Year Award was presented to Jim Taylor and his service dog, Pia Pia; Carl Miller of DHI Advertising and Design was presented with the Media of the Year Award; The Garden Club of Indian River was Awarded the In-Kind services of the year; Barbara Bodnar and her dog, Maddux, were presented with the Pet Assisted Therapy Team Award; Janet Riley was presented with the Individual Philanthropist Award; and Jeff Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping was presented with the Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award.

Volunteers and donors were treated to hot dogs and refreshments served by the AmVets of Indian River County and the Off-Leash Dog Park Memorial Garden Pavilion was dedicated in honor of Eddie and Gail Bostwright.

Annual Meeting

Scrapbook

2010

OCTOBER

Howl-O-Ween

THE FIRST & THE ONLY
Vero Beach Magazine®
DECEMBER 2010
PEOPLE & PARTIES

Dogs For Life Howloween Pawrade

OCTOBER 23: Halloween was the theme for the ***Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade*** at the off-leash dog park. Alma Lee Loy was the guest speaker to kick off the dog costume parade, and there was also an Indian River County Sheriff Department's K-9 Unit demonstration, raffle drawings, pet vendors and treats for all of the 108 pups in costumes.

Volunteers Sheila Lowenstein and Lee Marsick

Dogs For Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard open the parade

Hotdog Huck with Margaret Wall

Guest speaker Alma Lee Loy with Marie Gerkin

Rowdy "The Sheriff" dressed as a pumpkin

Rascal and Scruffy sported matching costumes

An assistance dog joins in the festivities

24
SAYLUMINARIES
luminaries@scripps.com
Indian River County
25
SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2010

Luminaries seen at . . .
9th Annual Howl-o-Ween

October 23, 2010

What a show! With a record-breaking number of 108 dogs in costume and more than 400 people in attendance, the Howl-o-Ween Pawrade to benefit Dogs for Life was the best ever!

Deputy Sgt. Patrick White with Martin Lavendar

Alma Lee Loy, Shelly Ferger and members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard

4-H Dog-Masters Kylie and Kelsey Murphy

Eleanor Bengyak and Sandi Kelly

Ilka Daniel and Bruce Dangerfield at the Humane Society booth

Saturday, October 23, 2010

Rain Date: October 30, 2010

1 PM - Pawrade at 4 PM

Off-Leash Dog Park

12th Street & 16th Avenue – Vero Beach

Vendors Booths: **Exhibitors Products and Services Your Dog Will Love!**
Color Guard - Agility Dog Demo - Law Enforcement K-9 Demo - Tricks For Treats

Dogs For Life

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

Please do not costume your dog in any way that could cause harm

Howl-O-Ween a howling success for dog park

BY SHELLY FERGER
YourNews contributor

Wow! Wow! Wow! What a day.

The Dogs For Life Inc. ninth annual Howl-O-Ween Off-Leash Dog Park Canine Costume Pawrade will go down in history as being a howling success!

What a show, with a record-breaking number of 108 dogs (and many owners and children) in costume.

Estimates are that more than 400 people attended the event.

This makes the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade the "Best Ever" dog park signature fundraising event.

Twenty-nine vendors, including eight nonprofit organizations, and 51 sponsors, who donated 19 raffle items, and 75 volunteers helped to support the day's activities.

We are so grateful to everyone who helped to make this event a success and fun for all.

The Indian River County Sheriff Department's K-9 Unit demonstration kicked off the day's activities for the ninth year.

Alma Lee Loy served as our guest speaker and helped to launch the "DFL Assistance Dog Training for Veteran's Program."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars led the Pawrade with its color guard, followed by DFL Assistance Dog Teams, followed by 108 dogs and owners announced by Martin Lavander.

What a sight it was and what fun was had by all!

Blanca Keresey and Marge Bailey pose with Rowdy and Burri enjoy the Howl-O-Ween event at the 12th Street Off-Leash Dog Park

MARGE BAILEY • TCPalm.com/YourNews

"Cowdog" Mitzi at last year's event

Dogs on Parade for Howl-O-Ween

Dogs for Life will hold its ninth annual ***Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade & Pet Expo*** October 23 at the Dog Park on 12th St. and 16th Ave. in Vero Beach. Gates will open at 1 p.m. for vendor booths, and the parade will be held at 4 p.m. Booths will include veterinarians, pet stores, pet sitters, dog rescue organizations, groomers, jewelry and auto dealers. Vendor and sponsor costs range from $50 to $5,000.

Pre-registration is required for parade participants, but there is no charge.

For information, registration, vendor or sponsorship opportunities, call Shelly Ferger at 567-8969.

HOWL-O-WEEN CANINE COSTUME PARADE & PET EXPO
TO BENEFIT DOGS FOR LIFE
OCTOBER 23, 1:00 PM
DOG PARK / 12TH ST. & 16TH AVE.
COSTUME ATTIRE
SHELLY FERGER, 567-8969

OCT 23 Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade & Pet Expo: Dogs for Life will hold its annual pet parade at 4 p.m., vendor booths open at 1 p.m. at the Dog Park, 12th St. and 16th Ave. No cost; registration required. 567-8969. (See Previews)

TCPALM.COM'S
YourNews
Wednesday, October 20, 2010
Vero Beach, Sebastian, Fellsmere, Gifford

Dogs For Life to host Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade

BY SHELLY FERGER

Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training dogs and owning and managing an off-leash dog park, is hosting the ninth annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo.

The event is set for 1-5 p.m. Oct. 23 at the dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

The public is invited to bring their dogs "on-leash" or "in-costume" for a free and fun parade.

Vendor opportunities are available starting at $50. Nonprofit organizations are invited to operate a vendor booth for free.

Activities will include a military color guard by the Veterans of Foreign War and a law enforcement K-9 demonstration.

Alma Lee Loy, who is the grand marshall, will open the parade introducing the DFL Assistance Dog Training for Veterans Program. Martin Lavander of Blue Ribbon Grooming will be announcing the parade.

Prizes will be awarded to all parade participants, and there will be "Treats for Dog Tricks."

DFL will give a presentation on its Assistance Dog Program and the Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Certification Programs.

Information will be available on membership to the off-leash dog park.

Bring your lawn chairs and be prepared to have fun.

For additional information, contact Shelly Ferger, dog park founder and executive director, at (772)667-8869.

DOGS FOR LIFE • TCPalm.com/YourNews

Bumble bees, witches and pirates — Be prepared to have fun at the Howl-O-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade!

E10 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2010 • IR

HALLOWEEN AND FALL EVENTS ON THE TREASURE COAST

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NEW LISTINGS

SATURDAY

Howl-O-Ween: Canine costume pawrade, pet expo. Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 1-5 p.m., Oct. 23. (772) 567-8969.

B8 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2010 • IR

HALLOWEEN SCHEDULE

Howl-O-Ween: Canine costume pawrade, pet expo. Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 1-5 p.m., Oct. 23. (772) 567-8969.

B2 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2010 • IR

B2 • Vero Beach

Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade: Dog Park, 12th St., 16th Ave., Vero Beach, 1-5 p.m., Oct. 23. (772) 567-8969.

Friday, October 22, 2010

Hometown News

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Out

From page B1

• **Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo.** Off-leash dog park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 10 a.m. Presented by Dogs For Life, Inc. Website: www.dogsforlifevb.com.

VERO BEACH

Vendors wanted for Pawrade

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting the ninth annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 23 at the dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach

Last year more than 300 residents brought their dogs with 100 dogs in costume for the free parade. Vendor opportunities are available starting at $50. Nonprofit organizations are invited to have a vendor booth for free.

Activities include a military Color Guard by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a multi law-enforcement K-9 demonstration. Alma Lee Loy, who is the grand marshal, will open the parade introducing the Dogs for Life Assistance Dog Training for Veterans Program.

Prizes awarded to all parade participants, and there will be "Treats for Dog Tricks." Bring your lawn chairs and be prepared to have fun.

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger, dog park founder and executive director, at (772) 567-8969.

Vero Beach 32963 / September 16, 2010

CALENDAR

October 23
Dogs for Life 9th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade & Expo at the Dog Park, free for spectators and parade participants. 567-8969

VERO BEACH

Howl-O-Ween parade is Oct. 23

Dogs For Life Inc. is hosting the ninth annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo from 1 to 5 p.m. Oct. 23 at the dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

The public is invited to bring their dogs on-leash or in-costume for a free and fun parade. Vendor opportunities are available starting at $50. Nonprofit organizations are invited to have a vendor booth for free.

Prizes will be awarded to all parade participants, and there will be "Treats for Dog Tricks." Dogs for Life will give a presentation on their Assistance Dog Program and the Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Certification programs. Information will be available on membership to the off-leash dog park.

For more information, call Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

Staff report

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2010 4

Take your dog to the Pawrade

Kay Ruma with her soft-coated Wheaton Terrier Maxx at last year's Costume Pawrade to benefit Dogs for Life.

