

Training Service Dogs For Veterans

# Scrapbook 2015

# DECEMBER

# Annual Christmas Party





# 4-H Christmas Party



# Gunny Checks In



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

Gunnery Sergeant
"Gunny"
Assistance Dog In Training
December 2015





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







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

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





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

# NOTE CARDS Veterans' Service Dogs



Portrain by Janet E. Tymell C.

Improving the lives for our heroes

14.00

Enjoy the beautiful new graphite poetraits of service dogs,

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

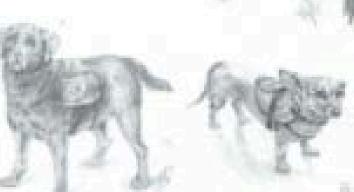
Every purchase of these Note Cards contributes to the training of another service dog for a person in need.

Each box contains:

· 8 Note Cards, blank inside

8 Matching Envelopes







Printed in 1754.

Perfect Christmas Gifts for Friends and Family

On Sale at Dogs For Life Training & Administrative Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

# Articles

VETERAN VOICE . THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE . DECEMBER 31, 2013

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

Mary Kemper

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



James and Dawn Taylor, with Pia Pia, their

service dog, stand near their

home in Vero

Photo by Brittany Lee

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

adopted Pia Pia.

"We adopted her to keep James

company," Dawn said. "We never thought of doing more with her."
They enrolled Pia Pia in basic obedience at Pet Smart and then advanced training, which was where they met Shelly Ferger, who is the founder and CEO of Dogs For Life in Vero Beach.
"We took Pia Pia to see Shelly, and to see if she could be trained

(for PTSD service)," Dawn said.

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

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

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

the propert of state from some one with trained covers degr.
At one seem, "Liamon states," getting essay, a but of access," these one. The Pin climbed up on him and literally fragged and kinset him down.

"It was really good, because pro-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"My best critics were my parents," Stan and Ann Orvel, Clearwater. "The book definitely passed the parent test. "Even shough it's a children's took, it beign suspenie soulie transf mireses and resemb sings, and how important it is to minost a many as possible," transc ment All seconds will as in factor for

"I am not into this for the money," she said. "It's just my way of giving back."

Coming up, Dawn plans to attend book signing events in Clearwater and at Pug Rescue of For more equivalent, while has been completed to the back may be perchased on the attractionine cate or by according thrown at va displace grant com. The cost is \$17.99 per hard copy, and \$3.99 to download.

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



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



#### ANIMALS

Bauer Research Foundation engages in research studies that do not involve the use of animals but which can make a huge difference in improving animal and human health.

www.bauerresearch.org

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

Dogs for Life Inc. provides training for dogs to assist people with hearing or mobility issues, as well as veterans with post-traumatic stress issues. www.dogsforlifevb.org

H.A.L.O. No Kill Rescue takes in and adopts out more than 1,500 animals annually, helping them find a "furever" home. www.halorescurefl.org

#### The Humane Society of Vero Beach & Indian River County's

"Open door, Open Heart" shelter accepts all animals, regardless of age, health, behavior or adoptability, www.hsvg.org

The National Elephant Center in

Felismere is home to North American elephants in need of short and long-term health care. www.nationalelephantcenter.org Vero Beach Dog Park, the offleash park along the Indian River Lagoon, has plenty of running and chasing space for our four-pawed friends. It's a social time for their owners.

www.verobeachdogpark.org

#### ARTS AND CULTURE

The Academy for the Performing

Arts offers vocal and instrumental instruction and performance opportunities for all ages. www.academyinvero.org

The Atlantic Children's Chorale is

a select chair that develops the individual's potential to a high level of vocal technique while exploring challenging repertoire. www.atlanticchildrenschorale.org

#### The Atlantic Classical Orchestra

encourages and cultivates the appreciation of classical symphonic music by presenting performances at the highest artistic level. www.atlanticclassicalorchestra.com

Ballet Vero Beach promotes the art of dance as a universal language in our community and beyond with performances throughout the year. www.balletverobeach.org

The Cultural Council of Indian
River County promotes public
awareness of the many available
cultural opportunities throughout
the community.
www.cultural-council.org

#### The Gifford Youth Orchestra

provides education, training and on-stage stage experience in the performing arts through music. "More Violins, Less Violence, Better Tomorrows."

www.gyotigers.org

The Indian River Symphonic Association seeks to bring the world's finest orchestras and soloists to Vero Beach. They've succeeded.

www.irsymphonic.org

#### Riverside Children's Theatre

offers affordable performing arts experiences and outreach to area children. The youthful enthusiasm and talent is something to see. www.riversidetheatre.com

Treasure Coast Chorale members

share their love and enjoyment of choral music with four annual performances at First Baptist Church of Vero Beach.

www.treasurecoastchorale.org

#### The Treasure Coast Jazz Society

encourages the performance, promotion and preservation of jazz. www.tcjazzsociety.org

The Vero Beach Art Club fosters

the appreciation of art and artistic growth through exhibitions and educational opportunities. www.verobeachartclub.org



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

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

2 . December 10,2015 · Veterain Voice

# Indian River council packs its December agenda

Mary Kemper

STAFF WRITER

mkemper@veteranvolceweekly.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

"We take this very, very seriously," he said. "If you see someone suspect, please call me at (772) 978-9997.

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

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

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

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

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

See COUNCIL page 7

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

#### COUNCIL from page 2

providing the hard-working men some extra holiday cheer.

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

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

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

not to become caught on its lanvard.

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

"Give yourselves kudos."
Indian River County Commissioner Joe Fleischer, who
attends every council meeting
with few exceptions, echoed tha
statement.

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

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

# NOVEMBER

### VETERANS LIMELIGHT

### Col. Martin Zickert

INDIAN DIVED COUNTY

## Making sure people know the needs of local veterans

By Tania Ortega-Cowan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Martin Zickert

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

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

borne," he says.

From 1967 to 1968 he went into reconnaissance.

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

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

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

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

### TREOSURE Coast Vauspaper Luminairies Man Va 9,2015

was assigned to the Philippines in 1975.

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

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

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

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

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

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

distro

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

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

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

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

cord. page 11

## 'We cannot abandon them now'

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

By Fran Foster The Newsweekly

Despite the efforts of many, there are homeless veterans in Indian River County.

However, due to the devotion and drive of some of our local support organizations, most veterans have or will have a place to call home.

The Veteran House, located on Old Dixie Highway in Vero Beach,

is just one example where servicemen are getting the support they deserve. The property, owned by Jerry Hamel, is operated by the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County and houses four men.

Each individual has served his country and each has a compelling story like so many others in our community.

Their plight is a reminder approaching Veteran's Day we have

the opportunity to sup- reasons," he says. "We port those who have put themselves in harm's way for our safety.

#### **Homeless vets**

Vic Diaz, secretary of the Vietnam Veterans of Indian River County, remembers being told back in 2010 there were no homeless veterans in the county.

"I have been all over our country and there are homeless vets everywhere, for various turned up 38 veterans living in our woods."

Diaz, along with president of the Vietnam Veterans of IRC, Tim Nightingale, decided to provide housing for all those seeking shelter.

They knew benefits were available and they wanted to make sure the servicemen received all they were due.

As Diaz pointed out, "We needed them to defend our country then,

TETNAM VETERANS OF NDIAN RIVER COUNTY

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

we cannot abandon them now."

A big clean-up The work began person by person with assistance from other local organizations such as the Veteran's Council of Indian River

See VETERAN, 18

wednesday, November 4, 2015 Lere Beach - Indian River

#### VETERANS



Coffee in the backyard of the Vatorans House on Old Dixie Highway in Voro Beach. Sal & Di-Maleoki Lobianco, Jim Spencer, Frank Alber, Net Carpenter, Vic Diaz and Tim Nightingalo.

#### VETERAN from I

and Every Dream Has a

Each organization offers its own expertise and most operate only on local funding.

All money collected in Indian River County stays right here.

The Veteran House, located at 955 Old Dixie Hwy., is a perfect example of how Diaz and Nightingale ensure local veterans have a place to call home.

"You should have seen the place before," says Sal Lobianco, a Vietnam vet who offered his skills as a tradesman to get the house in shape, along with his wife Di.

"I literally had to scrape the windows six times to get the gunk off of them," said Di. "It was uninhabitable."

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

ing rooms and storage space. It now accommodates four veterans who have different roles within the home.

Korean War Army veteran James Spencer. USMC veteran Frank Alber, USAF veteran Neil Carpenter and Army veteran Cato Du Bois all live together, Each has his own room with cable television and shared common areas.

Alber makes sure that Spencer's blood sugar and insulin levels are right. Carpenter makes coffee, although there seems to be some disagreement of who makes a better pot.

There are no drugs, no drinking, and no women. They thrive on the support of one another and continued efforts by Diaz and Nightingale to assist them in any way necessary.

"We have helped 31 veterans under the HUD-VASH grant program," says Diaz. "We've used up (the grant money) but hopefully we can get more. This was a four-year journey that

isn't over yet." "All of the local organizations try to coordinate efforts to make sure everyone is housed, for instance the duplex being built in Gifford at 38th Place. A property gets built and then we have to help them get their VA benefits, find them jobs if possible and make sure they are compatible to live together and support each other. We believe in a hand up, not a hand out," Diaz emphasizes.

There is still work to be done in this ongoing battle to provide help to veterans in need.

For instance, the owners of the Breath of Heaven Ministries bouse is considering selling the property and the seven vets living there will need new housing. There are five veterans on a waiting list for the Gifford duplex.

#### Challenges

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

#### VETERAN

from 18

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

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

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

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



The Veterana House offers four small bedrooms, a full bathypom. full kitchen with all appliances, a dining and family flow sit moon as Internet and dable.

lives in a three-bedroom home.

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

County," Diaz insists.

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

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

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### SERVICE DOGS FOR VETS

### Dogs For Life recognized by **Veterans Administration**

BY SHELLY FINGER

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

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

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

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

The fastest growing need for service dogs is in Florida, and it is for the brave military men and women who served our country! More than 231,000 Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record. More than 80,000 veterans will retire to Florida in the next

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

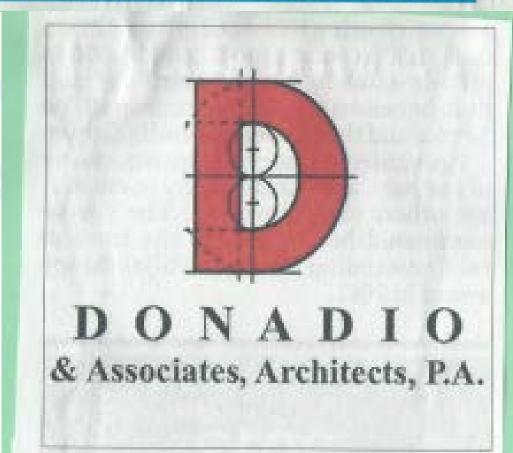
- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability ■30 percent will suffer from the effects of
- ■50 percent of those with PTSD will not seek
- 19 percent will report PTSD symptoms classified as "serious functional impairment"
- One-third of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and 45 percent of them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

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

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



Veteran Jim Taylor with his hearing assistance dog Pia Pia



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

### 2012 Outstanding Corporate Philanthropist

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

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

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

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

meet the needs of local veterans.

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

# Howl-O-Ween Coverage

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#### STARS WERE OUT

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



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



Corina Turner and her Tibetan Spanel rescue dog Heidi, 'mommy's pumpkin'



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



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

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

CEO and Founder Shelly Ferger said the pawrade was part of the nonprofit's effort to raise awareness in the community about the off-leash dog park, the service dog training center and the outreach programs at Dogs For Life.

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

Learn more at DogsForLifeVB. org.



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

Friday, November 6, 2015

Hometown News - SEBASTIAN - www.HometownNewsOL.com

### Pets on parade

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



**Photos by Cliff Partlow** staff photographer



costume adjustment from his owner Deb Soroka. Her son Jayse is a member of the 4H Dog Masters.

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



Staff photo by Mary Komper Stephanie Springer, Vero Beach, her daughter Lily and their Yorkshire Lander, Officer dressed in a Little Red of ling mond theme, with Oliver being the Big Bad Wolf dressed



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Brooke Bouza, left, and Lisa Kent, Valuationary technicians with Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital, manned a booth at the annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade held Oct. 24 at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

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

Mary Kemper
TUAFF WRITER
TIMER WRITER
TIMER

as Grandma.

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

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

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

Representatives from the Indian River County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit put on a dog-handling display. Other representatives included a contingent from the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital. VFW 50/C

Staff photo by Mary Kemper

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

See PAWRADE page 9

#### PAWRADE from page 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



oring Turner, Vero estach, holds Baby, her 4-year-old tricolor Chihuahua, at the annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade held Oct. 24 at Dogs For Life, Vero Beach.

THEADURE COAST NEWSPINIERS | VERO REACH-INDIAN RIVER NEWSWEEKLYNAME | Wednesday, November 4, 2015 |

#### **EVENTS**

### 'Pawraders' strut their stuff at Dogs for Life park

By Fran Foster The Newsweekly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Dogs For Life volunteer Joan Freeman and ; oocia Daisy guard the raffle prizes at the Howlo-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo-

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

their time and energy."

