# Dogs For Life

*Training Service Dogs For Veterans*

# Scrapbook

## 2006-2005

# Scrapbook

## 2006

# Open House

DOG TALES
12/09/2006

Youth Volunteer Corps
12/09/2006

Support 4-H Dog Masters!
12/09/2006

T. MILLER
K-9
IN MEMORY OF
K-9 OFFICER
JAKE

12/09/2006

# Fur, Feathers, Fins & Skin

## Wishes Our Readers Happy Holiday

## MEET DAISY MAE AND HONEY OUR PETS OF THE MO

This is Daisy Mae. She is in training to be a hearing assist dog. It will be wonderful to have someone to alert me to sounds like a smoke alarm. She is smart, friendly and lovable. She will do most anything for a treat. She is my faithful companion.

Hildegard

# Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

Board of Directors
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Vice President

Barbara J. Patten
Treasurer

Penny Chandler

Clay Collins

Sharon Marshall

Attorney
Bruce D. Barkett

Certified Public Accountant
Richard B. Leffew

Executive Director
Shelly Ferger

Website
www.dogsforlifevb.org

e-mail
dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

December 11, 2006

Miss Beth
Youth Volunteer Corps.
1846 18th Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960

Dear Beth,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff and volunteers of Dogs for Life, Inc. we would like to thank you for the Youth Volunteer Corps volunteering your time to help at our Off-Leash Dog Park Christmas Open House fundraising event.

The event included an area law enforcement K-9 demonstration, dog obedience and agility show. Dogs for Life, Inc. was able to give a program presentation and the raffle ticket drawings topped off the fundraising event.

Distinguished as the only certified provider on the treasure Coast for training hearing and mobility assistance dogs, Dogs for Life continues its fine training program and looks forward to the day this unique program can be expanded to better meet the needs of a fast - growing wait-list

We couldn't do it without the Youth Volunteer Corps. supporting our cause through your generous donation of time!

We would like to wish you and your family a continued Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Shelly Ferger

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

Logo designed and donated by DHI Visual Communications

# City Neglects Canines

Opinion

PAGE A8 • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2006 •

COMMUNITY

## Government keeps dog owners on a much-too-short leash

It is my understanding that members of the City Council and County Commission are unwilling to spend taxpayer dollars on dogs and their owners. Yet they willingly spend taxpayer dollars on golf and tennis, fitness trails and ball parks, playgrounds and picnic sites, beaches and turtles.

All of these facilities serve citizens with a variety of needs and interest, and those citizens who do not use all the facilities still pay taxes to support them.

Apparently, our elected representatives choose to discriminate against dog owners. They must know we own property and pay taxes and vote.

Sara Rainone walks with her dogs near her Vero Beach home.

Vero Beach is more hostile toward dog owners than any place I ever have lived or visited. You cannot even walk your dog through a public park on a leash.

It is time to address this failing. Let's see some public support for the Dogs for Life program. This program, with its dog park, serves as a model facility of its type. Certainly it deserves the support of taxpayer dollars and dog owners deserve a place to take their pets.

**Sally Campbell**

Opinion

PAGE A6 • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2006 • TCPALM.COM

RECREATION

## City neglects canines with dearth of park space

I say, "Shame on you, Vero Beach!"

We're one of the wealthier towns in Florida and our one dog park is only open from 5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

Of course, it is really open all the time since it is not fenced and there is no water for the thirsty animals. There is a warning sign that anyone with a dog there after 8:30 a.m. will be fined.

I, along with a large group, pay $300 each a year to bring man's best friend to the Dogs for Life park off 12th Street, but even that is in jeopardy of closing if funds cannot be raised to buy the property that is now leased.

How about Vero buying the park for man's best friend? The gal who runs it now does a great job and I would guess with the right compensation she might consider working for the great city of Vero Beach.

Lord knows there are plenty of dogs in Vero. Look at the pet stores opening. Come on, let's remember our faithful companions and give God a chance. Oh, that's backwards — I meant *dog*.

**Lorraine "Lorri" Lewis**
**Vero Beach**

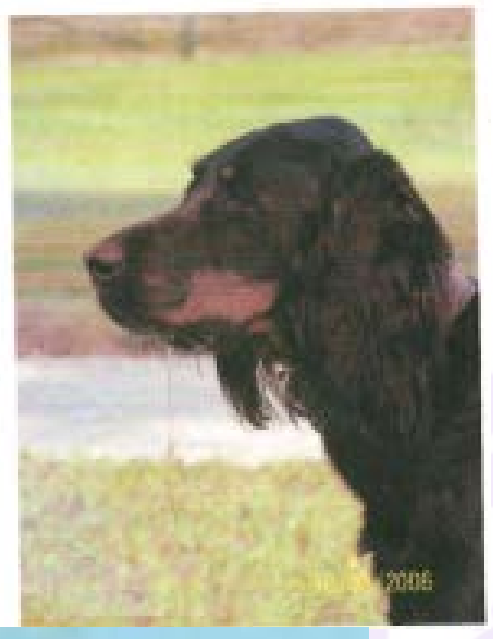
tters must be
nd street ad-
ust be original
ay be printed.

, Vero Beach,
@scripps.com

**QUOTABLE**

"A Canadian psychologist is selling a video that teaches you how to test your dog's IQ. Here's how it works: If you spend $12.99 for the video, your dog is smarter than you."

**— Jay Leno**



**DOGS**

## Kudos to Sebastian for letting canines exercise in city parks

Congratulations to the Sebastian City Council and Mayor Nate McCollum for opening all of its city parks to dogs on leashes.

The family dog is an integral part of our lives and need recreational outlets, just as children and adults do. Many behavior problems in dogs are avoided when they receive proper mental and physical stimulation.

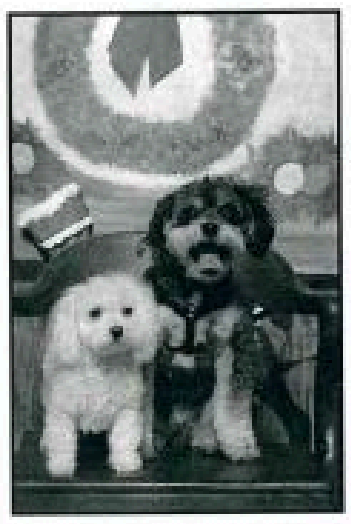
During the establishment of the off-leash dog park in Vero Beach in 1997-2001, we, too, encountered anti-dog sentiment from our officials because of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs.

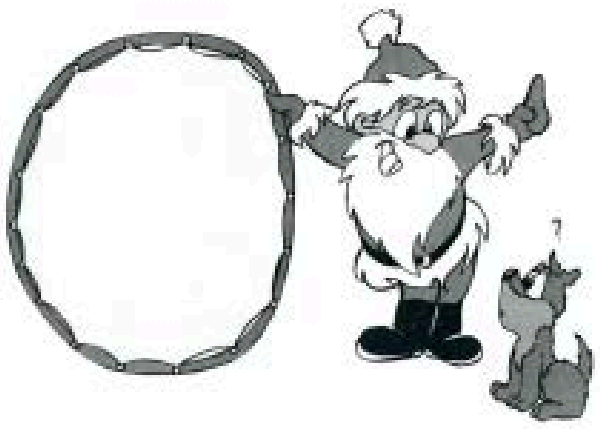
The non-profit Dogs for Life Inc. dog park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach is now in its fifth year of successfully offering recreation to people and their dogs in a clean, safe environment. Sebastian has recognized this as a valuable opportunity for people and dogs in their "friendly" community.

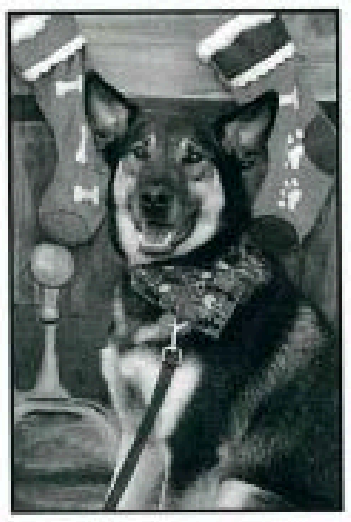
**Shelly Ferger**
**executive director**
**Dogs for Life Inc.**
**Vero Beach**

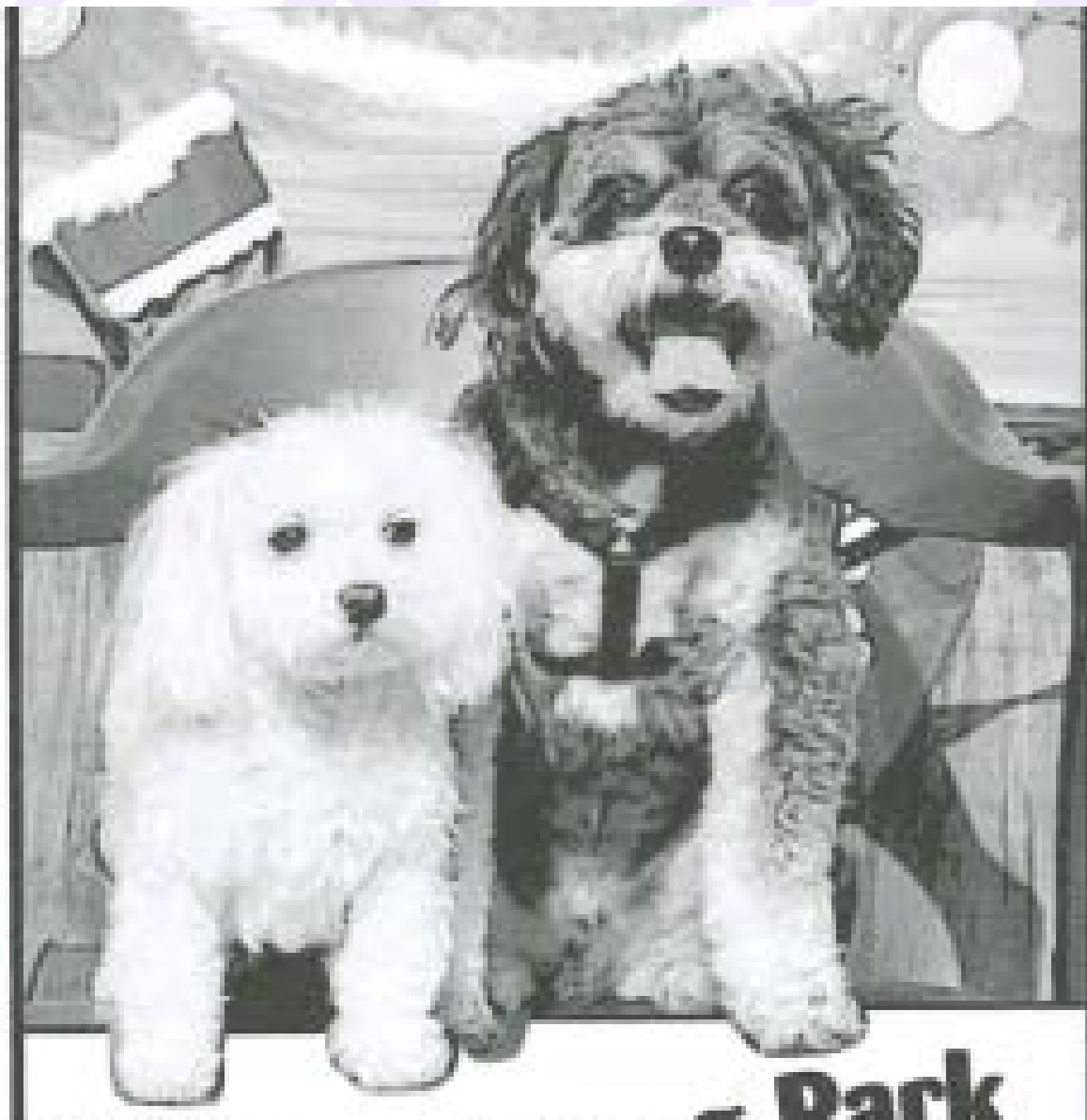
# Happy How-O-Days

**Happy Howl-O-Days from Dogs for Life**









## Off- Leash Dog Park

### Christmas Open House

**Saturday December 9**
**2 PM - Dog Park**
12th Street & 16th Avenue

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

Tunes from the ***"River Rats"*** Band • Local Law Enforcement K-9 Demonstration • 4-H Dog Masters Club – **Dog Cookie Sale** Local Pet Related Businesses – **Raffles** • Dog Obedience / Agility Show • Dog Walk-A-Thon Fundraiser

$5 admission, children under 12 free

**567-8969**

# Community Notes

## Dogs for Life holds a Christmas open house

Dogs for Life, (DFL) a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is having a Christmas open house at the Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, on Dec. 9, 2 p.m.

The River Rats Band will provide entertainment during the event, which will include a dog obedience and agility show, area law enforcement K-9 demonstration, and area pet related business raffles.

The Indian River county 4-H dogmasters club will hold a dog cookie sale toward their community service. Dog walk-a-thon fundraisers will turn in collected donations, with participants receiving a free DFL t-shirt.

There is a $5 entry fee to the event, with children under 12 free.

DFL will give a presentation on their assistance dog training program "pet assisted therapy programs.

Information will be available on how to join the off-leash dog park. Bring lawn chairs!

*For additional information, contact Shelly Ferger, executive director, at (772) 567-8969.*



www.HometownNewsOL.co

◆Dogs for Life offers training classes:

◆Assistance Dog Training:

◆Hearing Ear Dogs assist with alerting their owners to the telephone ringing, someone knocking at the door, the alarm clock ringing and the smoke alarm.

◆Mobility Assistance Training

Dogs are trained to bring the phone, pick up dropped items and balance stabilization.

◆Pet Assisted Therapy

Volunteers and dogs are trained to sit quietly while children read or offer comfort and companionship.

◆Outreach Programs

Leash Dog Park

Qualifying dogs must be

▶ See CLUBS, C6

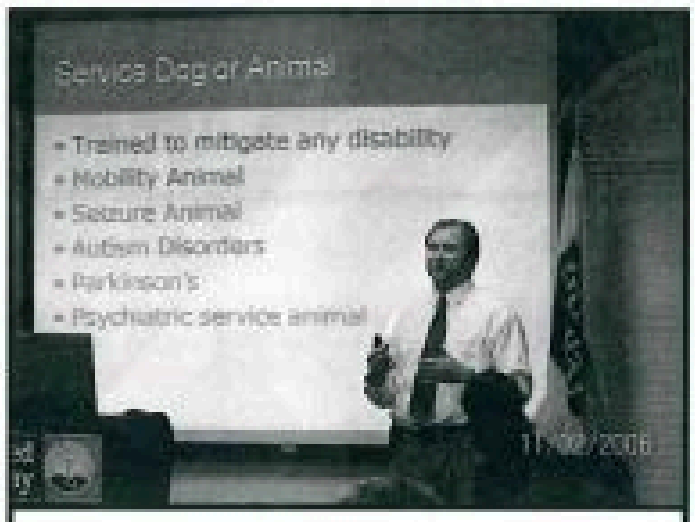
# The Hounds of Help

Assistance dogs help in many ways and testimonials to that effect were part of the presentation on November 2.

Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor explained to more than 50 people attending the lecture that there are laws pertaining to what qualifies as a disability, what qualifies as an assistance animal, and what laws regulate the public access of assistance dogs.

DFL Executive Director Shelly Ferger followed Taylor, outlining the organization's program services, which include "in-home" training of hearing guides and mobility dogs, pet therapy programs, and the off-leash dog park.

But it was the owners of several of the specially trained assistance dogs who brought home how helpful and needed these animals are.




Guest Speaker Assistant
State Attorney Chris Taylor

Jonie poses for photographer
Duane Marshall

Kelly said: "Max "not only helps me pick up things I drop, but he also has been trained to go get (John) my husband, if I am unable to get up. He has a calming effect on me when I try to rest, too." Beth said: "With Bandit accompanying me in public places, people are aware that I do not hear them if they try to talk to me while my head is turned. Bandit also alerted me to a fire alarm once while I was staying in a hotel near Boston, this could have saved my life."

Mim explained: "Bubba has changed my life he gives me the confidence to be more independent. I can't imagine my life without him." Ruth told the attendees: "Duke loves to tap the 911 phone; he gallops to the phone than races back to me for his treat." Holly said: "I am grateful to have a mobility dog that will "brace" on command to help stabilize me and help me get up if I fall." And Ellie said that her seeing guide dog saved her life when she almost walked into traffic at a busy intersection.

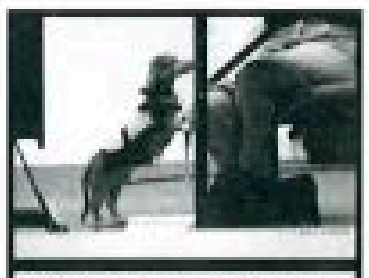
The program was held at the United Way offices in Vero Beach. The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast donated the services of sign language interpreter Marsha Richardson, and Bob and Ellen McDonald of Southeastern Guide Dogs, Inc. provided information on the puppy raising program.
If your business would like to display an Assistance Dogs

Assistance Dogs
Welcome

Service Dogs for the physically challenged
Guide Dogs for the blind
Hearing Dogs for the deaf

**Dogs for Life**

Living, Loving, Learning



"Bandit" alerts Beth to a smoke alarm

Welcome sign and a receive a DFL brochure outlining the Legal Access Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs, please, contact the DFL office at 567-8969.

"Duke" taps the
911 Rescue Phone

SocialScene

PAGE E3 • SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2006 • TCPALM.COM

CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Photo provided

Jan Vincent and 'Arnie.'

**DOGS FOR LIFE INC. CHRISTMAS**

Dogs for Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is having a Christmas Open House at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach, on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m.

There is a $5 entry fee with children under 12 free. Agility champion Jean Andrews will conduct a dog agility show, area law enforcement officers will provide a K-9 demonstration and DFL will present wildlife officer Tim Miller a memorial bone for his dog "Jake." The River Rats Band will provide entertainment. DFL will give a presentation on their Dog Obedience Training Program, Assistance Dog Training Program, Pet Assisted Therapy Programs and Companion Dog Placement Program. The 4-H Dog Master's Club will provide free information on solving common dog training problems. Information will also be available on membership to the off-leash dog park. Bring your lawn chairs, and be prepared to have fun. Call Shelly Fergor, executive director, at (772) 567-4969.