Dogs For Life, Inc. (DFL), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community by training hearing dogs, service dogs and owning and managing an off-leash dog park, is hosting its 9th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade & Pet Expo from 1-5 p.m. on Oct. 23 at its dog park located at 12th Steet and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Take your dog in-costume for a free and fun parade. Vendor opportunities are available starting at $50.

Prizes will be awarded to all parade participants, and there will be "Treats for Dog Tricks." DFL will give a presentation on the Assistance Dog Program and the Pet Assisted Therapy Dog Certification program.

For more, call Shelly Ferger at (772)567-8969.

A section of Treasure Coast Newspapers

INDIAN RIVER
Press Journal

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

High: 84 Low: 67
Rain: 5%
DETAILS, C8

TCPalm.com

Friday, October 22, 2010

75 cents

WHAT A WEEKEND!

From Halloween-themed events to pet expos, Tyler Treadway has your weekend covered.

WEEKEND, D1

Scare up fun at Halloween events this weekend, too

TYLER TREADWAY
WHAT A WEEKEND

With so many people professing it's their favorite holiday, Halloween can't be contained to a single night. Take advantage of the Halloween-y activities scheduled this weekend — such as the Howl-o-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and haunted houses in Vero Beach and Sebastian — to get yourself primed for the main event Oct. 31. (Note: Guys in 4-inch pumps in the SafeSpace benefit, although scary, don't technically constitute a Halloween event.)

PUTTIN' ON THE DOG

Before the kids go out trick-or-treating next weekend, dress up Fido in his Capt. Jack Sparrow costume and take him to the Howl-o-Ween Canine Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday at the dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Dogs for Life Inc. is sponsoring the free parade for leashed dogs, complete with prizes and "treats-for-tricks," and will give presentations on its assistance dog and the pet-assisted therapy dog certification programs. For information, call (772) 567-8989.

Howl-O-Ween
Canine Costume Pawrade

Free to the Public

Every Dog in Costume Wins a Prize!!

SEPTEMBER

Nile Monitor Lizard

Indian River County

SECTION B • THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010 • TCPALM.COM • IR

Officials: Don't be scared of dog park

Animal Control Officer says Nile monitor lizard 'afraid of people'

BY LAMAUR STANCIL
lamaur.stancil@scripps.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Dog park visitors need not be alarmed by Tuesday's Nile monitor find at Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, officials said.

Vero Beach Police Animal Control Officer Bruce Dangerfield said he shot the lizard with a dart gun after it ran into an oak tree outside the fenced-in property at the park, in the 1600 block of 12th Street. Though Nile monitors are deadly in an attack and would strike if cornered, they usually avoid a crowd, he said.

"They might go after a kitten under a trailer, but they're afraid of people," Dangerfield said. "They're known for climbing trees, but I doubt they would scale a chain-link fence."

Shelley Ferger, executive director of the dog park, said she sent e-mails Wednesday to the owners of its 240 four-legged members and told them the lizards pose no threat to visitors inside park.

"Safety is a huge issue at the park," Ferger said.

The only intruders she could recall at the park — which has been at the property 12 years — were a gopher tortoise and a non-member dog that burrowed a hole under a fence to get in, she said.

State officials said the lizard's impact has been greater in other parts of Florida. In Lee County, more than 150 Nile monitors were sighted between April 2001 and July 2003, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Other counties have had sightings, but Lee is the only one officials said has had breeding activity by the nonnative reptile.

Dangerfield said Tuesday's Nile monitor was the third one he has captured in the past 1 1/2 years within the vicinity of the block.

An edition of Treasure Coast News-Press-Tribune

INDIAN RIVER Press Journal

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

High: 89 Low: 76
Rain: 25%
DETAILS, C8

TCPalm.com Wednesday, September 15, 2010 75 cents

'Dangerous' Nile monitor lizard caught at Vero Beach dog park

BY LAMAUR STANCIL
lamaur.stancil@scripps.com

VERO BEACH — Chihuahuas and Great Danes weren't the only four-legged creatures running loose at the Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park Tuesday.

Vero Beach Police Animal Control Officer Bruce Dangerfield said he captured a 3-foot-long Nile monitor spotted at the park in the 1600 block of 12th Street.

"The caller who reported it described it as an alligator," Dangerfield said. "But these are actually more dangerous than alligators. They can poke your eye out with their tails. I went to the park and recognized it wasn't a gator."

The lizard fled up a tree, but Dangerfield said he was able to shoot it with a dart gun. Dangerfield said Tuesday's Nile monitor was the third one he has captured and euthanized in the vicinity of the park in the past 1½ years.

"They were all the same size," he said. "I'd imagine this one hatched out of an egg one of the other ones had left. There's no telling if there's any others out there."

Officials for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will examine the remains Wednesday to determine how the Nile monitor — which can grow as long as six feet — had been surviving in Vero Beach.

"They can eat just about anything except for a tin can," Dangerfield said. "The trouble is they'll go after small dogs as well."

Nile monitors are a type of lizard that isn't native to Florida. There are state prohibitions against personal ownership of the exotic creatures. Wildlife officials said the lizards invade nesting burrows and pose threats to the eggs of turtles, owls, gopher tortoises and American crocodiles.

Photo provided

Vero Beach Animal Control Officer Bruce Dangerfield holds a Nile monitor, which he shot and killed with a dart gun at a dog park in Vero Beach on Tuesday.

JULY

Paw Prints

Dogs For Life

PAW PRINTS NEWSLETTER
JULY 2010

Through The Eyes of a Soldier

By Dawn Taylor

Per Federal Law the definition of a service dog is when a dog has been trained to perform a specific task for a person diagnosed with a disability, such as a Hearing dog alerting their hearing impaired owner to sounds and a Guide dog guiding their sight impaired owner.

A mental condition is not as specific as deafness or blindness. It affects each person in many different ways. To train a Service Dog for a person diagnosed with a mental condition, the task trained must be specific to the diagnosed disability. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), for instance, is a condition in which the person has been involved in something that is very stressful as well as traumatic for the individual such as a soldier going to war.

Veteran of Iraq Jim Taylor
and service dog Princess Pia Pia

Going to war, a soldier is expected to shoot and kill if they feel their life or a life of an innocent person is in harm's way. A soldier sees things that are not normally seen such as deceased people, explosions of vehicles or bodies and so on. During that time the soldier is involved in war, it becomes a part of them, in order to survive it needs to be. Once the soldier is home and life is supposed to return to "normal" the memories or haunting memories of those instances come back so real that they are transported back to that same arena. This is not normal so they will begin counseling, not to get rid of the memories, but to learn to live with them. This is not so easy for the PTSD diagnosed person, just walking into a crowded store or having someone walking too close behind them heighten their senses to a fight or flight situation but which would they choose, fight or flight? A fight situation could end badly whereas a flight situation would just have the PTSD person leave with no repercussions.

This is where the task trained service dog comes in. PTSD dogs can be trained "on command" to create a situation where the owner has an excuse to leave a particular situation. This type of training is an example and is considered a 'task' where the dog is legally a service dog. Dogs must be trained for a specific task that mitigates a specific disability. Although companion dog qualities are very important to the individuals they do not qualify as task trained.

Dogs For Life, Inc. Awarded ADI Accreditation

Accredited Member
2010 - 2014

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, by training assistance dogs, has recently earned accreditation with Assistance Dogs International (ADI). ADI sets standards for the worldwide assistance dog movement, promotes standards of excellence in all areas of Assistance Dog Programs, facilitates communication and learning among organizations, and educates the public to the benefits of these programs.

DFL has been evaluated as a non-profit organization in the areas of corporate and legal regulations, board and staff management, criteria for screening and matching dogs and clients, and that training these special dogs is professional and of the highest standard. Assistance dog users trust their lives and safety to their dogs, so everything related to the training of both the dogs and the people must meet extraordinary criteria.

DFL Joins 69 (ADI) accredited organizations of 161 worldwide members from North America, Europe, Australia / New Zealand, Asia and Latin America.

In Loving Memory of Duke

Duke and Ruth

Duke was one of the first dogs DFL trained as a service dog with Ruth Hopkins in June of 2002. Duke was originally trained to retrieve a portable phone on command. The phone was mounted close to the floor so he could reach it. Later he easily made the transition to tap a special 911 phone for Ruth in case of an emergency.

Ruth delighted in telling the story of (how it happened no one knows, feline or canine), but the 911 phone was tapped by accident. When the deputy arrived, he told Ruthie that Duke looked like a nice dog; so he would not take him to jail for a "false alarm."

Duke, Ruth's beloved service dog and companion is missed but remembered at the dog park memorial garden. His memory will be cherished always by Ruth and DFL.

Norine & Abby Reach Certification

With eight months of training under their belt and collar Norine & Abby have reached full public access certification.

The long search for a hearing dog ended when Norine found Abby at the Humane Society of Vero Beach. And although Abby has anxiety issues; we took a chance and it paid off, and paid off BIG!

Not only does Abby have a very high work ethic, and has been able to accomplish all we have asked of her. Norine has been committed to helping Abby through her fear of storms, loud noises and crowds with patience, love and the occasional body wrap.

