



Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs
For Veterans*

Scrapbook

2022



DECEMBER

Annual Christmas Luncheon





Wreaths Across America- Indian River County

Thank you once again for your support!!



WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Rick Lewis ·

I was lucky enough today to get to attend the 75th anniversary of Vero Beach Veterans, where I had the pleasure to meet Kathi Schumann. For the second year in a row Kathi Schumann became the largest donor to Wreaths Across America in Indian River County.

Thank you Mrs Schumann for all you do for Wreaths Across America, the Veterans of our county and the community as a whole. With your help we will remember, Honor every veteran and Teach another generation of the sacrifice mabe.

PTSD Awareness

Treasure Coast Newspapers - 12/28/2022

Page : A01



Indian River County Sheriff's Office unveiled a patrol truck with a graphic wrap promoting a "PTSD Awareness" message and the names of local resources for military veterans and first responders Nov. 1.
PHOTOS BY COREY ARWOOD/TCPALM

Driving PTSD awareness



Images of the seals of the six branches of the U.S. armed forces are printed across the hood.



The patrol truck also bears the name of a new agency peer support program called the Sheriff's Traumatic Advocate Response Team, which provides deputies with resources for the often traumatic experiences in their line of work.

IRCSO truck highlights resources to help veterans, 1st responders

Corey Arwood Treasure Coast Newspapers
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — A graphic-wrapped patrol truck is a visible reminder of the unseen perils faced by military veterans and first responders. It highlights local resources for those living with trauma experienced on the job or in combat.

Bearing a "PTSD Awareness" ribbon, likenesses of soldiers and law enforcement officers, the Indian River County Sheriff's Office vehicle has appeared at a Christmas parade and a charity walk aimed at raising attention to military suicides since its unveiling on Nov. 1.

Creating the mobile message truck was the result of a roughly \$4,000 joint project of law enforcement, veterans and mental health groups in the county, according to agency officials and nonprofit leaders.

U.S. Air Force veteran Doug Klock, is an executive officer and early member of Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County, one of the project's four sponsors.

"It's all about first responders and military veterans," Klock said. "That vehicle is constantly on the road."

The nonprofit was established in 1990 and has

3RD

Florida rank for largest U.S. veteran population in line with overall state population estimates

See PTSD, Page 7A

PTSD

Continued from Page 1A

PTSD and support groups among three categories of veterans.

"It's a good thing that it's growing but it's a bad thing that we're seeing it," Klock said of attendance. "We're all here for the same mission - (meeting) instead of everybody sitting on the couch and doing something stupid."

The patrol truck also serves as the agency's flagship for a new program, the name of which is prominently placed among the messages on the graphic.

The Sheriff's Office's Traumatic Advocate Response (S.T.A.R.) Team is billed as a "new measure to help first responders who may be struggling with post-traumatic stress disorder."

The goal is to promote the overall health and wellness of agency personnel through a peer support program, and access to resources with professional counseling.

The patrol truck is now part of the Indian River County Sheriff's Office Community Affairs Unit. In addition to appearing at events, it's also dispatched for non-urgent calls for those in need of civil resources, or for "deputies that deal with homelessness concerns within the county," according to Lt. Joe Abolin.

"It's out and about everywhere, completely outfitted to make a patrol," Abolin said.

A local veteran-owned primary health care provider and sponsor of the graphic-wrapped truck also assists in the agency's S.T.A.R. program.

"We got involved... to help them (SBCSO) facilitate some of their peer support groups," said retired U.S. Army Capt. Eda Hasenauer, with U.S. Army Special Forces, 20th Special Forces Group, in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce.

"Basically, all of us coming out of the military, we're very keenly aware of the PTSD... we were focused on the veteran population already and it was a pretty easy transition," he said.

Hasenauer is CEO of Emerald Medical in Vero Beach and Fort Pierce. A lifelong Indian River County resident, he said his father was a former Sheriff's Office helicopter pilot.

"I think what (SBCSO) is doing, they're getting way ahead of the power curve," Hasenauer said. "It's a really impressive program."

Another truck sponsor, American

Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County organizes an annual charity walk for military veteran suicide awareness. Their fourth event was Nov. 6. The local group supports families after the death of a veteran overseas or at home and in commemorating the soldier.

Michelle Dale said her son, U.S. Army Cpl. Dale Kristin, was killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2003.

"Everything we do as (a) Gold Star Mother is to keep our loved one's memories alive," said Dale, the organization's president.

During the Nov. 3 unveiling of the truck at the agency's helicopter hangar, Sheriff Eric Flowers said the project seeks to recognize veterans and law enforcement because of the number of deputies who fit both categories.

"This is our first PTSD wrap. We have a lot of veterans that work here (and) obviously, also law enforcement (who) deal with that," he said.

It is the latest and most visible effort backed by Flowers related to PTSD awareness. Earlier this year, he touted the development of peer support groups for deputies.

"I just feel like we're really evolving as a profession to where we're comfortable saying, 'hey we recognize that what you've just went through is a horrendous thing that no one should have to experience,'" he said. "And instead of just putting you back out on the street, we're actually going to make sure you're O.K. before we put you back out there."

"I want to be that agency that people look at and say these folks are cared for, the employees know that the administration and the sheriff cares about them... (and) provides them with services."

Suicide figures

Every year in Florida, hundreds of military veterans and first responders die by suicide, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs and advocacy groups.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers first responders to include law enforcement, firefighters and paramedics, but also 911 dispatchers, as their jobs may expose them to an elevated risk of suicide because of "the environments in which they work, their culture and both personal and occupational stress."

In January, two St. Lucie County deputies died from injuries sustained in what authorities determined was a doc-



Silhouettes of military veterans and law enforcement officers are used on the IBCSO community affairs PTSD awareness patrol truck just below the sponsors, which also serve as resources for those struggling with PTSD symptoms and include: Mental Health Association in Indian River County, Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County, American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Dogs For Life and Emerald Medical. (COURTESY: AMEREMEDICAL)

ile-suicide. Records show in 2006, an Indian River County Fire Rescue official died of a suspected suicide.

A 2021 National Alliance on Mental Illness report shows 28% to 34% of dispatchers and 35% of police officers nationwide suffer from PTSD. Firefighters and police officers are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs and U.S. Census Bureau statistics, there are between 14,824 and 25,505 veterans in Indian River County, making up just over 1% of a estimated total population of 263,642 reported between 2007 and 2021.