# In Memoriam

## Mary Frances Dahlen Pierson

Mary Frances died peacefully at her home in Vero Beach on November 29, 2006. She was 84 years old.

She was born in New Canaan, CT, July 2, 1922, to the late Dr. Ralph L. White and Mrs. Olive Frances McCready White. In 1940 she married William Kay Lawrence of New Canaan. The Lawrences had one child, Kay Townley Lawrence. In 1948 she married Peter C. Dahlen. The Dahlens had one child, Cynthia Caroline Dahlen.

Mrs. Dahlen Pierson graduated from Drew Seminary in Carmel, NY and did a post graduate year at Miss Scovilles Finishing School for Young Women in New York City. She was an accomplished pianist and equestrian in her youth. A tireless volunteer she worked at the Elliot Hospital in Manchester, NH for 20 years. She was a member of the Episcopal Church Bethesda by the Sea in Palm Beach, FL and volunteered many hours at the Church Mouse Thrift Shoppe affiliated with Bethesda. Mary Fran had a life long fondness for dogs. She raised Scottish Terriers and showed her dogs on the AKC circuit. Mr. Dahlen preceded his wife in death in 1986. While traveling from New Hampshire to Florida in the late 80s she met and married John Alan Pierson of Tamaqua, PA. They were married at Saint Andrews by the Sea Episcopal Church in Rye, NH in 1990 near their summer home in the same town.

Family was everything to Mary Frances. She is survived by her two children: Kay T. Ruma of Vero Beach, FL and Cynthia W. May of Jupiter, FL; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Carole Barber and Mrs. Judy Titus of Tamaqua and New Ringold, PA.; three grandchildren, Peter Solomon Ruma and Alexandra Kay Ruma of Vero Beach, FL; Mary Caroline Williams of Jupiter, FL; and one son-in-law, Garnett Williams and his wife Elizabeth of Jupiter, FL.

A visitation will be held at 3pm on Sunday, December 3, 2006 at Strunk Funeral Home, 916 17th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960. The funeral will follow Monday morning, December 4, 2006 at 11:00a.m. at Saint Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 4th Street and 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL. Final interment will be at Saint Andrews Episcopal Church, Rye, NH at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to either The Florida Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, 6720 Atlantic Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32211 or Dogs for Life, 25 Fifth Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32962.

Funeral Arrangements by Strunk Funeral Homes, P.A. Vero Beach, FL.

*Paid Obituary*

# NOVEMBER

# Assistance Dog Presentation

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

Assistance Dog Presentation
November 2, 2006

Hearing Dog

Medical Alert Dog

Mobility Dog

Mobility Dog

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

# Dogs For Life
# Assistance Dog Presentation

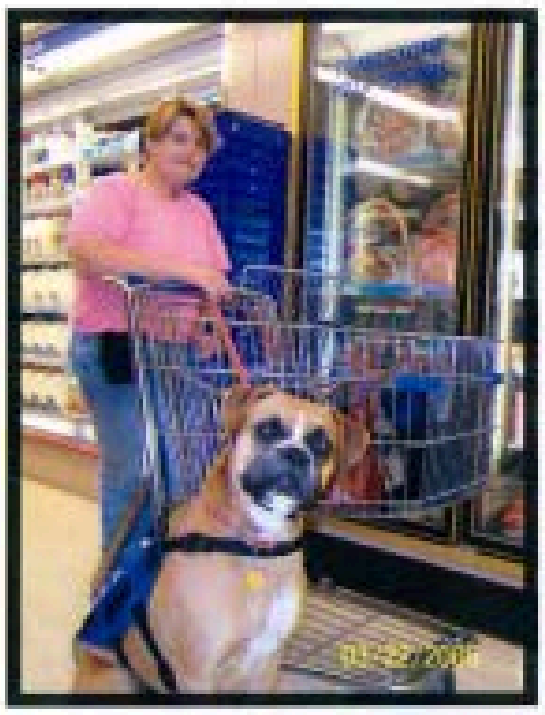
***Guide Dogs for the Blind***
***Hearing Guide Dogs***
***Service Dogs***

**November 2, 2006 Time: 7 PM**

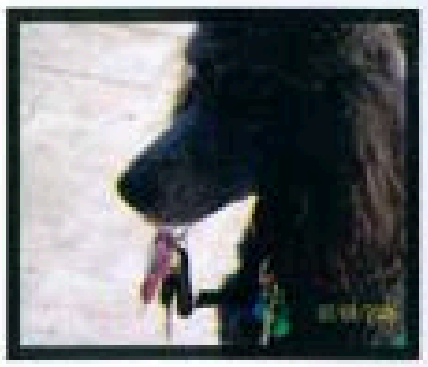
United Way - 1836 14th Avenue Vero Beach, FL
**FREE EVENT** **FREE EVENT**

**Dogs for Life, Inc. 772-567-8969**

## *What! Dogs In Public Places?*



## Who is Dogs for Life?



**Can You and Your Dog Qualify as an Assistance Dog Team?**

**How are Assistance Dogs Trained?**

**What are the local, state and federal laws governing Assistance Animals?**

**What are the penalties for interfering with a Assistance Animal?**

### Speakers

- Mary "Mim" Dunn, President Dogs for Life, Inc. and Hearing Guide Dog Recipient
- Chris Taylor, State Attorney's Office
- Shelly Ferger, Executive Director Dogs For Life, Inc.
- Guide Dog Demonstrations and Refreshments

***How Assistance Dogs may affect your Business***

***How you and your dog can be trained as an Assistance Dog Team***

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

## Pre-Registration Form

**Dogs For Life**
**Assistance Dog**
**Presentation**

Dogs For Life, Inc.
PO Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

772-567-8969

Name _____

Business Name _____

_____

Total attendees: _____

Name _____

Name _____

**Please mail to: Dogs for Life, Inc.**

**FREE EVENT**

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

**Assistance Dog Presentation**
**Information for Businesses**

This insert should accompany the Dogs for Life, Inc. Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs and Service Dogs.

The only way to verify a Service Animal from a Pet is to ask the person any or all of the following three questions:

1. **Are you disabled?** Do not ask, "What is your disability?" (That's getting too personal)

2. **Has the animal been trained for your disability, or is that a pet?** (pets are not service animals) Do not ask someone to "prove" the animal has been trained.

3. **What does the animal do for you?** Do not ask someone to "show" what the animal does.

**Size, shape, make and model doesn't matter!**

Remember, it's not the clothes or id cards that make us legal, it's the fact that we have been trained to do tasks.

**Besides it's good publicity and it's the law.**

**Assistance Dogs Welcome**

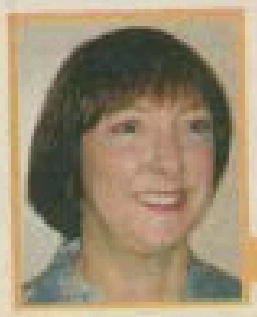
Service Dogs for the physically challenged
Guide Dogs for the blind
Hearing Dogs for the deaf

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning



# Galas & Giving



Indian River County

Mary Schenkel

## Going to the dogs

If you've ever wondered about assistance and service dogs, you won't want to miss the free **Assistance Dog Presentation** at 7 p.m. Nov. 7, at the **United Way** building, hosted by **Dogs for Life, Inc.** Guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, mobility assistance dogs and seizure alert dogs will show you how it's done. A segment on laws pertaining to service dogs will be presented by **Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor.** Call **Shelly Ferger** at (772) 567-8969.



## COMMUNITY

FROM PAGE E2

**Wellness Workshop:** Awakening Your Joy with Cary Bayer, 1-3 p.m. Nov. 18, $25, registration required. Living Yoga, 333 19th St., Vero Beach. If you are disconnected from your deepest joy, this workshop is for you. You'll leave the class with a plan to incorporate more joy into your friendships, relationships, family, career and spiritual life. You'll also be shown techniques that can daily transform your own internal limits to experiencing more joy. For more information, call (772) 978-1099.

**Fundraiser:** Harvest Rock, a fundraiser sponsored by Charles L. Futch Unit 189, American Legion Auxiliary, will be presented Nov. 17 at the American Legion Hall, 807 Louisiana Avenue, Sebastian. The event begins with a social hour at 5 p.m. followed by a roast pork dinner at 6 p.m., with music presented by the Happy Hoofers. Tickets ($10 per person) are on sale. Due to limited seating and to facilitate planning, early ticket purchase is encouraged. For tickets, call (772) 589-0814. For more information, call 772) 589-8445, or (772) 581-0228.

**Auditions:** Auditions will be held at 4 p.m. Nov. 10 and a 10 a.m. Nov 11 for "Heidi." Parts are available for students in grades 3 and up. No advance preparation is required. Performance dates are Dec. 27-30. Casting for "Mere Mortals" is open to those in grades 8 through 12. Auditions will take place at 5 p.m. Nov. 10. If callbacks are needed, they will be at 10 a.m. Nov. 11. This production is an RCT Teen Second Stage presentation and performance dates are Jan. 4-6. Those auditioning must be prepared to do cold readings from the script as well as improvisation and theatre games. All auditions will take place at the Agnes Walstrom Youth Playhouse, 3280 Riverside Park Drive, Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 234-8062.

**DAR:** Daughters of the American Revolution

345-7604, go to www.holidayhousetickets.com, any Boys & Girls Clubs, or Indian River Mall Service Desk for ticket information. Indian River Mall is located on State Road 60 and 66th Ave. in Vero Beach.

**Scrapbooking:** Free Creative Memories "Holiday Open House" 6-9 p.m. Nov. 6 at 1072 West 13th Square, Vero Beach. See the new products and make your wish list for the Holiday season. Share ideas with other scrapbookers, meet new friends and receive the new catalog. For more information, visit http://www.myomsite.com/sites/anniehockenberry, email anniehg@2@comcast.net or call (772) 567-9151.

**Dance:** Four-hour Latin workshop, rhumba and bolero, 10 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m. Nov. 5, Heritage Center, 2140 14th Ave. Instructor: Karmen Walter. Attendance limited to minimum of 20, maximum of 35. $32/members, $40/nonmembers, payable by check to USA Dance. Registration and fee required prior to workshop. For more information, For more information, email Cherylloxlal@msn.com or call (772) 569-6336.

**Dogs:** Dogs for Life Inc. will host an assistance dog presentation 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at the United Way, 1836 14th Ave., Vero Beach. This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about assistance/service animals. Guide dogs for the Blind, hearing dogs, mobility assistance dogs and seizure alert dogs will all be present. Learn what these dogs can do, how they are trained and when someone qualifies for an assistance dog. Federal, State and local laws pertaining to service dogs and interfering with a service dog will be presented by Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor. Business owners will want to attend this educational presentation to find out how assistance/service dogs affect their business. Learn how assistance animals should be presented in public places and what questions are legal and reasonable to ask of an assistance dog's owner. For more information, call (772) 567-8969.

Hometown News Friday, October 27, 2006

# Dogs for Life offers Assistance Dog presentation

FOR HOMETOWN NEWS

Dogs for Life is hosting an Assistance Dog Presentation at the United Way located at 1836 14th Ave. Vero Beach on Thursday Nov. 2, at 7 p.m.

The event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about Assistance/Service Animals. Guide dogs for the Blind, Hearing Dogs, Mobility Assistance Dogs and Seizure Alert Dogs will all be present.

Learn what these dogs can do, how the dogs are trained and when someone qualifies for an assistance dog.

Federal, State and local laws pertaining to service dogs and interfering with a service dog will be presented by Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor.

Business owners will want to attend this educational presentation to find out how assistance/service dogs affect their business. Learn how assistance animals should be presented in public places and what questions are legal and reasonable to ask of an assistance dog's owner.

B6 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006 • V

## Assistance dog presentation Thursday

Dogs for Life Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is hosting an assistance dog presentation at the United Way at 1836 14th Ave. at 7 p.m. Thursday.

This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about assistance/service animals. Guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, mobility assistance dogs and seizure alert dogs will all be present.

Learn what these dogs can do, how they are trained and when someone qualifies for an assistance dog. Federal, state and local laws pertaining to service dogs and interfering with a service dog will be presented by Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor.

Learn how assistance animals should be presented in public places and what questions are legal and reasonable to ask of an assistance dog's owner.

For additional information contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

# OCTOBER

# Howl-O-Ween

## 5th Annual Costume Parade Marks Howl-A-Ween

They swooped in like witches, snarled like Dracula and meandered like camels. Some wore jaunty top hats, others clown suits. Taking after their human counterparts on Halloween, more than 40 dogs masqueraded as anything but dogs during the 5th Annual Canine Costume parade Oct. 21 at the Dogs for Life off-leash dog park.

However, many had to shed their costumes early as their furry coats swehered in the warm October weather. Undaunted, though, 20 went on to participate with their handlers in a Doggie Relay Race.

The day's event wrapped up with "Stupid Pet Tricks," when about 10 dogs shook paws, danced, played dead or woofed – either on command or just because they felt like it.

The 4-H Dog Masters Club sold cookies to raise money for the group's community service project, which aims to buy a bullet proof canine vest for the Indian River County Sheriff Department's K-9 unit.

# Hub Pets

Want to see your pet's picture on this page? Post it on YourHub.com. Be sure to include your name, hometown, and the pet's name, age and breed.

CRYSTAL CORRIGAN • Posted on YourHub.co

## Play time

As a chocolate Labrador, **Fitz** is larger than average, but he definitely loves playing with all the dogs at the Dog Park. He had a great time Oct. 21 watching all the costumed canines parade around. Socializing is a great way to keep a happy pet!



Hub Pets

SHELLY FERGER • Posted on YourHub.com

Tucker Jaffee parades as a Halloween cornucopia during the Dogs for Life's fifth annual Canine Costume Parade. Below, having a howling good time at the parade was Diggy Keane, dressed as Dracula.

## 40 dogs strut their stuff at Howl-O-Ween Costume Parade

BY SHELLY FERGER
Posted on YourHub.com

The fifth annual Canine Costume Parade on Oct. 21 at the off-leash dog park was attended by 40 dogs in costume with 150 spectators.

The costumed canines entertained the crowd during the parade portion of the program as well as the relay race and stupid pet tricks.

Prizes were awarded to all participants and a brief explanation of Dogs for Life, Inc. programs, assistance dog-training program; pet-assisted therapy program; dog obedience training and membership to the off-leash dog park was given to those in attendance.

# SocialScene



## DOGS FOR LIFE INC. PRESENTS HOWL-O-WEEN COSTUME PARADE

Photo provided

Dogs for Life Inc. hosts the Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade Oct. 21 at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park.

Dogs for Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is hosting a Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach at 4 p.m. Oct. 21.

Cost is $5 per entry, spectators are free. The event includes a doggie Olympic "relay race" and stupid dog tricks, dog obedience training program, assistance dog training program, pet assisted therapy programs and companion dog placement program. For additional information, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-0969.

10/21/2006

10/21/2006

# Pet Therapy in Sebastian

## Pet Therapy Grows to Sebastian

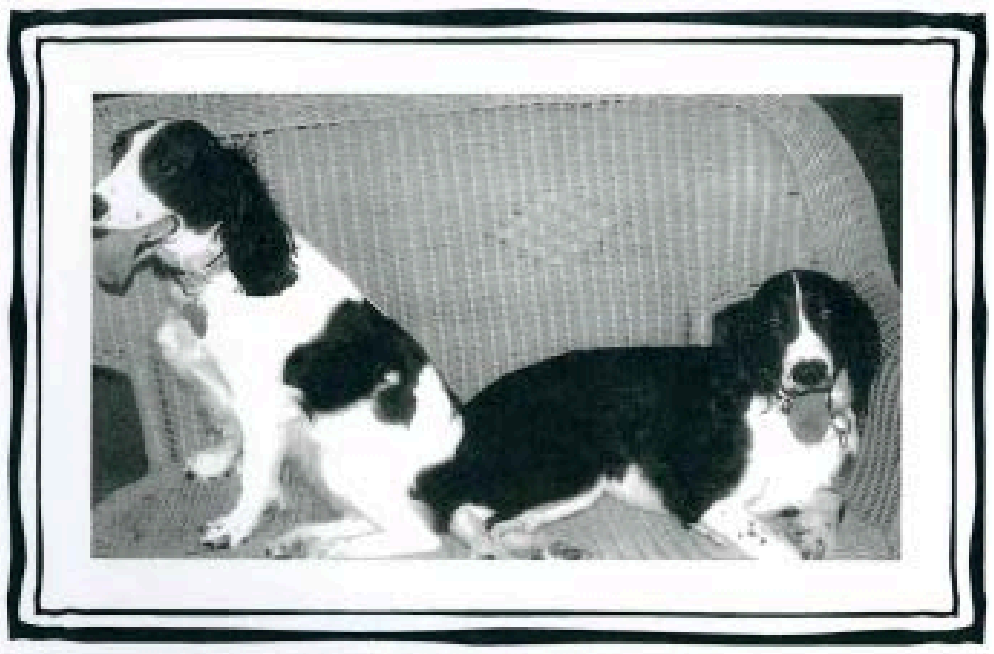
Sally Del-Donna, Sebastian Senior Center Day Care Manager, and Day Care Resident Madalynne Kass enjoy time with "Cutter".

The Senior Center in Sebastian now welcomes Doris Spirakus and Cutter as part of the DFL Pet Therapy team. Support and unconditional love freely given are key elements of therapy for people in need in Indian River County. DFL is proud to provide 13 volunteers and their dogs for sessions to help the lonely, depressed, or otherwise anxious in various locations in Vero Beach and Sebastian: Boys & Girls Clubs, Homeless Family Center, Hibiscus Children's Center, Beachland Elementary School, St. Edward's School, the Senior Center in Vero Beach and now also in Sebastian.

The first READ to DOGS program in the county was set up by DFL, and dogs and volunteers continue to provide willing ears and warm hearts to area children. If you and your dog would like to volunteer for DFL Pet Therapy Programs, please, contact Shelly Ferger 567-8969. Training schedules are being set up now.