Be On-The-Look-Out for Norine, she is a very active senior and you will see Abby with her helping her to "hear her way" around Vero Beach.

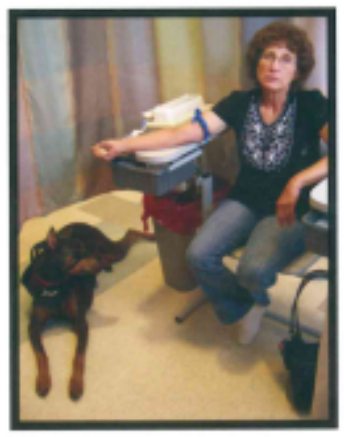
Norine & Abby (hearing dog), Assistance Dog Trainers Patty Ruble, Patricia Scott and Beth Stryker

K-9 Emergency 911 Phone A Life Saver

By: Valerie Washburn

Athena has been going to Mayo with me for the past year. Since December of 2009 I have had to go at least once a week to attend support groups and for regular blood draws, out patient procedures, doctor visits and once in awhile in patient surgery. My disease is terminal; unless I get a liver transplant in time. Even the doorman at Mayo knows Athena, he just loves to see us each time we arrive as he watched her grow from a sweet puppy to the most beautiful Doberman Pinscher that she is today. The Chaplain also knows her very well. She told me that she can feel Athena's energy and that she has a kind and loving spirit.

Athena motivates me to take care of myself and stay alive no matter how sick I feel. No one could ever care and love her more than me. The devotion and care she gives me in return every day is more than words can describe. I am so grateful for the tireless devotion DFL has given us. I probably would be dead if not for DFL because Athena saved my life when she tapped the K-9 911 phone in a real life emergency this year.



Val & Athena meet Norine & Abby at the Vero Beach Fresh Market

Rascal Greene Jones
September 8, 1996 - June 15, 2010

DOGS FOR LIFE INC

We just want to say

Thanks!

Rascal enriched our lives so much and we are grateful for the opportunity you provided to give a little back to him.

Dogs For Life,Inc. Memorial Donations

~ Since January 2010 ~

In Memory of:

Efis & Rocky
Ms. Kerry Bartlett

Thomas Dietz
Whitney Foundation

Duke Hopkins
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Bengyak
Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Boatwright
Ms. Barbara Brewer
Ms. Shelly Ferger
Ms. Patti Schell
Ms. Nancy Sparks
Ms. Beth Stryker

Black Magic King
Mr. Ralph King

Sweet-Pea, Anabelle & Honey
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Steffens, Sr.

In Honor of:

Diamond & Fefe Ruby Gomez
Coast to Coast Landscaping

Shelly Ferger's Birthday
Ms. Marcia Adache
Ms. Kerry Bartlett
Ms. Debbie Burton
Ms. Wendy Bushong
Mr. & Mrs. John Colmey
Ms. Betsy Craig
Ms. Joann Findley & Shoshana Shelly
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Franzel
Ms. R. Burt Gookin
Ms. Clare "Winks" Kremer
Ms. Marilyn Link
Mrs. Linda Liss
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Saucerman
Ms. Patti Schell
Mr. Craig Schlitt
Ms. Eleanor Sexton
Ms. Beth Stryker
Mr. & Mrs. Al Turner
Mrs. Paul Via

Bianca Keresey
Ms. Colleen Reed

Dick Palmer
Mr. & Mrs. William Seely

Janet Riley
Ms. Valencia Buchanan

Janet Riley's Birthday
Ms. Janet R. Hogan

Before And After Dog Park Memorial Garden Is Still Growing

Thanks to the Garden Club of Indian River the dog park memorial garden is continuing to grow.

Over the past year DFL has conferred with the Garden Club of Indian River many times for advice and guidance in the planning of our park. Once the expansion project was complete our memorial garden pavilion was in desperate need of shade.

Club members came to our rescue and generously donated eight adult bald cypress trees to the garden. We are extremely grateful to the Club for providing this shade for people and dogs while they enjoy the garden.

Dog Park Memorial Garden Opportunties

If you are interested in remembering your lost loved one in the Memorial Garden please contact the DFL Office at 567-8969.

Donor Bone Memorials engraved with the name of a pet or person continue to be available ranging from $100 - $5,000.

Round, Bone Shape and Paw Shape Engraved Memorial Stones are now available for $300.

Memorial Garden Tree Sponsorship is $2,000.

Engraved Granite Benches are available for $7,500.

Accumulative donations will be accepted toward a memorial garden fountain or a single donation of $25,000 dedicated to you or whomever you choose.

Partnerships DFL, ARC and SRA

Dogs For Life is grateful for the partnerships we have with many of the facilities that our volunteers perform Pet Assisted Therapy with their loving dogs.

Two in particular the Abilities Resource Center (ARC) and the Senior Resource Association (SRA) gave back to DFL this year.

ARC volunteers participated in a work day at the dog park. During the expansion project help was needed to reestablish our dog water stations and ARC Volunteers jumped at the challenge.

SRA allowed DFL Assistance Dogs to practice loading and dismounting on the "Go Line" bus. This training session was valuable in allowing some of our assistance dogs the opportunity (if needed) to utilize public transportation.

DFL Dog Park Members also participated in the SRA RSVP Pet Food Drive this year, helping to collect over 700 pounds of pet food for low income and homebound seniors of Indian River County.

9th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade & Expo

Saturday, October 23, 2010,
at the Dog Park located at 12th Street & 16th Ave.

The 2nd Pet Expo will include vendors of all kinds…
Last year 30 local vets, pet stores and other businesses participated helping to support the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park and Assistance Dog Training

All dogs are welcome on leashes
Costumes are optional

This signature event is open to the public
FREE to spectators and parade participants

Contact DFL at 567-8969,
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net
For booth or sponsorship information and let us know if you will volunteer to help

April 1st Fund-Raiser A Great Success

Dogs For Life held a highly successful fund-raiser on April 1, 2010 at Maison Martinique in Vero Beach. Over 50 guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner and participated in a silent auction of distinctive items as well as a 50/50 raffle. The event raised almost $10,000, all to benefit Dogs for Life's Assistance Dog Training Program. Featured here are Beth Stryker with "Tigger", Frances Graves and Patricia Scott with "Holly".

Dogs For Life

P.O. Box 650023 • Vero Beach, FL • 32965 • 567-8969

www.dogsforlifevb.com dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

=NEWSRADIO=
1490 WTTB

"Dog Talk Radio"
Saturday Mornings 10:30

Do You Want A Better Relationship With Your Dog?

Would you like to know more about Dogs For Life,
Assistance Dogs, Pet Therapy Dogs, or the
Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street & 16th Avenue?

Tune in to "Dog Talk Radio"
&
Call in with your questions.

562-6397

Co-Sponsored by:

Florida Veterinary League
Affordable • Compassionate • Award Winning

Darrell Horn, DVM 567-3070
1360 US Highway 1, Suite 1, Vero Beach, FL 32960

PAW PRINTS

DFL Elects 2010-2011 Board of Directors and sets Goals

At its May 2010 Annual Meeting DFL Directors elected the following members: Serving on the Executive Committee are: Re-elected Al Turner as President and Sharon Marshall as Vice President. Director Kelli Beal was elected as Treasurer. Re-elected to serve as Directors are: Eleanor Bengyak, Tom Lowther, Karen Mann, and newly elected Darrell Horn, DVM.

Approved Programs included Staff Development, Kelli Beal was hired as part time fund development assistant and joins Debbie Burton as part time office assistant. Additional part time assistance dog trainers will be hired to join Patti Schell in training assistance dogs. All join Shelly Ferger as DFL founder and full time executive director.

The 2010-2011 Fund Development Plan was approved that includes an outline for donor and dog park member solicitation to raise $174,000 toward operating expenses which include the following programs: Assistance Dogs $31,000; Community outreach $18,734; Fundraising $20,000; Administration $43,922; Dog Park $43,400; and Pet Assisted Therapy $16,944.

Donor solicitation will occur with Annual Appeals on a quarterly basis with a year end appeal in December. Two fundraisers will be held annually; April 1, Be A Fool For DFL toward assistance dog training and October 23, The 9th Annual Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade and Pet Expo toward dog park operations.

A Capital Campaign was approved toward a Training & Education Center at the dog park. This $250,000 training center will include office space for staff and restrooms for dog park members. Dog Park Member and Honorary Board Member Mary Jane Hanley recently donated seed money toward this campaign.

Darrell Horn, DVM of Florida Veterinary League joins the DFL Board of Directors

Dogs For Life

P.O. Box 650023 • Vero Beach, FL • 32965 • 567-8969

www.dogsforlifevb.com dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

=NEWSRADIO=
1490 WTTB

"Dog Talk Radio"
Saturday Mornings 10:30

Do You Want A Better Relationship With Your Dog?

Would you like to know more about Dogs For Life,
Assistance Dogs, Pet Therapy Dogs, or the
Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street & 16th Avenue?

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Call in with your questions.