Ferger also noted the K-9 demonstration provided by Indian River Sheriff deputies, who volunteered their time to highlight their special talents.

Since 2001, Dogs For Life has been turning lives around by providing inde-

for people who need assistance, as well as to give a new purpose in life to abandoned dogs through specialized training.

These trained assistance dogs enrich people's lives - providing ears that hear smoke alarms, paws that tap 911 buttons to call

and legs that provide accessibility.

The fastest growing need for assistance dogs in Florida is among the men and women who have served in the United States

For more information about the Dogs For Life programs or to become a member of the Off-Leash Dog Park, stop by at 1230 16th Ave., Vero Beach; visit the website at www. dogsforlifevb.org or call 772-567-8969.



Little Ris I Riding Hood, Lify, 3, with her Yorkie, Dliver, in his wagon with more Stephanie Springer received lots of smiles for their realive costumes.



Dogs For Life Founder/CED/President Shelly Ferger (center) with Jim Taylor holding PlaPla and Kathi Schumann holding. Six Georgia Sunshine in the VIP tent.

#### **EVENTS**

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



Beekeeper Jayse Soroka with his burnblobee pug Flocky.



Elvis the Bloodhound as Sherlock Holmes.



Hudson, a Great Pyrenese/Husky mix, attends the pawrade dressed as a polar bear.



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



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



Princess
Lota
adomed
in a pink
tutu takes a
break from
her hearing
dog fraining for the
pawrade.



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



The 14th Annual Howlo-Ween Dog Costume Pawrade and Pet Expo had 73 dogs parsicipats in the costume parade.

### I LOVE MY JOB!



#### I WAS CHOSEN FOR A REASON.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Eugnor M. Benggak Eleanor M. Bengyak, President Kathi G. Schumann, Vice-President

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

#### Your donation helps Dogs For Life train dogs for

Mobility Limitations

> Healing Families



Veterans with PTSD

Comforting the Elderly Hearing Loss



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

1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32960 772.567.8969

> dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org



#### ASSISTANCE DOGS WELCOME

GUIDE DOGS HEARING DOGS SERVICE DOGS



772-567-8969

#### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOGS

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

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Service Dogs assist people with mobility or psychological impairments and can be custom trained for the particular needs of the individual. A dog trained in mobility task work can help their partner stand up, pull a wheelchair, open doors or cabinets, carry items (groceries/medication), retrieve dropped items (keys/cane) or tap a special 911 phone. Service Dogs also assist individuals with symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress and can be trained to wake someone from a nightmare, conduct a perimeter search, find an exit or create a 'safe zone' around their partner.

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

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

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

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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 or a cane. The human partner undoubtedly has something known as a "hidden disability" such as chronic back pain, a serious hearing impairment, or a neuro-seizure or psychological disorder.

### HOW DO I RECOGNIZE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

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



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

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

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

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

#### Reasons to Deny Access

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

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

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



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



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



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

#### Summary of Law:

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

#### Businesses

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

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

Service dogs can be any breed or size and ar not legally required to wear special equipmen or tags. Certification or registration of the do as a service animal is not required under federa or Florida law. It's the training to do work of perform tasks that makes a service dog legal, no the ID or 'clothes' they wear.









#### Other studies show4:

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

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



#### Dogs For Life Programs and Services

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

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

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



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

Email: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs For Life, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-enempt organization as described under the Internal Revenue Gods 201(c)(3). Federal ID# 33-1800387



#### Service Dogs For Veterans



Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

#### Service Dogs For Veterans

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



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

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

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

231,000° veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record'. 80,000\* Iraq and Afghanistan veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years2,

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



#### Application Approval

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

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

Owner's Initials Date

Evaluator's Signature Date

To be signed on Dog Park Orientation date



#### Off-Leash Dog Park Information

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

#### Cost: \$100 Orientation fee.

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

Payment Method: Cash, Check or Credit/Debit Card

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

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

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



#### Dogs For Life Mission

A non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning and operating an Off-Leash Dog Park.

#### Dogs For Life Programs

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

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

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

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





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

Email: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

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

#### Safety For The Park

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

#### Rules and Regulations

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



#### Off-Leash Dog Park



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

Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

4 --- 11 -- 41 ---

Ар	pheation
Name:	
Address:	
City:	Zip:
Phone:	
Email:	
Dog's Name:	M
Age/Birthday:	Male Female
Vet Clinic:	
Preferred method of com	munication: 🗆 Email 🗀 U.S. Mai
How did you hear about	us?
☐ Member ☐ Friend	🗆 Ad 🗅 Dog Park Sign 🗅 Event
□ Other	

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

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

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

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

Owner's Signature	Date
Referred by:	

#### ASSISTANCE DOGS WELCOME

GUIDE DOGS HEARING DOGS SERVICE DOGS



Training Service Dogs Since 2002 772-567-8969

#### TYPES OF ASSISTANCE DOGS

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

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







#### DFL Community Outreach Programs

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

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

4-H Dog Masters Club is available for youths between the ages of 8 and 18, which promotes responsible pet ownership skills, self-confidence and leadership skills. This program is

sponsored by DFL at no cost to the club.

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







#### DFL Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center

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

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

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



Administrative Offices, Training Center and Off-Leash Dog Park



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

Email: dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net www.dogsforlifevb.org

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# Dogs For Life

#### **Improving The** Quality Of Life For **People And Dogs**

AT NO COST TO OUR CLIENTS



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

**Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center** 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

(772) 567-8969

#### Dogs For Life Mission

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

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

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

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









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



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

#### Average Cost To Train A Service Dog

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

Team Evaluation Process Client Application Review	<b>UNIT</b> \$50/hr.	AVG. #	TOTAL \$200		
Home Visit; Head Trainer & Assigned Trainer	\$75	1	\$75		
Shelter Visits & Dog Temperament Evaluation	\$50/hr.	6	\$300		
Cost to Adopt Dog	\$120	1	\$120		
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	6	\$300		
Training Equipment			100		
ID Card - In Training	\$15	1	\$15		
Jacket & Patches - In Training	\$125	1	\$125		
Canine 911 Emergency Phone	\$264	1	\$264		
Training Supplies	\$250	1	\$250		
Basic Behavior / Obedience Training					
Group Obedience Classes	\$100	4	\$400		
AKC Canine Good Citizen Test	\$10	2 10	\$20 \$750		
Public Access Training	\$75/hr. \$50/hr.	6	\$300		
Administrative Record Keeping	1000000	0	3300		
Task Training; 3 Tasks Minimu	Task Training; 3 Tasks Minimum				
Assigned Trainer	\$42/hr.	120	\$5,040		
Head Trainer	\$75/hr.	36 96	\$2,700		
Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	30	34,000		
Certification Costs			ALE		
ID Card - Certified	\$15	1	\$15		
Personalized Collar & Leash;	\$150	10	\$150		
New Jacket Patches Administrative Record Keeping	\$50/hr.	3	\$150		
TOTAL I	ining	\$15,782			
100 mm					

Annual Recertification & Support Annual ID Cards Replacement Jackets, Collars & Leashes \$175 \$500 Administrative Record Keeping \$24,632 TOTAL

Additional Costs For DFL Pre-Trained Dog:

	Veterinary Care Initial Exams & Vaccinations Heartworm/Flea Meds	\$280 \$40 <b>Subtotal</b>	1 6 mos.	\$280 \$240 <b>\$520</b>
	DFL Housing Costs Cost of Service Dog Puppy Boarding Food & Treats Crate & Dog Bed	\$1,000 \$25/day \$100 \$400 <b>Subtotal</b>	1 6 mos. 6 mos. 1	\$1,000 \$4,550 \$600 \$400 <b>\$6,550</b>
	GRAND TOTAL w/Addition	al Costs	\$	31,702

Your donation is tax deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes under section 501(c) (3) of the internal Revenue code.

GRAND TOTAL w/Additional Costs

Registration # CH15631, You will receive a written receipt and regular updates through the Dogs For Life, Inc. Paw Prints Newsletter. We are grateful for your support. Should you have any

questions please call our office at (772) 567-8969.

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800) 435-7352 ithin the state.

# OCTOBER

# Howl -0-Ween

# TRIVER AREA NEWS

Vol. 13, No. 6

www.HometownNewsOl com

Friday, Oct. 30, 2015

### Perfect pet 'Pawade'



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

**Cliff Partlow** 

#### Shelly Ferger

From: Sent:

To: Subject: DOGS FOR LIFE, INC. <dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net>

Tuesday, October 27, 2015 4:22 PM

dagsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

DFL's Howl-O-Ween Photos and YouTube video

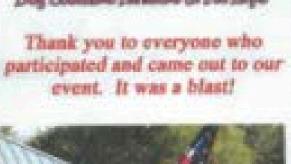
Dogs For Life's Howl-O-Ween Pawrade was a huge success thanks to all of your efforts and support!











NI COLUMN OF SECONDARY





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

Museum baledy Vec MSIMOM

# Going to the Dogs



More than 70 dogs lined the track at the Dogs For Life dog park in Vero Beach for the 14th annual Howl-D-Ween Pawrade on Saturday, "This was last-minute," said Linda Wyatt (left), of Vero Beach, who attended with her dog lazy, granddaughter MacKenzy Peavy (right), 9, and her friend Chice Wilson, 8. "I didn't plan on coming, but my granddaughter issisted." This was Wyatt's second year participating in the event. To see more photos, go to TCPalm.com.

38 INDIAN RIVER County

IN SEASON

October 2015



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

**Cliff Partlow** staff photographer

#### Events

From page 36

\$35. For more information visit afpindianriver.afpnet.org

#### WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18

- · Sebastian Area Historical Society, "Flounder Fishing at Sebastian Inlet State Park" by Ed Perry, Park Services Specialist, Sebastian Inlet State Park. North Indian River County Library, 1001 Sebastian Blvd., CR 512 at Roseland Road. Admission is free. Refreshments provided. For more information call (772) 581-1380 or email sahsi@att.net.
- · Free Wildlife Tours, 8-10 a.m. every Wednesday, November through March (except holiday weeks), Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge. You MUST have a reservation. For reservations call (772) 581-5557, ext. 2.

THURSDAY, NOV. 19 & SATURDAY, NOV. 21

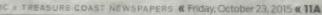
 'Riverside Goes to Hollywood:' 8 p.m., Stark Stage, 3250 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. Two evening performances, Thursday and Saturday, following an already sold-out musical revue luncheon on Nov. 19. Enjoy some of the most beloved and acclaimed songs from Hollywood musicals. Tickets are \$45. For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

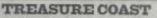
#### THURSDAY, NOV. 19 - SATURDAY, NOV. 21

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

See EVENTS, page 39







Community Calendar



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

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

Registration - 2 pm • Pawrade - 4 pm



Event Underwriter Henry IX Schumann

Dogs For Life Off-Leash Dog Park

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





26A » Sunday, October 18, 2015 » TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS ».

#### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

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

564-4611; James, batorywindianriverschools.org. Orchid Mounting Workshop: Make and take a mounted Dendrobium grohld. All materials included, 10 a. m-noon Oct. 24, McKee Butanical Garden, 350 U.S. 1. Vero Beach, Ages: 16+, \$55, Register: 772-794-0601: www. mckeegarden.org. Absolute Integrated Medicine: Egarn more about Acopuncture at AOM Day. 10 a.m. 2 p.m. Oct. 24. Absolute integrated Medicine, 1575 Indian River Blvd., Suite C-130, Vero Beach, \$0-\$30, 772-770-6184; Acupuncture/eroBeach.com. Vero Beach Oktoberfest & Music Jam: Rock, Country, Blues and German/Bayarian bands, foods, vendors, 11. a.m.-10 p.m. Oct. 24. Indian River County Fairgrounds. 7955 58th Ave., Vero Beach. \$2,866-611-0442; http:// www.VeroBeachOktoberFest. com/a

VNA's "Shoo the Flu" Vaccination Clinic: 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 24. Vero Beach Hidden Treasures, 660 21st St., Vero Beach, 772-567-5551: www.vnatc.com.

Dogs For Life Canine Howl-o-ween Pawrade & Pet Expo: Halloween Dog. Costume Parade at DFL Off-Leash Dog Park. 2 p.m. gates open for registration, 4 p.m. Pawrade Oct. 24. Does For Life, 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, 772-567-8969; www. dogstorlifeyb.org.

#### Calendar Oct. 19-30

Cocktail Party: 6-8 p.m., to benefit ARC of Martin County, Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club, Stuart, \$75 per person, 772-283-2525

#### Oct. 24

Golf Tournament: 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m., to benefit ARC of Martin County, Piper's Landing Golf & Country Club, Stuart. \$250 per; erson: 772-283-2525

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

Exchange Club of IRC
Foundation's Black &
White Masquerader 6
p.m., Vero Beach Country
Club, 800 30th St., Vero
Beach, \$75 per person,
www.exchangeclubofindianriver.org.