Chance Montgomery (Left) and Lucy Gawler (Right) Provide Pet Therapy at the I.R. Mall

# *Just Look At Her Now!*



*Mitzi (Left) and Ellie (Right) lounge around at the Dog Park*

Mission "almost impossible" could describe the rescue of Mitzi, a very special Springer Spaniel. Victor and Eleanor Bengyak were so moved by the horror story of the abused dogs at Noah's Ark in Sebastian that they decided to adopt a puppy despite swearing to have no more dogs after the tragic loss of Taffy, a Golden Retriever, to cancer last year. Actually they wanted to take two Ark refugees, but were told there were so many potential foster parents only one was available.

Black and white and sweet and lively, Mitzi became part of the Bengyak household instantly. Unfortunately, veterinarian Dr. Elizabeth Bybee soon diagnosed a limp as hip dysphasia and recommended surgery. The operation was successful but revealed another condition requiring additional surgery, this time by a cardiology specialist at the Ft. Pierce clinic.

Mitzi's recovery period was brief but hectic, since the Bengyaks live right across the street from the dog park and Mitzi clearly wanted to rejoin her friends before she was ready. "She nearly drove us crazy," Victor and Eleanor say.

She now goes to the park almost every day, greeting dogs and their owners with enthusiasm and affection. She can run and race with the best of them and does.

One day at the park she met Ellie, an old friend from Noah's Ark. They had a very touching greeting and although Ellie is still shy, she too is adapting to the world beyond the bad old days.

The Bengyaks are so happy to have Mitzi in their lives and that they could provide the medical care she needed. They look forward to many years with Mitzi, the "Million Dollar Wonder Dog"


**Dogs for Life**

Living, Loving, Learning

**PO BOX 650023**
**Vero Beach, FL 32965**

**www.dogsforlifevb.org**
**dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net**

**(772) 567-8969**



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There is lots of fun at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park, 12 St & 16 Ave in Vero Beach, from Community Events to Dog Obedience and Agility Training or just "hanging out".

# Your dog may qualify for our programs!

## Assistance Dogs

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

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

Hildegard and "Daisy" train for Public Access Certification

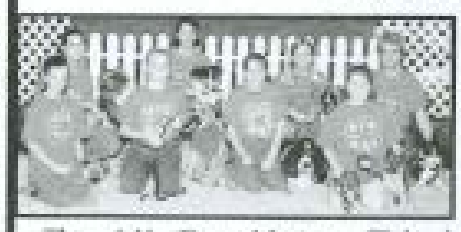
"Maddux" Bodnar is always happy to provide Pet Therapy

## Pet Assisted Therapy

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

## Off-Leash Dog Park

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



The 4-H Dog Masters Club is organizing for the 2006 - 2007 year

**Dogs for Life**

Living, Loving, Learning

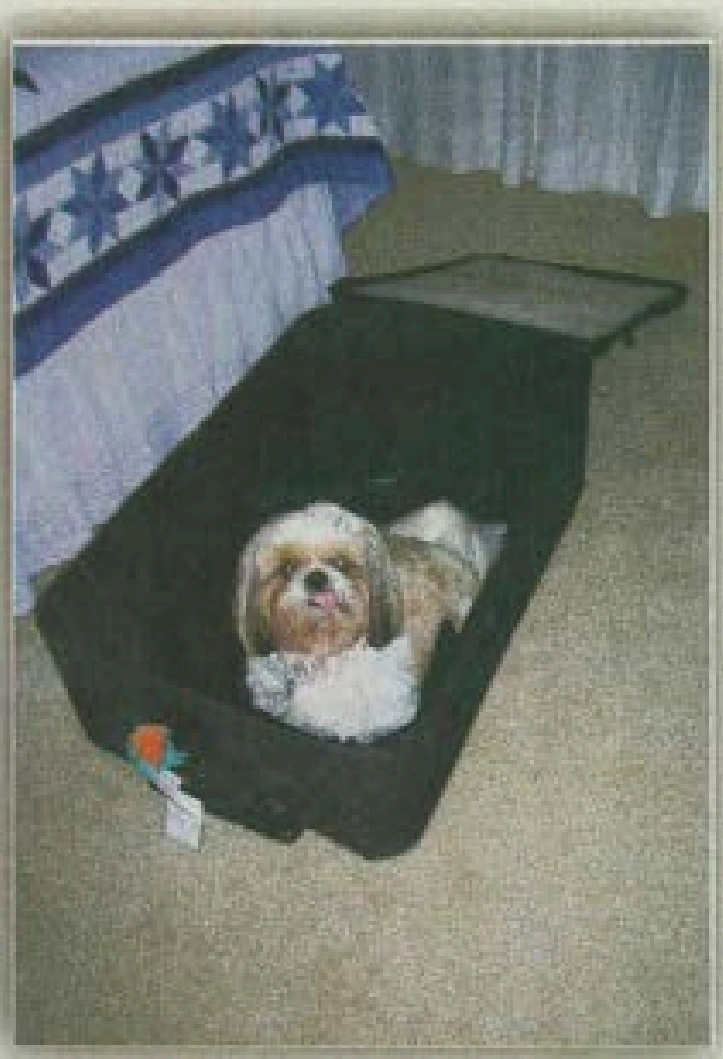
**567-8969**

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



# The record

## READER SNAPSHOT



Sonja Jeffrey, of Vero Beach, took this photo of Shih tzu, Mattie, using a Nikon Coolpix 4600. Jeffrey said she was getting ready for a cruise when Mattie jumped in the suitcase and looked at her as if to say, "When do we leave, Mom?"

## Learn about Dogs for Life service animals

Dogs for Life Inc. a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community is hosting an Assistance Dog presentation at 7 p.m. Nov. 2 at the United Way, 1836 14th Ave.

This event is free and open to anyone interested in learning more about assistance/service animals. Guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs, mobility assistance dogs and seizure alert dogs will all be present. Learn what these dogs can do, how they are trained and when someone qualifies for an assistance dog.

Federal, state and local laws pertaining to service dogs and interfering with a service dog will be presented by Assistant State Attorney Chris Taylor.

For additional information, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

From staff reports

# AUGUST

# Dog Days of Summer

In the Limelight

*Dogs for Life*

## Dog days of summer

Dogs for Life, (DFL) Inc. hosted Dog Days at the Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park for four-legged and two-legged friends alike.

Vero Beach city manager and Dogs for Life executive director Shelly Ferger presented DFL appreciation awards, and K-9 units gave demonstrations. The park was filled with well-behaved dogs that brought their owners to enjoy a day out with their furry friends.

Indian River County 4-H Dogmaster Club members Marissa and Angie LoPresti with Club co-leader Etta LoPresti and "Zoey," a 1-year-old Australian Shepherd.

Vero Beach Police animal control officer Bruce Dangerfield accepts a Dogs for Life appreciation award from Shelly Ferger and Jim Gabbard.

# The record

## READER SNAPSHOT

Carol Pena, of Vero Beach, took this photo with a Nikon D70 at the Dogs for Life Off Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue on Aug. 12 during a Law Enforcement K-9 Demonstration. Vero Beach K-9 Officer Alan Hall and his K-9 Bok capture a suspect played by Sebastian K-9 Officer Richie Revis.

## What Have We Done lately? Plenty!!

By Shelly Ferger, Executive Director

**New Mobility Assistance Team Is Certified:** Holly and her boxer, Buster were certified in June, having completed 60 hours of training with 20 hours of public access training within the 6-month requirement period. Buster had to learn three tasks to qualify for certification. He will Brace and Step to help stabilize Holly when needed. He will tap the 911 emergency phone on command, and Go Get someone in the household when asked. You may see Holly and Buster working in public places where he will be identified by a DFL Dog Working jacket. He also may be wearing a back pack that carries things for Holly.

Patti Schell assist with the Training and Certification of Holly and Buster Mobility Assistance Team

**Hearing Guide Progresses:** Hildegard and Daisy a beagle mix are in Stage 2 of their hearing dog training. Daisy is alerting to a door knock, an alarm clock and a Go Get command. Then they will move on to the telephone and the smoke alarm. Public access training is also underway.

**Pet Assisted Therapy:** Programs continue over the summer at the Boys & Girls Clubs in Vero Beach and Sebastian, and the Homeless Family and Senior Centers in Vero Beach.

We are looking forward to the fall when we will resume programs at Beachland Elementary School, St. Edwards Lower School and the Hibiscus Children's Center.

**Companion Dog Report:** Gus was adopted into a perfect home by Gretchen, Al and Phyl DuPree. Look for Gus and Gretchen at the off-leash dog park. Gus is one of 13 dogs fostered and then adopted into homes by DFL.

**Dog Obedience Classes:** Basic, Novice, Agility, Rally Obedience, AKC Canine Good Citizen, Assistance Dog and Pet Therapy Dog Training all continue at the dog park on Saturday mornings, despite the heat. "We can't wait for an indoor training center" is becoming our mantra! (Dog Park members receive a $10 discount for training classes.)

Hildegard & Daisy "In-Training"

Dog Training Classes Are Open To The Public

The DuPree Family
Al, "Gus", "Gretchen" and Phyl

## Hub Pets

CAROL PENA • Posted on YourHub.com

Buddy Smith navigates an agility course during the Dog Days Event.

# Dogs for Life Dog Days of Summer Event a Success

BY SHELLY FERGER
Posted on YourHub.com

The Dogs for Life, Dog Days of Summer event held at the off-leash dog park (located at the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue) was a huge success.

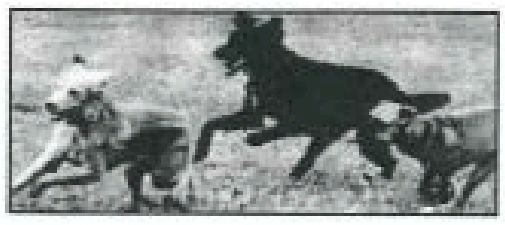
City Manager Jim Gabbard presented DFL Appreciation Awards to Vero Beach and Indian River County Animal Control officers.

K-9 deputy Sgt. Pat White organized a multi-law enforcement agency K-9 demonstration that was enjoyed by spectators attending the free event.

Agility champion Jean Andrews organized a dog agility show. Many of those attending participated in the doggie pool party and "stupid" dog trick portion of the show.

DFL 4 1/2 Acre Safe Off-Leash Dog Park

Dogs and people enjoy the park



Dixie & Nina visit regularly

## DFL Board Explores/Expands - You Can Help Make Our Park Our Own

The DFL Board of Directors is looking into ways to raise funds to purchase the 4 ½ acre off-leash dog park at the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue and is launching a campaign to establish an endowment fund for its operation.

In order to help realize our new ambitions, the board has recently enlisted six new members. DFL has expanded its board of directors to nine. New members are: Penny Chandler, Clay Collins, Jane B. King, Donna Miller, Treasurer Barbara J. Patten and Macy Swift.

The new members join President Mim Dunn, Vice President Susan Myers, and Sharon Marshall. DFL hopes to strengthen its fundraising and grant writing capabilities to help further expand its services and programs.

Recently, the following groups and individuals have donated their time and expertise to DFL in board development and capital campaign planning: Kerry Bartlett of the Visiting Nurse Association, The Indian River County chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Lenora Ritchie of the Robert and Eleanor McCabe Foundation.

When the purchase is complete, long-range plans include building a Dogs for Life Training center with an office and restroom.

DFL leased the land for 10 years in 1997, when the Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club, as a community service project, began raising funds to support a dog park.

Subsequently, the non-profit Dog Park Club of Indian River, formed in December 1999 to develop and manage the park, and raised more than $100,000 in cash and in-kind donations. The park opened for membership in February 2002.

Dogs for Life, Inc. a tax-deductible non-profit organization, adopted the Dog Park in July 2003. Memberships currently average between 150 & 175 dogs.

To qualify for membership, dogs must be inoculated, neutered and social. Current fees are $300 a year per dog. Additional dogs from the same household are half price. DFL also is establishing a scholarship program toward park memberships. DFL holds dog temperament and owner orientations by appointment. Owners must agree to abide by all dog park membership rules. They receive an individual code to access the security gate.

Watch your mail for our capital campaign appeal outlining the plans and cost for this project. We are depending on you to help us secure our valuable programs for members of this community and their dogs! Join now or re enlist.

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

# Paw Prints Newsletter

August 2006

## Every Dog Has His Day In The Sun
## Celebrate the Dog Days of Summer Aug 12

DFL will host a party Saturday, Aug. 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the Dog Park located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Festivities are open to the public and to all well-behaved dogs on leashes.

Sarah Lee cools off during a Doggie Pool Party at the Off-Leash Dog Park

Local Law Enforcement K-9 Demo

**Activities include**

* Presentation of an Appreciation Award to Indian River County and Vero Beach Animal Control Officers
* A local law enforcement K-9 Demonstration
* A Doggie Pool Party and Wet T-shirt Contest
* A Dog Agility Demonstration
* Stupid Pet Tricks

Doggie T-Shirts will be available for $3. Everyone is a Winner! Information will be available on Dog Bite Prevention, Dogs for Life, Dog Park Memberships, the Dog Park Capital Campaign, and information on how to help end cruelty to animals.

Inside This Issue

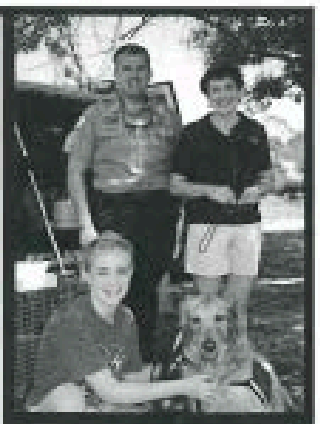

**Save The Date Dog Days Aug. 12**

DFL To Purchase Dog Park 2

Six Join Board Of Directors 3

Program Report 3

Donate to DFL 4

Animal Control Officer Jeff West, DFL President Mim Dunn, 4-H member Katherine DeSandro and "Casey"

Friday, August 4, 2006 www.HometownNewsOL.com

# 'Dog Days' Of Summer free dog park event

FOR HOMETOWN NEWS

VERO BEACH—Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) a non-profit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance and pet therapy dogs is hosting a Free On-Leash Day at the "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park.

The park is located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on Saturday, Aug. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The event will include DFL appreciation awards being presented by Vero Beach City Manager Jim Gabbard to Indian River County's and Vero Beach Police Animal Control officers; a multi Law Enforcement agency K-9 demonstration; a Doggie Wet-T-Shirt Contest and Pool Party; a Dog Agility demonstration and Stupid Pet Tricks.

Dogs For Life will have information available on how to join the Off-Leash Dog Park, their Assistance Dog and Pet Assisted Therapy Training programs, how to fight to end cruelty to animals and anti-dog bite information.

Doggie T-Shirts are available for $3. Everyone is a winner! Bring your lawn chair. Well-behaved dogs are welcomed.

*For more information regarding the event, dog training classes, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park, contact Executive Director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-6969.*

PRIZES

PEPSI

**Dogs for Life, Inc.**
**Dog Daze of Summer Outline**
**August 12, 2006**
**6 PM – 8 PM**

6:10 DFL Program Outline

Assistance Dog Program – Susan Myers, Vice President
Pet Assisted Therapy Program – Barbara Patten, Treasurer
Dog Park – Shelly Ferger, Executive Director
Explanation **of:**

**DFL Table Information / Anti-Dog Bite Information**
**How to help end cruelty to animals**

**On-going Pool Party & Wet T-Shirt Sales and Contest**

**Raffle Ticket Sales**
**Dog Obedience classes**
**6 month membership to dog park**

**6:30** Appreciation Plaque Presentation to Animal Control
- City Manger Jim Gabbard or VB Police Chief Don Dappen

**6:45** Law Enforcement K-9 Demo – Sgt. Pat White

**7:15** Dog Agility Demo – Jean Andrews

**7:45** Stupid Pet Tricks

**8:00** PM Clean up



# Hub Pets

SHELLY FERGER • Posted on Yourhub.com

New friends are found while playing off-leash at the DFL Best Friend's dog park.

## Join the DFL 'Off-Leash' Dog Park

BY SHELLY FERGER
Posted on YourHub.com

Dogs for Life, Inc. — a non-profit organization — is now accepting six-month memberships to the Best Friend's Off-Leash Dog Park, located at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

DFL does not receive any city or county funding to operate this dog park, so there is a membership process.

Qualification for dogs is that they be inoculated, neutered and social.

Six-month membership fees are $150, and a second dog from the same household is half price.

Prior to membership, a Dog Park orientation is held, where the dog's temperament is evaluated, rules are explained, fees are collected and members are given their code number to access the security gate any time during the day light hours.

For additional information or to schedule an orientation, contact DFL Executive Director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8963.

The record

## Dogs on leashes invited to off-leash park

Dogs for Life Inc., a nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of life for people and dogs through training assistance and pet therapy dogs, is hosting a free On-Leash Day from 6 to 8 p.m. Aug. 12 at the "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

The event will include appreciation awards be presented by Vero Beach City Manager Jim Gabbard to the Indian River County and Vero Beach Police Department Animal Control officers; a multi-law enforcement agency K-9 demonstration; a doggie wet T-shirt contest and pool party; a dog agility demonstration and stupid pet tricks.

Dogs For Life will have information available on how to join the Off-Leash Dog Park, its assistance dog and pet-assisted therapy training programs, as well as how to fight to end cruelty to animals and anti-dog bite information. Doggie T-shirts are available for $3.

Bring your lawn chair. All well-behaved dogs are welcome, on leash.

For information about this event, dog training classes or membership to the park contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8962.

# Appreciation Award

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

*Award of Appreciation*

*Presented to*

*Vero Beach Police Department*
*Animal Control Officer*
*Bruce Dangerfield*

*In Recognition of Outstanding Service, Hard Work and Dedication to the Animals and to the Citizens of Our Community*

*August 2006*

12 • YOURHUB.COM • INDIAN RIVER COUNTY • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2006

**Hub Pets**

## Your dog can become a Canine Good Citizen

BY SHELLY FERGER
Posted on YourHub.com

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL), a non-profit organization, can certify your dog as an AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC).