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Sunny prepares to be interviewed at NEWSRADIO 1490 WTTB "Dog Talk Radio"

AFP Conference

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS +LUMINARIES • WEEK OF JULY 5, 2010

BRIGHTLIGHTS
& RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Learning state-wide

A group from the **Association of Fundraising Professionals – Indian River County** took a road trip to the **Boca Raton Resort & Club** in June to attend the **Florida Caucus of Fundraising Professionals Annual Planet Philanthropy Conference.** Participants included **Pamela Smith Arnone, Dennis Bartholomew, Kerry Bartlett, Clair Brunetti, Maureen Capp, Connie Cotherman, Cecelia DeFilippis, Linda Downey, Shelly Ferger, Barbara Schlitt Ford, Richard Johnson, Carol Kanarek, Michelle King, Robert Lamont, Phil Long, Ann Marie McCrystal, Lenora Ritchie, Tracey Segal, Beverly Smith and Freddie Woolfork.** Our very own Kerry and Lenora played keys roles in organizing portions of the event. Visit www.afpindianriver.afpnet.org.

Fundraising pros attend conference

BY CYNTHIA FALARDEAU
YourNews contributor

The Association of Fundraising Professionals in Indian River County was well represented at the Florida Caucus of Fundraising Professionals' annual conference in Boca Raton.

These professional fundraisers attended:

Pamela Smith Arnone, Youth Guidance Mentoring; Dennis Bartholomew, Sun-Up Center; Kerry Bartlett, Indian River Community Foundation; Clair Brunetti, United Way of IRC; Maureen Capp, Palm Beach State College; Connie Cotherman, Humane Society of VB & IRC; Cecelia DeFilippis, Treasure Coast Food Bank; Linda Downey, Riverside Children's Theatre; Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life; Barbara Schlitt Ford, Youth Guidance; Richard Johnson, VNA and Hospice Foundation; Carol Kanarek, VNA and Hospice Foundation; Michelle King, Planned Parenthood of SF and TC; Robert Lamont, Gifford Youth Activity Center; Phil Long, VNA and Hospice Foundation; Ann Marie McCrystal, VNA and Hospice Foundation; Lenora Ritchie, The McCabe Foundation; Tracey Segal, Samaritan Center; Beverly Smith, VNA and Hospice Foundation; and Freddie Woolfork, Gifford Youth Activity Center.

To learn more, visit www.afpindianriver.afpnet.org.

This story has been edited for space. For the full version, go to TCPalm.com/YourNews.

Good For You

Locals attend Fundraising Professionals caucus

The Association of Fundraising Professionals of Indian River County was well represented at the Florida Caucus of Fundraising Professionals Annual Planet Philanthropy Conference. The statewide event was June 20-22 at the Boca Raton Resort and Club.

The following professional fundraisers attended the workshops:

- Pamela Smith Arnone, Youth Guidance Mentoring
- Dennis Bartholomew, Sun-Up Center
- Kerry Bartlett, Indian River Community Foundation
- Clair Brunetti, United Way of IRC
- Maureen Capp, Palm Beach State College
- Connie Cotherman, Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County
- Cecelia DeFilippis, Treasure Coast Food Bank
- Linda Downey, Riverside Children's Theatre
- Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life
- Barbara Schlitt Ford, Youth Guidance
- Richard Johnson, VNA and Hospice Foundation
- Carol Kanarek, VNA and Hospice Foundation
- Michelle King, Planned Parenthood of SF and TC
- Robert Lamont, Gifford Youth Activity Center
- Phil Long, VNA and Hospice Foundation
- Ann Marie McCrystal, VNA and Hospice Foundation
- Lenora Ritchie, The McCabe Foundation
- Tracey Segal, Samaritan Center
- Beverly Smith, VNA and Hospice Foundation
- Freddie Woolfork, Gifford Youth Activity Center

In addition, Bartlett and Ritchie were co-track deans for Private, Family and Community Foundation Giving. This was the first year this track was offered at Planet Philanthropy. Bartlett and Ritchie coordinated local, regional and national speakers for eight sessions over the two-day conference.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) represents more than 30,000 members in 206 chapters throughout the world, working to advance philanthropy through advocacy, research, education and certification programs. The association fosters development and growth of fundraising professionals and promotes high ethical standards in the fundraising profession.

4-H Agility Course

7/20/2010

VeroNews.com
YOUR LOCAL NEWS SOURCE FOR INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Jumps, balance and teeter-totters par for the agility course

By Debbie Carson - Mar. 8, 2010, 4:18pm

VERO BEACH – Pups young and old took to the Dogs For Life agility course Saturday as a fund-raiser for the Indian River County 4-H.

Caylin Rose proved an "old" dog can learn new tricks, while Max Molter and Kelsey Murphy also showed their youngsters could weave the poles and walk the dog walk with the best of them.

"I was happy with the run," 13-year-old Caylin said of 8-year-old Lou's initial run through the course. "I was a little nervous" with the tunnel, she added.

Caylin said that the agility event Saturday served more as practice and training than as competition for her and her fellow 4-H members. They plan on competing at the Indian River County Fair, so they need to prepare.

Shelly Ferger, executive director of Dogs For Life, ran the show, commenting on the dogs as they jumped, weaved, balanced, climbs, and teeter-tottered.

"This could be a little scary," Ferger told the audience as Kelsey's 4-year-old Welsh Corgi, Toby Mac, approached the teeter-totter.

Toby Mac sniffed the board and stepped on with 13-year-old Kelsey's encouragement and treats. At the tipping point, he stopped and hung suspended in the air for a moment before the board returned to the ground.

Toby Mac ran the remainder of the course and just as he finished, broke free from Kelsey and ran for the water bowl.

Max's 4-year-old Max, a terrier-mix, took to the course with ease, getting hung up for a few moments on the tunnel when his leash got snagged on the support structure.

"This one, he did great," 13-year-old Max said of the run, despite the tunnel mishap.

Max said he had expected his dog to balk at the teeter-totter but the pup's confidence pulled him through.

Kelsey, too, thought Toby Mac would have a problem with one of the obstacles – the elevated dog walk, explaining that he had recently fallen off it, hurting his confidence.

"I just give him praise," Kelsey said, "lots of praise."

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B2 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2010 • IR

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

4-H plans Dog Masters Club meeting for youths on Sept. 15

Youths ages 8 through 18 are invited to attend an Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club meeting at 6:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Indian River County Extension Office, 1028 20th Place, Suite D, Vero Beach.

Dogs are not invited to the meeting, but will be allowed to attend a future meeting. It is not necessary to own a dog to join the club.

Qualifying family dogs are used to teach basic obedience and proper care, including grooming and nutritional needs.

For additional information or to register, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or Violet Krochmalny at (772) 770-5030, ext. 4.

JUNE

In Memoriam

LAKE FOREST, ILL.

Donald Davidson

Donald Bruce Davidson, 75, died June 22, 2010, in Lake Forest.

He was born in Chicago and lived in Vero Beach and Lake Forest.

Before retirement, he was an executive vice president from 1994 to 2005 at Aon Corp. He worked at Marsh McLennan Insurance Co. from 1957 to 1994, where he became one of the company's first managing directors.

He was a 1953 graduate of New Trier High School in Winnetka, Ill., where he was captain of the basketball team and a 1957 graduate of Princeton University, where he also was captain of the basketball team. He received a master's of business administration from the University of Chicago.

He served on the boards of the Chicago Youth Centers, Lake Forest High School Board of Education and Chicago Anti-Cruelty Society and was director of the Western Golf Association from 1986 to 1998. He was a life trustee of Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital.

He was a member of the U.S. Seniors' Golf Association. He served as Midwest membership chairman beginning in 1997 and became national membership chairman in 2004. He also served on the board of governors from 2002 to 2010.

He was president of the Shoreacres Club in Lake Bluff, Ill., from 1996 to 1999 the Old Elm Club in Highland Park, Ill., from 2007 to 2009, and was the current president of the Old Elm Scholarship Foundation. He was also the current president of the Riomar Country Club in Vero Beach.

Survivors include his wife Sherrie; daughters, Anne Rippel and Lynda Crowell; stepdaughter, Heather Geismann; stepson Bill Davidson; and eight grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Joyce Gibbons.

Memorial contributions may be made to Dogs For Life (Dog Park Memorial Garden), P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL, 32965.

SERVICES: A memorial service was June 26 at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Lake Forest. Arrangements were by Wenban Funeral Home in Lake Forest.

Golf & Bridge Tournaments

Golf and Bridge Tournaments Benefit Dogs for Life

Bud Reinhardt, Jean Kay, Bridge Chairman Eleanor Bergyak and Gail Partenheimer

Dogs for Life held its ***Golf & Bridge Tournaments*** February 16 at the Vero Beach Country Club. Golf tournament sponsors included Robert Bowman, Judy Bracken, Lewis Campbell, Lawrence Donley, John Feeney, Gold Coast Landscape Lighting, Sebastian Animal Hospital and Doug and Mary Jo Skeet.