Annual Halloween Party: 3-6 p.m., to benefit The Arc of Indian River County, Sun-Up Campus, 2455 5th St. SW, Vero Beach, \$5, 772-562-6854, etx. 228

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

#### Shelly Ferger

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

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



STAY CONNECTED

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



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



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



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



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



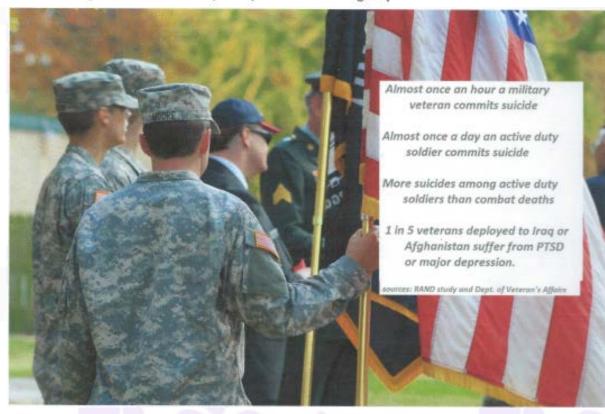
Ferger believes that dogs are a workable alternative to medication and augment talk therapy to a great degree. She is backed up by the Operation Wolfhound study that showed service dogs were 85% effective in helping with PTSD as opposed to medication and talk therapy each at 50% effective.



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



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





1230 16th Avenue • Vero Beach, FL 32960

#### Service Dogs For Veterans

A Message From Kathi Schumann

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

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

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

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

#### WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

The sobering fact is that suicide is rampant5:

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!





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

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

231,000° Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq already claim Florida as their home of record1.

80,000° Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans will retire to Florida in the next two years2.

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

- 3 in 10 will have a service-related disability

- 30 % will suffer from the effects of Post

Traumatic Stress - 50% of those with Post Traumatic Stress will

not seek treatment - 19% will report Post Traumatic Stress symptoms

classified as "serious functional impairment" - 1/3 of Florida's adult homeless are Veterans, and

45% of them will suffer from mental illness!

Florida is home to the highest number of amputees from the Gulf War-Era3

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



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



The Statistics Are Staggering

13% of homeless adults: Veterans

20% of male homeless: Veterans

. 62,619 Veterans homeless on any

· 4 in 10 of these are unsheltered

Veterans were served by the VA in

80,558 calls made to the National

Call Center for Homeless Veterans

in fiscal 2012 (up123% from 2011)

Veterans Are Disproportionalely

20% homeless for veterans aged

18-25 (vs. 16.4% for same-aged

10.4% for veterans aged 25-34

(vs. 8.1% for same-aged civilians)

240,000° homeless or "at risk"

2012 (up 21% from 2011)

given nights

Homeless'

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\*

307,000 members of our armed forces are likely to leave the military in each

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

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

What does Post Traumatic Stress have to do with homelessness? The sad fact is: 2/3 of homeless Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have Post Traumatic Stress<sup>6</sup>

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

336,000° have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress (some studies indicate

that up to 70% of Veterans suffer from Post Traumatic Stress)

- 50,409 have been wounded7

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 conditions5:

- 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

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."

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

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

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

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

#### Service Dogs Can Help Veterans with Post Traumatic Stress

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

#### Other programs indicate 10:

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



mes Taylor, SSG U.S. Army (Ret.), Iraq War Veteran and his

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

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

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



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.

Florids Department of Veterans Affairs According to local Ventrans Groups

\*\*Modes Rend Army Hospital estimate\*

\*\*Ventran Engolation Survey (EDS) 2012, U.S. Department of Ventrans Affairs and U.S. Department of Labor

Ventran Engolyment and Training Service

\*\*Department of Ventrans Affairs

\*\*Toportment of Ventrans Affairs ary 30(2 HUD national "point in-time count" of the borneless

The Raod Stody, Department of Veteran Affaire, Department of Defense V& specialized homeformers programs Amer Murphy, CA Salvation Army program director



# SEPTEMBER



### BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS



Indian River County with Tania Ortega-Cowan

#### Theatre in Fellsmere

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

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

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

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

The free tickets will distributed at the au-

### Dogs for Life Howl-O-Ween

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

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

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

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

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

TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS | LUMINARIES - LUM | Monday, September 28, 2015 |

### IN REMEMBRANCE



Cmdr. Sylvester McIntosh,

American Legion Post 181

Honor Guards - American Legion Post 189



Bagpiper Michael Hyde



John Matthews and Dwight Harris

Dinning of the Wreath CDL Heath Marrie LIRMO Local officials, dignitaries, veterans and residents attended the POW/MIA ceremony on Veteran's Memorial Island.

### /MIA Day

By BRINDS SPORATO

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

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

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

Bagpiper Michael Hyde participated in the ceremony's interlude.

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

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

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

The ceremony concluded

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

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

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



Dogs for Life John Bough-LA Bykowsky



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

### Golf Tournament



# United Way Day of Caring

10A » Sunday, September 20, 2015 » TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS »

#### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

### 7 women tabbed to lead United Way campaign

By Janet Begley

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

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

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

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

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

#### THE 'SENSATIONAL SEVEN'

Kerry A. Bartlett: Managing director, Bob Carter Companies

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

Janie Graves Hoover: Sales and marketing executive, Tight Line

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

Leah Muller: Leah Muller Interiors

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

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

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

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

Another member of the "sensational seven" is Sue Tompkins, vice president and senior financial adviser for Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith. Tompkins said having seven different women leading the campaign might be scary to some but she believes it brings diversity to the project.

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

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

#### 'DAY OF CARING'

More than 30 projects were completed during the "Day of Caring" for the following organizations:
American Red Cross; CareNet; Children's Home Society;
Leisure Square; Dogs for Life; Harvest Food & Outreach;
Hibiscus Children's Center; Healthy Start; Senior Resource
Association; Keep Indian River Beautiful; St. Vincent de
Paul Thrift Store; The Source; The Source Thrift Store;
United Way of Indian River County; Humane Society of
Vero Beach thrift stores in Vero Beach and Sebastian;
Homeless Family Center; Indian River County Habitat
for Humanity; Literacy Services of Indian River County;
Florida Aquaculture Foundation; Redlands Christian
Migrant Association; Treasure Coast Community
Health; Environmental Learning Center; Gifford Youth
Achievement Center; and the Samaritan Center.

Resource Association.

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

"I work closely with nonprofit partners and I can tell you that the help you're providing today makes a big difference," said Egan. "Hundreds of you are going out today to paint, clean, build, organize and even scrapbook, things that these agencies don't have to money or people power to do without help. Thanks go to people like you who put your time and money where your mouth is, step up, and make things better for others."

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

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





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



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





### Darel's Birthday Party



### 3rd Annual Tunnel 2 Towers 5K

24 | Monday, September 14, 2015. | LUMINARIES - LU TREATISE CONSTRUMENTATIONS

### STARS IN REMBRANCE



IRCFR Chief Brian



IRCFR's Captain Jamie Coleman and Battalian Chief Lann Benham



Bottalion Chief Jack Oehm from Brooklyr's Red Hook Station who was working an 9-11



Dogs for Life's Lisa Snycerski, Shelly Ferger, 'Puppy', L.A. and 'Darmil'

### 3rd Annual Tunnel 2 Towers 5K

By Taxas Germa-Come

Riverside Park in Vero Beach was filled with first responders. American flags, rows of fillen 911 heroes' names, and enthusiactic supporters Saturday to participate in the Tunnel 2 Towers SK.

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

To honor the best and physical challenges our 911 first responders endured in NYC, many chose to run the race wearing full firefighter and law enforcement gear. Proceeds benefit the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation which forever remembers the sacrifice firelighter Stephen Siller made when he ran to the World Trade Center and taid down his life to save others on 9-IL.

Battalian Chief Jack Ochmirem Brooklym Red Hook station, who helped the rescue efforts on 9-U. came to Vero Beach hou for this event.

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

lacrosse team

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

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



### Cowboy Beer Night

THROSURE COAST NEWSPAPERS / LUMINGRIES

### Cowboy Beer Night Cattlemen help Samuel Tripson

By TANIA ORTEGA-COWAN

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

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

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

and poet, he designed the label for a new beer being served at the event, the Cow Boss Imperial Milk

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

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

Even more fitting, the loved one Sam.

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

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

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

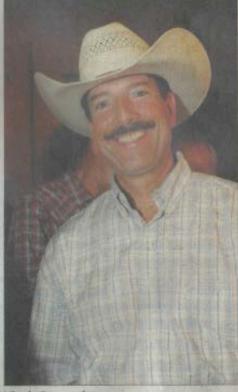
> So, the event had a bit of a family reunion feel as so many Tripsons and Sextons were there celebrating the Cattlemen's Association and supporting their



Joe & Liz Earman



Lange Sykes, Cindy Goetz and Andrew



Vinnie Parentela

#### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Cindy O'Dare and Rosanne Moler



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



Mark, Hildie and Charlotte Tripson



Michael Pressley, Tiffany Tripson and Ashley Moree





Ryan Cappelen and Hillary Stanley



Chris Dale Sexton with some necklaces for the auction



Beth Sexton-Stryker and Audrey Sexton

### Johns Island Grant

### NEW&NOTEWORTHY



### Dogs For Life Receives Grant

The John's Island Foundation awarded *Dogs For Life Inc.* a \$12,679.50 grant. The funding will provide expanded bandicapped accessibility in the dog park as well as the outdoor training areas. This generous grant will also belp complete the drainage project throughout the Dogs for Life property. "We are thrilled that all of our clients who use wheelchairs will have total access to the lower training areas," states Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life founder and CEO. Dogs for Life is the only assistance dog training in the area accredited by Assistance Dogs International and they have specific standards to maintain accreditation. Since the 2015, the number of local residents and veterans enrolled in the Hearing and Service Dog Training Program has

Dags for Life 1230 ten Ave

Tall West was dogstonles b.org

MICHAEL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTY NAMED AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTY NAMED AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARTY NAMED AND ADMINISTRATION OF T

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# Guide to Giving

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

#### ANDMAL WELFARE

#### Bawer Research Foundation

Promotes effective and sale therapies for the beatment of cancer in animals. 2001 9th Ave. Ste. 103, Vero Brach FL 32960; 866-403-7171 www.bauerresearch.org.

#### Dogs for Life Inc.

HOOF HARMOND AREA

Seeks to improve the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance dogs for people with hearing or mobiley impairments and veterans with post-traumatic stress, 1230 16th Ave., Vero Boach, FL 32960; 772-567-8969; www.dogstonitevb.org

#### H.A.L.O. No - Kill Rescan.

Creation a rop-still safe haven for abandmed and aboard annual, in Indian River County, 710 Jack you St., Settleman, R. 32958, 772-585-7297, man halorescuelling

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

Provides an Topen door, open heart" animal shalter disdicated to helping and protecting the animals of our community, 6230 77th St., Vero Beach, Fl. 32967; 772-388-3331; www.havt.org

#### The National Elephant Center Seeks to improve the North

\*

American elephant population's

long-term health and welfare by providing and growing morferez in elegiture. tiet and management. E.O. Box ES2, Fellomers, FL 32948-772-353-4875

#### Vero-Beach Dog Pork

Provides a clean, salts anaeconower. for dogs of all sows to rown freely in an off-least, 5-wire, green space along the Indian River Lagoon, providing two fanced exercise away for both large and small dogs, 505 Beachland Blvd. Ste. 1-124, Vero Beach Ft. 32563; WnW.verobeachdogpark.org

#### METS AND CULTURE

#### Academy for the

Performing Arts

Differs rocal and nonunersul music instruction and performance 1750 20th St., Vero Beach. FL 339600; 772-562-7265; WWW.academy/nvero.o/g.

#### Atlantic Children's Chorale

Develops each student's potential to a high level of vocal technique and musicianship while exploring challenging choral repertoire. 1901 23td St., Vero Beach, FL 32960; 772-469-3310; www.atlanticchildrenschorale.org

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115

# Vero Beach Elementary PTA



This certificate of appreciation is presented to

### **DOGS** for LIFE

for

Supporting our PTA 2015-2016

Mr. B



9/14/15

### AUGUST

### 4-H Dog Masters Club

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

### Things to Do

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

By Shelly Ferger

YourNews contributor

Are you a dog-loving 8- to 18-year-edd looking for a fun-filled experience?

The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club is holding an informational orientation meeting for families interested in joining the club.

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

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

Have fun with friends and dogs using positive reinforcement.

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

To sign-up for this informational meeting, call 772-567-8969 or email dogsfor-



devb@bellsouthmet.

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

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

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

FOR VETERAN VOICE

The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club is looking for 8- to 18-year-olds. It'll have a meeting for folks interested in joining that'll be on Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Dogs For Life Training Center, 12:30 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.

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

Bome exciting activities the club will do this year include basic dog training, participation in the Dogs For Life Howl-O-Ween Pawrade & Pet Expo and Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club Spring Dog Show and Agility Demonstrations. Additionally, at the meeting folks can learn about Dogs For Live and what it does for veterans with disabilities. It matches dogs with veterans and trains both to handle

daily activities.
To sign up, call (772) 567-8969 or email dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.
Find more information about the 4-H Program in Indian River County at http://indian.ifas.ufl.edu/4H/index.html/.