Florida has the third-largest veteran population in line with overall state population estimates, according to the Florida Association of Counties, in partnership with the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agriculture Sciences.

Data from Veterans Affairs shows suicides among veterans in Florida have decreased, with 607 in 2008, a reported 573 in 2009 and 493 in 2020.

This year, 960 first responders nationwide have reportedly died by suicide, which is down from 989 in 2021, according to Organization Blue H.E.L.P., a Massachusetts-based nonprofit devoted to suicide awareness and prevention among first responders and their families. There were 287 suicides reported in 2020, and 348 in 2019, an all-time high in the organization's six-year history.

Corey Arwood is a breaking news reporter for TCPalm. Follow Corey on Twitter @corryarwood, or reach him by phone at 772-778-2244.

How to get help

Anyone in need of immediate help can call the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline day or night by dialing 988. Formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 988 was designated as a nationwide resource by Congress in 2002 and was set to be operational in July 2022, according to NAMI.

CITY OF STUART JANUARY 2023 MEETING CALENDAR No meetings at City Hall unless otherwise noted 101 2nd Pagar Avenue Street, FL 34986-2897 www.stuartfla.gov		
101	NOV 20TH	ALL CITY OFFICERS CLOSED
102	4:00 PM	Board Commission Meeting - zoning & Planning Meeting
103	4:00 PM	City Commission Meeting
104	4:00 PM	Community Redevelopment Board
105	5:30 PM	Local Planning Agency / Planning Advisory Board
106	NOV 20TH	ALL CITY OFFICERS CLOSED
107	4:00 PM	Board Commission Meeting - Park Board Code
108	2:00 PM	Municipal Hearing
109	4:00 PM	Local Community Redevelopment Agency / Community Redevelopment Board / City Commission Meeting
110	5:00 PM	City Commission Meeting
111	5:00 PM	Board of Adjustment

If a person unable to attend any decision made by the Commission or Board will request to any matter presented at such meeting or hearing, he or she will send a record of the proceedings, and fail, for such purpose, he or she may send to address that a delegate attend at the proceedings in person, which would require the following and enclosed upon which the board is to be heard. P.A. 201 P.10

All interested parties may attend such meeting and after statement. In accordance with the Amendment with Amendment for public affairs who needs a special accommodation for the meeting should contact the City's ADA coordinator at 386-2287 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting, including Security and Safety Staff / City Commission

Phone: (386)2287 Local Disability Affidavit Required

WWII Impact on Florida

ON THE COVER

VETERAN VOICE • DECEMBER 1, 2022 • 7

America goes to war — people head to Florida

Patrick McCallister
FOR VETERAN VOICE
pmccallister@veteranvoiceweekly.com

With the anniversary of the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor approaching — Dec. 7 — it's a good time to remember that odds are you live in Florida because of World War II.

Back in 1940 about 1.9 million people lived in the Sunshine State. That's less than a 10% of the almost 22 million today. But the military buildup to about 16 million servicemembers over the course of World War II introduced many to the Sunshine State.

1940s

As the U.S. geared up, fought, and wound down from World War II, the 1940s, Florida had a permanent resident population surge. By 1950 the Census Bureau counted nearly 2.8 million Floridians. That was a 46.1 percent increase according to the bureau.

It wasn't the first time in the 20th century the state had a population boom. During the 1920s — following the Great War, World War I — Florida's population increased slightly more than 51 percent. But, the only other decade in the last century that Florida's population growth was counted in the 40s percent was 1970 to 1980 — 43.6 percent. Yes, hard to miss that the Vietnam War, which straddled the 1960s to early 1970s, accompanied that population growth.

For context, the 1930s had seen a 29 percent increase in Florida's population. The 1960s a 37 percent increase. Florida was the second fastest growing state in the Union during the 1940s. California edged it out by growing more than 50 percent that decade.

World War II

During World War II, the state's temporary population surged. The Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources' book "Florida World War II Heritage Trail" reports —

"A tremendous migration of military personnel took place, with more than 170 installations established or expanded. Additionally, civilians came to work in the various camps and bases, and in the shipyards and other industries that expanded during the conflict. World War II, to an extent greater than previous conflicts, mobilized the nation's



Historical photo courtesy of the National Park Service

The Coast Guard patrolled Florida beaches with dogs during World War II. The state was strategically important due to its access to the Atlantic, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and Panama Canal. Additionally, a lot of servicemembers trained at the more than 170 military installations in the Sunshine State.

population. Many soldiers, sailors and marines who served in Florida later returned to the state to live."

Some of the servicemembers came for training and then went their way. For example, a Navy aviator stationed at Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale in the summer of 1943. He did OK for himself after the war and went on to be the nation's 41st president. That was, of course, President George H.W. Bush. His son, Jeb Bush, would head to Florida in 1980 and become state's 43rd governor in 1999.

Some were stationed in Florida throughout the war.

"Florida's strategic location made the state vital for national defense," the book explains. "Planes and ships from Florida's bases helped protect the sea lanes in the Atlantic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, and the state was viewed as an important first line of defense for the southern United States, the Caribbean Basin, and the Panama Canal. Even before the outbreak of the war, new installations were built to house the prewar defense buildup. For the Army, Camp Blanding near Starke became one of the largest training bases in the Southeastern United States, with nine divisions and many independent units passing through its facilities, while Camp Gordon Johnston at Carrabelle served as the Army's major amphibious training center."

A lot of those "more than 170 installations" went on to be important contributors to Florida's quality of life and economy in the decades since World War II. For example, Orlando Army Air Field #2 went on to eventually become



Florida made huge contributions to the war effort during World War II. In addition to being an important state for training servicemembers, Florida provided a lot in the way of wartime agriculture to keep everybody fed.

Image courtesy of the State Archives and Library of Florida

the Orlando International Airport, a hub for world tourism.

The "Florida World War II Heritage Trail" is available to read online at dos.myflorida.com/historical/preservation/heritage-trails.

1950s

Between 1950 and 1960 Florida had its largest population surge since becoming a U.S. territory. By far. Between 1950 and 1960 the state added another 2.1 million residents. The state grew 78.7 percent that decade, according to the Census Bureau, taking top spot in the nation.