Each Saturday, dog-training classes are held at the DFL Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue. Classes are structured to train all dogs to pass the CGC test.

Skills include accepting a friendly stranger, walking through a crowd, sitting, staying, coming when called, reaction to another dog, reaction to distraction, and supervised separation.

AKC and DFL encourage all dog owners to participate in this program, thereby assuring that our beloved dogs will always be a welcome and respected members of the community.

For information or registration on dog training classes contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

***Editor's Note**: This story has been edited for space. For the full story, log on to YourHub.com.*

SHELLY FERGER • Posted on YourHub.com

**Steve Hale III and Molly the golden retriever participate in Canine Good Citizen classes at the off-leash dog park.**

**What:** Dogs for Life, Inc. Dog Training Class.
**When:** 8 a.m. Saturdays, pre-registration is necessary.
**Where:** DFL Off-Leash Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach.
**Cost:** $50 registration fee, $10 per class.
**Contact:** (772) 567-8969.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## TODAY

**Dodger Dash:** The Dodger Dash, a 5K (3.1 miles) race along the grounds of Dodgertown and ending inside Holman Stadium will take place at 5 p.m. Aug. 12, before the 7 p.m. Vero Beach Dodgers/St. Lucie Mets game. Nine age groups will comprises separate men's and women's divisions. Registration is $20; no entries accepted after 4:45 p.m. on the day of the race. Runners can also register at www.active.com. For more information, call (772) 569-4900 Ext. 5053.

**Dogs for Life:** Dogs for Life, Inc. Dog Park, 12 Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Dog basic obedience classes 8 a.m. $50 registration. Agility, novice and rally obedience with AKC Canine Good Citizen, Assistance Dog and Pet Therapy Dog Training classes 9 a.m. $10, drop-in, pay-as-you-go. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call (772) 567-8969.

**Dogs for Life Inc.** is hosting a Free On-Leash Day at the "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park, corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach Aug., 6-8 p.m. The event will include DFL appreciation awards being presented by Vero Beach City Manager Jim Gabbard to Indian River County's and Vero Beach Police Animal Control officers; a multi Law Enforcement agency K-9 demonstration; a Doggie Wet-T-Shirt Contest and Pool Party; a Dog Agility demonstration and Stupid Pet Tricks. Well behaved dogs welcomed On-Leash! For information about this event, dog training classes, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park contact Executive Director Shelly Fenger (772) 567-8969.

Footlogy Agria 4374 entertainment

# JUNE

# Family Fun Day

# PUPPY TUMMY RUB

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Two-year-old Grace Kotnik of Vero Beach and her mom Jill, pet one of the Dogs For Life working dogs at the Indian River Mall Saturday. The dogs were on hand to help kick off the Boys and Girls Club of Indian River County's Win a Luxury Townhome campaign.Tu

P.B. 6/23/06

## Boys & Girls Clubs to conduct fundraiser

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County will kick off its new fundraising project — the Holiday House Giveaway — on Saturday at the Indian River Mall during Family Fun Day.

With the focus on children and families, Family Fun Day begins at 11 a.m. and runs to 4 p.m. in the Dillard's concourse area. Activities will include arts and crafts and games for children of all ages, balloons and face painting. Home Depot will have child-friendly projects, the Environmental Learning Center will provide hands-on displays, and Dogs For Life with their incredible canines will be on hand.

The Indian River County Sheriff's Office will fingerprint children for safety, and Comcast will be there with the latest in high-speed Internet and digital TV. Children can get their photographs taken with Scooby-Doo and enter the Connect-4 and Hula-Hoop contests.

Family Fun Day provides a platform for the Boys and Girls Clubs to start selling tickets on a chance to win a townhome. Cost is $20 per ticket or seven tickets for $100. Proceeds will help support the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Why is it called the Holiday House? Because the drawing will be Dec. 15, and because tickets make a great gift for all "holiday" occasions!

Regatta Construction is providing the Alyson townhome, a residence that blends a spacious contemporary design with traditional detail. The Alyson, valued at $395,000, offers a two-bedroom, 2.5 bath floor plan with ground floor master suite, grand room and secluded oasis-style den in more than 2,400-square-feet of living space. The specific home to be given away is not available to tour, but models are available in Bridgepointe, a community being built by Regatta Construction in Vero Beach.

Other major sponsors of the Holiday House project are Riverside Bank, Hometown News, Comcast and Treasure & Space Coast Radio. WGNX, 99.7FM will have a live remote from 1 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You can get more information and order tickets online at www.HolidayHouseTickets.com or by calling toll-free (890) 345-7694. For more information on the Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County visit www.BGCIRC.org.

From staff reports

# Fundraising Professionals

6 • WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2008 • LUMINARIES

CONTENTS PREPARED BY THE SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Indian River County

HOT Shots

Shelly Fergor, Dogs for Life; Mary Smith, Habitat for Humanity; and Jo Benton, Humane Society, represent local non-profits at the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Indian River Chapter reception.

1 Tricia Jenkins, Children's Home Society; Jennifer Jones, United Way; Liz Briggs, Children's Home Society; and Michelle Herbold, United Way; at a reception for the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Indian River Chapter.

2 Jane Ramsyn, Sheila Mackenzie and Joan Schaffres are each honored for 20 years of service with the Indian River Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

3 Shelly Ferger, Dogs for Life; Mary Smith, Habitat for Humanity; and Jo Benton, Humane Society; represent local non-profits at the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Indian River Chapter reception.

4 MBA member Lorinda Gonzalez with Bill Willis at the Vero Beach Karate Association's Kick-A-Thon, to raise money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

5 Indian River Community College public safety training student Curtis Webb, with honorary public safety commissioners Stephanie Banack, Rusty Banack, Cheryl Banack Roseland, Donna Sue and Sid Banack, and IRCC students Jeff

# Hot Shots

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4 MBA member Lorinda Gonzalez with Bill Willis at the Vero Beach Karate Association's Kick-A-Thon,

# Hearing Guide



HEARING

## Man's best friend lends you its ears

MIM DUNN
Dogs for Life

Most people are familiar with service dogs, better known as seeing-eye dogs, that help the blind navigate through life. But how many know about service dogs that help deaf and hard-of-hearing folks cope with their silent world? Probably not many do, unless they, like me, are profoundly hard of hearing.

For many years, my service dog, Bubba, has been helping me hear the telephone, the alarm clock, people knocking at the door, the stove timer, the smoke alarm and all kinds of other ordinary but necessary sounds of daily life. He's literally been a life-saver.

The time and work involved in training Bubba was very rewarding. Before he learned to be my ears, I felt cut off from others, both in my own home and out in public. I found myself avoiding people and making excuses to stay home.

Now, with my dog at my side, people know that I cannot hear much and they make a special effort to speak so that I can understand. My dog gives me the self-confidence to go among the hearing and enjoy myself.

On the Treasure Coast, the nonprofit organization Dogs for Life can help you train a service "hearing-guide" dog. All it takes is commitment to a training process that takes about 10 months.

And if you don't already have a favorite dog, the organization searches for one at animal shelters or dog rescue organizations. Although the dogs are screened for good health, alertness, suitable temperament and aptitude for learning, the most important factor is

See HEARING, page Z10

Mim Dunn poses with Bubba, which she trained to be a hearing-guide dog.

Photo provided

## HEARING

FROM PAGE Z8

an ideal match between owner and dog.

Once you and your dog have had time to bond, basic obedience training begins. After basic training come the specialty classes, where a professional trainer and volunteers come to your house once a week to work with you and your dog on specific skills and to teach you how to practice with your dog between training sessions.

To succeed, you must be willing to work every day with your dog on the specific skills plus the basic commands of come, sit, down and stay. You can have fun playing "Hide and Go Seek," which helps the dog learn how to look for and find its owner — an essential task for a hearing-guide dog.

Additional training is available if you want to be able to take your dog to stores and other public buildings. During this course, the dog is taught to focus all its attention on you and to not be distracted by people, other animals, loud noises, shopping carts, food servers in restaurants and other noisy distractions.

Your dog must master at least three sound skills to be certified as a hearing-guide dog. Then you and your dog's public access rights are protected by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Certified hearing-guide dogs are not required to wear, but should wear, a "Hearing Guide Dog" identification vest when in public places. This reassures the public that your dog is a working dog and not just a pet. You also should carry an ID certification card with a picture of the dog, signed by a certified trainer.

If you are interested in learning more about hearing-guide dogs, contact Dogs for Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or e-mail her at dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net.

The organization's address is P.O. Box 65023, Vero Beach, FL 32965. It is on the Web at www.dogsforlifevb.org

Mim Dunn is the president of Dogs for Life and a member of the Indian River County Advisory Committee to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services of the Treasure Coast Inc. is a 501-c-3 nonprofit corporation serving Martin, Indian River, Okeechobee and St. Lucie counties. DHHS is supported in part by the United Way. If you wish more information or would like to participate, please call (772) 335-5546.

June 21, 2006

Dear Dog for Life Board,

On behalf of our 3rd grade students and teachers, please accept my sincere thanks for your gift of time & talent to Beachland Elementary. Your visits each week were so appreciated. The children really looked forward to reading with their favorite "canine friend" and would always want to be the chosen reader!

If you have seen the newspaper recently, you know that Beachland earned its eighth "A". That distinction comes from a dedicated faculty, wonderful parents, hard-working students, & volunteers from the community... all being a TEAM for education. We appreciate your generous labors of love!

Beachland Elementary

2425 20TH STREET VERO BEACH, FL 32960
TEL: 772-770-2601 FAX: 772-770-0313 WEB: www.merrillgardens.com
Equal Housing Opportunity
Assisted Living Facility License #10037

Dear Shelly,

We can't thank you enough for bringing your dogs to Merrill Gardens. Our residents really enjoyed the presentation. It was not only enjoyable but also very informative. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Karen McHenry
Community Relations Director

MERRILL GARDENS
AT VERO BEACH

# APRIL

# Doggie East Bonnet Parade

**Dogs for Life, Inc. Off-Leash Dog Park**
**12 St & 16 Ave Vero Beach**

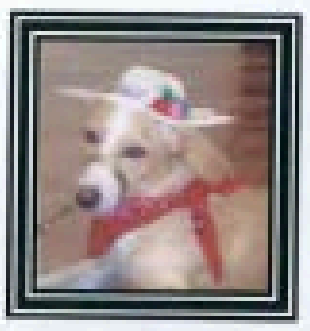
## Saturday April 15 – 2 PM

## Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade
## Fashion Show & Dog Tricks
## Easter Egg Hunt

$5/donation for all entries - Everyone is a winner!
$5/photo opportunity
$1/donation homemade dog cookies – 4-H Dog Master's Club

Spectators Free - Bring your lawn chair
Well Behaved Dogs Welcome On-Leash!

Dogs for Life Program Presentation and
Dog Obedience Training Demonstration



**For Additional Information call 567-8969**

## Hub Pets

Post your pet photos on www.yourhub.com

CAROL PENA • Posted on YourHub.com

### Easter parade

**Maddie**, **Tess** and **Miss B** show off their Easter bonnets at the Dog for Life's annual Easter Doggy Parade on April 15 at the 4-H Best Friends Dog Park in **Vero Beach**. The three belong to **Charlotte Peterson**.



Indian River County

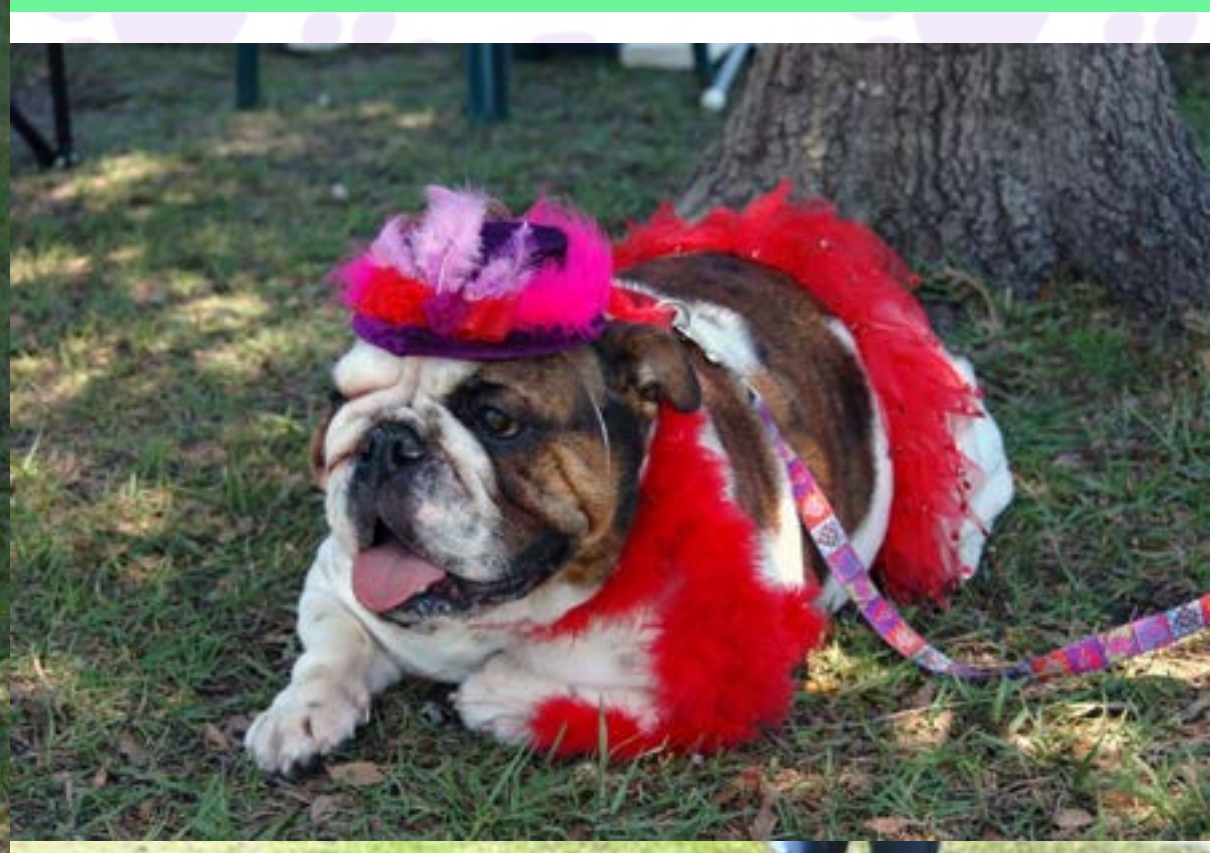
# HOT Shots

7 Norma Springer and "Maxwell" a one-year-old Labradoodle participate in the Dogs for Life, Inc. Easter Bonnet Parade at the off-leash dog park.

**2038 VOLUNTEERS**

**DOGS FOR LIFE, INC.**
A non-profit organization is in need of social dogs and people needed for Pet Assisted Therapy Program. Retired executives needed for long-range planning and fund-raising strategies in Indian River County. 772-567-8969

3 Spring Chicks



PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

## Doggie Easter bonnet parade will be a howl

INDIAN RIVER

**Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade, Fashion Show, Dog Tricks, Easter Egg Hunt:** 2 p.m. Saturday; Off Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. Entries $5 donation, spectators no charge. (772) 567-8969.



# The guide

SATURDAY

**Bingo:** 10:30 a.m., Council on Aging Senior Center, 686 14th St., Vero Beach, (772) 569-0760.
**Bridge:** 1 p.m., open and 0-99 games, Vero Beach Duplicate Bridge Club, 1520 14th Ave., www.verobridge.com, (772) 562-3008.
**Computers:** Vero Beach Computer Group's Macintosh SIG, 10 a.m.-noon, History Room, Main Library; Eleanor Ryan (772) 562-2869, and Joe Piazza (772) 567-9004.
**Dance:** Dinner dance, 6:30 p.m., Eagles Aerie 4067, 9906 Trade Center Drive, Sebastian, (772) 589-6573.
**Dance:** Keynotes, ballroom dancing, 7-10 p.m., Vero Beach Community Center. For dates, call (772) 770-6507, (772) 770-0788; $5.
**Dinner:** VFW Post 10200, 4 p.m. dinner and entertainment, 835 Louisiana Ave., Sebastian, (772) 388-5784; $8.
**Dogs for Life:** Dogs for Life Inc., Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Dog basic obedience classes, 8 a.m., $50, pre-registration is required; 8:30 a.m., agility, novice obedience and rally obedience classes, registration not required, walk-ins welcome, $10 pay-as-you-go. For more information, call (772) 567-8969.
**Easter Bonnet Parade:** 2 p.m. Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community is hosting a Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show with Tricks and an Easter Egg Hunt, at the Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. All entries $5 donation; everyone is a winner. The 4-H Dog Master's Club will have homemade dog cookies for a $1 donation and Dogs for Life, Inc. volunteers will offer a $5 donation photo opportunity. Spectators free. Bring your lawn chair. Well behaved dogs welcome on-Leash. For information on all programs, call executive director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.



## Easter parade for dogs on Saturday

Dogs for Life Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is hosting a Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show with Tricks and an Easter Egg Hunt, at the Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach at 2 p.m. Saturday.

There is a $5 donation for all entries. There is no charge to attend the show.

For information, call Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

# SocialScene



## DOGS FOR LIFE INC

Dogs for Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is hosting a "Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show." The event will be at the Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on April 15 at 2 p.m., and will feature tricks and an Easter Egg Hunt.

All entries are a $5/donation. The 4-H Dog Master's Club will have homemade dog cookies for a $1/donation and Dogs for Life Inc. Volunteers will offer a $5/donation photo opportunity. Spectators are free. Bring your lawn chair. Well-behaved dogs welcome on a leash.

Photo provided

**Bring your dogs in their favorite Easter bonnets.**

For information on this event, dog training classes, the 4-H Dog Master's Club, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park contact Executive Director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.