Gray Leven, Tom Kiernan, George Challis and Bob Plante

Indian River County

SECTION B • THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010 • TCPALM

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Dogs for Life earns accreditation

Dogs for Life, a nonprofit organization that trains assistance dogs for the disabled and provides pet-assisted therapy for people in need of comfort, recently earned accreditation with Assistance Dogs International. Assistance Dogs International sets standards for the worldwide assistance dog movement, facilitates communication and learning among organizations, and educates the public to the benefits of these programs.

Dogs for Life owns and manages a 4½-acre off-leash dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue. Park membership fees help off-set the cost of training hearing and service dogs and outreach programs such as dog training classes.

Park membership requires dogs to be inoculated, neutered and social. Annual membership fee is $250, with the second dog from the same household, $50. No local government funds are received.

Contact the Dogs for Life office at (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.com for more information.

Service Dog Tips

Advice

Tips for interacting with service dogs

JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

DEAR ABBY: I am 18, disabled, and work with a service dog. I would like to share tips on interacting with service dog owners.

1. Not all service dogs are big dogs. I know several Chihuahuas who save their owners' lives with their medical alert tasks.

2. Not all disabilities are visible. Please don't ask, "What's wrong with you?" or, "What's your problem?"

3. There are many kinds of service dogs, not just guide dogs. Medical alert dogs help people with everything from epilepsy to diabetes to panic attacks. There also are autism service dogs, mobility dogs and hearing dogs.

4. Please do not pet my dog without asking me first. My dog wears a patch that says, "Do Not Pet." It's there for a reason. Please do not take it personally if we say no.

5. If a dog's handler seems ill, it's OK — even preferable — to ask if we are all right. I once had an episode and no fewer than two dozen people walked right past me while I sat on the floor.

Hoping to Help in Pennsylvania

DEAR HOPING TO HELP: Thank you for an important letter. Many people fail to understand that when an assistance dog is out in public, the animal is working and should not be distracted from its task — which is ensuring the well-being of its owner.

Your last tip was the most important of all. If someone appears to be in trouble, it takes only a moment to do the right thing and make sure the person gets the help he or she needs. And that includes calling 911 if it's merited.

MAY

Accreditation

Assistance Dogs International, Inc.

A non-profit coalition of organizations training Assistance Dogs

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Robin Dickson,
Dogs for the Deaf
10175 Wheeler Road
Central Point, OR 97502

CONTACT INFORMATION

Suzi Hall
ADI Coordinator
PO Box 5174
Santa Rosa, CA 95402
info@

May 5, 2010

Ms. Shelly Ferger
Executive Director
Dogs for Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, Florida 32965

Dear Ms. Ferger,

On behalf of Assistance Dogs International, I'm pleased to inform you that Dogs for Life, Inc. successfully met all the professional standards and requirements necessary to achieve full accreditation from Assistance Dogs International. You may use this letter as your official accreditation notification and duplicate it to share with others in the course of your agency's business.

ADI Assessor Clark Pappas conducted your organization's accreditation on February 9-10, 2010 at your location in Vero Beach, Florida. In accordance with ADI standards, your accreditation will be in effect for five full years. Your next accreditation review will take place in February, 2015.

ADI full accreditation represents a significant achievement for the staff and management of Dogs for Life, Inc. It is indicative of your organization's strong commitment to upholding the highest professional standards of excellence within the Assistance Dog Industry. Congratulations once again on this important achievement.

Sincerely,

Peter Gorbing
President
Assistance Dogs International

PG/lh

APRIL

Dog Beach

FOUNDING FAMILY
J.F. Schumann (1865-1946)
J.J. Schumann (1898-1989)
J.J. Schumann Jr., publisher emeritus

YOUR VIEW

CANINES

There's good reason for no dog-beach parks

We love dogs, so I take issue with your reader, Richard Lee ("No dog beach! Is city run by dog haters, or what?" April 17).

First, there is a dog park in Vero Beach, close to the marina and the river. Indian River County takes pride in its beaches, and our beaches are clean. His accusation about dog haters is patently untrue.

I am assuming that Mr. Lee picks up the droppings of his dogs; unfortunately not every dog owner does. Our beaches are public — free and for everyone. We do not have exclusive-use beaches; instead we have dog parks.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency deems pet waste a "nonpoint source of pollution," which puts dog waste in the same category as oil and toxic chemicals! As much as 167,530 pounds, or 84 tons, of dog feces are left on the ground every day in the five-county area of the Indian River Lagoon. When left uncollected or improperly disposed of, pet waste contaminates our groundwater and the lagoon with bacteria, viruses and excessive nutrients.

I am curious where Mr. Lee walks his dogs in Batavia, Ohio, where he lives. I am familiar with the area and I submit our beaches in Indian River County exceed the river beaches there — and we want to keep it that way.

Also, Sebastian has a new dog park, purposely 3-4 miles from the lagoon. That notwithstanding, we welcome Mr. Lee to Indian River County, and also his dogs.

Frank Mina
Sebastian

Dogs for Life Inc. has perfect canine park

I read with chagrin Richard Lee's letter, in which he refers to "the city's anti-dog ordinances for city parks and all beaches." He adds that "the city appears to be run by dog-haters." Perhaps Mr. Lee is not aware of the cost involved in monitoring dog-friendly areas; surely he does not expect the taxpayers to support his desire to exercise his dogs "while enjoying the beautiful environment."

Mr. Lee also states, "Apparently, there is a dog park inland that costs about $250 a year. Our research has found this is not a very popular dog park, and I can see why."

If Mr. Lee paid for this research, he ought to demand a refund! A cursory search would have revealed the Dogs for Life Inc. Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue. This is a 4.5-acre, beautifully landscaped and maintained park with plenty of play areas for the dogs and walking paths for humans. There are water fountains, tables, chairs, many pickup stations and lovely old trees. The park has been upgraded and is divided into areas for small dogs, large dogs, a memorial park and an academy area.

With a membership of 247 dogs, the popularity of the park is obvious, and at less than 70 cents per day, it is a bargain! The physical plant is not the only reason for this park's popularity. It is managed with discipline and love. Dogs are temperament-tested before acceptance, the members are encouraged to supervise their dogs, and there are few infractions of the rules. Those that do occur are addressed.

What more do you want in a dog park, Mr. Lee?

Patricia Scott
Vero Beach

POODLE - Standard or Miniature WANTED for service dog training. DOG'S FOR LIFE 772-567-8965

I read with chagrin Mr. Richard Lee's whining letter in which he refers to "the city's anti-dog ordinances for city parks and all beaches". He further adds that "the city appears to be run by dog-haters". Perhaps Mr. Lee is not aware of the cost involved in monitoring dog friendly areas; surely he does not expect the taxpayers to support his desire to exercise his dogs "while enjoying the beautiful environment".

Mr. Lee further states "Apparently, there is a dog park inland that costs about $250 a year.
Our research has found this is not a very popular dog park, and I can see why".

If Mr. Lee paid for this research, he ought to demand a refund! A cursory search would have immediately revealed the existence of the Dogs for Life,Inc. Dog Park on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue. This is a 4 1/2 acre beautifully landscaped and maintained park with plenty of play areas for the dogs and walking paths for their humans. There are water fountains, tables and chairs, many pickup stations and lovely old trees.The park has recently been upgraded and is divided into areas for small dogs, large dogs, a memorial park and an academy area. The popularity of the park is obvious when you see the number of cars in the parking lot on a regular basis, and at less than 70 cents per day, it is a bargain!

The physical plant is not the only reason for this park's popularity. It is managed with discipline and love. Dogs are temperament- tested before acceptance into membership, the members are encouraged to supervise their dogs while at the park, and there are very few infractions of the rules. Those that do occur are immediately addressed. Mr. Lee or anyone interested in a beautiful dog park experience can get more information from the Dogs for Life,Inc. web site www.dogsforlifevb.com/

Patricia Scott
743 24th Square
Vero Beach, Fl 32962
772-569-3829

YOUR VIEW

RECREATION

Sebastian Dog Park: tragedy in the making

Weeks ago, my son and I took our dog, Tyson, to the Sebastian Dog Park just to see what it was all about.

It had been raining for a couple of days and it was obvious that the geniuses who planned this facility gave no thought to drainage, because the place was a giant muck pit.

There are two sections — one for smaller dogs and one for the large ones — but owners of small dogs must enter into the large dog area to get to the small dog area. I'd like to know who came up with that design. Have you ever been carrying a small dog when a large one came charging at you? It can get ugly.

When we arrived, two pit bulls were about to enter the fenced-in area and, as a former professional dog trainer, I could see that one, which weighed more than 100 pounds and wasn't neutered, was going to be a problem.

We decided not to enter the fenced-in area and walked Tyson around the lake instead. Two minutes later, the "Alpha" dog had the other pit bull pinned to the ground. The owner of the top dog found it quite amusing while the owner of the other dog frantically tried to get the dog to release its grip.

It is only a matter of time before some poor dog, and/or its owner, is injured or maimed because they automatically assumed that it was safe to enter this facility. I can just hear the response now: "I thought it was safe because everyone said it was!"