Numerous factors went into that population growth. Nationally there was, of course, the baby

boom. The nation went from about 151 million to 179 million from 1950 to 1960, an about 18.5 percent increase according to the bureau. The only decade since 1910 with near that kind of population growth was the 1920s with about a 16 percent surge. But, the population increase in the South during the 1950s was slower than the national average. Except for Florida with that 78.7 percent increase.

The only state that came close to Florida in the 1950s population growth was Nevada with a 78.2 percent population increase between 1950 and 1960. Alaska had a 76 percent increase, but wouldn't be a state until 1959. Arizona had a 74 percent increase.

Goldstar Moms' Walk-A-Thon

PEOPLE

Gold Star moms' Walk-a-Thon: Save our vulnerable veterans

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

Intermittent sprinkles could not deter the spirits of the men and women who turned out for the fourth annual Walk-a-Thon for Military/Veteran Suicide Awareness at Riverside Park, presented by American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County.

Proceeds benefited the programs and PTSD support groups offered by Dogs for Life, the Mental Health Association of Indian River County, and Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County which, with Gold Star Mothers, all support veterans and the issues they face, working to avoid the heartbreak of military suicide.

"We want people to be aware that there are 22 veterans who are dying by suicide a day in the United States. One a day is a tragedy, 22 is unacceptable," said Michelle Dale, president of Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County.

"We can't have that. And we are here to let them know that in Indian River County we have sessions at Dogs for



STORY, PHOTOS CONTINUED ON PAGE 26
Laura Saputo, Melissa Russano with Brinley and Tucker Russano. PHOTOS: JOSHIAKODIS

Life and the Mental Health Association where veterans can go free of charge, no Social Security Number. They can go and they can talk, and they can share."

Dale pointed out that printed testimonials included in the informational bags they handed out had been written by individuals who had attended some of the PTSD sessions. The free sessions, group or one-on-one, are moderated

by facilitators who are veterans themselves. "In one person's story, he said it actually saved his life. And that's what this is all about. Everything that we're doing is to save somebody's life. To let them know that we're behind them," said Dale.

Pointing to a colorful Indian River County Sheriff's Office vehicle, Dale said, "This is our PTSD truck."

The detailing, logos from assistance organizations, was funded by Gold Star Mothers, Next Gen and others to bring awareness to services available to anyone suffering from PTSD.

"We collaborated and we came up with this theme for the vehicle to represent our military and our first responders who suffer from this terrible disorder," said IRCSCO Community Affairs Dep. Cliff Labbe.

Dogs For Life, which trains service dogs for veterans with hearing, mobility or PTSD issues, hosts PTSD support groups for male and female veterans and first responders, as well as Veteran Meet Ups. They also have a pet therapy program at the Vero Beach Police De-

partment and are putting a school resource dog at Vero Beach Elementary through the Sheriff's department.

"There is no charge for anything if you're a veteran or first responder, and there is no charge for our service dog training for anyone with a disability," said DFL founder Shelly Ferger.

"What we're really doing is saving lives, both canine and human," said Kathi Schumann, DFL board treasurer.

In addition to its free walk-in centers, where no appointment is necessary, the Mental Health Association hosts Wednesday night meetups for veterans overseen by a registered social worker who is a veteran and former firefighter.

"Anybody can talk about whatever they want. If they want to talk about their mental health or want to ask for some help, they can," said Amy Wagner, MHA marketing director. "If they want to just sit there and hang out with their peers and eat pizza, they can do that too."

For more information, visit IRC-GoldStarMoms.org, DogsForLifeVB.org, MHAIRC.org or NGVIRC.org.

PEOPLE



Cynthia Ryan and Robin Berry.



Theresa Betancourt and Michelle Dale.



Carol Martin and Amy Wagner.



Mark Reynolds and Diana D'Angelo.

- STORY, PHOTOS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26
- Marine Corps Toys for Tots: Collection boxes are at all IRC fire stations.
 - Military Officers of America Association: Fundraising for a World War II tribute on Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary through Cultural-Council.org.
 - Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County: Mission-based social club with PTSD support groups and community activities. NGVIRC.org.
 - Veterans Council of Indian River County: Offers numerous outreach programs and transportation to the West Palm Beach VA facility. VeteransCIRC.com.
 - Vets Claims Plus: Assists with disability claims and appeals. VetsClaimsPlus.org.
 - Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1038: Assists veterans in need and funds scholarships. VVA.org.
 - Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County: Aids veterans in need, particularly the homeless, assists with benefit claims, and mentors individuals in the Veterans Treatment Court. VVIRC.org.
 - Wounded Waters: Takes veterans and first responders fishing and diving to help them with PTSD issues. WoundedWaters.org.
 - Wreaths Across America: Places wreaths on veteran graves. Starting 10 a.m., Dec. 17, at Crestlawn, Sebastian Municipal Cemetery and Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. WreathsAcrossAmerica.org/pages/142500. ■



NOVEMBER



St. Helen CCW News

November 2022

November 1st Meeting

As you can tell, the star of our meeting was "Rosie!" Shelly Ferger, the founder of this wonderful program, was our speaker and explained how hearing and service dogs can improve the quality of life for people with disabilities. It is only one of five Florida organizations accredited to certify service dogs for veterans.

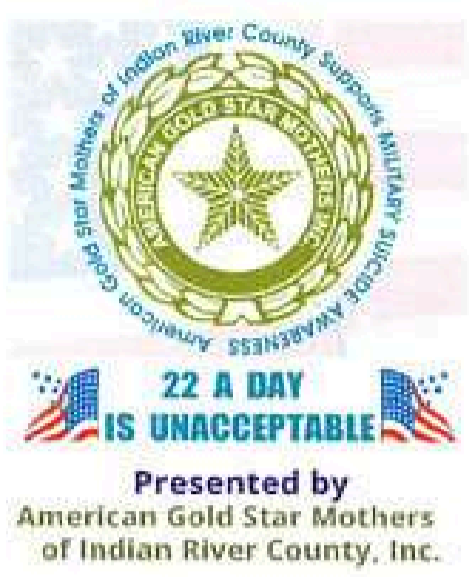
On February 4th, 2023, [Patriots for Puppies](#) at Pointe West Country Club will benefit the Dogs for Life programs. Dancing, live music featuring "Jerry and the Dolls."

Dogs for Life also maintains the [off-leash dog park at](#) 1230 16th Ave. Applications are available to all dogs that are inoculated, neutered, and social.

Eddie Boatwright, husband of CCW Sister Gail Boatwright, is president of Dogs for Life.