# Galas &

Indian River County

Mary Schenkel

## In their Easter bonnets

A "Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show with Tricks" and an Easter Egg Hunt for our four-legged friends will be held at 2 p.m. April 15, at the **Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park** to benefit **Dogs for Life, Inc.** Enter your pet for $5 or just bring a lawn chair to sit and enjoy the furry parade. Call **Shelly Ferger** at (772) 567-8969.

maryelz@comcast.net

# Assistance Dog Training

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2006 • INDIAN RIVER COUN

**YourHub.com** | **CALENDAR**

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

SHELLY FERGER • Posted on Yourhub.com

Dog training made fun at the off-leash-dog park in Vero Beach.

Dog obedience training takes place at 8 a.m. Saturdays at the Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Street, Vero Beach. Classes are pay as you go. **For more information** call (772) 567-8969.

E4 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • WEDNESDAY, MAY 3, 2006

## GOOD FOR YOU

**DOG MASTERS PRESENT CHECKS**

**The Indian River County 4-H Dog Masters Club** has completed its 2006 Dog Training Project and Community Service Project. During the year, the club held a series of fundraisers at the off-leash dog park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. The club members baked homemade dog cookies and made dog scarves.

On April 15, Dog Masters' president, **Katherine DiSandro**, 13, presented a check for $250 to Dogs for Life president, **Mim Dunn**. The donation is earmarked for the dog training program at the park and specifically toward dog training equipment.

Club president for the past two years, DiSandro has seen the dog walk deteriorate to the point it was no longer safe and was removed from the course.

The 4-H Dog Masters Club has also donated $250 to Hurricane Katrina Relief.

## Your dog may qualify for our programs!

**Assistance Dogs**

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

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

"Max" picks up dropped keys

"Abbie" gives unconditional love

**Pet Assisted Therapy**

**Read to Dogs** provide an uninhibited setting for children to read to dogs.

**Trauma Therapy Dogs** provide warmth, love & comfort to adults & children experiencing post-traumatic stress & depression.

Learn how to "get your dog's attention"

**Off-Leash Dog Park** serves as a focal point for canine recreation and training & is located at 12th Street & 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

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

**Dogs for Life**

Living, Loving, Learning

(772) 567-8969

# Paw Prints Newsletter

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

*April 2006*

## Program Presentations Raise Funds

It can take eight months to a year to complete training and expenses can run from $1,500 to $3,000. DFL currently needs funding for Assistance teams in training. Help is on the way.

Sandy Plagens, fundraising committee member, combined a presentation and luncheon from her beautiful Bermuda Bay home; Presentations were also made at the Community Church Rose Circle and at the Vero Beach Christian Women's Club. These presentations are beneficial for funding our Assistance Dog Program.

Holly and Buster, are in the midst of learning to be a mobility assistance team. DFL trainees Hildegard and Daisy Mae are working toward a hearing ear team.

## Business as Unusual

Potential programs and participation are some of the priorities set at a recent organizational meeting of the DFL Board of Directors. Evaluating existing programs and setting priorities for future ones, the Board will focus on board and fundraising committee expansion as well as staff development and funding for the Assistance Dog Training Program.

As do all not-for-profit organizations, DFL depends on volunteers. Your participation is key to our growth and success. Please contact the office of Executive Director, Shelly Ferger at 567-8969 and let her know on which committee you would like to serve.

## Fundraising Committee Welcomes Newest Members

The DFL Board of Directors welcomes Michele Falls, Barbara Patten and Carol Pena to the Fundraising Committee.

We are grateful to add these three fine individuals to our committee and for their having agreed to help Dogs for Life meet our fundraising goals this year. Our committee will meet in the next few weeks so stay tuned.

## Ralph Rules

Growling a greeting, Ralph Hanley, a five-year-old Ridgeback Boxer mix, welcomes large and small dogs to the Off Leash Park and demonstrates to them what relaxed looks like. Sometimes he admonishes them gently not to play so rough or they'll hurt themselves. Then he sidles up to "Mom", Christine, to make sure she approves. She does. Good Dog Ralph!!!

Ralph greets Pudgy a 2 year old Gordon Setter

## Are you Lucky Gus?

Gorgeous Gus

Who will step up and welcome this friendly fellow? With his bubbly personality, Gus loves other dogs and cats, but shys away from small children. Shelly and Sabrina are happy to keep him temporarily, but he needs a permanent residence. How 'bout you? After all, home is where the dachshund is.

# Assistance Dog Training

By: Psyche's Mom

The 68 pound brown and white boxer who walks beside owner Holly's scooter knows what he wants when he sees it. Buster, the boxer, was running down US 1 with Animal Control right behind him when Holly opened the door to her van, and he jumped right in. Holly, diagnosed with scleroderma, a tightening of the muscles which severely restricts her left side, was as surprised as Animal Control. When they tried to get Buster out of the van, the dog clearly didn't want to go.

Holly and Buster "In Training" at the Dog Park Obedience Classes

He likes you," they said as they took the dog away. Blind in one eye, Holly who was raised in a family that trained horses recognized the dog's potential. Holly called Animal Control, who gave her the dog's address where she found Buster lying on a concrete driveway attached to a 2' chain.

"I couldn't leave him there," said Holly. She was given the dog and called Shelly Ferger, who tested Buster's temperament and decided he would make a fine assistance dog for Holly. Dr. Kennedy with the St. Francis Animal Hospital agreed to sponsor a diagnostic work up for Buster since he had not been to a veterinarian in almost three years. After being neutered and thoroughly de-wormed, Shelly and Dogs for Life volunteers have begun training Holly and Buster each week in Holly's home, and public places.

Now fitted with a vest and backpack, Buster is learning to "pull back and up" to pull Holly from her chair, retrieve things that she has dropped and brace/hold a "stand-stay" so he can stabilize Holly when she is off balance. He is also learning to "go and get" someone in the house in case of an emergency and retrieve a portable telephone. Regarding Holly and Buster, Shelly Ferger says, "Assistance dog training can be tricky with a rescued dog. It doesn't always work out, but when it does it's a beautiful thing."

**Inside this issue:**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| Bite Prevention At St. Ed's | 3 |
| Canine Calendar Hibiscus Festival | 3 |


***MARK YOUR CALENDAR***

***Sat. APRIL, 15 – 2 PM***

*Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show*

*Off-Leash Dog Park*

*12 Street and 16 Avenue*

## Dog Dedicated to Doing Good Deeds

"Maisy" and Nikki Sullivan have joined DFL's Pet Assistance Therapy Team. After dutiful attendance at obedience classes and plenty of practice, the pair's happy attitude is now bringing smiles to the Vero Beach Senior Center. With the AKC Good Citizen certificate under her collar Maisy makes the day of many at the Day Care Center. Let's have a hug for the pug!

## Pet Therapy Expands Its Reach

The Senior Center's Day Care program recently joined the ranks of DFL's Pet Assisted Therapy colleagues. Several of our members have requested the addition and we're happy to have their support. The READ to Dogs programs are continuing at the Boys and Girls clubs in Vero Beach and Sebastian; Beachland Elementary School and St. Ed's Lower School as well as providing services at the Hibiscus Children's Center and the Homeless Family Center.

## Bite Prevention Focus at St. Edward's Lower School

Lower School students recently learned how to approach a dog for petting using the preferred under the chin scratching. (Always ask the owner for permission.) If a dog seems threatening, the students were advised to stand "like a tree" and not to scream or run.

The St. Ed's Parents Association held a successful bake sale to help fund the Pet Therapy READ to Dogs program. It's a pleasure to work with St. Ed's pupils, parents and principals.

## On the Canine Calendar

Stop by and say *Hi* at our DFL booth during the Hibiscus Festival on 14th Avenue Downtown from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., on Friday, April 22, 2006.

While you greet our Pet Therapy dogs and their handlers, purchase a copy of "Dog Tales of Vero Beach," which is filled with photos and anecdotes of the antics of Dogs For Life members and friends.

With a bargain price, $20, and only a few copies left of this unique publication, it's bound to be a sell out.

Photos by SAM WOLFE • sam.wolfescripps.com

Sara Kerekhazi, 9, right, reads to Abbie, a 12-year-old golden retriever, at the Sebastian Boys and Girls Club on the afternoon of April 3, as Maghann Gomez, left, 10, Corin Arsenault, 8, Kylie McCarty, 10, and Meagan Jones, 9, wait their turn with books in hand.

# Children read tales to furry friends with tails

**SEBASTIAN** — Young readers got a chance to read aloud on April 3 to a very attentive, four-legged audience at the Sebastian Boys and Girls Club.

Abbie, a 12-year-old, 75-pound golden retriever, listened as seven children read their favorite story to her as part of the "READ to Dogs" program.

Dogs for Life will sponsor a Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade, Fashion Show and Dog Tricks Easter Egg Hunt starting at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Off Leash Dog Park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. There is a $5 donation for all entries but spectators are free. For additional information, call (772) 557-8969.

READ to Dogs is a nationwide initiative that was born about seven years ago in Utah, where a non-profit organization paired health-care therapy dogs with children who were struggling to read. The READ (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) program developed training standards for animals and their handlers and the idea spread across the country. Locally, the program is sponsored by Dogs for Life, a Vero Beach-based pet-assisted therapy program.

In addition to both locations of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Indian River County, the READ to Dogs program also takes place at Beachland Elementary School and St. Edward's Lower School in Vero Beach. While some of the children who participate have difficulty reading, others just enjoy books and are looking for opportunities to read aloud.

The promise of the READ to Dogs program [illegible] executive director of Dogs for Life. "It takes the pressure off," said Ferger. "Dogs love unconditionally and they respond in a very positive way."

Ferger said that since Abbie visits the Sebastian Boys and Girls Club each Monday, the children have really gotten to know her.

"They think of Abbie as their best friend," said Ferger. "I think they have really bonded with her and they just think of her as one of their friends who stops by each week."

The program aims to provide children with a comfortable environment in which to read aloud, and gives them time to spend with animals, said Kris Stillinger, Abbie's owner and a Dogs for Life volunteer. She said that each Monday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., the children select their favorite book from the reading room and take turns reading to Abbie.

"She basically sleeps right through it," said Stillinger, who lives on Lakeport Drive in Sebastian. "She lays right down and some kids even use her as a pillow."

Stillinger said that she has seen the chemistry develop between the children and her dog.

"They get very relaxed reading to her," she said. "She doesn't make fun of them. If they mispronounce a word, it's no big deal to Abbie."

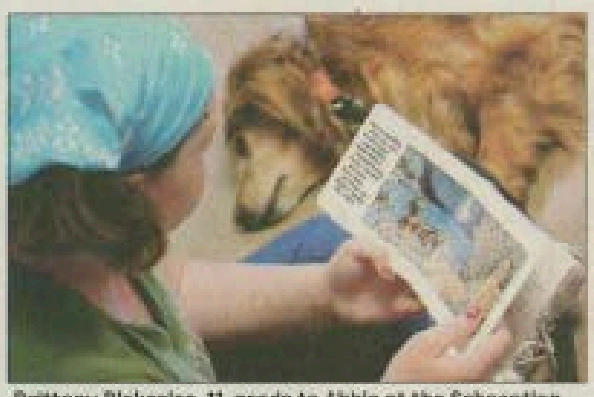
Canine reading companions, accompanied by their owners, must attend a basic obedience class, pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen Test, the Dogs for Life Public Access Test [illegible] they can take part. Each [illegible] also attends a therapy preparation class that explains the dog and handler's responsibilities and helps volunteers prepare for their visits.

"The main goal is to respond willingly and reliably to verbal commands," said Ferger. "And on top of that, they should be well-socialized and enjoy participating."

Stillinger said that while Abbie enjoys being with the children at the Boys and Girls Club, she pays particular attention when the children read books by Dr. Suess.

"She seems to really like hearing books by Dr. Suess," said Stillinger. "There must be something with the rhyming that makes her pay closer attention."

See CHILDREN, page A10



Brittany Blakesles, 11, reads to Abbie at the Sebasatian Boys and Girls Club. The canine, who with her owner Kris Stillinger has volunteered with Dogs For Life for 2 years, visits the club to let kids practice their oral reading skills.

Other programs offered through Dogs for Life include a pet-assisted victim advocate program through the State Attorney's office, an assistance dog training program for hearing impaired clients, a foster care program for displaced dogs and the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park that is located in Vero Beach. For additional information, log onto www.dogsforlifevb.org.

SEBASTIAN SUN
[illegible]rhood newspaper, serving the Sebastian River area

*Students seeking to improve their reading skills learn that dogs are a most uncritical audience.*

# THE CANINE CONNECTION

*St. Edward's fourth-grader Christy Smith shares her book with "Mio II," a dachshund in the Read to Dogs program.*

What could be better than reading to a buddy who crawls into your lap and gazes adoringly into your eyes? Read to Dogs, a program offered by Dogs for Life in area elementary schools, sends dogs and their owners into school libraries, where young students practice their reading skills by reading aloud to a dog. When it comes to an audience, there is none more appreciative than dogs. Without saying a word they provide encouragement to doubtful readers and support for fearful performers. The dogs don't care if they've heard the story before. They don't care if the reader stutters or mispronounces a word. All they need in return for their undivided attention is a pat now and again.

The Read to Dogs program brings canines into the Boys & Girls Club in South Vero, Beachland Elementary School, the Homeless Family Center and St. Edward's Lower School, and has recently expanded its territories to the Hibiscus Children's Center and the Boys & Girls Club in Sebastian. ❀

# Scrapbook

## 2005

# DECEMBER

# Open House

in-home training for adoption and assistance dogs
Dogs
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fe
4-H "Best Friends"
eash Dog Park
Private Prope
Trespassing
Park Hours
Dusk
For Informa
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56
69

# Legal Rights

## *State Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have trained service animals.*

State and local laws which protect the rights of individuals who have disabilities to be accompanied by their service animals are:
**Florida: FSS Title 30, 413.08 SS 1-8.**
**Locations allowed:** Full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, and privileges on all common carriers, airplanes, motor vehicles, railroad trains, motorbus, streetcars, boats, and other public conveyances or modes of transportation and at hotels, lodging places, places of public accommodation, amusement, or resort, and other places to which the general public is invited, subject only to the conditions and limitations established by law and applicable alike to all persons.
**Statute Regarding Interference:**
**413.08(2) Interference includes:** Any person, firm, or corporation, or the agent of any person, firm or corporation, who denies or interferes with admittance to, or enjoyment of, the public facilities enumerated in subsection (1) or otherwise interferes with the rights of a deaf person, a totally or partially blind person, or an otherwise physically disabled person under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree.

*This brochure is distributed by Dogs for Life, Inc. to answer the most often questions asked of Assistance Dog Partners.*

### WHAT IS AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Assistance dogs are highly trained professional dogs.

**1 . Guide Dogs**

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

**2 . Hearing Dogs**

Assist their deaf or hard of hearing partners by **ALERTING** them to sounds such as the smoke alarm; alarm clock; telephone; intruders; sirens and stove or dryer timers.

**3 . Service Dogs**

Assist their physically-disabled partners in a number of ways. They can be custom trained for the particular needs of the individual. Examples are: Retrieving keys, the telephone, a cane, crutches or anything the person drops.

Helping people up if they fall. Pulling a wheelchair. Helping maintain balance; opening doors, carrying objects such as groceries.

**Statute Regarding Housing: 413.08(4).**
**Housing includes:** All housing accommodations except room in a single family residence.

**Trainers allowed with dogs: 413.08(7).**
Any trainer of a guide, hearing or service dog while engaged in the training of such dog, has the same rights and privileges with respect to access to public facilities and the same liability for damage as is provided for deaf, blind or mobility impaired person.

**Summary of Law:** Florida law guarantees a blind, deaf or physically disabled person has the legal right to be accompanied by a specially trained dog in housing, all public accommodations and on all common carriers. No extra charge can be levied because of the dog's presence, but the dog user is liable for any damage the dog might cause to the premises.

*This is a brief summary of the law. For complete information be sure to review the complete statue or code listed above.*

**Acknowledgements:**

* Assistance Dogs International
* Delta Society
* Intl Assoc of Assistance Dog Partners
* State Attorney General's Office
* U.S. Department of Justice

### HOW DO I RECOGNIZE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Most assistance dogs wear a tag; vest; harness; or backpack. However, these forms of identification are not required.

### MAY I PET AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

NO. Not when the dog is working. Petting will distract the dog that needs to focus on the instruction of its human partner.

### CAN I TALK TO THE PERSON?

YES. If they are not busy and are able to hear you. Most enjoy talking to members of the public about their assistance dogs.

### HOW DOES A DISABLED PERSON AQUIRE AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

Most apply to non profit training centers which raise funds and grant the dog free of charge. Some buy a dog and pay for all training; a few people even adopt from a shelter and train the dog themselves.

### SOME PEOPLE DO NOT "LOOK DISABLED". WHY DO THEY NEED AN ASSISTANCE DOG?

When you see an Assistance Dog "on duty", be assured there is a good reason for it, even if the human partner does not use obvious equipment such as a wheelchair, crutches, or a hearing aid. The human partner undoubtedly has something known as a "hidden disability". For example: chronic back pain, a neuro-seizure disorder, or a serious hearing impairment to name a few.

in-home training for adoption and assistance dogs
Dogs for Life

P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965

(772) 567-8969

## Legal Rights of Guide Dogs, Hearing Dogs And Service Dogs

## *Federal Laws that protect the rights of people with disabilities who have trained service animals.*

The federal civil rights law, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title III,28CFR Sec 36.104 defines a service animal as any animal that is individually trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability (the disability might not be visible). By law, a service animal is not considered a pet. Most service animals are dogs; they can be any breed or size, and are not legally required to wear special equipment or tags. The ADA does not require proof or "certification" of the service dog's training. Service animas are trained to do specific tasks for the benefit of people with physical or mental impairments.

Federal (e.g.,28CFR Sec 36.302) and state laws protect the rights of individuals with disabilities to be accompanied by their trained service animals in taxis, buses, trains, stores, restaurants, doctors' offices, schools, parks, hotels and other public places. Federal laws which protect individuals with disabilities include the ADA; the Fair Housing Amendments Act (1988); Sect. 504 of the Rehabilitation Act (1973); The Air Carrier Access Act (1986), and other regulations.