The Sebastian Dog Park is not only unsafe, it is a liability of monumental proportions. I only hope it gets closed down before someone and their pet is seriously injured or killed.

Dale F. Doelling
Sebastian

YOUR VIEW

DOG PARKS

Committed to meeting challenges of community

This letter is in response to Dale F. Doelling's letter concerning dangerous dogs at the Sebastian Dog Park.

Most dog parks fail due to their success. Overuse causes wear and tear, as well as too many dogs in a too-small municipality-allotted space.

The Sebastian grassroots group had many challenges to establish a dog park in their community, as our group did 12 years ago.

Dogs have an inherited hierarchy when it comes to "alpha and omega" structure within the "pack." Naturally, some dogs are more dominant than others. Dog behavior, pack structure, and dog communication are all important for owners to recognize before conflicts begin.

Overbreeding, lack of appropriate social exposure or lack of neutering may result in the dog's inability to socialize properly. Some breeds are naturally more likely to exhibit dominant behavior, although breed behavior also can be noncharacteristic.

The motto at Dogs For Life (a nonprofit with nominal membership fee required, 300 members and a 4½-acre off-leash dog park) is to "keep the people happy." Dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. "People rule" and dog behavior education is why parks are successful.

Dogs or owners with bully-type behavior cause people to be afraid to enter a dog park. Enforcement of dog park rules maintains a fun and social atmosphere for people and dogs.

Shelly Ferger
executive director
Dogs For Life
Vero Beach

SEBASTIAN

City government has no business at dog park

The main (albeit edited) purpose of my Jan. 21 letter about the Sebastian Dog Park was to show that, unlike Vero Beach's membership dog park, where dog owners pay a fee to gain access to a privately owned park that is maintained by its members, the City Council in Sebastian decided that the better choice was to build a city-owned park that is maintained, at taxpayer expense, by the city.

We don't pay taxes in Sebastian to have the city squander our local tax dollars to appease every special-interest group known to man. We pay taxes in order for the city to provide basic and necessary public services.

If dog lovers, of which I consider myself one, want a dog park, then do like the intelligent folks of Vero did. Get off your duffs, raise the money and build one. If the Sebastian City Council is trying to emulate the federal government, it's doing a really fine job. From my point of view, the dog park is just another example of government run amok.

Dale F. Doelling
Sebastian

MARCH

New Center

East Coast Animal Medical Center

Invite you to join us

Saturday, April 3rd, 2010 from 11am – 2pm

At our new facility, same location **6360 49 Street, Vero Beach, Fl 32967.**

To celebrate the **Grand Opening**

of the Treasure Coasts newest state-of-the-art animal clinic, caring for your dogs, cats, horses and other four legged family members. After serving Indian River County for 18 years as your local veterinarian Dr. Biehl has expanded East Coast Equine to include East Coast Animal Medical Center. We welcome all of you to celebrate our dreams coming true. This has been a dream of Dr. Biehl's for many years, a dream that has been made possible by the support and love of her family, friends, clients, (and the bank!). So come take a tour of your pet's home-away-from-home. Bring your walking shoes because Dr. Biehl spared no expense in building this amazing 4,600 sq ft state-of-the-art small animal clinic and equine surgery center. The only equine surgery center between Palm Beach and Ocala/University of Florida. See Baxter's backyard, the children's play area and our butterfly memorial garden. Get aquatinted with our family of talented veterinarians, vet techs, and Stacy (our everything). Dr. Biehl along with her associates Dr. Tanya Ciacciarelli and Dr. Angela Compton bring over 40 years of combined veterinary experience. We hope you will come have lunch with us as we celebrate the expansion of our clinic. Also what would a Grand Opening be without door prizes, give-a-ways and games? It's going to be great! Can't wait to see you there.

Please RSVP to Darlene Ivey @ 954.657.1030 or send E-mail to SocialPony@gmail.com

www.ECAMC.com

11-2

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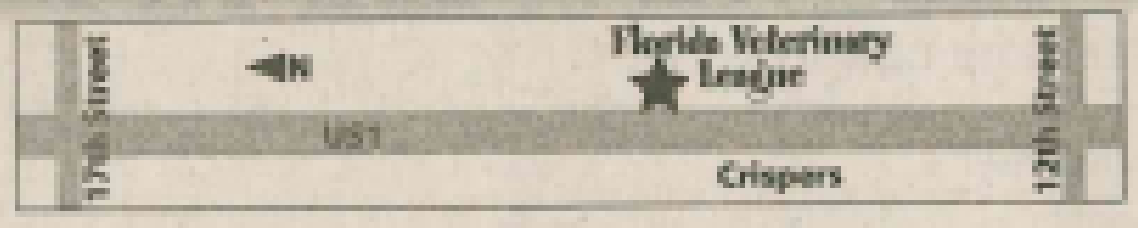

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Indian River County

Luminaries seen at . . .

Winks Kremer, Carina MacDonald and Marilyn Link

Winks Kremer, Carina MacDonald and Marilyn Link

"Become a Fool for Dogs"

April 1, 2010

More than $8,000 was raised to benefit Dogs for Life at the "Become a Fool for Dogs" event held at Maison Martinique. Funds will be used to train hearing and service dogs.

Kathe Heide, Mary Graves, Jean Geddes, Eleanor Sexton and Ann Hamner

Shelly Forger, Al Turner, Alma Lee Loy and George Hamner, Jr.

Shelly Forger, Al Turner, Alma Lee Loy and George Hamner, Jr.

Beth Sexton-Stryker, Frances Graves and Patricia Scott

Doug Pietrafetta, Margaret Wall, Alice and David Johnson

Doug Pietrafetta, Margaret Wall, Alice and David Johnson

Luminaries

Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday

HOW TO SUBMIT

Luminaries Sunday Social Scene is about the events and happenings of the local nonprofit agencies. Press releases and photographs about upcoming events or follow-up photos about past events are welcome. All subjects in photographs must be identified from left to right. Submit to luminaries@scripps.com.

STARRING YOU ...

Richard and Betty Jean Gilbert and Marian Turner at "Become a Fool For Dogs For Life" to benefit Dogs for Life. More than $8,000 was raised toward training hearing and service dogs.

BRIGHTLIGHTS & RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Luminaries

Where the Stars Come Out Every Monday - March 29, 2010

Indian River County

"Fool for Dogs for Life" gala to benefit Dogs for Life, Inc. 6 p.m. Enjoy cocktails under the stars, silent auction and dinner. Maison Martinique & Caribbean Court Hotel, Vero Beach. $150 per person. 772-567-8969

Fool for Dogs!

Shelly Ferger tells *Luminaries* **Dogs For Life, Inc.** is holding its gala fundraiser at **Vero Beach's Maison Martinique & Caribbean Court Hotel** at 6 p.m. on April 1. The theme is **"Become a Fool for Dogs For Life."** The event features cocktails under the stars, a gourmet four-course dinner, a silent auction of distinctive items and a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are $150 per person and available by calling (772) 567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.com.

THURSDAY

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NEW LISTINGS

Benefits/Fundraisers

Fundraiser: Maison Martinique and Caribbean Court Hotel, 1601 South Ocean Drive, Vero Beach, 6 p.m. $150; benefits Dogs For Life. Reservations: (772) 567-8969; dogsforlifevb.com.

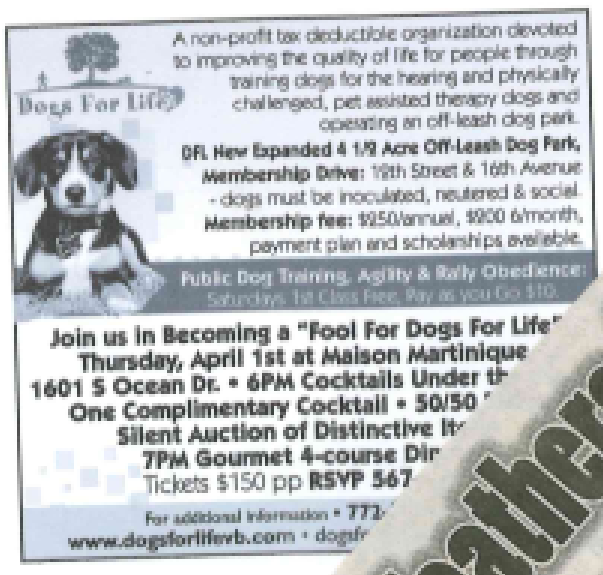
Treasure Coast News

SECTION B • MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2010 • TCPALM.COM IR

Fool around for dogs

For April Fool's Day, become a "Fool for Dogs for Life" at a fundraiser by the same name Thursday at Maison Martinique and Caribbean Court Hotel, 1601 S. Ocean Drive in Vero Beach. Cocktails, a raffle and silent auction begin at 6 p.m., with a four-course dinner at 7. Cost is $150, with proceeds benefiting Dogs For Life, a nonprofit that provides training assistance and therapy dogs and operates an off-leash dog park. For information, call (772) 567-8969 or check out dogsforlifevb.com.