4th ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

FOR MILITARY/VETERAN SUICIDE AWARENESS



Sunday, November 6, 2022
Registration at 9:00am - Walk starts at 10:00am

2.2 MILE WALK & VETERANS EXPO

Join American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County for a walk thru Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary

Register online at www.ircgoldstarmoms.org

\$35 / person online
\$40 / person - day of walk

Riverside Park

Walkers start & finish at the Grand Pavilion

Coffee & Donuts provided by
The Salvation Army

DJ • Raffles • 50/50

T-SHIRTS: First 300 online registrants will receive a Walk T-shirt. Early pick up (on Fri. 11/4) at Marine Bank & Trust • 1450 US1
"Day of" T-shirts: 1st come, 1st serve!



Scan QR Code to Register



Proceeds to Benefit:



- michdaleircgoldstarmoms@gmail.com
- [@ircgoldstarmoms](https://www.facebook.com/ircgoldstarmoms)
- www.ircgoldstarmoms.org
- 570-885-2811

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 #DTN3348471. American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County, Inc. is a non-profit tax-exempt organization as described under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. Federal ID #85-0621175.

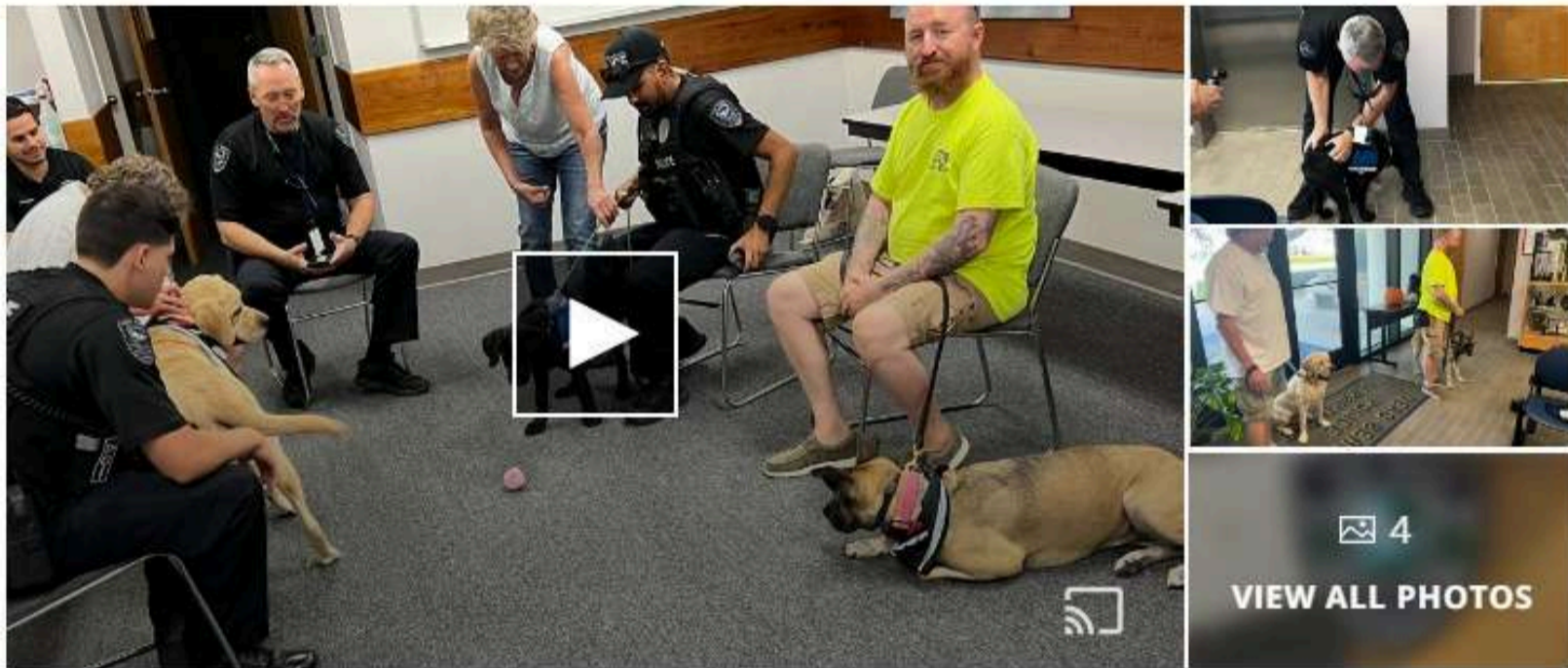




CBS News Coverage

Dogs serving as therapeutic outlet for Vero Beach police officers

by Dylan Huberman | Thu, November 3rd 2022, 6:53 PM EDT



Nonprofit organization Dogs for Life brings therapy dogs to Vero Beach police officers twice each week, Nov. 3, 2022. (WPEC)





OCTOBER

Letter to the **EDITOR**

All invited to hear inspirational PTSD speaker at Dogs For Life

To the Editor:

This is an open invitation to all Veterans, family, friends, supporters and patriots: On Friday, Nov. 4, at 1:30 p.m., Dogs For Life will host Guest Speaker Chris English, at our Training Center, located at 1230 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

An Army Veteran, he served in Bosnia, Macedonia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He retired from military service in June of 2014.

A sufferer of PTSD, Chris was able to heal through the help of Veteran friends and loved ones, but he was discouraged not to be able to find assistance through established health agencies.

In his biography, Chris states: "In 2017 I started my nonprofit Texas Hunters for Heroes West Texas and used many of the same techniques that helped me to heal, and to help other Veterans heal. We take a group of Veterans hunting and fishing, and give them the much-needed camaraderie and a safe place to talk about their traumas of war."

In 2018 he received certification to become a PTSD instructor and peer counselor. He then de-



veloped a relationship with PTSD Foundations of America and can provide much needed help to Veteran who suffer from PTSD, such as the ability to get suffering Veterans into a private facility to gain the much-needed help with the struggles involved with mental health and we are able to do this while keeping the Veteran's dignity and self-esteem.

Thanks, and I hope to see you all.

Sincerely,

Shelly Ferger
Founder/CEO/Director of Training Programs
Dogs For Life

VETERAN VOICE



A weekly newspaper about veterans issues, organizations, events and our military heroes. Veteran Voice is published weekly by Veteran Voice, LLC. 900 SE Ocean Blvd, STE D232, Stuart, FL 34994 (772) 247-0123 Office

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Phil Galdys
Publisher

32963

PEOPLE



Bijou.