# Holiday Stroll

B14 • SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005 • V

Fur, Feathers, Fins & Skins

DOG TALES of Vero Beach

Great Gift Idea For Dog Lovers

Purchase a copy of the Dog Tales book at one of the following locations:

Bernadette's Dog Grooming
Cindi's Pet Center
Groomingdales Grooming
Live Oak Animal Hospital
Paw Paw's Pet Grooming
The Laughing Dog Gallery
Village Pet Shop
Chelsea's On Cardinal
Corey's Pharmacy
His and Her Hair Styling
Ocean Grill
Shady Oak Animal Clinic
Vero Beach Printing

Memberships available to the 4-H Best Friends' Off-Leash Dog Park, 12 Street & 16 Avenue. Obedience training offered to the public.

CALL 567-8969

Dogs for Life

Fur, Feathers, Fi

ANOTHER PET OF THE MONTH

MEET CLYDE

Clyde is a funny, happy, loving doggie, & has the cutest habit (at times). He must take a toy wherever we go, and if we are at a friend's who has an animal, he will find a toy (even if only one in the house) and try to leave with it.

Sara Rainone

Pinewoods Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic

Heartworm prevention is a matter of life and death for both Dogs and Cats! Call us about heartworm prevention for your pet. Featuring Revolution!

*10% OFF all Services & Products with this ad

*Limit one coupon per client & excludes food items & other specials

1905 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach • 772-562-0200
Monday - Saturday & Emergencies

Private and Group Dog Obedience Training

SHELLY'S CANINE

25 Years Specializing in Family Dog Training & Behavior Counseling

Shelly Ferger & Student

- Housebreaking
- Jumping
- Dog Aggressiveness

Assistance/Guide Dog Training
4-H Dog Master's Club
Off-Leash Dog Park

567-7990

DOG TALES of Vero Beach

Great Gift Idea For Dog Lovers

Purchase a copy of the Dog Tales book at the Off-Leash Dog Park

Annual Christmas Open House

December 10

2PM "Paw Printing"
3PM Dog Agility
"Fun Run" must preregister

4-H Dog Masters' Club will sell
Homemade Dog Cookies
to benefit LA Humane Society- Katrina Dogs
All dogs welcome "on-leash" - bring your lawn chair

12th St. & 16th Ave • 567-8969

Dogs for Life

# Indian River County

SECTION B • SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005 • TCPALM.COM

## Dog owners pour out their love in print

BY ELLIOTT JONES
elliott.jones@scripps.com

VERO BEACH — It's a book by and for local dog lovers.

Volunteers with a non-profit dog training group, Dogs for Life, have published a small book of people's memories about their pets. The 100-page book includes write-ups and photos by 55 dog owners from around Indian River County.

And the publication is for sale to help raise money for the group that trains dogs for physically impaired people.

The stories are homespun and low-key. Yet, readers can see the stories "come right from the heart," said group volunteer Carol Pena. She produced the book in collaboration with another volunteer, Mary Mitchell.

The stories show the owners' admiration and love of their pets, which range from police dogs to guide dogs such as Bandit. Bandit the dachshund is the ears for his owner, Beth Sexton-Stryker, who lost her hearing to meningitis. In a motel in Boston, he helped alert her to a fire alarm.

Sexton-Stryker "knows how blessed she is" with her Bandit, the write-up says.

And there are just the pets such as Molly who was up for adoption at the Humane Society of Vero Beach and Indian River County. Molly "was a traumatized and abused little bundle of white fur with black spots, a pink

See DOGS, page B9

## Half-second counts to increase road capacity for deve

BY HENRY A. STEPHENS
henry.stephens@scripps.com

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Half a second isn't a long time.

But shaving that from the time a car stopped at a red light needs to get up to speed was all it took this week for some developers to get county planning advisers' approval for their projects.

"They were using the system," Donna Keys, chairwoman of the county Planning and Zoning Commission, said Friday. "They used the tools available to them."

To get a new development approved, developers or their engineers are required to show the county that local roads can handle the traffic from the new residents. That may include widening or paving the roads.

But Thursday, the Vero Beach engineering firm Knight, McGuire and Associates Inc. found more road capacity for their
2 ½ seconds, i
for stopped ca
limit.

See TIMING, pag

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early. B8

VERO BEACH Hometown News
Your Local News & Information Source
FRIDAY, December 16, 2005

## NOT JUST MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer

Dogs For Life volunteer Cindy Brown of Vero Beach holds 'Miss Peepers' after the 8-year-old Pomeranian had her paw print stenciled onto a card for the holidays during the Dogs For Life Dog Park open house last Saturday in Vero Beach.

Vero Beach resident Megan Simon, left, and her dog 'Maggie', purchased a bag of treats from 4-H Dog Masters secretary Kristen Gabbard at the Dogs For Life dog park open house last Saturday. The Dog Masters are raising money to help the Humane Society of Louisiana care for animals displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Cliff Partlow
staff photographer

**COME AND VISIT**

**Dogs for Life runs a park where members can take their dogs for walks off a leash. The general public is invited to view the park during an open house:**

**TIME:** 2 p.m. today.
**LOCATION:** The 2 ½-acre park is at the intersection of 12th Street and 16th Avenue on the south side of Vero Beach.
**INFORMATION:** Call Dogs for Life Executive Director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969. Currently, 150 people pay $200 annually to use the park.

# DOGS

FROM PAGE B1

little belly and tongue. Oh, I loved her the moment I saw her," wrote the authors, who only identified themselves as T.B. and C.B.

Now, Molly "is my best friend, my confidant" and comforter, the authors said.

Lucky the dog was lucky. He was a puppy in a pack of dogs running along Interstate 95. He ended up with retiree Gene Pena, who saw "a sadness in his face that almost made me cry." They've been together ever since.

As the book's coordinator, Pena has seen other specialty dog books. One showed dogs dressed in outfits. Another matched dogs with famous quotations.

So Pena thought it was time for just a book that gave owners an opportunity to talk about what their dogs mean to them. So far, about half of the 400 copies, each retailing for $21 each, have been sold, many to friends of members of Dogs for Life. A grandmother bought one for her granddaughter who likes animals. Another buyer is involved in dog rescues.

Copies are available at the Village Pet Shop, Corey's Pharmacy, Vero Beach Printing, the Laughing Dog Gallery and at the Live Oak Animal Hospital. Also, copies are available by calling (772) 567-8969.

# Holiday Stroll

at the shops of

*South Vero Square*

CORNER OF U.S. 1 AND OSLO ROAD

**December 3, 2005 8am-3pm**

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA 8-11AM SUNSET CAFE

SIDEWALK SALE 10 AM - 3 PM

**holiday melodies**

thompson elementary 11 am
oslo middle school 12 noon
highlands elementary 1 pm
citrus elementary 2pm

we reserve the right to send mis-behaved pets home

pet photos with santa 12-3pm

to benifit "DOGS FOR LIFE"

FREE TRAINING TIPS BY SHELLY FERGER

—south vero square merchants—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chinese Take Out | Dr. Melanie Wilshire | Great Spirits | Star Nail |
| Ashley Jewelry | Dr. Raymond Brown, DDS | H&R Block | Sunset Cafe |
| Allstate Insurance | Dr. Gene Shumate, DDS | Hair Cutting | Touch of Class |
| America's Health Choice | Dr. Shannon Griffin | Morris Gallery | Turpin Tan |
| Beef O' Brady's | Fairwinds Travel | Pak Mail | Vero Beach Arcade |
| Cookies by Design | First National Bank | Pizza Hut | Vision Plus |
| Cassie Shoppe | Forever Young | Publix | |

in-home training for adoption and assistance dogs

Dogs for Life

**PRESS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Director
772-567-8969

**Dogs for Life, Inc. Hosting Christmas Open House at the Off-Leash Dog Park**

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community is hosting a Christmas Open House at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on Saturday December 11th at 1 PM.

DFL is asking dog park members and members of the public to bring an unopened bag or can of dog or cat food for donation to United Humanitarians (UH) a local non-profit low-cost spay/neuter organization. Since hurricanes Frances and Jeanne, UH has been providing food for approximately 20 low income families that own dogs and cats. UH representatives will also be available for information on their low-cost programs.

DFL will give a presentation on their Assistance Dog Training Program, Pet Assisted Therapy Programs, Volunteer Programs, Companion Dog Placement Program, as well as providing free information on common dog training problems and information on membership to the off-leash dog park. All dogs are welcome "On-Leash". Bring your lawn chairs, and be prepared to have fun.

For information on this event, dog training classes, the 4-H Dog Master's Club, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park contact Director Shelly Ferger (772) 567-8969.

# OCTOBER

# Howl-O-Ween



# HOT Shots

Contents prepared by the Special Publications Department
Indian River County

(8) Dogs for Life founder Shelly Ferger and board president Mim Dunn with X at the Howl-o-Ween parade.

## Beyond the Birds & Bees

Sandy Smith, Jeanette Hustead, Toni Hamner, Jane Fleming and Abby Holtz

Laile Fairbairn, Jane Fleming, Gloria Wood and Henry & Clare Fairbairn

Sue Bergacker, Sally Marrack and Kathy Sullivan

James Wagoner, President of Advocates for Youth, spoke about the 'real facts of life' at a luncheon at Quail Valley to benefit the Planned Parenthood Indian River Center. Indian River Advisory Chair Mary Nation introduced Lillian Tamayo, President/CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Miami, Palm Beach and the Treasure Coast, Inc., Gloria Wood was recognized as the luncheon's honorary chair, and Penny O'Connor was honored with the Volunteer Appreciation Award. Mr. Wagoner spoke of the importance of sex education and about what he called the 3-R's – rights, respect and responsibility.

## Dogs for Life

Dogs for Life Board President Mim Dunn and Founder Shelly Ferger

Jackie the Clown (aka Faye Sheppard) with Angel

Debbie Campa with Precious

Dogs for Life hosted a Howl-O-Ween parade at the 4-H Dog Master's Club "Best Friends" off-leash dog park which the organization manages. "Dog Tales of Vero Beach," a new book featuring many of the pet-therapy and assistance dogs trained by Dogs for Life and some dog park members, was also introduced.

## VNA and Hospice Foundation

Speaker Pamela Jones Davidson and VNA & Hospice Foundation Board Chairman Ann Marie McCrystal

Andrew Davis, Sean Winner, Mike Magee, Montie Labadie and Chip Webster

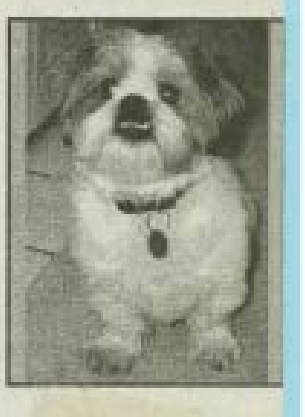
Nationally renown planned giving speaker Pamela Jones Davidson, president of the consulting firm Davidson Gift Design, educated donors and local professionals on estate planning opportunities as part of a series of events hosted by the Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice Foundation. Sponsors included Northern Trust, the VNA & Hospice Foundation and Wachovia Wealth Management.

# Fur, Feathers, Fins & Skins

## MEET SABRINA & ZOLI OUR PETS OF THE MONTH

Sabrina volunteer's for Dogs for Life; she teaches appropriate behavior at the dog park; does pet therapy for Hibiscus Children's Center, Boys & Girls' Clubs, Beachland & St. Edward's schools; comforts people at the Family Homeless Center & performed tricks for the Coalition for the Homeless fundraiser at Riverside Theater.

Zoli is a mixed breed from the Animal Shelter who was a Father's Day gift to "Dad" who was in declining health. Zoli loyally guarded and protected "Dad" until "Dad" died in May. Now Zoli is the reason "Mom" gets up and can face each day with a smile!



Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

# Paw Prints Newsletter

*September 2005*

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**Special points of interest:**

- *DFL Annual Meeting*
- *Dog Park Christmas Open House*
- *Pet Therapy Volunteer & Dog Park Committee Meetings*
- *Dog Obedience Classes to include Rally O and Agility Dog Training*
- *4-H Dog Master's Club Organizes*

## Wal-Mart Hosts Therapy Dogs Again

For the third year in a row, Wal-Mart has granted DFL permission to use their Vero Beach store for therapy dogs public access certification. The test assures that therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers show good manners and behavior in stressful situations with heavy pedestrian traffic. DFL Director Shelly Ferger leads volunteers and their pet therapy dogs for the regime required by the Assistance Dogs International Public Access Certification.

The public access test follows the AKC Canine Good Citizen certificate and Basic Dog Obedience classes, which are held at the Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

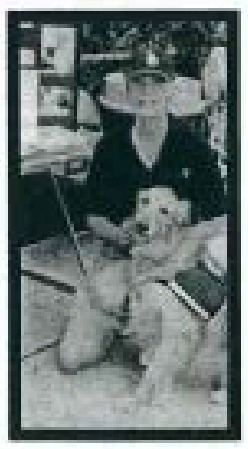
Wal-Mart continues its support with help in restoring dog park training equipment through its employee volunteer grant program. Thanks Wal-Mart.

*DFL Volunteers Faye & "Angel" Sheppard and Steve & "Molly" Hale pose with Wal-Mart Greeters while acquiring their Public Access Certification*

## Dodgertown Hosts Volunteer Appreciation

The first annual DFL volunteer appreciation event took place at the Dodgertown Community Booth where DFL provided free tickets, hotdogs and drinks for the volunteers who attended the game.

DFL volunteer Jake Dunn threw out the first ball and a dog park membership was raffled off to a lucky fan. We distributed educational bookmarks to the youngsters at the game and we appreciated the chance to spread the word among Dodger fans.



DFL Treasurer Paula Van Hooser and Assistance Dog Casey (left)

DFL Volunteer and Jefferson Award Winner Patti Schell and DFL President Mim Dunn (right)

# HALLOWEEN EVENTS ON THE TREASURE COAST

## St. Lucie County

➤ **Fort Pierce's** Fall Family Fun Fest, with children's Halloween games, contests, pumpkin carving and more, will be from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday on Second Street. The event is free. And the annual Ghosts of Fort Pierce Walking Tour (admission is $5) is from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Call (772) 466-3880.

➤ From noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, the Oxbow Eco-Center in south Fort Pierce is conducting its Spook Fest. It's a family event for all ages and admission is $2 per person. The center is 1.5 miles south of Midway Road, on St. James Drive, across from Publix. For more information call (772) 785-5833.

## Indian River County

➤ The Sebastian River Junior Woman's Club will conduct its 26th annual Haunted House at 1619 U.S. 1 in Sebastian, across from the Key West Inn. Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday and Oct. 31, the house will be open between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., and on Friday and Saturday from 7:30 p.m. until 11 p.m. Admission is $5. Contact (772) 589-2929 for more information.

➤ The 47th annual Vero Beach Halloween Parade begins at 10 a.m. Saturday at the Freshman Learning Center. It's a costume parade, with prizes awarded for best costume up to age 17. Call (772) 770-6517.

➤ Osceola Magnet School PTA is conducting a free fall festival Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. at 650 20th St. in Vero Beach. Proceeds benefit the PTA. Food, face painting, haunted house, games and a dunk tank. Call (772) 559-3412 for more information.

➤ Dogs for Life is sponsoring a Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade Saturday at 4 p.m., at the 4-H Off-Leash Dog Park, at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach. There will be demonstrations, advice and a Doggie Olympic Relay Race following the parade. The event is free. Call (772) 587-8969 for more information.

➤ Trick or Treat from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 31 at South Vero Square at the corner of U.S. 1 and Oslo Road. There will be prizes, a drawing for a bike and live radio broadcast.

## Saturday

**Bingo:** 10:30 a.m., Council on Aging Senior Center, 686 14th St., Vero Beach, (772) 569-0760.

**Bingo:** 11 a.m., Eagles Aerie 4067, 9606 Trade Center Drive, Sebastian, (772) 589-6573.

**Bridge:** 1 p.m., open and 0-99 games, Vero Beach Duplicate Bridge Club, 1520 14th Ave., www.verobridge.com, (772) 562-3006.

**Dance:** Dinner dance, 6:30 p.m., Eagles Aerie 4067, 9606 Trade Center Drive, Sebastian, (772) 589-6573.

**Dance:** Keynotes, ballroom dancing, 7-10 p.m., Vero Beach Community Center; For dates, call (772) 770-6517, (772) 770-0788. $6.

**Dogs for Life:** "Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade," 4 p.m., at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. The public is invited at no charge to bring their dogs "on-leash" and "in-costume." For more information, call (772) 587-8969.

**Exotic Animals:** Tigers for Tomorrow, exotic animal preserve, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., walk along the jungle path, encounter several species of big cats and exotic animals, 18905 Orange Ave., Fort Pierce. (772) 465-1852, www.tigersfortomorrow.org, $10 adults, $5 ages 3-12, free for children under 3.

**Heritage Day:** Vero Heritage Inc., "Heritage Day," 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the event celebrates the rich history of Vero Beach and Indian River County. Heritage Center and Pocahontas Park, 2140 14th Ave, Vero Beach. For more information, call (772) 770-2263.

**Family Story Time:** Children 2-8 years old, 10:30 a.m., free, Gifford

## Channel 10 Goes to the Dogs

Sabrina and Archie prepare for debut on Channel 10

**Kathy Hurt, on-air host at Channel 10, chose Dogs for Life, Inc., as her featured not-for-profit organization.**

**The program aired on August 16th and provided overall information on DFL programs with Director Shelly Ferger and volunteer Carol Pena.**

Fun at the 4-H Best Friend's Off-Leash Dog Park

**One segment covered the Dog Park with members and dogs at play as well as Connie and Coco Stevens providing Pet Assisted Therapy at the Boys & Girls Club in south Vero Beach.**

**We love it when the message and mission of Dogs for Life reaches such a wide audience.**

## The Perfect Gift for Dog Lovers

***DFL's first edition of "Dog Tales of Vero Beach", a memory book, will be ready before Christmas and provides the perfect gift for dog-lovers on your list.***

***With words and pictures, more than 50 local pet lovers recorded fond memories and funny anecdotes of their touching and comic critters in a professionally printed volume.***

***Available for $21.95, the book will be sold at the Howl-A-Ween Canine Costume Parade at the dog park on October 29 at the Downtown Vero Beach Book Festival on Friday and Saturday, November 11 and 12, and at the dog park Christmas Open House scheduled for December 10.***

***You may also order your books in advance by calling DFL 772-567-8969.***

## First Membership Drive Successful

More than $8000 has been raised so far from the active member participation in the first annual Dogs for Life Membership Renewal Drive. The membership drive allows our Board of Directors to make specific plans for the 2005 – 2006 fiscal year.