From staff reports



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NEW LISTINGS

VERO BEACH

Dogs For Life fundraiser set

Dogs For Life Inc. is conducting a fundraiser at Vero Beach's Maison Martinique and Caribbean Court Hotel at 1601 S. Ocean Drive, April 1.

Tickets are $150 per person. The theme is Become a Fool for Dogs For Life while enjoying cocktails under the stars, a silent auction of distinctive items and a 50/50 raffle.

The event begins at 6 p.m. Guests will be served a gourmet four-course dinner.

For reservations or to learn more about Dogs For Life and to sponsor hearing and service dog training call (772) 567-8969 or visit dogsforlifevb.com

FEBRUARY

Golf & Bridge Tournament

VERO BEACH
32963
Serving the Vero Beach barrier island
www.verobeach32963.com

Vero Beach 32963 / February 11, 2010

Dogs For Life

Invites the public to it's 2nd Annual Golf & Bridge Tournaments at the Vero Beach Country Club on Tuesday February 16 at 1:00 PM.

DFL 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.

Golf Tournament $125, ($40) tax deductible
Bridge Tournament $75, ($55) tax deductible
Sponsorships Still Available $125 - $5,000.
Many prizes available! Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres by Executive Chef Bruce Meier at 5:30.
Tax Deductible Sponsorships Appreciated.

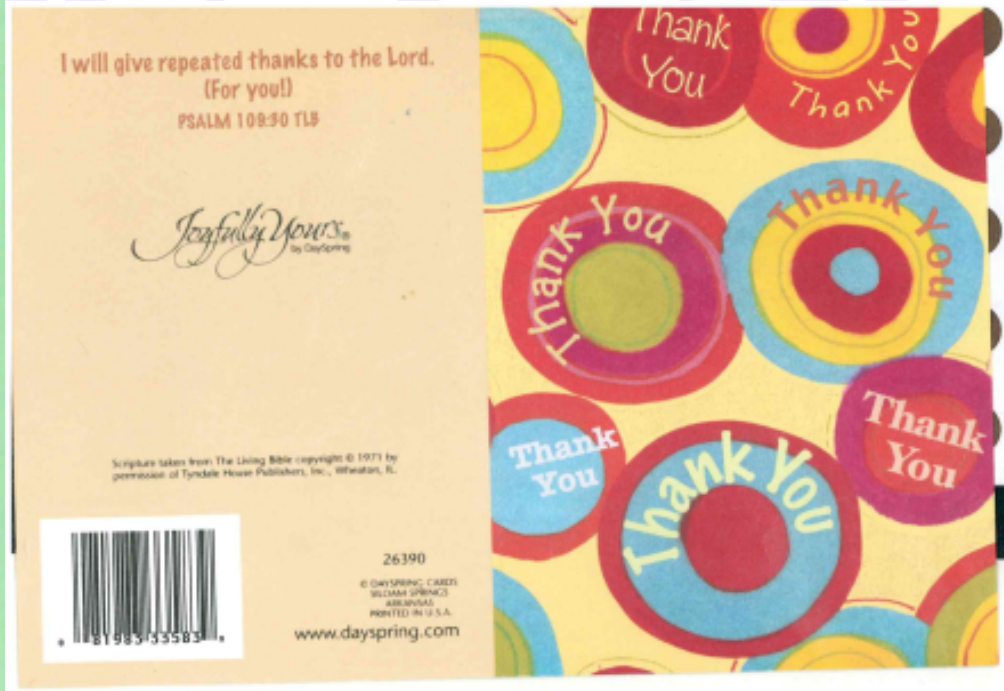
For additional information contact DFL office at 772-567-8969 www.dogsforlifevb.com or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

SCRIPPS NICHE PUBLICATIONS • LN • LUMINARIES • WEEK OF FEBRUARY 6, 2010

FEB2010

16
2nd Annual Combination Golf & Bridge Tournament to benefit Dogs for Life. Vero Beach Country Club. 772-567-8969

Hi Shelly,
Thank you very much for the Military Dog Discount! I know Andrea & Nelson will appreciate it as much or more than their pups appreciate our beautiful Dog Park!
Karen Twitchell



Shelly,
Just wanted to give you a little something to show our appreciate to you for all you have done for us. We truly appreciate it and look forward to being able to assist u real.
Thank you,
Jimmy, Dawn, Pia Pia & Brittany Taylor

February 5, 2010

Enclosed is my check for $300.00 to renew my membership for Sidney & Maggie.
Thanks for a great park.
Sherry Worrell
gate code 8021

Dear Shelly,
On behalf of the staff and volunteers of RSVP and the Senior Resource Association, I would like to thank you for participating in the Pet Food Drive. By allowing our volunteers to collect food at your store, you helped us collect more than 700 pounds of food. Volunteers delivered food to 66 seniors on MLK Day!
Thank you for you + for generously supporting our cause.
Sincerely,
Sara Bumgarner
RSVP Director
2010

2/28/10

Dear "Dogs For Life,"

My words cannot adequately express the deep feeling of appreciation I have for Shelly and "Dogs For Life, Inc" in the care they gave to my beloved Duke throughout the years! Shelly taught him so much! And he adored her

2.

IT has been, since he passed away, six weeks. How kind of "Dogs For Life" to send me flowers at the time of his passing. IT was such a comfort. Thank you.

And now Duke has a memorial bone in the D.F.L. Memorial Garden. I am so

3.

very grateful.

Again - Thank you, Thank you.

"Dogs For Life, Inc" and the D.F.L. "Off-Leash" Dog Park will always have a special place in my heart.

Love,

Ruth E. Hopkins

Hallmark BM 944-5 © HALLMARK CARDS, INC. MADE IN U.S.A. www.hallmark.com

PS - 3/9/10
The Time ran away from me. I am sorry to be so Late with my note.

Dear Shelly

Thank you so very much for making a donation to "Dogs For Life, Inc" in memory of our beloved Duke. How kind of you.

IT is such a comfort for me to know that Duke's "spirit" is alive - together with "Poco," "Sabrina" and others helping Dogs in the "Dogs For Life" Programs!

IT is a wonderful feeling to know that he will always be there - helping in some way. Much Love "over"

Ruthie

I miss you.

I was so touched by your thoughtfulness, Shelly!

You have always been there for "Duke" and "me" - even when you are "busy, busy"!!

Robby and I so much appreciate it!!

Love,

Ruthie

PS. The Time ran away from me. I am so sorry for being late with this note! Love - Ruthie

Hallmark BM 944-5 MADE IN U.S.A. www.hallmark.com

thank you

4.27.10

DEAR Shelly,

THANK-you So much FOR helping Boo & MYSELF get THE MEMBERSHIP TO The PARK. WE ARE going To HAVE A GREAT YEAR - IF I CAN HELP - pls CALL ME 299-7062.

Lottie & Boo CUMBERLAND

Coast Equine
Dr. Valerio Biehl
6580 69th Street
Vero Beach, FL 32967
Indian River County
Ph. 772-569-9911 Fx. 772-562-4911

stion

Mixed Sources

FSC

WFE7230

JANUARY

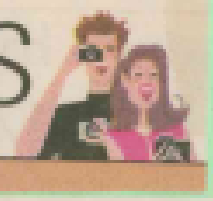
Annual Meeting

DFL/ARC Work Day

DFL/ARC - Work Day at the Off-Leash Dog Park

DFL
Assistance Dog Certification Party
Norine & Abby

Companions Needed



Indian River County

BRIGHTLIGHTS
& RED CARPETS

Tania Ortega-Cowan • luminaries@scripps.com

Indian River County

Dog companions needed

Dogs For Life, Inc. is looking for volunteers with friendly dogs to participate in its **Pet Assisted Therapy Program,** which provides comfort to adults and children experiencing post traumatic stress, depression or loneliness. For more, call (772) 567-8969 and visit www.dogsforlifevb.com.

TCPALM
FLORIDA'S TREASURE COAST AND PALM BEACHES

Printer-friendly story
Read more at tcpalm.com

Jan. 9 pet food drive for local seniors needs donations

sbumgarner, a member of the Treasure Coast community. This story is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

Originally published 08:32 a.m., January 8, 2010
Updated 08:32 a.m., January 8, 2010

Sometimes a pet is a senior's only companion.

If they are unable to get to the store to buy pet food, or cannot afford it, they may share their own meals with their pets.

The Senior Resource Association and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program is hosting a Pet Food Drive for seniors on Jan. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers will deliver the food donations to seniors to mark the Martin Luther King Day of Service on Jan. 18.

Your donation of pet food can help assure that no senior or their pet will go hungry.

Locations accepting donations:

Cindi's Pet Center, U.S. 1 and 8th Street in Vero Beach;

Village Pet Shop, 964 12th St., Vero Beach;

Dogs for Life Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach;

Scooter's Barkery, 8802 U.S. 1 in Wabasso Plaza;

Bark Avenue, 435 Sebastian Blvd., Sebastian.

This story is contributed by a member of the Treasure Coast community and is neither endorsed by nor affiliated with this site.