**COSTUMED CANINES
FRIGHTFULLY CUTE AT
'HOWL-O-WEEEN' P. 15**

VBPD Community Partnership





AUGUST

Birthday Tea Party





JULY

Thankful For Our Supporters

10R | MONDAY, JULY 11, 2022 | LUMINARIES • IR | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

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.

Bubbles!





JUNE

Vietnam Veterans Golf Luncheon



Your Online Newsline
Vero Beach FLASH
Anything About Everything

Scene Around
Town

eFLASH
Newsletters

Vero Beach, FL - Ed. 06.30.2022

Community Foundation Awards \$100,000 to Four Local Nonprofits



Indian River Community Foundation awarded grants totaling \$100,000 to four nonprofit charitable organizations serving Indian River County. The grants were awarded from the Community Enrichment Fund, and two of the organizations receiving funds were: \$25,000 to Dogs for Life for Veteran Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Recovery and Support Group Meetings; and 10,000 to Bike Walk Indian River County for The Bike Rehab Project. Indian River Community Foundation was established in 2008 with a mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy. Visit www.ircommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

Pictured above:

Dogs for Life: Larry Salustro, IRCF Board Member with Rosie; Cynthia Ryan, Executive Director of Dogs for Life; Brooke Sauserman, IRCF Foundation Assistant with Chance; Chiaka Nwosu, IRCF Foundation Coordinator with Swift; Toni Hamner, IRCF Board Member; and Shelley Ferger, CEO of Dogs for Life, with Rufus.

Bike Walk Indian River County: IRCF Board Member Larry Salustro; John Crosby, Amy Banov, Bob Auwaerter, and Paul Morris all of Bike Walk; IRCF Board Member Toni Hamner; Dave Hunter, David Cerchie, John Sansburn, Barry Barker, and Larry Luedtke all of Bike Walk.

Visit www.ircommunityfoundation.org to learn more.

Boozefighters Motorcycle Club Fundraiser





MAY

Graduation & Volunteer Appreciation Ceremony



Lee Orre
Action Ph



APRIL

John's Island Grant

NEWS

John's Island grants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

cil has worked with them for years," added Price.

"It does help that it is a public-private partnership. That's the big part," said Wheeler. She added that because of past relationships, they trusted that Price and Hubbard would be good stewards of the funds provided to them.

Among the other 25 agency grants provided this year, the Arc of Indian River County received a larger than usual \$75,000 grant to construct a pavilion at its west campus for its day program.

"I realize it's not housing per se, but COVID exposed all the incredible weaknesses that agencies here have been trying to tread carefully," said Cramb, noting that the pandemic revealed that many agencies had cramped quarters. "Now having an outside pavilion is like a house."

A new agency funded this year was the Economic Opportunities Council, which received a grant to build a playground at its Douglas Head Start Center in Wabasso. After the site team visited, members were so impressed, said Wheeler, that they wanted to give them the full amount requested.

Dogs for Life received a grant for the

first time in a long time, to cover a generator for the building.

"These service dogs help veterans and women first responders suffering from PTSD. This has turned into a real critical need," said Cramb. "They have weekly meetings for veterans with PTSD and weekly meetings for the female first responders. I had not appreciated all the different benefits these dogs can provide. So, we're learning a lot."

Youth Sailing Foundation received a first-time grant to fund catamarans for special needs sailors, ages 16 to 60, as well as beginner elementary sailors.

"This is certainly a very varied list; we're trying to work on all sorts of needs in Indian River County. We are trying harder to make sure that people are aware of the Johns Island Foundation," said Cramb. "We are a more quiet group, but that's part of who we are. And people are very generous."

The John's Island Foundation, which has provided more than \$14 million in grants pertaining to capital projects and improvements since 1999, solicits donations from residents through a seasonal campaign letter. Wheeler credits Emily Sherwood for establishing a Foundation Leadership Circle, whose members donate \$5,000 or more, and who now account for well over half the money they raise. ■

COVID-19 infections rising sharply again here, but hospitalizations remain relatively low

BY LISA ZAHNER
Staff Writer

New COVID-19 infections here reported to the Florida Department of Health more than doubled over the past week, going from 90 cases to 186 cases, and the countywide case positivity rate rose 61 percent in a single week, with 7.9 percent of people being tested now being found positive.

In the past four weeks, the average number of new daily infections reported here has more than tripled from 8.5 to 26.5 cases, thanks to the spread of the BA.2 or "stealth Omicron" variant that's taken hold in the Northeastern United States and is spreading to Florida.

Statewide, Florida is still in the green zone for low community transmission, according to the CDC's criteria, but cases rose 32 percent in a single week, from 15,623 to 20,680 as of Friday's report. In mid-March, the whole state reported between 8,000 and 9,000 new cases per week.

Increasingly popular in-home rapid

tests are the big unknown factor in the official case numbers, as people who test positive on DIY test kits typically do not report these results to the Florida Department of Health. These cases go unrecorded unless the individuals seek medical attention, or must report the illness due to their job or school attendance.

In-home tests kits can be obtained free of charge through a U.S. Postal Service website, plus most private insurance carriers cover or reimburse members for the purchase of these kits.

The CDC reports four hospitalizations of COVID-positive patients here over the past week, and eight COVID-positive people were hospitalized at Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital as of Monday, up from seven.

The School District of Indian River County reported 13 new COVID-19 infections last week, all of among public school students. Private and charter school case data is no longer available to the general public.

With the snowbird migration north

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BuildingALifeStyle.com

John's Island Foundation brings in record \$1.1 million to fund grants

BY MARY SCHENKEL
Staff Writer

The John's Island Foundation raised a record \$1.1 million from its philanthropic membership this year and thus was able to not only ful-

fill, but in fact double, one of its largest grants ever.

Grant co-chairs Francie Cramb and Margie Wheeler posit the increase in donations by John's Island residents to their grasp of the devastat-

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John's Island grants

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ing impact the pandemic continues to have on lower-income families, particularly the increasing scarcity of affordable housing in Indian River County.

Therefore, when a \$100,000 grant request came in from the Coalition for Attainable Homes to build a 3,300-square-foot triplex in Gifford, on land donated by the county, the foundation knew it could make a difference. With two three-bedroom/two bath units, and one two-bedroom/one bath unit, the triplex will house three families.