If you have not done so please renew today by sending your annual membership fee to DFL at PO Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965.

## We're Grateful for Grants

The Exchange Club has once again presented DFL with a grant to support the Boys & Girls Clubs' Pet Assisted Therapy Programs. The Treasure Coast Pilot Club also has given us a Pet Assisted Therapy Grant. Thanks again, clubs.

## Farewell to Fran / Applause for Paula

Fran LaPine, Dogs for Life's treasurer for the past two years, said farewell to Vero Beach in August as she and her husband Bernie, canines King and Maggie, and feline Midnight moved to Pennsylvania to be closer to the grandkids. Fran shared 35 years of experience in nonprofit accounting and business administration with our Board of Directors and handled the many complex aspects of Dogs for Life's financial issues with efficiency and effectiveness.

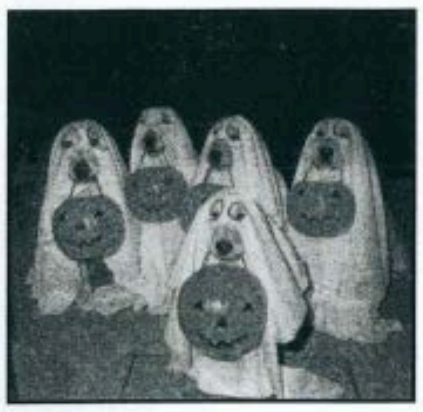
In addition to her fiduciary wizardry, Fran also volunteered with King and Maggie in our Pet Assisted Therapy Program and was a member of our off-leash dog park.

While we will miss Fran's expertise and friendship, we are glad to welcome Paula Van Hooser as our new treasurer. Paula retired after 30 years as Education Specialist at Beachland Elementary School, and was instrumental in implementing the DFL Pet Therapy program there. Paula is also a puppy raiser for Southeastern Guide Dogs

Paula and her husband Dan Thweatt have provided a foster home for DFfL Assistance Dog-In-Training, Casey. Paula has jumped in with both feet and is serving as Chairman of our Fundraising Committee. She will be facilitating at our Fundraising Committee Meeting in January 2006.

Thanks for your friendship and help, Paula.





**Happy Howl-A-Ween**

**4-H Dog Master's Club**

**Pet Assisted Therapy "Read To Dogs"**

**Family Fun at the Dog Park!**

# Mark your Calendars For Upcoming Events

**DFL will host a Howl-A-Ween Canine Costume Parade again this year on Saturday, October 29, at 4 p.m. at the off-leash dog park located on 12th Street and 16th Avenue. Attendees may participate in a dog board game "My Dog Can Do That" and a Special Doggie Olympic Relay Race. DFL members as well as members of the public are invited.**

**DFL will hold their Annual Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on November 3 at Our Savior Lutheran Church located at 1850 6th Avenue. The DFL Nominating Committee is currently recommending members to the board and various committees. All DFL members and volunteers are encouraged to attend. Refreshments will be served. A Fundraising Committee Meeting will be held in January 2006.**

**DFL will hold it's Annual Christmas Open House on December 10 at 2 p.m. at the off-leash dog park located on 12th Street and 16th Avenue. Free dog temperament evaluations will be held for potential dog park members and potential pet assisted therapy dogs.**

**Join Us For A Howl-A-Ween Canine Costume Parade October 29 at 4 p.m. at the Dog Park 12 St. & 16 Ave.**

## Volunteers Get Their Acts Together

DFL Secretary Sharon Marshall is coordinating our vital dog park and pet assisted therapy volunteers.

The pet assisted therapy volunteers will meet on Tuesday, October 11, at 6:30 p. m. at the Sunshine Physical Therapy Clinic located at 1705 17th Avenue.

**Contact DFL Secretary Sharon Marshall for Volunteer Schedules 770-9484 verosharon@bellsouth.net**

The dog park committee will meet at the dog park on Thursday, October 20, at 6:30 p.m.

## Assisting Assistance Dogs

Because the regulations regarding access for assistance dogs are constantly under review and are often challenged, DFL has joined forces with Assistance Dogs International, the Delta society, and the American Humane Association to learn about present and future laws on training and certifying assistance and service dogs. Together we can promote education and acceptance of these sorely needed companion helpers.

# Dog Training Opportunities at the Dog Park

DFL has finally succeeded in combining all levels of dog obedience training in one session in the dog park training area at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Anyone interested in basic dog obedience training may come to the dog park on Saturdays (weather permitting) at 8:00 a.m. Anyone with prior obedience training may arrive at 8:30 a.m. and join with other class participants in a novice level of obedience training. At 9:00 a.m. the class moves to a rally obedience and agility obstacle course.

Pet assisted therapy training and AKC Canine Good Citizen training are ongoing. Special training events are held on a regular basis.

Call Canine Behavior Trainer Shelly Ferger, 567-8969 for information or to volunteer for dog training classes.

**The 4-H Dog Master's Club has begun their 2005-2006 season, at the 4-H "Best Friend's" Off-Leash Dog Park**

## Dog costume parade coming to dog park

IN BRIEF

VERO BEACH — Dogs for Life Inc. is hosting a Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park at 4 p.m. Oct. 29 at 12th Street and 16th Avenue.

The public is invited at no charge to bring their dogs on-leash and in-costume for a parade. After the parade, the dog board game "My Dog Can Do That" will be played with prizes awarded to all who participate. The event will wrap up with a Special Doggie Olympic Relay Race.

Dogs for Life will give a presentation on its Dog Obedience Training Program, Assistance Dog Training Program, Pet Assisted Therapy Programs and Companion Dog Placement Program. The 4-H Dog Master's Club will provide free information on solving common dog training problems. Information also will be available on membership to the off-leash dog park.

For additional information, contact Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

Howl-O-Ween Canine Costume Parade

Dog Park

Saturday October 29

• 4 pm Canine Costume Parade

• 4:30 pm Dog Game "My Dog Can Do That"

• 5 pm Special Doggie Olympic "Relay Race"

Join the FUN!

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

Memberships available to the Off-Leash Dog Park. Accepting registration to Dog Obedience, Agility and Rally Obedience Classes.

772-567-8969

12th St & 16th Ave • Vero Beach

www.dogsforlifevb.org dogsforlifevb@bellsouth.net

# LOCAL

## IN BRIEF

### Dog Master's Club to organize

VERO BEACH — The Indian River County 4-H Dog Master's Club is holding its 2005-2006 organizational meeting at 6 p.m. Sept. 6 at the Indian River County Extension office, 1028 20th Place.

Families interested in joining the club should attend. Membership is open to youth between ages 8 and 18 and does not require dog ownership. During the year, each member will be required to attend two meetings per month, complete a 4-H project book, take part in a dog show at the Indian River County Firefighters Fair and participate in a club-selected community service project.

Dogs should not be brought to this organizational meeting. For additional information, contact leaders Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969 or Alicia DiSandro, DMV at (772) 567-6219.



# Fins & Skins

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

4-H "Best Friend's"
Off-Leash Dog Park
12th Street and 16th Avenue • Vero Beach
- memberships available to 2 1/2 acre fenced park
- separate big dog/small dog areas
- clean, safe, and fun

Training Classes Open to the Public

Dog Obedience Classes
*With Shelly Ferger, Canine Behavior Trainer*
*Motivational & Positive Reinforcement Training*
"Pay As You Go"

Basic Training - Sit/Down/Stay/Come/Heel
*Learn to communicate with your canines and understand their behavior*
Novice Dog Training - *This class is open to any dog and handler with prior obedience training*
Rally Obedience - Right Turn, Left Turn, Jump
*Navigate an obedience course while having fun with your dog*
Agility Training - *Confidence building on a Dog Walk, A-Frame, Teeter-totter and more for the Dog Athlete*
AKC - Canine Good Citizen Certificate
*Earn an AKC certificate for your dog's good behavior*

(772) 567-8969

Pat Ross and Gunner go for 'Rally O' at the off-leash dog park in Vero Beach. Dogs for Life has added rally obedience to the drop-in obedience classes on Saturday mornings at the off-leash dog park.

Photo courtesy of Dogs For Life

### Dogs for Life introduces rally obedience at the off-leash dog park

There is a new sport in the dog-training arena. Due to the recent popularity of "rally obedience," Dogs for Life has added this dog-training sport to the drop-in obedience classes on Saturday mornings at the off-leash dog park located on 12th Street at 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Dog training enthusiasts

higher score.

Any dog and handler with prior basic obedience training may attend this class.

*For more information on "Rally O" or basic obedience training, call Shelly Ferger, dog park director, at (772) 567-8969.*

*— For Hometown News*

# AUGUST

# Paw Prints

Summer, 2005

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

## Paw Prints Newsletter

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## Miss B Gives Three RRRs a Boost And Nobody's Shy with Shiloh!

When it comes to audiences, there is none more appreciative than a couple of dogs. Without saying a word they can provide encouragement to doubtful readers, support for fearful performers, love and kisses all around. They don't even care if they've heard the story before, they don't care if you stutter or mispronounce. As long as you pat them now and then, they'll sit and listen to you for ages. That's what happens at St. Edward's School and at a number of other locations in Vero Beach when the *READ to Dogs'* dogs are on the job.

Avid St.Ed's Reader with All Ears Miss B

Nancy Klein, librarian at St. Edward's school, is thrilled to be a part of a regular *READ to Dogs* program. She says, "The kids line up at the library door every Wednesday to read to their favorite friends, Shiloh and Miss B. All week long children ask me, How many days until they get here? Several students used to be afraid of dogs; now they read to Miss B or Shiloh all the time." Nancy's favorite success story, "Last year, a student who stuttered badly in class when he had to read aloud, came and read to Miss B without one stutter. This year he won the poetry reciting contest. At home the kids read to their cats, hamsters, fish, and stuffed animals, and every time it builds confidence and improves reading ability." Everyone agrees that the *READ to Dogs* program has changed his or her outlook on reading aloud forever.

Charlotte Peterson, a *READ to Dogs'* volunteer, recalls a student who was deathly afraid of dogs ever since having watched his sister get knocked down by a dog several years ago. She stated, "Now he loves reading to Miss B and he is so proud of himself for not being afraid anymore. One day I asked him if he wanted to read to Shiloh who is bigger. He said, 'Ok.' and plopped right down with her. The look of sheer delight in himself was just priceless. I think the biggest thing our dogs do for kids is to make them feel good about themselves so that they will try something that under other circumstances they might lack the courage to try. Isn't it amazing how encouraging dogs can be without saying a word?"

The Dogs for Life *READ* program has expanded its territories, too. Dogs are now welcome audiences at The Boys and Girls Club in Sebastian and the Hibiscus Children's Center. These programs have joined the ongoing ones at the Boys & Girls Club in South Vero, Beachland Elementary School, and the Homeless Family Center. Grrrreat rrreading!

Miss B and Shiloh Ready for Students

# DFL Volunteer Wins Jefferson Award for Community Service

They say dogs and kids always recognize the "good guys" and their choice has been verified by Scripps Howard newspapers who selected Dogs For Life's Patti Shell from among 200 applicants to receive the Jefferson Award. Patti received the Award in recognition of her unfailing and generous efforts to help both dogs and kids in many capacities.

Despite suffering serious damage to her home in last fall's hurricanes, Patti continues to help out where ever she's needed. Patti has carefully trained her black Labrador, Chloe. Chloe is now a certified Pet Assisted Therapy Dog and a Canine Good Citizen, not to mention a four-footed square dancer. Patti and "Chloe" visited the South County Boys and Girls Club every Wednesday for the past two years as part of the Dogs For Life *READ* program. They also cheer up the folks at the Homeless Family Center in the Trauma Therapy Dog program. They provide stress relief and a sense of normality to emotional situations.

Patti also helps out during the obedience classes at the off-leash dog park. As for the Dogs for Life Park, anything that needs doing, whether it's stuffing envelopes or emptying "poop" pots, we can count on Patti to help out. Patti says she feels that, "dogs have the ability to show what God's love and forgiveness is like."

Patti and Chloe

After Patti's home was badly damaged by the hurricanes, she found solace in helping others. She said, "It was my therapy, really." Patti had her "15 minutes of fame " when WPTV aired a profile of her in March. The Scripps Howard station adn newspapers were instrumental in introducing Dogs for Life to a wide audience.

Congratulations and thanks to Patti Schell for a job (or should we say jobs) well done!!

# What Is the Jefferson Award?

Tanya Rodgers, Jim Sackett, Patti, and Laurel Sauer

In 1972 Jaqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service to establish a Nobel Prize for public and community service known as the Jefferson Awards.

Providing both national and local recognition, the award honors outstanding Americans who do extraordinary thingshout expectation of recognition or reward. Its sponsors include many public media companies, network television stations as well as local publications, such as the Scripps Howard newspapers.

Previous national winners include such diverse celebrities as Betty Ford, Paul Newman, and the 1980 U.S. Olympic Hockey Team. Local winners serve their own communities with no thoughts of glory or compensation, just out of the goodness of their hearts. Just like Patti!



# The Good Ol' Summertime and Beyond

Got some time on your hands? We know a place where you could be a huge help. In fact, several places. Volunteers are needed to augment our Pet Assisted Therapy programs and to work with the READ and Trauma Therapy, too. The schedules have been increased for summer hours and so the need for volunteers is higher as well. Nice dogs and nice people may apply by calling Shelly at 567-8969.

The certification process is pretty simple. Dogs train for the AKC canine good citizen certificate—mostly sit, down and stay—and people attend a DFL Volunteer workshop on how to handle your dog in public places. It's easy if you know how. (And if the dog and the people have the right temperament.)

Here are some other ways to help: At the Dog Park maintenance is an on-going need and our training classes can always use an extra hand or two.

Both the long-range planning committee and the fund-raising committee need some ideas and some willing workers. Won't you join us for some summer fun... with a purpose? Volunteer as much or as little time as you can. Call Shelly Ferger 567-8969. She'll be so happy to hear from you!

# Current DFL Volunteers

## Board of Directors:

President, Mary "Mim" Dunn
Vice-President, Susan Myers
Secretary, Sharon J. Marshall
Treasurer, Fran LaPine
Attorney, Randy Brennan, Esq.
Accountant, Ned Curtis, CPA
Director, Shelly Ferger

## Fundraising Committee:

Mary-Ann Bell
Daniel L. Bell, Jr.
Ann W. Ford
France T. Kenyon
Jane B. King
Mary P. Mitchell
Marjorie W. Owens
Sandy Plagens
Patsy D. Wornoff

## Honorary Board:

Robert G. Bowman
Evelyn Wilde-Mayerson, Ed.D.
Janet F. Riley
Beth Sexton Stryker
Sharon English-Schwed
Susan Yount

## Dog Park Committee:

Coordinators, Sharon and Duane Marshall
Deborah Cornell
Andreas Daehnick
Gayle Montgomery
Bobbi Cousins
Ron Leegate
Carol Pena
Patti Schell
John Purdy
Wenda Bogin

## Newsletter Committee:

Sheila Lowenstein
Susan Myers
Evelyn Wilde-Mayerson, Ed.D.

## Pet Assisted Therapy Volunteers "READ to Dogs" / "Trauma Therapy Dog" Teams:

Casie Bardin & Zeus
Barbara Bodnar & Maddux
Glenn Dunn & Tara
Audrey Kelly & Storm
Aaron Lunsford & Ghost
Susan Myers & Biscuit
Mary Peterson & Milo
Jesicca Smith, Jillie Bean & Josie
Connie Stevens & Coco
Ellen Bartkus, Talley Ho & Theo
Deborah Cornell & Stella
Mim Dunn & Sweetie
Marilyn Knight & Dakota
Patricia Lyons & Tara
Carol Pena & Archie
Sandy Plagens & Shiloh
Michelle Smith, Stripe & Buddy
Kris Stillinger & Abbie
Dot Blair, Wakhan & Son Shine
Lisa Cutts & Georgia Belle
Shelly Ferger, Sabrina
Fran LaPine, King & Maggie
Gayle Montgomery, Callie & Chance
Charlotte Peterson & Miss B
Patti Schell & Chloe
Sandy Starr & Schatzie
Paula Van Hooser, Vero & Casey

# DFL Welcomes New Board and Committee Members

Since February of 2002 DFL has grown at such a rapid rate we have recently had a need to add positions to our Board of Directors, Honorary Board, Fundraising Committee, and Newsletter Committee.

The position of Vice President was added and our Board Secretary Susan Myers accepted the position turning the position of Secretary over to Sharon Marshall. Sharon along with her husband Duane has served as the Dog Park Committee Chairpersons for the past two years (cont. on Page 8).



# Park Barks: Dog Park Is Better Than Ever

In the "It's Always Something" category, here's what's been done recently to improve our beloved and very safe off-leash dog park. (In case you forgot, it's at 12th St. and 16th Ave.)

Park Volunteer John Purdy coordinated some maintenance projects that added new sod and sand to keep our furry friends dry following heavy downpours. (Of course there are breeds that will find and roll in even the smallest puddles. We know who you are. )

We're still working on getting estimates and scheduling for lighting and gate repair after the infamous storms of last year. We've had to replace the drip lines for the landscaping outside the fence and continue to hope for more help from volunteers on a regular basis.

The next workday plan is in the works. Don't worry, Dog Park Coordinators Sharon and Duane Marshall will let you know when you're needed because keeping our best friends safe is an on going process you'll want to participate in., right?

And a reminder to dog park members don't forget to leash you dog in the parking lot! Go straight to the gate or car—we don't want even one tragedy to occur.