AMA Rx

The AMA Rx

January 2010

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AMA Rescue at Work

Shelly and Sunny, aka Buddy

Buddy, estimated to be age 2, was thrown out on the streets of Atlanta along with a 6-year-old female. They were malnourished, full of fleas, burrs, dirty and matted down to the skin. A lady appropriately named Charity who does Pom Rescue in Atlanta ended up with them and contacted AMA.

They were then taken to the vet in Atlanta and cleaned up, given shots, took care of the fleas and worms, microchipped and we had the male neutered. The female was in heat so we had her spayed here after her heat was over.

We tried for two weeks to get them road transported here but just couldn't make it work. Even with Charity and myself driving many hours, we could not pick up transport in the middle.

Then an angel with wings who heard about them contacted Charity and after work on Friday night he flew to Atlanta and picked them up and flew back to his home in Jacksonville. Saturday morning he flew them here to West Palm Beach. These poor, abused, neglected and starving little ones weere being flown around in a private plane!! And boy did they deserve it!!!

Mark is our foster home on Ft. Lauderdale and he met us and took the two little ones home to foster. He says it makes him feel complete to feel like he is doing something so worthwhile. Thank heavens for the selfless people who foster!!!

After some tender loving care with Mark, Buddy was finally ready for his Forever Home. He was fortunate to be young and a love muffin (giving many, many kisses) and we had a choice of five homes for him. Shelly was chosen because she is a dog trainer and knows more than the average about taking care of this sweet little one. She is already in love with him! She renamed him Sir Georgia Sunshine, aka "Sunny."

We still have what the vet thinks is his mother, but she is still very frightened of loud noises but she's doing better every week. We will be looking for a very special home for her soon, one without small children and loud noises.

Thank you to everyone who helps by being rescue reps, fostering and donating to the AMA Rescue. Because of you, Buddy has a very happy ending.

Sincerely,
Jeanneane Kutsukos
AMA Rescue, East Coast

More photos of Sunny on Page 9

Calendar

Saturday, February 6
AKC/Eukanuba National Championship airs on Animal Planet and simulcast on Discovery Channel 8-11 p.m.

Monday, February 13
AKC National Agility Championship will be televised on Animal Planet at 8 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday, February 15-16
Westminster Kennel Club 134th Annual Dog Show will be televised on USA Network.

May 6 through 9
AMA National Specialty, Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel. See inserts in this newsletter for more information.

Deadline for next Rx: February 15

Thank you for your gifts, flowers and cards. They were appreciated and made my day. My stroke affected my whole right side, making it impossible to get my usual Christmas greetings out. Wishing you all the best of health and a successful 2010.

— Mary Oliver

Condolences

Our thoughts are with Linda Campbell and her family on the death of her husband Robert.

Access Rights in Spain

ADI Newsletter
Assistance Dogs International
Setting Standards for the Assistance Dog Industry since 1987

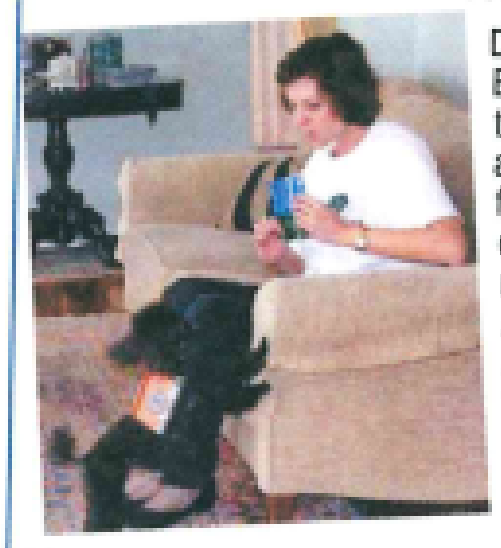
ACCESS RIGHTS EXPAND IN SPAIN

By Barbara Yoresh
Dogs for Life, Florida, U.S.A.

It's amazing what a pint-sized Hearing Dog and a determined owner can accomplish on the international scene. Vero Beach resident Beth Sexton and her year-old Assistance Dog Tigger recently became the catalysts for change to the Service Dog access laws in Spain. Thanks to Beth and Tigger, Spanish laws are changing regarding access to public places for people with Service Dogs.

Beth and Tigger, a toy Poodle, learned assistance skills through training from Dogs for Life, Inc. which, since 2002, has trained more than 40 Hearing and Service Dogs in Indian River County and has certified 20 dogs. Dogs for Life, Inc. also assists disabled people throughout America and now Spain with information about training Assistance Dogs in their homes.

Beth, who is almost totally deaf as a result of an illness in her late 30s, previously owned an Assistance Dog named Bandit. In 1998, she and Bandit made a trip to Spain where Beth previously lived and found that Assistance Dogs and their owners were denied access to many public places as well as the famed Prado Museum in Madrid.



During that visit, Beth and Bandit appeared on Spanish television and conducted an educational seminar for Spanish government officials to promote the need for Assistance Dogs. Although there were some Assistance Dogs for the visually impaired in Spain, dogs to help the hearing impaired were virtually unknown.

Since that visit, some Spanish provinces have improved accommodations for Assistance Dogs, but like much of Europe, there has been an unfortunate lack of regard for the needs of citizens and visitors with disabilities.

During her most recent trip in April, Beth and Tigger appeared on a popular prime-time television show in Madrid. During the show, Beth related the difficulties she and Bandit had encountered during her trip in 1998. She also explained the role Hearing Dogs play and the need for Service Dog access rights.

Beth & her Hearing Dog, Tigger, during their Spanish radio interview

In a somewhat bold yet necessary challenge, Beth noted to the program host that the outlying provinces had made better advances toward Service Dog access than had Madrid.

"I was quite vocal about Service Dog access rights and asked the announcer if it didn't make him feel somewhat ashamed that Madrid was behind the hinterlands in changing their laws," Beth said.

The show host concurred and ended the program by promising to follow up and see if Beth and Tigger could visit the Prado this time. Happily, they did. The next day, Beth was interviewed on radio and repeated her plea for improved Assistance Dog laws.

Through her contacts with the Spanish Assistance Dogs Association, Beth gained their support in petitioning the government for special access papers for Tigger and herself during their visit. The association trained the sole Hearing Dog in all of Spain and told Beth that due to lack of awareness for the need for Assistance Dogs, there has been no demand for laws to be changed.

Upon her return back home, Beth received an email from the association indicating that the Spanish government wants to change the laws and will work in collaboration with the association to do so. Through Beth and Tigger's dedicated efforts, Hearing Dogs and Service Dog access rights in Spain will become a reality, thereby enriching the lives of those who need them.

For more information, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or visit online at www.dogsforlifevb.com.

The views and articles appearing in the ADI Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the attitudes or policies

Suzi Hall
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Assistance Dogs International
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web: www.assistancedogsinternational.org

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Asociación de Perros de Asistencia
AEPA-EUSKADI
http://www.aepa-euskadi.org
aepa.euskadi@gmail.com

From: Asociación AEPA-Euskadi [mailto:aepa.euskadi@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, January 26, 2010 12:47 PM
To: assistdogsintl@sbcglobal.net; info@assistancedogsinternational.org
Subject: For Barbara Yoresh (Dogs for Life, Florida, U.S.A.) and Shelly Ferger

For Barbara Yoresh (Dogs for Life, Florida, U.S.A.) and Shelly Ferger

Dear Barbara Yoresh and Shelly Ferger,
My name is Cristina Muro, I am writting you on behalf of the Spanish and Bask Association of Assistance Dogs (AEPA and AEPA-Euskadi) concerning your article "Access rights expand in Spain" appeared in the ADI Newsletter VOL 22, Issue 1.
We are very happy to see that you are very interested in laws concerning rights for assistance dogs users in Spain and we wish to tell you that our associations have been fighting for ten years to get laws in Spain and that we have got several laws:
Galicia in 2003
Basc Country in 2007
Catalunia in 2009
Besides our work an other association, Arcadys, got the law in Valencia in 2003.

You can check the updated situation of the laws and the official texts in: http://www.aepa-euskadi.org/leyes.htm

Our associates have also been developping a big work asking for access rights in their own cities or communities. This work has helped a lot of people and has made that assistance dogs are well accepted generally even if some comunities still don´t have laws. This is the situation of Madrid, that has not developped any law even if we have worked very hard for this since 2000.
That´s why the help of Beth Sexton and all the people that during these years have given us their support is so important as you mention in your article. We were very happy to welcome her and her dog to Madrid and AEPA-Madrid could offer her their frienship, as well as we use to do with all the ADI members that during all the last years have made contact with us to translate their ID Cards, to help them with travel or accomodation or to get information about laws in Spain.

Finally we are also happy to tell you that the Bask Association of Assistance Dogs (AEPA-Euskadi) is the only assistance dogs association in Spain (together with the ONCE Foundation for guide dogs) that can officially certify assistance dog.
http://www.aepa-euskadi.org/reglamento-ley-bizkaia-en.htm

Best regards,
Cristina Muro
www.ctv.es/USERS/aepa
www.aepa-euskadi.org