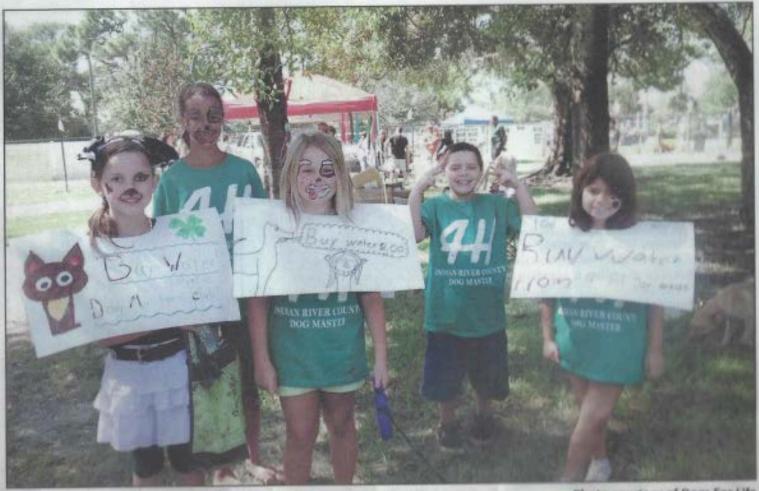


Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

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

# International Assistance Dog Week



### 2015 International Assistance Dog Week Fact Sheet

#### What is it?

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

#### What do assistance dogs do?

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

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

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

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

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

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

You can go to the websites for International Assistance Dog Week (www.assistancedogweek.org) and Working Like Dogs (www.workinglikedogs.com). You can also check out Assistance Dogs International (www.assistancedogsinternational.org) and the International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (www.iaadp.org).

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

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

#### The Assistance Dog Week?

Assistance Dog Week was established due to the efforts of Marcie Davis, a program of Davis Innovations, a consulting firm based in Santa Fe, Davis is the author of "Working Like Dogs: The Service Dog Guidebook, "and she is the host of the latest radio program, "Working Like Dogs," at www.petliferadio.com. International Assistance Dog Week is facilitated as a program of Soulful Presence, a nonprofit Davis established to empower underserved populations.

#### What types of assistance dogs are there?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



The Voice of Experience

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

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### 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 Zança.



### Sign Language Class



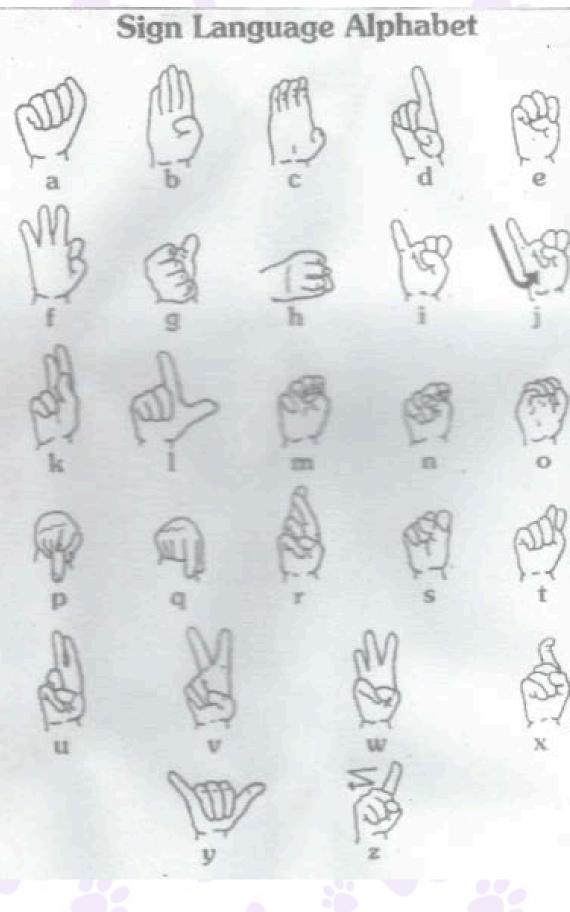
Assistance Dog, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog, Companion Dog Training & Off-Leash Dog Park

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

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

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





### Korean War Ceremony

Monday, July 27, 2015 |

LUMINARIES - LU | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

### STARS FOR VETS

### Korean War ceremony honors vets

By BRENDA SPOSATO

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

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

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

"Records show that there are 7,846 Americans still remaining unaccounted for from the Korean War. Using modern technology, identifications continue," said Wieler.

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

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

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



veterans who will be coming back from the war. They

1038: Rick Brower, Hap Allston and Andrew Coull

> City Council Pilar Turner and Veterans Council Marty Zickert



Veterans Council Programs Manager and Marine Corp Vet, Doy Demsick and Veterans Council Boardmember, Ted Cooperstein





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

# Hammer the Dachshund

Monday, July 27, 2015

LUMINARIES - LS | TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS



### **BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS**

Indian River County with Tania Ortega-Cowan

### Super SRA Volunteer

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

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



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



Tuesday, July 21, 2015

### Cold nose warming hearts



"We love him! But he runs off! He just goes from one to another," said Bernita Raulerson specter) as she and Jean Cuffe (left), both of Vero Beach, visit with Hammar, a 4-year-old longhaired Gachstund. Jude Carole (right) brings Hammar to the Sector Resource Association's Actor Cay Care Center in Vero Beach every Friday through the Dogs for Life organization. To see more photos, visit TCPalm.com.

Hammar the Dachshund brightens each Friday at Adult Day Care Center

#### By Janet Segley

Seems to Transmit Court Resempopers

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

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

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

Carole adopted Hammar

#### SENIOR RESOURCE ASSOCIATION

Operates two adult day care facilities in Indian River County:

- Schumann Centur, 685 14th St., Vero Beach, Information: 772-469-2059
- IIIS Davis St., Sebastian. Information: 772-388-5827.

#### PET-ASSISTED THERAPT PROGRAM

- Volunteer-based program where people train and take their Bogs for Life-certified canines to nursing and medical facilities in Indian Piver County.
- For more information, send so email tur degaforidey be deliseath.

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

Just recently, Carole and Hammar were the reciplents of the Sophie Restivo Voluntoerism Award from the Senior Resource Association for their contribution to improving the lives of seniors in Indian River County. The award is named after Sophie Restivo, who volunteered for more than 20 years at the senior center.

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

Shelly Ferger, president of

See 0065, 9A

### DOGS from IA

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

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

meeting a lot of new poople."

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

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

Certified nursing assistant Vivian Johnson said Hammar's weekly visits to the adult care center are uplifting to the roughly 50 people who visit the facility weekly. "It is an absolute delight to have Hammar and Jude here," Johnson said."You should see the smiles on our clients' faces when they hear his collar jingling when he comes in on Friday. It's priceless."

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

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

### 1st Graduation



35 cents

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015

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

ROBVETSALIOUE

VOL. WISSUE 36

Dogs the Lite meently held its first graduation ceremony at the DFL Administrative and Transing Center that opened in July 2014, at 1230 16th Avenue. Very Beach.

"We are theilled to have had so many distinguished goests on hand to help us celebrate," said Sharly Ferger, DFL forceder and CEO. Among others, Indian litter Voterants Council president Youy Young, a retired Army colonic, lent his support at the event.

Marine Corps veteran Daniel.
Vermitiek, Vero Hearb, with his
heneing dog. Ariel, and Northe
Coody, Vero Beach, web her
booring and newtos dog. Kelly, have completed all of the
representate of DFL and As-

See K-9 page 4



At the recent first graduntion of countri and service dogs at Dogs For Life, Vero Desch, weste han left, former Acre Sg. Jay Harris, Dogs For Life trainer, graduate Deniel Votrobek, with his service dog Arm, and retained Army Cul. Torn Young, president of the hidson liner Votes ins Countil

> Photo: courtery of Dags For Life

### STARS FOR SERVICE DOGS

### Dogs for Life holds assistance dog graduation

#### By Davies Person

Drops for Life Irst, held its first production recomment at the INT, American in the Thetang Green, which opened last July at 1230 tails therein, Way Junch.

"We are shalled to have had so more shall apprished goests on hand to bely us other tents' outfilledly forgot. 18% foresterand CRO.

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Service Augu unustrative between with the enmerand post organisms stress, each of wealing been originales, areteing sabels barriera in prooch, sent alleraning servening passes attacks.

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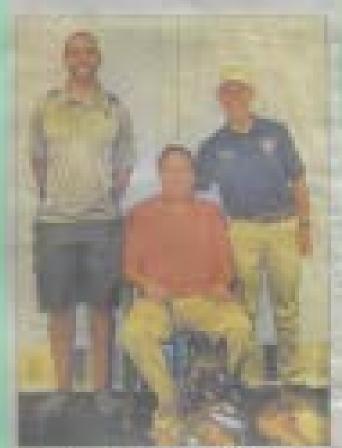
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John Servicess, Jr., with (E), Densities Shores Burgyck, Vice Promises that Shores Burgyck, and housing drig soom Joseph Personer and Dalay.

### Indian River County



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### VETERAN VOICE - JULY 9, 2015

### K-8 from page 2

sistance Degs International to graduous the DFL Asstatunce Deg Training Program with hou-

Artel base been featured before in Venezun Voice:

They will now be seen serons nown with their assistance dogs. If you want, you may ask about their dog's training, but please on not per their dags as this distracts them from their work.

Voteroback and Artel began training in April of 2014, and have completed 69 hours of in-Home Training and 14 hours of Public Access Training.

Votrabele was able to take an H-week-old puppy and bring her to full Public Access Hearing Deg statter.

County and Kelly started britishing in June of 2014, and completed there 6 month serial astion in October of 2014. She was instrumental in helping in train her second hearing dag with DPL. The ceremony marked here and KeSy's first-year Re-Certification.

elect their corners to a knock at the door, the phone singing, into about clock and a aneke alarm, Other seemals can be trained as needed.

Service dags are immed to usstar their corners with belancing on their feet, picking up thems or tapping a 911 K-9 emergency phone:

Service dogs can also be trained to bely consense with the affects of post-trainment stress, such as unking from a nightmare, cresting subdie bearings in crosses, and allestating eccoming ponjo attacks. Other tasks can be trained to mitigate mobility and atrass-related issues as needed.

For there information on Dogsfor Life and its several missions, when departuringly, org.

### Fake Service Animal

### Law

### Fake service animal law to take effect

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Vero Beach Dog Park



### BRIGHT LIGHTS & RED CARPETS

lr.

Indian River County with Tania Ortega-Cowan

### Doggie Heaven in Vero Beach

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

Look around and notice random boies dog in the dirt as well as beautifully painted fire hydrants. This is Doggie Heaven and you can find It at 3449 Indian River East, one block north of the Merrill Barber Bridge along the Indian River Lagoon.

Dogsofallshesare welcome in this 5 acres of fenced green space.

"We want people to know that it is here and it inforestrybody," says Phil Reid. "It is not just for dogowners. It is for everybody! It is an azing how many people come out here that just want to watch the does."

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

He acids, "In our mission, we state we are as much a people's purk as a dog park. We have people in their 90% coming here to enjoy the space and the fun. Young families come just to see the dogs. We are noward og friendly town?"

Jim worked tirelessly for five years to start the dog purk, approaching the City Council and Recreation Department with his kles, milying the community to sign petitions, and commissioning professionals to help him put together a work able proposal.

In April 2014, the city agreed to a 10-year lease and his dreambecame aroulity: Verots only free, finced, off-leasth dog park was established?

"Something else that is very important for people to know is that we are a 50k3 non-profit organization that operates strictly on donations. We do not receive any government funding at all. The Citylease dust the land and we have made all the improvements and we operate at our ownexpense. Fortunately Vero Beach is a generous, kind-hearted place so we are able to do it with private funds."

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

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

Longtime Vero Beach resident Mary Margaret McQueensays, "live everyminate of it. It is a wonderful place to be. The bosters who stay at Marina are so delighted tox!"

Jimagnes, "We have had people move here tell us the deciding factor was that we have a dog park."

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

Another way to support the park in to buy an inscribed brickpusser, Learning sear DogPark org. You may also make donations at IRCommunityFoundation.com.



36 Two-legged and four-legged supporters of the Vera Beach Dog Park

### JUNE

### Graduation

#### Shelly Ferger

From: Sent:

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



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

Assistance Dog Graduation Ceremony Well Attended And a Huge Success!

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

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

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

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

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

Norine and Kelly started training in June of 2014, and

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

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

For additional information call 772-567-8969.



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



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



### Pet Assisted Therapy

### DOGS FOR LIFE

Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteer Program / Facility Report

Pet: Sunny - 10 lb. Maltese Volunteer: Edna Hitzel Schubert

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

### Johns Island Grant

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

By Shelly Ferger Your Newsweekly Contributor

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

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

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

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

Kathi Schumann, Board Vice President, stated,



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

"Since the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center opened in July 2014, the number of local residents and Veterans enrolled in the Hearing and Service Dog Training Pro-

gram has doubled and we need to be able to efficiently and effectively use all the space we have, indoors and out. The John's Island Foundation is helping us do that."

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

For more in-

formation about Assistance Dog Training, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dog Training, or Off-Leash Dog Park, please call 772-567-8969 or visit www.dogsforlifevb.org.