The project is being overseen by two women who for years have tackled the affordable housing crisis in Indian River County: Julianne Price, president of the Coalition for Attainable Homes, was a founding member of Every Dream Has a Price, which merged with the Coalition; and Louise Hubbard, the longtime executive director of the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, who wrote the grant request on behalf of the coalition.

"They took us to the plot it was going to be built on, and then drove us around to one or two of their other houses, and we all realized the opportunity here," said Cramb. "We looked at this project and we realized that the John's Island Foundation had the opportunity, because we had generous

donors and considerable funds, to make a real impact."

Knowing that Price and Hubbard would have to go elsewhere to fund contingency fees and outfit the inside, they received board approval to increase the grant to \$200,000.

"That is the biggest we've ever granted. But these two women are working so hard right now, with placing people who have been evicted," said Wheeler. "The right thing was to really help them with this project."

Because of its uniqueness, the John's Island Foundation board agreed that it should be an entirely separate grant entity.

The new McCabe Leadership Grant is named in honor of the late visionary philanthropist Eleonora (Ellie) McCabe, who in 1999, seeing that no funders were addressing agency capital expenditures, founded the John's Island Foundation. This new grant will be used for special mission-based projects with a significant impact and long-term benefits.

"The John's Island Foundation has come up with the most support we've ever received for development of affordable housing in this county. We've never gotten that kind of money from local foundations," said Hubbard. "This is a project that's a local commitment to doing something for this community that comes from their efforts."

"It's a partnership, because Every Dream and Homeless Services Coun-

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cil has worked with them for years," added Price.

"It does help that it is a public-private partnership. That's the big part," said Wheeler. She added that because of past relationships, they trusted that Price and Hubbard would be good stewards of the funds provided to them.

Among the other 25 agency grants provided this year, the Arc of Indian River County received a larger than usual \$75,000 grant to construct a pavilion at its west campus for its day program.

"I realize it's not housing per se, but COVID exposed all the incredible weaknesses that agencies here have been trying to tread carefully," said Cramb, noting that the pandemic revealed that many agencies had cramped quarters. "Now having an outside pavilion is like a house."

A new agency funded this year was the Economic Opportunities Council, which received a grant to build a playground at its Douglas Head Start Center in Wabasso. After the site team visited, members were so impressed, said Wheeler, that they wanted to give them the full amount requested.

Dogs for Life received a grant for the

first time in a long time, to cover a generator for the building.

"These service dogs help veterans and women first responders suffering from PTSD. This has turned into a real critical need," said Cramb. **"They have weekly meetings for veterans with PTSD and weekly meetings for the female first responders. I had not appreciated all the different benefits these dogs can provide. So, we're learning a lot."**

Youth Sailing Foundation received a first-time grant to fund catamarans for special needs sailors, ages 16 to 60, as well as beginner elementary sailors.

"This is certainly a very varied list; we're trying to work on all sorts of needs in Indian River County. We are trying harder to make sure that people are aware of the Johns Island Foundation," said Cramb. "We are a more quiet group, but that's part of who we are. And people are very generous."

The John's Island Foundation, which has provided more than \$14 million in grants pertaining to capital projects and improvements since 1999, solicits donations from residents through a seasonal campaign letter. Wheeler credits Emily Sherwood for establishing a Foundation Leadership Circle, whose members donate \$5,000 or more, and who now account for well over half the money they raise. ■

Cause & Effect

FUNDRAISERS & CULTURAL EVENTS ADVANCE THE WORK OF LOCAL NONPROFITS

GOLD STAR WALK-A-THON

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS OF IRC

The American Gold Star Mothers of Indian River County held their third annual Walk-A-Thon for Military Suicide Awareness at Riverside Park in November. The 2.2-mile event, which passes through Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary, calls to mind the heartbreaking statistic of 22 veterans and active service members who die by suicide each day. Proceeds from the Walk-A-Thon help fund PTSD groups at Dogs for Life and the Mental Health Association in Indian River County and support the work of Next Generation Veterans of Indian River County.



Roma Anderson, Tammy Thurber, Michelle Dale, Kathi Schumann, and Diana D'Angelo



LEE ORRE

Michael Wright, a veteran facilitator at Dogs for Life and MHAIRC, addresses the assembly.



LEE ORRE

The walk gets underway.



LEE ORRE

The Wall of Valor represents local Gold Star Mothers' sons and daughters who died while serving in the U.S. armed forces.



Doug Klock, Chuck Gerrald, Amy Wagner, Angela Guzenski, Michelle Dale, Shelly Ferger, and Cynthia Ryan attend the check presentation.



MARCH

PETS



Oh 'MyMy,' is Bonz ever a fan of this Malti-Poo

Hi Dog Buddies!

It's always fun doin' an innerview at the Dogs for Life dog park – kinda brings me back to my puppyhood, you know? Miss Maya Sussman and her Mom, Susan, were already hangin' out in the Little Dog Section when me an my assistant arrived.

Maya – a Malti-Poo – was busy flyin' back an forth along the fenceline between the Liddle Dog an the Big Dog Sections: a puh-teet, black, 7.8-pound tornado totally keepin' up with a pooch running along the fence on the other side – Scout – who was at least 4 times her size.

As my assistant and Maya's Mom got comftubble under the shady tree canopy, Maya, not the teeniest bit shy or aapree-HEN-sive, trotted up for the Wag-an-Sniff. She was perky an frenly, with a confident, bouncy prance. An she wasn't even out of breath, far as I could tell.

"Ah, youth," I thought to myself, a liddle wistfully. "Good morning, Miss Maya. You we're sure givin' that big pooch a run for his Pupperoni!"

She laughed. "Hello, Mr. Bonzo! I LOVE runnin' with the Big Dogs! Keeps me on my game. One time I squiggled through the gate into the Big Dog section. So they hadda make the gap smaller. Oh, an you can call me MyMy like Mommy does. An I'll call you Bonz, if that's OK."

"Totally," I replied. "Absolutely! We can sit here in the shade while you tell me your tail, how 'bout?"

She jumped onto her Mom's lan. "Per-

ZERVED, if you can buh-leeve it. I didn't bark for the longest time. I mean, I didn't have anything to bark about. Everything was grrreat. Mommy was grrreat. I was just checkin' stuff out. I was so teeny, Mommy fed me By Hand. I slept with her right away, of course, an she was always afraid she was gonna smush me or step on me.

"I learned about Doing my Duty very quickly. Mommy got me those PP pads. (But sometimes at first, I used a spot that only looked like one but wasn't.) PLUS, I'm very fass-TIDDY-us so now, when I hafta do No. 1, I stand on my front paws only, so I don't get my back paws all, you know, damp. It's like what humans call a handstand, Mommy says."

I was speechless.

"Anyway, one morning, I was snuggled under the covers still, dreamin' about bunnies or something, an there was this Big Noise. It startled me. Then I ree-lized it was ME. I had barked. I tried it a few more times. I'm not barky like some of those annoyin' liddle pooches who yap from dawn to dust. I only perform on request. So, wanna hear me sing?"

"Sure," I replied. "Whaddya sing?"

"Happy Birthday, mostly. Ready? Here goes."

MyMy's Mommy stood in front of her like a cun-DUCK-ter and MyMy began. It was uh-MAY-zing. All the humans in the Dog Park turned to look. Some of the other dogs joined in on the high notes. MyMy had a Very Big Voice, with a truly memorable "ahhh-ROOOOO!"

"Woof. MvMv. that was Totally Crispy

Lucy an Haus at Sunshine Fur-nuh-chur. Hey, there's Muffin now! HI, MUFFIN!!!"

"Hi, Maya! 'Sup?"

A black-an-white Australian Shepherd ran over for a Wag-N-Sniff; MyMy introduced us, then Muffin zipped off to play, an MyMy hopped back onto her Mommy's lap.

"I did meet a cat once," she mused. "ME-uh. She buh-longs to my stepdad Daryl. Since my name's MY-uh, it got liddle confusing. I was just liddle, an ME-uh was bigger than me, PLUS she had claws. I was scared of her. I guess you could call us Fren-uh-meets."

Suddenly she jumped down again, all alert. "Ooooh. Look!" she pointed across the field. A gold-colored poo-mix-lookin' pooch had grabbed a hat from one of the humans an was racin' all over the place, leapin' around, shakin' the hat, havin' a grrreat time. The humans were mostly laffin', even the hatless man. Finally, the hat was retrieved, the excitement subsided, an MyMy returned to her Mommy's lap to continue her tail.

"Where was I? Oh, yes, I love playin' with my frens! Dogs AN humans. 'Specially human kids. My human Besties are Gracyn an Grady; an Callie an Parker. Mommy's their Nanny. An guess what? Me an Gracyn have the Same Birthday – Dec. 6! Isn't that SO Cool Kibbles? I




him and one for me one time an, I woou you not, it was the most duh-LISHU! thing I EVER put in my mouth. Now Mommy cooks for me. All in all, I hav The Best Life! Just us grrrls. I'm a luck poocheroo."

The hour had zipped by. I closed m notebook.

"Come back when you're not workin' an we can play!" she called, flyin' off into the field to run with the Big Dogs.

Heading home I was thinkin' about MyMy, the fearless social budderfly. An about fil-LAY min-YON. I wonder wh my chances would be ...

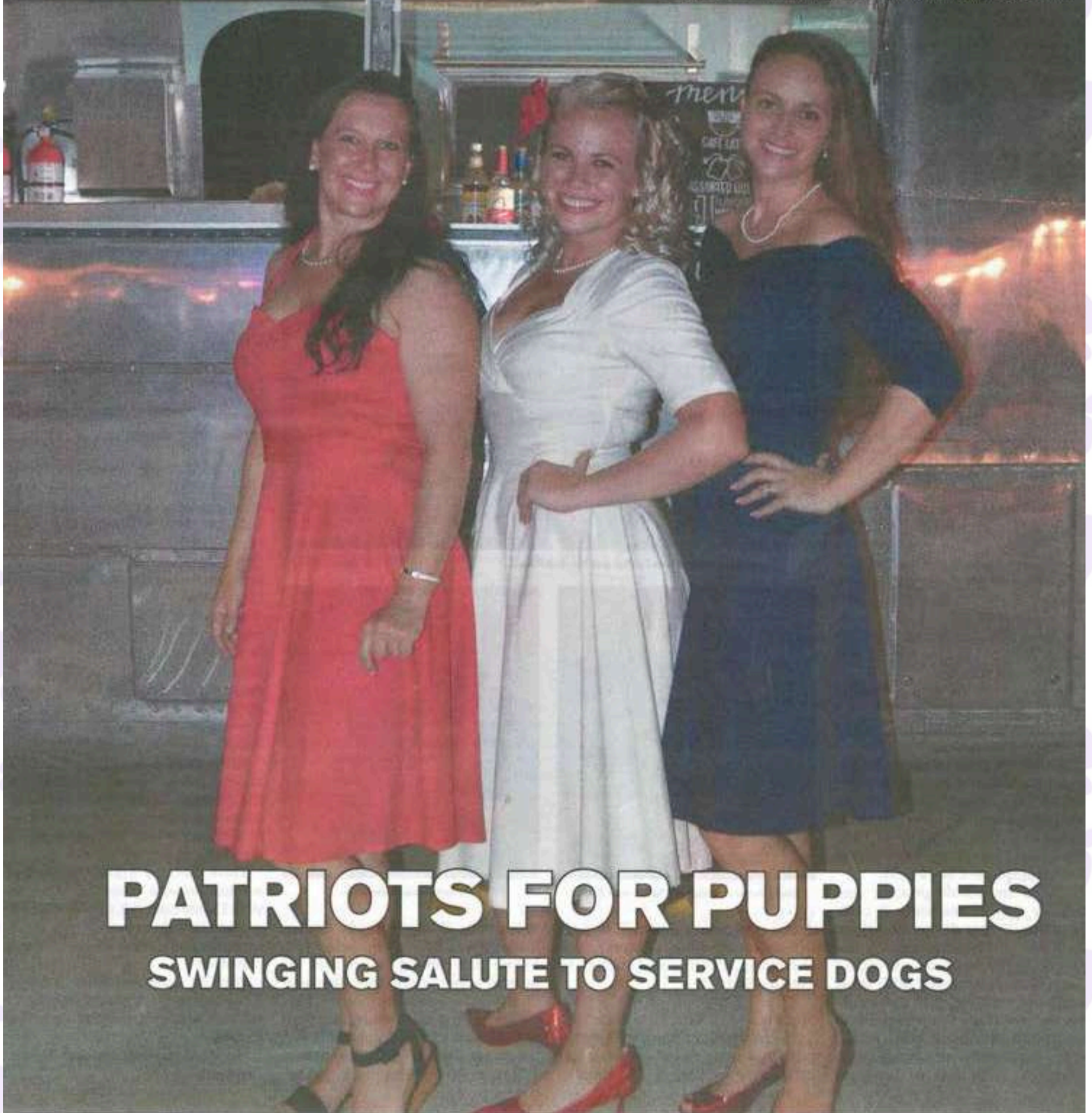
Till next time,

The Dog 

32963

PEOPLE

Carly Hasenauer, Mandy Espinal and Nicole Stork.