Daniel and Ariel

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

### Mary Kemper

STAFF WRITER

mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

A huge thank you goes out to the John's Island Foundation for their \$12,679.50 grant awarded to Dogs For Life Inc., Vero Beach. This funding will provide expanded handicapped accessibility in the Dog Park as well as the outdoor training areas.

This generous grant will also help complete the drainage project

throughout the DFL property.

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

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

See GRANT page 4

### **GRANT from page 3**

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

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

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

Dogs.

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

### Articles

### Florida veterans population growing

Patrick McCallister FORVETERANVOICE patrick.mccallister@yahoo.com

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

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

Which would put Florida in the silver for total veterans.

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

California has the most veterans of any state in the nation, about 1.8 million. Florida, Texas and California are the only three states with more than a million veterans. New York lost its status as a million-veteran state a couple years ago.

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

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

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

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

Nevertheless, the Florida Legislature sent a message during its 2014 session — the state wants veterans. The House and Senate unanimously adopted the Florida GI Bill last year, and Gov. Rick Scott — a Navy veteran — signed it not long after. The Florida GI Bill was omnibus legislation that combined numerous militaryand veterans-related bills, but creation of Florida is for Veterans  now called Veterans Florida
 was its core. It was fitted into the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, but is acting largely autonomously.

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

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

### Makeover proceeds apace on Brevard Corsair



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

Photo courtesy of Roger Scruggs

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Dogs For Life

SAM WITH PROTHERS WHE COAST NEWSPAPERS

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



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



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

### **Shelly Ferger**

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

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

#### RANGER POZIOMEK

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

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

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

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

Go Ranger! 🏘



Ranger and Mark Poziomek

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



#### DFL Announces



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

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





## Youth Guidance Excel Club



## Armed Forces Week Open House

#### Shelly Ferger

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

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



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



#### Open House to Celebrate Armed Forces Week At DFL

Open House at DFL In Honor of Armed Forces Week

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

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

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

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

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

For additional information call 772-567-8969.



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

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

EVEN MORE TO COME

## Articles



### New leash on life



THE MAINTINEAUNG CONTRACTOR

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

#### STAR DOGS

Indian River County

#### Dogs for Life helps veterans

By Tama Ostpas-Compa

Shelly Ferger, founder of Dogs for Life in Vero Beach, trains service dogs for settrans, many of whom suffer from post transmatic stress disceder (PTSD) and hearing loss.

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

Service dogs for venerans are specially trained to assist venerans with specific challenges, including 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Jim Toylor and Pit Pit denonstrate moking a 9th coll on the telephone



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

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

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

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

Learn more, get involved and make a donation at 772-567-8969 or visit DogsForLifeVB.org. Right: Paula Bright gives Raymond a head scratch during Saturday's event.

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



Murbarger gave this year's blessing.

A special award was given to the

Dogs for Life organization for their

work with service dogs.

#### Pet blessing



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

## APRIL

## The Wall





## DFL History

#### History







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

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



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

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

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

2002 The Dog Park opened for membership.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Current Account Balances: \$150,000

DFL's estimated Budget for 2015: \$250,000

#### STATISTICS November 8, 2014

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

## Dogs For Life on Facebook



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



#### https://www.facebook.com/DFLVB

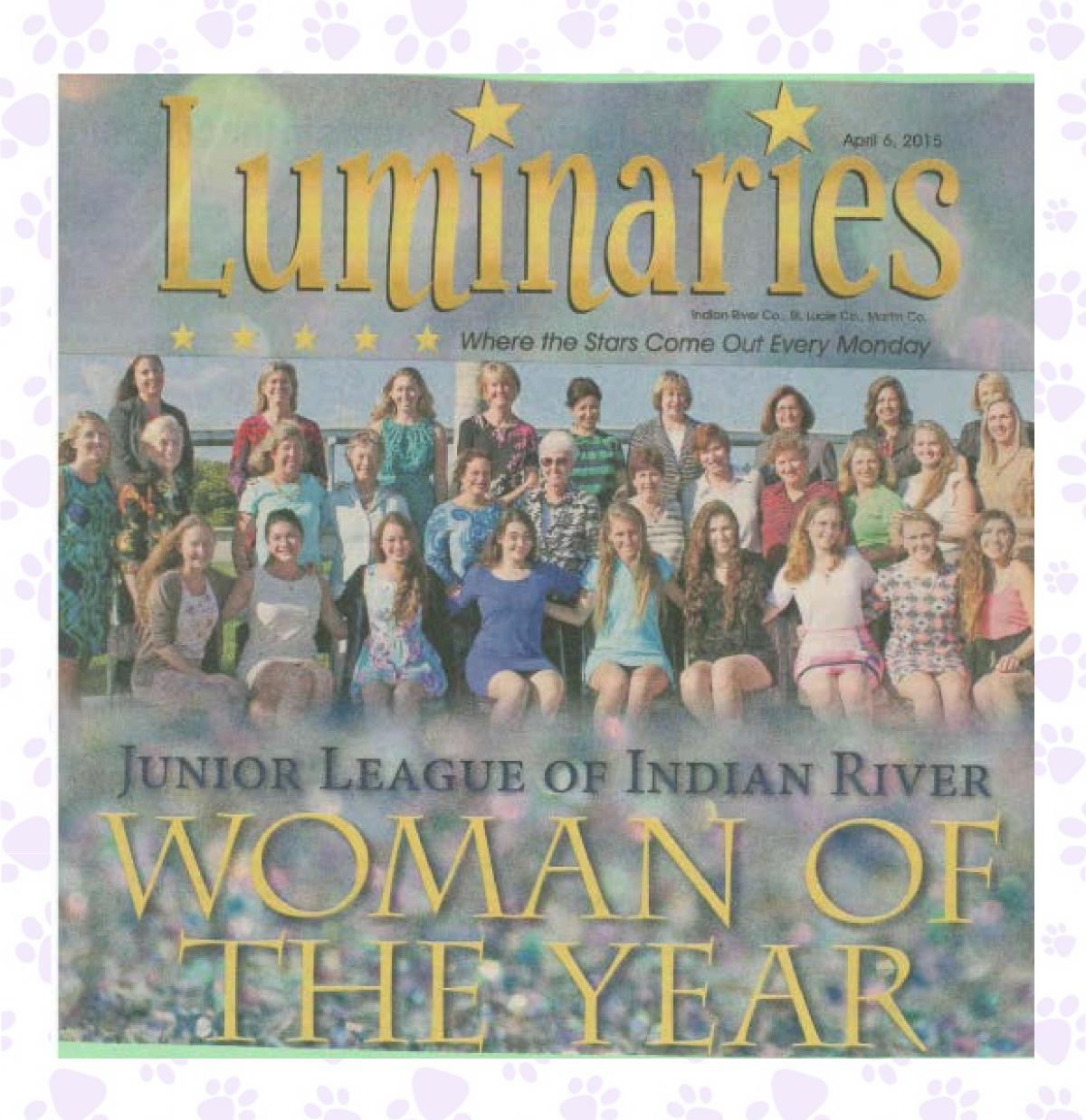
Find us, Like us, Share us with your Friends

#### Posting on Dogs For Life's Timeline

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



## Woman of the Year





#### Congratulations to our 2015 Nominees

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

#### Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 11:30 am

Tickets \$100 per person

Available at www.womanoftheyear.Info or by contacting Chrissy Stephens (772.907.9319 or cstephens@omnitaxhelp.com) by April 22, 2015 at noon. For more information about our nominees and the event, visit JLIR.org



HILEN CROCKETT Beings/Professoral



REPUTCA EMMONS Business Professional



Enthern Professional



LOSS M-CORNECK-Bentons/Professional



CINDY O'DARE Resten Professional



KIM PRADO Buinco Freionard





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NATHERING PARTON



DELANEY POEK Riving Star



LILY SHELTON Rising Star



AMANDA VORCE Rising Star.



JESSICA WOOD

Dro'Ne Park Palsicol

NATALIE ZATZ Rising Size



HEANGE BONGOK



TRACY CARBOLL Volunteer



SHERRI DAVIS
Volunteer



MICHIEL PALES Voluntum



MANUFELL LIBERATE
Volumeer



CARDLEANABLE



LEZ-MAYO Volunteer



DORIS PLEM Volunteer



TRUDUL RAINONE Volunture



HANKA ACHMITT Volunteer



MARLYON SOULD Volumer



HOPE WOODHOOSE Voluntees

28 » Friday, April 10, 2015 » TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS » IC



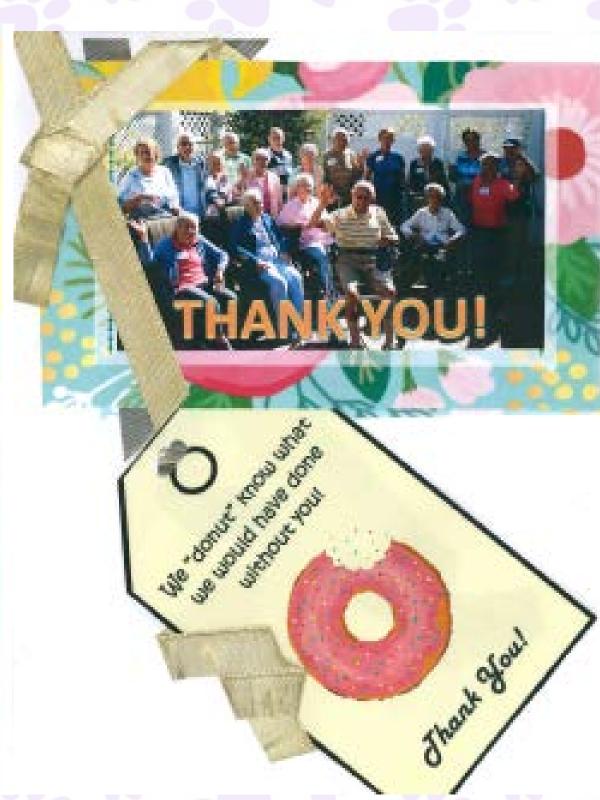


Shelly
Shelly
Shelly
In this event! Every time of opened a paper there it was!

Somtimes twice. (101)

Lood for you
Penny





## Park Improvements

#### **Shelly Ferger**

From: Sent: To:

Subject:

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



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



Wed-Thurs April 29 & 30, 2015

#### **Attention Dog Park Friends**

More Improvements Coming to the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park

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

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

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

See below for more news...

#### EVEN MORE TO COME.



Dog Park Drainage Project to be completed

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

Stay tuned for start dates.



Pardon Our Mess As We "Shed"

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



DFL T-Shirts will be Available for Purchase

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

More information to come.

Forward this email

Find Us. Like Us, Share Us With Your Friends



### Articles

14A # Monday, April 13, 2015 # TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS #

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Community Calendar

Quarter Auction American Legion Auxiliary Sebastian: ALA Quarter Auction Sponsoring Dogs for Life. 5 p.m. April 13. American Legion Post 189, 807 Louisland Ave., Sebastian, Ages: 18+. 772-882-7352: Avondaisy4489 api.com. 4 | Wednesday, April 22, 2015 | YOUR HEREWERKLY | NOWN RIVER COUNTY | TREASURE COAST NEWS PRIPERS

#### Good For You

### Exchange Club 'Champions for Charity' donates to Dogs for Life

By Joseph Walsh Your Newsworkly Contributor

The Exchange Club of the Treasure Coast first Champions for Charity Golf donated \$500 to Dogs For Life.

Dogs For Life specializes in training Hearing Dogs, Mobility Assistance Dogs, and Service Dogs for Veterans to assist with hearing and mobility challenges, as well as the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

This donation was made possible through the participation of all the golfers and sponsors of the first annual Champions for Charity Golf Tournament.

Exchange Club of the Treasure Coast meets the first and third Thursdays at noon at Culinary Capers, 737 22nd Street in Vero Beach. For more information please visit TCExchangeclub.org. Members donate time and money to organizations that help support our four pillars: Prevention of Child Abuse, Americanism, Community Service and Youth Programs.



TCExchange Club President Cindy Jewett, Sam LaFevers, Dogs For Life President Shelly Ferger, veteran Jim Taylor, and his service dog, Pla Pia.

6 > Wednesday, April 1, 2015 > Your NEWSWEEKLY > INDIAN RIVER COUNTY >> SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

#### Things To Do

#### American Legion Auxiliary quarter auction is April 13

By Gayle Seifert

Your Newsweekly Contributor

American Legion Auxiliary Quarter Auction is Monday, April 13, at 6 p.m., at American Legion Post 189, 807 Louisiana Ave., Sebastian.

This month we are sponsoring Dogs for Life. This group trains dogs to improve quality of life for people facing various challenges, including service dogs for veterans with hearing and/or mobility impairment, as well as PTSD issues.

Come join us for a night of fun, raffles, 50/50. Bring \$2 for paddle rental and quarters. Must be at least 18-years-older to attend (no exceptions).

Vendor booths will feature products and services from A Hidden Oasis Spa, A alchemy Treasurz, Avon, Beauty Control, Cruise Planners, Damsel in Defense, Dorothy Leggett, Come join us for a night of fun, raffles, 50/50. Bring \$2 for paddle rental and quarters.

Dove Chocolates, Everything Ecuadorian, Jamberry Nails, Mary Kay, Our Hearts Desire, Pampered Chef, Thirty One, Tupperware, Whimsical Designs and others.