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PETS



Hi Dog Buddies!

Occasionally, I have to sternly remind myself that I'm a Totally Happy Batchler. This was one of those times. This week's interviewee, Maggie Firth, is a statue-ESK, purebred café latte-colored Standard Poo with legs up to here, a close-cropped haircut which shows off her stellar con-for-MAY-shun, cocoa-colored fluffy top-not, ears and tail-pom; the rest, little curls of cream and cocoa. Even though Miss Maggie's a fancy purebred, she's no snobnose.

So, when I learned her Furever Home was her fourth (an she's not even one anna haff), I was like "Wha-ah?"

She trotted up with her Mom to greet me an my assistant. Actually, it was a graceful prance, like those white, dancing horses.

"It is SUCH a PLEH-zure to make your uh-QUAIN-tunce, Mr. Bonzo!" she said, gazing at me with her big brown eyes. "I've heard So Much about you. Please, DO come in. Warm your paws. We can sit here by the fireplace."

My paws, as a matter of fact, felt like they were glued to the floor. "I, ummm, errr..." I mumbled suavely, forcing my gaze away from her long, graceful snout and cocoa-colored nose.

I finally got my paws to move, shook the fluff out of my head, and retrieved my notebook, which had somehow fallen to the floor.

"It's totally my pleasure. Lovely place you have."

"Why thank you," she said sweetly. "This is my Furever Mom, Kerry. Just make yourselves comf-tubble, an let me know when to begin."

"Ready whenever you are, Miss Maggie," I said in my Serious Professional Voice.

After daintily accepting a snack from the depths of my assistant's satchel,

she sat gracefully and began.

"Not long ago, Mom lost her beloved 16-year-old Maltese, Meeka. At the time, Mom's daughter Sheana and her dog Bear were living here with Mom, which helped fill the Loneliness Void. But when they moved elsewhere, Mom began to think about acquiring another dog. She was pic-shuring a pooch that was middle size; not a puppy, didn't shed; an a rescue cuz that's what she's always had. So, as Mom put it, she threw the idea out into the Universe. (I'm not certain, but I think that's a huge, big, gi-GAN-tic space that can hold everything else in it, like pillows an water an thots, an it's not even crowded. It's a human thing, so...)"

Note to Self: Google Universe. Maggie continued.

"As a just-weaned puppy, I was purchased by a lady on the other side of the state who thought she wanted to raise poodles but, when I was about 9 months old, changed her mind. So she put my pickshur an bio on a Poo Rehoming Website.

"THEN, Mom's Very Good Frens an Nay-bors, Marc an Sue (who already had two Standard Pooos: Bo an Sissy), saw my irresistible pickshur an decided to buy me for Marc's Mom, who'd always udd-MY-erred Bo an Sissy.

"It WUDDA been Totally Swell except for one teensy little thing: I am a puppy with Tons of Energy an I LOVE playing outside, speshully where there's lotsa DIRT an, cuzza our pond an stuff, lotsa MUD, which I'd track all over when I came in from playin'. Which was A LOT TO KEEP UP WITH. So, long tail short, I ended up back with Marc, Sue, Bo an Sissy.

"We got along Grrreat! However, THREE big inner-JED-ick, playful poo-



dles was ONE TOO MANY POODLES. Next time Mom saw Marc, Sue, Bo an Sissy out walkin', she realized there was an extra poo: ME!

"Here's the Crispy Biscuits part: Altho I'd never seen her before, I was like, 'THAT'S MY FUREVER MOM!' I stuck my nose out so she could pat me. An she DID. We Totally Had A Moment. The very next morning, Marc said to Mom, 'Ummm, I wonder whether you'd like to adopt Maggie?' An Mom said, 'YESSS! Muddy Paws an all!' An just like that I hadda Furever Home."

"What a Wonderful Tail, Miss Maggie!"

"I KNOW! Mom says it's a WinWin-Win: She got a bew-dee-ful new compan-yun (ME); Marc, Sue an my Besties Bo an Sissy can visit any time; an I got my Furever Mom. Full disclosure, I love bein' a (slightly) Spoiled Only Dog.

"An about that Muddy Paws Thing: It still happens, of course, but Mom found this uh-MAY-zing Muddy Dog Feet Cleaner thingy that looks like a toilet bowl brush inna plastic can with water in it.

"Now, whenever I get Muddy Paws, I go right to Mom on the PADio; she holds the thingy an helps me stick one paw

atta time in it an whoosh it around. It only tickles a liddle bit an WAAA-LAAA, no more Muddy Paws. Here, I'll show you!"

She demonstrated. It worked! An it totally did look like a toilet bowl brush.

"Tell me about your pooch pals. An what you do for fun," I suggested.

"Paws Down, my fave thing's chasin' ducks. I never catch 'em, tho. An playin' ball! An chewin' my stuffy chipmunk an my pink rubber squeaky pig. I have tons of pooch pals at the Dog Park. An I love takin' classes at Elite Training. Even though it's school, it's WAY FUN.

"Bo, Sissy an Bear are my Besties, but, over at Bo an Sissy's house there's also Pickles an Stella. Before them, I didn't know there were pets who weren't dogs. Did you? Pickles is a Cockatoo; that's a fancy bird with feathers instead of fur. Stella's a big cat. First cat I ever knew. Have you ever met a cat? They're miss-TEERY-us. I think she likes me but I'm not totally sure.

"At night, I snuggle in Mom's nice big cozy bed. Mom has a liddle corner an I stretch out in the rest cuzza my long legs. I'm such a fortunate grrrr, Mr. Bonzo."

The hour had raced by. Headin' home, I was thinkin' how Muddy Paws had led Maggie to her Furever Mom. I guess The Universe has a sense of Humor.

Till next time,

The Bonz

Don't Be Shy

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

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