American Legion kitchen crew will be selling burgers, hot dogs, fries, salads, dessert etc. for a nominal fee.

For information contact: Daisy Williams 772-882-7352 avondaisy44@aol. com Or Mori Serpa 772-633-9914 mori44@aol.com

## Veteran Voice writer given award from Dogs For Life

Many flamper connects misemperitysteranologyeekh.com

On March 28, I was privileged and honored to receive an Excollence in Journalism sward from a group Pee come to care very deeply about — Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, which, among other missions, connects disabled veterana with service dogs, and trains them to live foller and more productive lives.

The training Dogs For Life offers voterans — at no charge — is phenomenal.

One story I wrote concerned a reterant whose shifty to walk was becoming more and more diminished, so his dog was being trained to alert him to people at the front door, pick up dropped items and dial a special 911 emergency phone, among other things.

Another story concerned a veterun whose hearing was steadly going south, so his dog was being trained to alert not only to the front door, but also smoke alarms and similar events.

Part of that training treaked a visit to a Vero Beach eatery, which uses real-world situations to make training roost effective.

Physics carasteey of Dogs For Life

Many Bamper, left, a staff syrter for Mitezon Votor, receives an Excellence in Journalism event from Dogs For Life founder and CED Shally Farger at its Very Beach administration facility March JR.

See AWARD page 7



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VETERAN VOICE + THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE + APRIL 2, 2015 + 7

#### AWARD from page 6

PTSD sufferers can also learn to cope with life's challenges. Their dogs are trained, among other things, to "secure perimeters" and brace themselves against their owners during anxiety attacks.

Watching veterans and their dogs train is a treat. You can see said feel the bond between them, which goes so much deeper than ordinary owners and dogs. They depend on each other, as well as love each other.

It fills me with happiness to know those wonderfol wen, who've given so much, get so much back from their dogs, who only want love in return.

What Dogs For Life does goes way beyond helpful. They're help-ing veterons get their lives back. You just can't put a price tag on that — and they don't, which is even more assazing.

In honor of veterana, Dags For Life changed its logo color to purple recently, as a tribute to wounded warriors.

They say an organization is only as good as its trainager, and Shelly Perger is as good as they come.

To call Shally — founder and CEO — "energetic" is a lengthable What Dogs For Life does goes way beyond helpful. They're helping veterans get their lives back. You just usn't put a price ing on that — and they don't, which is even more amazing.

understatement.

Since Dogs For Life's beginning in 1997 as a 4-H community service project — resulting in Indian River County's first off-leash dog park — to today's full-service dog park and training facility. Shelly has been the driving force.

She has been absolutely threins in seeking tend getting donations for what became a massive project, frustrating at times, but ultimately rewarding — all the while doing administrative trake, excreteing building, overseeing staff and common exquesting in dog training, her real passion and forts.

Her bridge tournament fundraisers are always a success, and what fun I had at this past year's "How!-O-Ween" event with my little dog Pixy! Close to 100 contursed owners and possibles went on parada, and come of the outfits were just out-there swesoms. I swere I'd never be one of "those people" who loo-loo their dogs like that. Oh, wall — it's just plain fun, so, as the saying goes, call the cops." Oh, and I forgot to mention a story on former Army Sgt. Jay Harris, who has just recently been bired us a trainer full-time from his fermer contract status.

I'll never forget my enjoyable interview at his Vero Beach horse, with his "pusse" of four dogs whobear such runks as "general" and "secretary of state."

The rest of the staff, and board of director members, are one and all lovely people who bring a wealth of experience to their jobs. Shelly paid tribute to them so well at the commony. This includes Debbie Burton, administrative assistant; Katin Kowanio, administrative and fund development director, training, office and maintenance contractors Paul Vin and Paul Schell, and of course, Jay.

I wasn't the only award winner, either, Others received recognition for all the help they've given to Dogs For Life in different ways. Frankly, I didn't feel I deserved say recognition — It's sheer pleasure to write about them. It's I who should give them an award.

Let me give you an idea of the scale of assistance Dogs For Life offers - it's not just helping veterans. Additionally, they train and certify assistance dogs for anyone with a deschilts; provide treining for pets and their owners for therapy visits to sureing horses, mental health and children's facilities; provide pet behavior information, a telephone bettine and education programs like unti-dog bits, dog behavior and obedience training for the general public; and coordinate with law enforcement, emergesty response organizations and businesses on the legal rights of assistance dogs - and run the off-leach dog pack for its 140 usern and their 146 dags (as of this

Dogs For Life's annual budget runs well into the six figures to cover all the services they offer. Piesse consider sending a densition their way at degelerified, org. While you're there, take a look around and find out all the wonderful things they do.

Or, you can give them a call at (772) 567-5969, or enail them at

dags/originals@hedsouth.net.

Mony Kemper is a staff writer for Veteran Votes.

#### **EVENTS**

#### More than a best friend

#### Dogs for Life recognizes those that improve the lives of humans who might need a helping paw

By Fran Foster The Newsweekly

Watching the dogs of every size, age and breed cavorting at the Dogs for Life off-leash dog park is sure to bring a smile.

But there is much more happening at the facility than just letting the dogs out. Dogs For Life, a nonprofit organization founded and run by CEO Shelly Ferger, is changing lives for many in Indian

River County. DFL recently held its 2014 Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center to celebrate the people and animals who improve the quality of life for individuals by training assistance dogs and pet-assisted therapy dogs, as well as providing basic obedience classes and a safe, clean off-leash dog park.

Ferger awarded Jeff and Suzy Gomez of Coast to Coast Landscaping with the Corporate Philanthropist Award, high-lighting their devotion to keeping the dog park in pristine condition at half the regular cost.

She also recognized Kathi Schumann, a board member since 2013, with the Individual Philanthropist Award.

animals and the effects they have on people motivates her devotion to our veteran program.

"Without her contribution to furnish the training facility and office, we couldn't have opened our doors in 2013," said Ferger. She also pointed out that Schumann challenged the board of directors to a \$100,000 matching grant for 2014 - which they reached - ensuring the future for programs that are crucial to military veterans and others who are in need of animal therapy.

#### Incredible bond

Volunteer and Assistance Dog Team Award Recipient L.A., with ca-nine Darel, explained the importance of maintain-ing a respectful distance when people encounter service dogs and their

"When the vest is on, they are working, even at resting position. It's as much a service to the individual as it is to the animal to keep the relationship consistent," L.A.

She went on to explain how part of DFL's training entails working with pets to convert them into service dogs for their



DFL volunteer, retired deputy sheriff Phillip McDade Muma, and Duke are standing strong in support of Dogs for Life.



Duke, Darel and Mitzl enjoy some play time before going back on duty.

between the service animal and the individual. different than just having "There is an incred- a pet. And that includes "Kathi's knowledge of lible bond that happens training the human not to

treat the animal as a pet,"

DFL supporter and

See FRIEND, 16

#### **EVENTS**

Wednesday, April 8, 2015 VERO BEACH - INDIAN RIVER NEWSWEEKLY

#### FRIEND from 15

board president Eleanor Bengyak was awarded the Volunteer of the Year Award at the reception.

She is carrying on the philanthropic work of her late husband Victor. who created the Legacy Society.

His charity began by making gifts to DFL to help fund and support the dog park so his DFL-

trained service dog Mitzi would always have a place to run.

Mitzi is now being trained to assist Eleanor as a service dog, illustrating just how complex and rewarding the relationship can be between a person and his or her best friend.

For more information. visit Dogs For Life, Inc. at 1230 loth Avenue, Vero Beach, Call 772-567-8969 or visit their website at www.dogsforlifevb.org.



DFL's CEO Shelly Ferger and board president Eleanor Bengyak with Mitzi Accepting the Volunteer of the Year Award.



Shally Ferger, center, presented Jeff and Suzy Gomez from Coast to Coast Landscaping with the Corporate Philanthro-



Shelly Ferger with Individual Philanthropist Award winner Kathi G. Schumann



Duke on duty.





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- 4+ acres safe, clean, fenc All dogs screened for temp
- Separate areas for large a
- Separate training area
- Watering stations, chairs

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Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs d Service Dogs



lylor, SSG, U.S. Army (Ret.) 3 War Veteran and his ing/service dog Pia Pia





## MARCH

## Annual Meeting



Individual Philanthropist, Kathi G. Schumann



Diattal Media, Preston Orrick



Volunteer of the Year, Heanor Bengyak



Digital Media, Sharon Morgan

#### Donors And Volunteers Are Celebrated

March 28: Dogs For Life Inc. celebrated those who helped ensure the fulfillment of their mission in 2014 at the annual Donor and Volunteer Appreciation Awards at the Dogs For Life Administrative & Assistance Dog Training Center, "We look forward to this event each year. It gives us the opportunity to express our gratitude to our donors and volunteers," stated Shelly Ferger, founder and CEO. Board president Eleanor Bengyak added. "The number of clients we are working with to become Certified Hearing Service Dogs has doubled in the last few months. So far, we have been able to keep up with the demand, but only because of the donations and volunteer work that goes into each client. These specially trained dogs perform tasks by assisting with medical and lifecoping situations for people right here in our community. including our military veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders."

Recipients of this year's Donor and Volunteer Awards: Assistance Dog Team: L.A. Bykowsky and K-9 Darel Volunteer of the Year: Eleanor M. Bengyak Journalism Award: Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice Digital Media Award: Sharon Morgan Digital Media Award: Preston Orrick

Pet-Assisted Therapy Team: Ana Montoya & Oslo Individual Philanthropist: Kathi G. Schumann Corporate Philanthropist: Jeff and Suzy Gomet.

Coast to Coast Landscaping



Corporate Philanthropists, Suzy and Jeff Gomez



Pet-Assisted Therapy Team, Ama Montova and Osio



Journalism Award, Mary Kemper



Assistance Dag Team, L.A. Bykowsky

#### 2014 Donor and Volunteer Award Recipients

Assistance Dog Team L. A. Bykowsky & K-9 Darel

Volunteer of the Year Eleanor M. Bengyak

Media Awards Journalism Award ~ Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice

Digital Media Award ~ Sharon Morgan Digital Media Award ~ Preston Orrick

Pet-Assisted Therapy Team Ana Montoya & Oslo

Individual Philanthropist Kathi G. Schumann

Corporate Philanthropist Jeff & Suzy Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping

Please join us for our 2014 Donor & Volunteer Appreciation Awards Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 11:00 a.m.



Dogs For Life, Inc. Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center 1230 16th Avenue, Vero Beach, Florida



Refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to 567-8969 or dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

#### Dogs For Life celebrates donors and volunteers Reply

by Mark Schumann • Community News
NEWS RELEASE



(https://indianrivertoday.files.wordpress.com/2014/01/dogs-for-life-logo.jpg)Dogs
For Life, Inc. will celebrate the donors and volunteers who helped ensure the
fulfillment of the mission of the organization in 2014 at an event to be held March
28 at 11 a.m. "We look forward to this event and having the opportunity to express

our gratitude to our donors and volunteers. Dogs For Life has so much to be grateful for. It is our donors and volunteers who have made it possible for us to be working with so many clients today," stated Shelly Ferger, Founder & CEO.

Board President, Eleanor Bengyak added "The number of clients we are working with to become Certified Hearing/Service Dogs has doubled in the last few months. So far, we have been able to keep up with the demand, but only because of the donations and volunteer work that goes into each client. Each dog mitigates the challenges to their owner from mobility or hearing loss or post-traumatic stress.

These specially trained dogs perform tasks by assisting with medical and life coping situations for people right here in our community, including our military veterans, law enforcement officers and first responders.

Dogs For Life is proud to announce the Recipients of this year's Donor and Volunteer Awards:

Assistance Dog Team - L. A. Bykowsky & K-9 Darel

Volunteer of the Year - Eleanor M. Bengyak

Journalism Award - Mary Kemper, Veteran Voice

Digital Media Award - Sharon Morgan

Digital Media Award - Preston Orrick

Pet-Assisted Therapy Team - Ana Montoya & Oslo

Individual Philanthropist - Kathi G. Schumann

Corporate Philanthropist - Jeff & Suzy Gomez, Coast to Coast Landscaping ·

The Awards Ceremony will be held at the Administrative & Assistance Dog Training Center located at 1230 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vero Beach.

Dogs For Life is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training Assistance Dogs, Pet-Assisted Therapy Dogs and owning and operating an Off-Leash Dog Park. If you would like more information on the programs and services provided, please contact Dogs For Life at 772-567-8969.



#### You Are Invited to the 2014 Donor & Volunteer **Appreciation Awards**

Saturday, March 28, 2015

	Dogs For Life, Inc. Past Donor / V	Volunteer Appreciation Awards
Year	Amard	Recipient
2009	Assistance Dog Team	Pat Scott & Holly
	Volunteer of the Year	Ed Boatwright
	Media Award	Dutch VanNormen
	In-Kind Services	Jeff Gomez Coast to Coast Landscaping
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Deborah Cornell & Stella
2010	Assistance Dog Team	Jien Taylor & Pia Pia
	Volunteer of the Year	Linda Liss
	Media Award	DHI
	In-Kind Services	Garden Club of IR Co.
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Barbara Bodnar & Maddux
	Individual Philanthropist	Janet Riley
	Corporate Philanthropist	Jeff Gomez Coast to Coast Landscaping
2011	Assistance Dog Team	Norine Coody & Abby
	Volunteer of the Year	Eleanor Bengyak
	Broadcast Media Award	Jill Roberts-McDermott,
	Journalism Award	Mary Schenkel - 32963 Article
	In-Kind Services	Suzy Gomez / Beech Annuals,
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team	Nancy McCusker & Buford
	Individual Philantheopist	Robert Bowman
	Corporate Philanthropist	Florida Veterinary League
20000	Past President's Award	Al Turner
2012	Assistance Dog Team	Fred Jones & Sissy Girl
	Volunteer of the Year	Jack Saucerman
	Media Award	Sydney Liebman / Luminaries Carol Hartwig & Baxter
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team Individual Philanthropist	Beth Stryker
		The state of the s
	Corporate Philanthropist Assestance Dog Team	Tony Donadio, Donadio & Associates Joan Freeman & Daisy
2002	Volumbeer of the Year	
	Media Award	Laura E. Bonney, L.E.B. Printing & Design Tarea Ortega-Cowan / Luminaries
		Shirley Schindler & Sarah
	Pet Assisted Therapy Team Individual Philanthropist	Richard & Jane Manoogian
	motors or rest a continuous rations	STATES OF PARTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF

Kathi G. Schumann

Travis Chambers - Adron Fence Company

Individual Philanthropist Corporate Philanthropist

## Dream Job

8 \* MARCH 12, 2015 \* VETERAN VOICE \* THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

# Army vet realizes dream job with Dogs For Life in Vero Beach

#### FOR VETERAN VOICE

Part of the mission of Dogs For Life, Vero Beach, is providing training for returning warriors and their canine companions to help tackle the daily challenges of life.

Now, Army veteran Jay Harris is going to continue his mission of training and helping full-time up till now, he has been working on a contract basis.

Dogs For Life board president Eleanor Bengyak said, "Since the Assistance Dog Training and Administrative Center has opened, the number of people and dogs in training has doubled.

"Jay is a team player, dedicated to the DFL mission. He has been contracting with us for five years, and who better to assist in the training of our heroes than someone who has 'been there?'

"Dogs For Life is proud and honored to bring Jay from a contractual status to a full-time employee. We need the additional help with training, especially with the increase in the number of military veterans we are working "For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."

Jay Harris, trainer

with.

"Jay, being a veteran himself, can relate to the brave men and women he trains. He is truly an asset to the organization," added DFL director of training programs Shelly Ferger.

Harris said, "For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."

For more information on Dogs For Life and its mission, visit dogsforlifevb.org

## FEBRUARY

## Accredidation

#### We Are Accredited by Assistance Dogs International Gold Seal Achievement

#### Assistance Dogs International



#### The ADI Mission

To establish and promote standards of excellence in all areas of assistance dog acquisition, training and partnership. Facilitate communication and learning among member organizations. Educate the public to the benefits of assistance dogs and ADI membership.

#### As a Member Program of Assistance Dogs International (ADI)...

We believe that organizations and individuals involved in the assistance dog industry have common goals and interests which are best achieved by uniformly complying with all local, state and federal laws as well as ethical, moral and legal policies, practices and procedures.

We are honored to demonstrate our commitment to this belief through voluntary participation in the ADI accreditation process.

Our achievement of full ADI accreditation means that the facilities and operation of our assistance dog program meet ADI's standards of excellence.

#### **ADI** and the Accreditation Process

ADI is an international coalition with members representing assistance dog programs from across the world. The purpose of ADI is to improve the areas of selection, training, placement and utilization of assistance dogs.

Accreditation by ADI is a peer-review process. It is a uniform method by which ADI voting member agencies can achieve compliance with the operational standards of excellence established by ADI for organizations that train and place assistance dogs. Participating organizations undergo an official on-site assessment conducted by highly skilled assessors. During the course of the visit, assessors interview agency staff, volunteers, the Board of Directors, assistance dog applicants and recent graduates, and are given access to a variety of agency documents and records.

The following areas are evaluated during the accreditation survey:

#### **Program Management**

- · Application policies and procedures
- Canine management and training
- Teaching curriculum and instruction
- Program record keeping
- Volunteering
- · Graduate input

#### Administration

- Organization
- · Emergency procedures and safety regulations
- Risk management
- Documentation
- Business practices
- Written policies and procedures

#### **Facilities**

- Building and grounds
- · Safety and maintenance
- Kennels

#### Community Activities

- · Behavior of assistance dogs in the community
- Community education about assistance dogs

Members must be accredited every 5 years

Compliance with ADI standards in all these operational areas results in full ADI accreditation for a term of five

ADI gold medallion.

We are proud to be an Accredited ADI member program and be recognized for maintaining ADI's standards of excellence in all areas of our assistance dog program.

years and the award of an official plaque containing the



For more information, please visit: www.assistancedogsinternational.org

## Seabee Celebration of Life



mkemper@veteranvoiceweekly.com

It was to be a birthday party for the late Chief Petty Officer and former Navy "SeaBee" Charlie Cox Fcb. 4, but he died just days beforehand. The Indian River Veterans Council decided to turn mourning him into a Celebration of Life instead.

In conjunction with its monthly meeting, the council gave a tribute, attended by Cox's widow, Busilisa, and family and friends.

The ceremony began with a speech by Bradley Scott, 12, Vero Beach, a League Cadet with the David McCampbell Construction Battalion (SeaBees) of the Navy League Sea Cadets, Melbourne.

(Editor's note: Please see a feature on Bradley Scott, and his "Change 4 Change 4 Vets" effort to help veterans in need, in the Jan. 22 edition of Veteran Voice.)

Accompanied by his father, Mark, Bradley had most in the assembly moved and impressed.

"I'd like to give thanks to the council for allowing me to speak today about Chief Petty Officer Cox," Bradley said.

"We in our battalion want to be just like him. We want to recognize a brother."

Bradley then read "The Old Salt," a poem by Mac McDonald, which ends:

"As I look up at night, I envision The Old Salt, a bere: draped just above the eye, as he draws upon his pipe, quietly he waits. The guardian of heaven's

Bradley then explained his "vision" - with the help of the council — "to see that someday every Sea Cadet in the nation will collect change for our patriots."

Council Vice President Curtis Paulisin then gave opening remarks on Cox and his legacy.

"He was the oldest veteran in Indian River County, and he was a hero," he said. "Not only to our coun-

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Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Indian River County Sheriff Deryl Loar speaks at a Celebration of Life ceremony for the late Chief Petty Officer Charlie Cox, who recently died just short of his 105th birthday, at Vero Beach Veterans Inc. headquarters, Vero Beach, Feb. 4. Listening are, from left, Indian River Veterans Council Vice President Curtis Paulisin and Cox's widow, Busilisa, and family and friends.

"Anyone who knew him knew he was a real presence. He would command the room, and with his voice, he never needed a microphone."

> Curtis Paulisin, vice president, Indian River Veterans Council

ty, but also to his country and his family. "Anyone who knew him knew he was a real presence," Paulisin said. "He would command the room, and with his voice, he never needed a microphone."

An invocation was given by Eric "Rip" Weiler, of the council.

Former Army Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin Britt next paid tribute to "my friend, comrade and buddy," whom he designated "an honorary paratrooper."

After a rendition of "Amazing Grace" by Delores Chambers, the Colors were presented and "Taps" played by Duke Scales

Paulisin introduced Busilisa Cox and family and friends who accompanied her. Fellow Seabee Bill Beyerle reflected on Cox's life and career, and read a letter from national commander Jerry Landcastle, who wrote, "Chief Petty Officer Cox joined a brand-new battalion in World War II, and was thrust immediately into danger.

"He had little military training, but skills (as an electrician) second to none." Beyerle pointed out that Cox was in-

CON CUADITE HARA P

#### CHARLIE from page 1

volved in "many, many" veterans' organizations, and served as Veterans Memorial Island chaplain for 12 years.

"He truly lived up to the Scabees" motto 'can do.' I wish him calm winds and following seas."

Beyerle said that in addition to his many services to veterans. Cox was also the founder of Habitat for Humanity in Indian River County — at the age of 80,

Reminiscences were next given by Joe Martorana and Tony Russo, members of both the council and the Italian-American Veterans Association, of which Cox was also a member.

Martorana, the former national commander, recalled that among Cox's other accomplishments, "he established the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Award here in Indian River, and he even met one of the survivors of the (USAT) Dorchester."

Memorial Island steward John Michael Matthews spoke in tribute to Cox's "deep sense of spirit," and Will Collins spoke on behalf of the Vero Beach Veterans, which donated the use of its post for the ceremony.

Indian River County Sheriff

"He was an unbelievable human being. In a recent conversation, he said to me, 'Joe, they mothball ships younger than me.

#### Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher

Deryl Loar said "There's no way to know how many lives he (Cox) has touched in our county."

Weiler noted "the difference in our ages" (Weiler is in his 80s) — "he remembered World War I -and when I think of what he's accomplished in the 25 years since he turned 80, I'm ashamed."

Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher said, "He was an unbelievable human being. In a recent conversation, he said to me, 'Joe, they mothball ships younger than me.'

"He could be anything he wanted."

Former Army Col. Tony Young, president of the council, who recently returned from a two-month leave of absence, said, "Charlie told me, Tve been around the world, but I'm glad to be around you (veterans).

"For his birthday, he asked that flowers be given to his wife. That speaks volumes. Mrs. Cox, his



Photo courtesy of the Indian River Veterans Council

The late Chief Petty Officer Charlie Cox, center, is seen at a recent Indian River Veterans Council function. His wife, Busilisa, is seated behind him, and he is conversing with John Michael Matthews of the Veterans Council.

success in life was born from your love and affection."

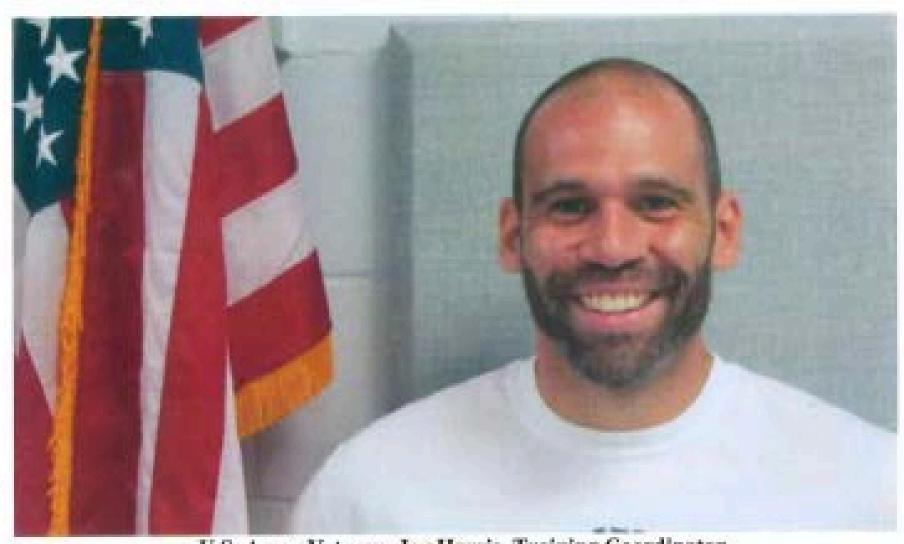
Young noted that after serving in the SeaBees, Cox went on to have a long career in electrical engineering.

Lastly, Sam Kouns of the council proposed that a Charlie Cox Memorial Scholarship be established for deserving Indian River

During a luncheon following the ceremony, family friend Helene Beck said, "They shared love every day. He had a long, productive life, and (Mrs. Cox) was his caregiver in the last months.

"He will be sorely missed."

## U.S. Army Veteran, Jay Harris, Joins Dogs For Life on a Full-Time Basis as Training Coordinator



U.S. Army Veteran, Jay Harris, Training Coordinator

For those of you who have had the opportunity to meet or work with Jay, you are familiar with his dedication to the people and the dogs he works with. DFL Board President, Eleanor Bengyak stated, "Since the Assistance Dog Training & Administrative Center has opened, the number of people and dogs in training has doubled. Jay is a team player, dedicated to the DFL mission. He has been contracting with us for five years and who better to assist in the training of our Heroes than someone who has "been there?"

Jay added, "For me, it's about giving back. I know that sounds a little strange, coming from another Veteran, but I didn't serve alone. I might not be here today if it weren't for so many others who served. This is my chance to say thank you and give back to them."

"Dogs For Life is proud and honored to bring Jay from a contractual status to a Full-Time Employee. We need the additional help with training our increase of Military Veterans. Jay, being a Veteran himself, can relate to the brave men and women he trains. He is truly an asset to the organization," added DFL Director of Training Programs, Shelly Ferger.

## Meet Ariel — and her human — who are forging a special bond

Mary Kemper star were mkemper@weteranvoiceweekly.com

She's small, has beautiful hair, bright eyes and boundless energy. She can' leap onto a tall bed in a single bound and save her human's life in the event of danger. She can wait patiently under the table until a meal is done.

She can even "herd" and keep track of those lesser beings not gifted with her sense of organization. Is there anything she can't do?

The answer: Not much, Just ask her human, Daniel Votrobek, Vero Beach, who has Ariel, a Belgian Turveren (also known as Belgian sheepdog) in training at Dogs 4 Life to become a certified service dog.

Votrobek is a Marine Corps veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, for wounds sustained in three different IED explosions in Iraq.

Enlisting in 2002, he served in the initial invasion in 2003, as "She picks things up very quickly, and she's so intelligent.
These two are going to go a long way together."

Dogs 4 Life founder and CEO Shelly Ferger, on veteran Daniel
Votrobek and his service-dog-in-training, Arisl

well as later missions checking vehicles and house-to-house combat.

He suffered hearing loss from perforated eardrums, among other injuries, and the condition appears to be getting worse over time.

"I figured I'd better get Ariel trained in case it goes completely," he said.

That's where Dogs 4 Life came in.

"My neighbor, Barbara, told me about them," Votrobek said. "I contacted (founder and CEO) Shelly (Ferger). "I had just gotten Ariel in Tallahassee at 2 months old. She started training at 6 months, and she's almost 2 (years old) now."

"To tell you the truth, I was a bit apprehensive about him (Votrobek) providing his own dog, without our vetting it first," Ferger said. "But as soon as I met Ariel, I could tell she has what it takes."

Dogs 4 Life, which just changed its logo color to purple — "to honor our veterans," Ferger said, as it reflects the Purple Heart as well — trains service dogs for veterans with special needs related to a wide range of injuries, whether hearing loss, paraplegia or PTSD, as well as civilians with similar needs.

At a class on Feb. 12 at Dogs 4 Life, Ariel learned how to come and get Votrobek when she heard a knock at the door, how to wake him up when a smoke alarm goes off and how to behave in a public setting like a restaurant.

Ferger and trainer Jay Harris, an Army veteran, had Votrobek sitting at a desk, just as he would at home. When a volunteer knocked at the door, Ferger or Harris would release Ariel, who then ran and alerted Votrobek, who gave her a treat both for alerting properly and for sitting when she reached the door.

During the smoke-alarm training (which was purposely done
at the center, as Votrobek has
a newborn daughter, Gabrielle,
at home), Ferger made use of a
mock bedroom, which is contained in a closet, complete with
a real fold-down bed. Ariel successfully "woke" Votrobek up
when the alarm went off and led
him to the door, earning more
well-deserved treats.

In time, she'll be trained to go outside Votrobek's home and wait by the mailbox until the family emerges safely.

During a break in the training. Ariel joined L.A. (a former law-enforcement officer) and Daryl, and Judy (who declined to give her last name) and Bailey, out in the

See DOGS name 3

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Staff photo by Mary Kemper

Marine veteran and Purple Heart recipient Daniel Votrobek, right, and his dog, Ariel, are undergoing training to prepare Ariel to become a service dog at Dogs 4 Life, Vero Beach, with the help of trainer and Army veteran Jay Harris.

#### DOGS from page 2

yard for a romp. Naturally, Ariel tried to "organize" the other dogs, who simply looked at her with what could only be amusement.

Judy and Bailey, a "Labradoodle," are also taking the sound training, as Judy has hearing issues as well. L.A. visits Dogs 4 Life frequently with Daryl, a Labrador retriever and former bomb dog, to help the other dogs see how to behave properly.

After the sound training, the

group underwent "table" training, which teaches dogs to lie quietly under a table in public situations like going out for a meal.

Then it was off to a real eatery in Vero Beach, to put the training to a real-world test.

Ferger showed Votrobek how to keep Ariel between himself and the counter while ordering and paying, so as to limit distractions from all the stimuli in a busy restaurant.

The ordering accomplished, Ariel finally joined the other dogs un-



Staff photo by Mary Kemper

At the Dogs 4 Life training center, a mock bedroom helps simulate the home situations of service dog trainees for emergency situations that might take place while the owner is asleep, such as someone knocking at the door or a smoke alarm going off.

der the table and, with the help of treats and "stay" commands, she sat at Votrobek's feet properly.

Ferger had a lot of praise for Ariel's progress. "She picks things up very quickly, and she's so intelligent," she said. "These two are going to go a long way together."

Votrobek said Ariel already has the instinct of protectiveness.

"She helped my father-in-law at Christmas," he said. "He's diabetic, and his sugar got low. He got up and went to the door, but then got disoriented.

"Then he found himself out on the road. Ariel went to him, and started pacing in circles around him. She was very protective.

"My father-in-law said the last thing he remembered was Ariel coming up to him."

Votrobek said she's equally as protective of his wife, Joy, and daughter. "She's pretty awe-

(To learn more about Dogs 4 Life, call (772) 567-8969, or visit www. dogsforlifevb.org)

## Bridge Tournament





Eleanor Bengyak and "Mitzi"
Invite You To Support
The 5th DFL "Build A Bridge"
Bridge Tournament
To Help Paice Funds

To Help Raise Funds To Train Assistance Dogs in 2015

#### Vero Beach Country Club

800 30th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960

#### Tuesday, February 3, 2015

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

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

#### SANCTIONED DUPLICATE

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

> \$75 Bridge/Lunch (\$50 Tax Deductible)

~ Limited Seating ~ Please Reply By January 26, 2015

> Committee Members: Eleanor Bengyak & "Mitzi" Kathi G. Schumann Linda Liss Betty McCalister







## JANUARY

### A Great Pyrenees who ate Christmas dinner

#### Hi Dog Buddies!

This week I met a Great Pyrenees, Opal Schlesinger, who looks like a beautiful, giant snowball. She lives in Sea Oaks with her humans, Lil and Peter, and she's one of those pooches who come from a long line of showdogs. She has papers and everything. But, even though her Official Name is - get this -Gardenia Ivory Jewel, for Lassie's sake, she's not snooty at all. Actually she was a



"Where do you play with your dog buddies?" I asked.

"We have this really cool dog park called Dogs For Life. Members only. We have 4 acres to run around in. My Besties are Sammi, Charlie, another Charlie, Polly, Lady, Benj, Clem, Winnie, Tigger, Dugan, Inka, Gus and Boo."

"Wow, you got some great posse there," I said.

- "I know! But Lady's my total BFE We can yap about anything."

"But I have my job, too, Mr. Bonzo.

When I arrived, she was on her leash with her Mom, waiting for me in the front yard. After a cautious wag-andsniff, her Mom said, "let's go for a walk." So off we went. It was really pretty on Opal's street, lots of handy trees and stuff. And we ran into several of her dog buddies and their humans.

I'd never gone for a walk with my interviewee before and I guess I looked a little puzzled, because Opal said, by way of explanation, "Mom says this is a good way for us to get to know each other. I'm still kinda shy and when we take a lovely walk together it makes things easier, you

"I never thought about it before," I told her, "but this is nice. I think it's a cool idea."

"I walk 3 1/2 to 4 miles every day, morning and evening," Opal told me. "And I also like to run around inside and jump over stuff. I'm great at that!"

Back in the house, I asked Opal how she found her forever family. Turns out, they'd had a Great Pyrenees before, for a

long time, named Oze. When he went to the Big Dog Park in the Sky, they wanted another pooch like him.

"Actually, Oze and I are related. Our dads had the same dad," Opal said. Then, in an excited voice, "I've gotta tell you this story - my humans love to tell it to their buddies. But their version is a little different than mine," she said.

"Can't wait to hear it!" I was intrigued. "Well, it was last Christmas Eve morning. Mom had to take Dad to the doctor, but I didn't get to go. I used to have this terrible separation anxiety. Anyway, Mom knows I don't like it when they leave so she left me a special treat. There it was, in a lovely big pot right on the stove. With a lid and everything just for me. So I very carefully got up on my back tippypaws and gently, with my nose, nudged and nudged and nudged. Finally the pot slipped over the edge and landed, as I had planned, upright. The lid had bounced off nicely."

I'm pretty sure my eyes were as big as water bowls, as I listened to Opal's story.

"So, then, I just stuck my nose in and started nibbling. Man, it was fabulous. Lots of delicious meat, and a lot of nice juice. I kept pulling off little pieces and putting them on the floor and nosing them around and nibbling."

"Ooooh boy," I managed.

"Anyway, I was taking a little nap when, all of a sudden, I heard Mom say, in her loud voice, 'What did you do, Opal???' Turns out, Mr. Bonzo, I'd eaten the entire Christmas dinner. Mom called it Beef Burgundy. I mean, how was I to know? Mom told me it was a pound and a half of beef, with bacon and a whole bottle of wine. I thought she was just being nice because she knew I didn't like to be alone. And it worked, too, because I was so busy eating all that delicious food I didn't even miss Mom and Dad. I bet no other dog ever had such a great Christmas dinner."

"I think that's a safe bet," I said.

"I had to stay in the den with my Dad for 3 1/2 hours, while Mom cleaned the kitchen. I guess it was a pretty big mess. Then, two days later, Mom and Dad told me I wasn't a little girl anymore and I had to graduate to my own bed. But that's okay, as long as I can have my fa-

vorite toys with me. So now, when Mom and Dad are gone, I don't freak out or anything like that. I just push a chair up to the dining room table, jump on it, then to the table, where I sit and wait for them. I jump off when I hear them coming. So far, there hasn't been anything to eat up there, but maybe, someday ..."

My ancestors were Spanish guard dogs. They worked with the sheep-herding dogs, standing guard so no other animals could grab any sheep. So I carry on the tradition. I guard my family."

I knew she was right, but I couldn't help but think it would be kinda hard to be scared of anything that looked like Prostie the Snowman. I wisely decided not to share that with her.

Till next time,

The Bonz 🖔



#### DON'T BE SHY

We are always looking for pets with interesting stories. For a questionnaire, email bonzothecolumnist@gmail.com.

## Vero Beach Magazine

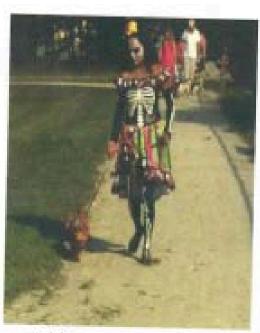
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## THE FIRST & THE ONLY VETOBEACH JANUARY 2015 SAMU Estimated & Soldwood colored by A. Sulth processor of the Color of the

THE SCENE



Supergirl and her sidekick



A skeleton escorting her dackshund



A crowd of dog-lovers gathering for the Howl-O-Ween Pawrade

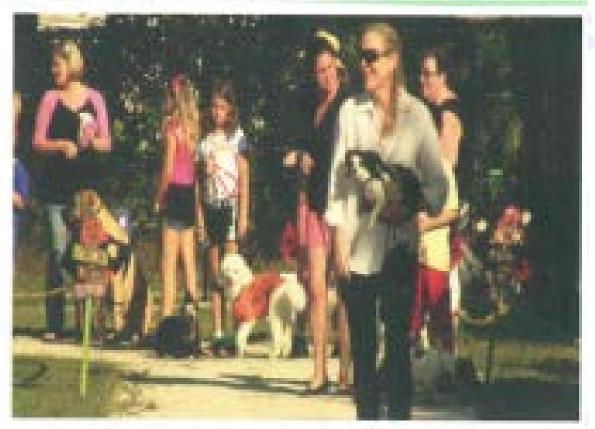
#### Pooches Pawrade In The Dog Park

Sponsored by Gene and Martha Schumann

OCTOBER 18: Dogs For Life held their annual Howl-O-Ween Pawrade with 63 canine entries and as many as 400 spectators taking a peek at the pooches on pawrade. Attendees shopped local vendors such as the Florida Veterinary League, Vero Insurance, Capital Investments, Forever Family Pet Cremations and the Vero Beach Veterinary Hospital. Just over \$18,000 was collected through cash donations, raffles and vendor fees.



Olaf the snowman getting a ride on Sven the reindeer



Zorro leading the parade



A pair of pair showing off their fancy costumes

VERO BEACH MAGAZINE



## Service of Celebration

A I Thursday, January 22, 2015 I SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS I

### A Service of Celebration for



Nancy H. Ireland September 29, 1923 – January 16, 2015

> January 26, 2015 – 11:00 am Community Church of Vero Beach Vero Beach, Florida

## Legacy Society

Name:



#### Mrs. Eleanor Bengyak cordially invites you to the Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society Reception

#### Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society

Ad	dress:
Ph	one:
Em	ail:
Na —	mes of Guests:
	I am unable to attend but want to help Eleanor and Mitzi "Keep the Dream Alive."
	Please see my enclosed gift to the Eleanor Bengyak Legacy

Society in the amount of \$\_

This event will formally kick off the

Eleanor Bengyak Legacy Society

which began with gifts to Dogs For Life in memory of Founding Member, Victor Bengyak

This fund was started to help support the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park which Victor loved to visit with his Service Dog, Mitzi.

"Now I will continue this Legacy to keep my dream alive. We love this park and want to make sure it is here in the future."

~ E.B.

Please join Eleanor and Mitzi January 13, 2015 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.



Training & Adminstration Center 1230 16th Avenue Vero Beach, FL 32960

Refreshments Served