# Continuing Education

Shelly will continue to conduct Canine Behavior Training at the Park with basic classes for beginners at 9:30 a.m. on Saturdays and on-going obedience classes Saturdays at 8 a.m.

The new sport of Rally Obedience is gaining popularity and DFL is conducting a "Rally O" class in which you can learn to compete for titles. Rally O isn't just about earning titles – it's about having fun with your dog. A course is designed ranging from left turn to right turn to figure 8s around bowls filled with treats or backing up 3 steps while dog stays in position.

Training is continuing for DFL Volunteer Assisted Therapy dog teams as well as AKC Good Citizen certificate training. Call Shelly at 567-8969 for more info or to sign up.

Pat Ross and Gunner go for Rally 0.

# Training Tip from Shelly

*This Special Halter Helps Him Follow His Nose*

This nose collar/head halter takes the strain out of training your pup to walk at YOUR pace and where YOU want to go. "Gentle Leader"® keeps your arms in their sockets even when your dog has a mind of his own. The principle is simple: where a dog's nose points, that's the direction he'll head. Instead of jerking his neck around and making him pull even harder as a regular or choke collar does, the gentle leader gently, but firmly turns your dog's head so that YOU can maintain control over your walks. Provide lots of treats when introducing your dog to Gentle Leader and he'll have a positive association from the "get go" or more accurately from the "slow down."

Slip the halter around his muzzle and the loop around his neck and before you know it, your pooch will be the pride of the pack. You could call the "Gentle Leader" a hands down heeler (cont. on Page 8).

# Best Friends Help Best Friends —When Accidents Happen

Unfortunately, sometimes a dog's best friend is her veterinarian. In this case, after Pinot Noir, a Dog Park member and a dogue de bordeaux, (French Mastiff) severed a ligament in her leg, her best friend vet performed delicate surgery successfully. Pinot Noir will require six months of rehab and we hope for a full recovery. Unfortunately, the tab for this surgery is $4,000.

Dogs for Life has set up a relief fund to defray the expenses for our member. Please contribute whatever you can and note on your contribution that it's for Pinot Noir and send to:

Dogs for Life
PO Box 650023,
Vero Beach, FL 32965

Contributions are tax deductible.



# Dog Park Holds Educational Series

The park isn't just about frolicking and making friends, both human and canine; it's a learning experience, too. Recent weekends have been the scene of a four-stage educational course. Needless to say, the courses involve dogs in various stages of training.

Easily the best-behaved awards go to the law enforcement departments' canine partners. Departments that gave demonstrations at the park included the Vero Beach Police, Sebastian Police Department, Indian River County Sheriff's Department, and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department, who fielded ten K-9 teams to show dog park members how it's done. Also, these teams were on hand to dedicate memorial bones in honor of two fallen canine heroes, Vasko and Quattro. Vasko and Quattro died in the line of duty. Special thanks, too, to Indian River Country Sheriff's Sgt. Pat White, who organized the show.

Be Kind to Animals Week celebration was held at the Park and was supported by local dog-related businesses. Area people who participated in the celebration were IR County Animal Control Supervisor Jeff West, veterinarians Drs. Floyd Kirby and Alicia Holland, Blue Ribbon Grooming, and Bernadette's Dog Grooming as well as the IR County 4-H Dog Masters Club. Also, the DFL Square dancing team delighted the crowd. Thanks to everyone!

The following week DFL Director Shelly Ferger conducted informative classes on Training with Positive Reinforcement Techniques and on Understanding Canine Behavior. Woofs all around.

In honor of Valentine's Day Smooch a Pooch took place in February, a lovely love fest for the fuzzy. A special thank you to the Dog Park Volunteer core that assisted over the four week series.

K-9 Deputy Brian Reimsnyder with his new partner Jando

K-9 Partners at the dedication of the memorial bones.

Cpl. Michael Colton with new his partner Pino

K-9 Officers demonstrate tactics.

K-9 Officers demonstrate why you should stay within the law.

Animal Control Supervisor, Jeff West, DFL Pres. Mim Dunn, 4-H Dog Master's Club Pres. Katherine DiSandro, and Assistance Dog in Training, Casey participate in educational series.

# Service Animals Are Natural Helpers

Everybody is familiar with seeing-eye dogs, security dogs, search and rescue dogs, and drug sniffing dogs, but there are a whole lot of others who help in many different ways. Some dogs help physically disabled people; some help those with hearing problems. Some provide strength and steadiness when a person is frail. These are Service Animals, which are individually trained to help disabled people live more normal, active lives. DFL helps train these helpers.

*How DoThey Help?* Service dogs can be trained to assist a person who is hard-of-hearing by responding to telephone rings, door bells, alarms, crying babies or any unusual sounds. For people with physical disabilities, dogs can be taught to retrieve dropped articles or to provide steadiness and strength for those with balance or walking problems. They can learn to open and shut doors and drawers, carry items in a pack or satchel, and unload the dryer (although they're not so good at folding). They can even dial 9-1-1 and have saved some lives in the process.

*Whom Do They Help?* Anybody with a physical or mental impairment, which substantially limits a major life activity, might be a candidate for a service dog. A service dog can be of assistance to people with a variety of diagnoses ranging from hearing impairment to multiple sclerosis, spinal or head injury or stroke, arthritis, ataxia (poor balance) cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, spinal bifida, seizure and psychiatric disorders.

Scientific research indicates that individuals with service dogs scored higher for psychological well-being, self-esteem, community integration and the amount of control they could exert over their environment. In addition, the number of hours of human help needed by disabled people with service dogs was reduced by an average of 78 percent. Think of that in terms of financial savings and bolstered independence, and you realize what a service dog is worth!

# Here's One Shining Example

Max and Kelly

Max is a two-year old standard poodle and Kelly, a female human being, suffers from rheumatoid arthritis. She refers to Max as, "The love of my life." And can't imagine life without him. About a year ago, Kelly and Max began their Service Dog training with Shelly. They are working with Max to accompany Kelly outside the home. "He goes with me to medical appointments, grocery store, book store and library, restaurants, etc. He'll be quietly by my side and most times people aren't even aware that he's there. He's also learning to fetch and pick up things for me.

Kelly continues, "One of the most debilitating aspects of RA is the complete and utter fatigue it presents. Most days I need to take a nap. I lie on the bed exhausted but agitated, unable to relax and drop off for a nap. I know Max senses this and he will lie beside me and drop his head over my tummy. Oh, how soothing. I wake later up refreshed with my buddy beside me."

Kelly has undergone four surgeries and whether she's wheelchair bound or in bed, Max never leaves her side. "The ways in which he assists me are both emotionally and physically. He is a comfort and an inspiration to me." Max and Kelly have been inseparable since the first day when he was 10 pounds and only 10 weeks old. "He's grown into a real kind, humorous and intelligent fella." Kelly feels blessed that they have each other.

# Golden Girl Casey Ready for Adoption

Casey, a young and lovely Golden Retriever, is in the loving foster home of Dan Thweatt and Paula Van Hooser who have been puppy raisers for Southwestern Guide Dogs for years. They kindly offered to foster Casey. Even more important, they've continued to train her for public obedience and as an assistant dog.

Casey is ready to be permanently placed in a home with a need for assistance. Anyone in need should call Shelly 567-8969. You'll love Casey and vice versa.

*How YOU Can Help the Helpers*

Make a tax-deductible donation to Dogs for Life and designate it for Assistance Dog Training.



# Fun, Fun, Fund!

Past, present and future fund-raising events to benefit Dogs for Life were the focus of an elegant luncheon held in March at the home of DFL member Anne Ford. The Fundraising Committee is pleased to report on the success of several events over the past year. A cocktail party hosted by Mary-Ann and Dan Bell and Patsy and Bob Woronoff raised more than $3,000 for the Assistance Dog Training Program.

Dan, Mary-Ann, and Prescious Bell

President Mim Dunn's son Glenn held a Hoedown Barbecue at the Heritage Center to benefit DFL and to co-sponsor with the 4-H Dog Masters' Club the Hibiscus Children's Center Pet Therapy Program. He provided not only his mailing list from Train to Attain Fitness center, but expert cooking and catering as well. The event netted over $8,000. Glenn has been holding fundraisers that benefit children's charities for the past five years and this time, DFL was the lucky recipient.

An Easter Parade and Dog Show chaired by France Kenyon, entertained scores of Indian River Shores residents both human and canine in late March. Costumes, bonnets and tricks were all part of the fun and the event raised more than $1,000 for DFL. An added benefit was that the throngs of dog-loving residents of IRS learned about Dogs for Life, many for the first time.

A specially designed "doggie" quilt was donated by Sunbonnet Sue Quilters was purchased by a DFL member for $2,000. Each square has a dog motif and is very colorful and attractive, not to mention unique.

The Annual Membership Drive is underway with a specially designed self-mailing envelope designed by DHI Visual Communication.

France Kenyon discusses DFL Programs with Gloria Anderson, Ellie McCabe, and Beatrice Bianchi.

The Hoffman's, Eve, Lucy, Ed, and Coco win a ribbon at the Easter Parade.

"Doggie" quilt designed and created by Sunbonnet Sue Quilters.

# "Dog Tails" Keeps Wagging Along!

Have you ever claimed, "I could write a book," about your pet? Here's your chance. We're in the process of gathering material for the first edition of "Dog Tails" a DFL book with pictures and anecdotes, poems, and proverbs all about dogs. We'll mention your mutt with memories and memorabilia.

Paul Paulus of AsiaTech, Inc., the Apple Computer Center has shown us a sample book he designed and with your help we can produce our own Dogs For Life documentary in time for Christmas.

Therapy Dogs, Assistance Dogs, Placement Referral, and the Off-Leash Park will all benefit from the book sales. But to get it all together, we need photos and captions and donations to defray printing costs. A selection committee will choose the photos for the book, so send several with descriptive captions. For article submission, interview or photo session, contact the "Dog Tails" committee members:

Mary Mitchell—MaryM34116@aol.com
Carol Pena—Cavalliers@ix.net.com.com
Patti Schell—Zenitoday123@hotmail.com
Ann Ford—bford@gtlakes.com
Shelly Ferger—DogsforLifeVB@bellsouth.net

# DFL Announces New Web Site

DFL wants to thank Paula Vanhooser and Ravi Annam for the design and development of a new DFL website.

Take some time to browse our new site at:
www.dogsforlifevb.org



Dogs for Life
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
Phone: 772 567-8969
Email: DogsforLifeVB@bellsouth.net
Web Site: www.dogsforlifevb.org

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

# DFL Welcomes New Board and Committee Members (cont.)

The Fundraising Committee is growing by leaps and bounds with the addition of Jane B. King, Sandy Plagens, and Patsy Woronoff. Each of these outstanding individuals have given their assistance toward raising funds for DFL and are now willing to take the Committee to the next level with our long-range planning goals.

The Honorary Board welcomes Beth Sexton-Stryker whose expertise in marketing proved to be invaluable while the dog park was in its planning stages. Beth was instrumental in helping the 4-H Dog Master's Club raise over $80,000 to build the off-leash dog park.

The Newletter Committee is grateful for Sheila Lowenstein coming on board with her writing expertise. She adds spice and humor to our newletter articles.

We appreciate our "new" volunteers as well as our "old" volunteers for showing their confidence in Dogs for Life, Inc. by donating their valuable time.

# Training Tip from Shelly (cont.)

"When Tank is wearing his Gentle Leader he's a perfect angel. When he's not wearing it he drags me down the street." Sara, Vero Beach

"There's no tugging, pulling or straining." Laura, Ft. Pierce.

"My daughter can easily walk our 58-pound Springer in the presence of other dogs and people." Matt, Vero Beach.

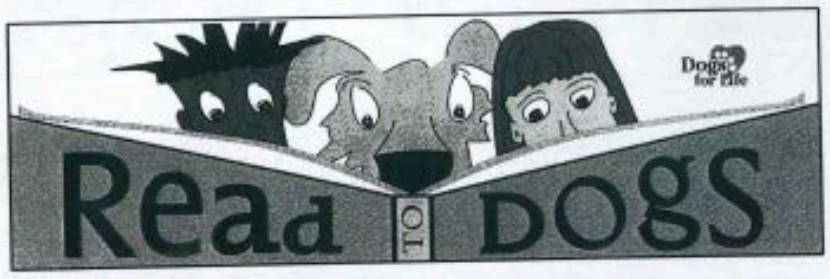
"When I adopted my second shelter dog the "Gentle Leader" made this adjustment an easy one for me and my dogs." Jocelyn, Vero Beach.

Save your strength and your dog's neck. Try a "Gentle Leader"® available in most pet stores.

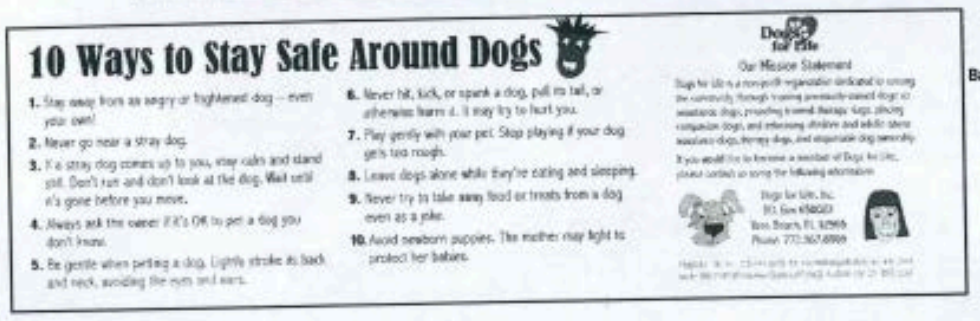
# Keeping Paws on Our Place—Our New Bookmark!

Our new bookmark has made its debut!

Thanks goes to DHI Visual Communication for donating the design.




Front



10 Ways to Stay Safe Around Dogs

1. Stay away from an angry or frightened dog – even your own!
2. Never go near a stray dog.
3. If a stray dog comes up to you, stay calm and stand still. Don't run and don't look at the dog. Wait until it's gone before you move.
4. Always ask the owner if it's OK to pet a dog you don't know.
5. Be gentle when petting a dog. Lightly stroke its back and neck, avoiding the eyes and ears.
6. Never hit, kick, or spank a dog, pull its tail, or otherwise harm it. It may try to hurt you.
7. Play gently with your pet. Stop playing if your dog gets too rough.
8. Leave dogs alone while they're eating and sleeping.
9. Never try to take away food or treats from a dog even as a joke.
10. Avoid newborn puppies. The mother may fight to protect her babies.

Dogs for Life
Our Mission Statement

Dogs for Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to serving the community through training previously owned dogs as assistance dogs, providing trained therapy dogs, placing companion dogs, and educating children and adults about assistance dogs, therapy dogs, and responsible dog ownership.

If you would like to become a member of Dogs for Life, please contact us using the following information

Dogs for Life, Inc.
P.O. Box 650023
Vero Beach, FL 32965
Phone: 772-567-8969

Back

# Volunteer Oppotunities

OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN VERO BEACH

## VOLUNTEERING

By Kathryn Collins

### OPERATION HOPE

12285 CR 512, Fellsmere, FL 32948
Contact: Jann Zermeno
Phone: 571-0003
E-mail: info@migranthope.org
Website: www.migranthope.org

Operation Hope recently moved to its new community center in Fellsmere. The seven-year-old non-profit organization provides support, assistance and education to migrant farmworkers and their families.

Tutors and mentors are needed in elementary level reading and math, also for computers, arts and crafts and other areas. Volunteers are needed to teach adults English, to assist with fundraising and to help in the warehouse. They also are looking for a volunteer youth activity director.

### ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL OF INDIAN RIVER COUNTY (EOC)

P.O. Box 2766, Vero Beach, FL 32961
Contact: Sue Morales
Phone: 589-8008
E-mail: eocbjp@bellsouth.net

EOC, the federally designated Community Action Agency for Indian River County, provides services and programs to children and families living in poverty within our community. Head Start is the largest program under the EOC umbrella, serving 245 children in Indian River County.

Volunteers are needed in Head Start classrooms serving three- and four-year-old children from very low income homes. They support the teachers through reading stories, stimulating conversation and assisting individual children.

Assistance is also needed with vision and hearing screenings (completed within the first 45 days of school). Dentists and/or dental technicians are needed to help serve those children whose dental needs compromise healthy growth and development. Volunteers can also help with filing and general clerical work.

### GIFFORD YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTER

4875 43rd Ave., Vero Beach, FL 32967
Contact: Freddie L. Woolfork
Phone: 794-1005
E-mail: fwwoolfork@gyac.cc
Website: www.gyac.cc

The Gifford Youth Activity Center, "the place where things are happening," offers educational and recreational services and programs for youth and educational and vocational enhancement programs for adults.

Volunteers are needed to assist as monitors (gym, hall, library, computer room and pool), for clerical and receptionist work, as greeters and chaperones, homework tutors and to help with fundraising, custodial work and many other opportunities.

### DOGS FOR LIFE INC.

P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
Contact: Shelly Fenger
Phone: 567-8969

Dogs for Life is a non-profit organization that offers specialized programs preparing dogs to become service companions for people with disabilities (guide dog, signal dog, etc.), and pet-assisted therapy dogs to assist in the well being of those in need of support and love. Responsible dog ownership education is stressed in its education programs. To help with its growing programs and responsibilities, Dogs for Life is looking for assistance with general administration, and for a volunteer coordinator.

And, if you have a friendly dog, consider volunteering to be trained to work together in the community programs, including Read to Dogs and Trauma Therapy.

### COMMUNITY CHILD CARE RESOURCES INC.

1801 24th St., Vero Beach, FL 32960
Contact: Abby Walters
Phone: 567-3202
E-mail: abbyccer@gate.net

CCCR helps fund quality childcare for lower-income working families in Indian River County with children aged 5 and under. It is a United Way Success by 6 Initiative.

Volunteers are needed to assist with office work, including answering phones, helping with computers, and office organization. Assistance is also needed with spreading the word about the program.

Mentors are needed to visit a day-care center each week and read and talk to a child.

### HUMANE SOCIETY OF VERO BEACH AND INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

6230 77th St.,Vero Beach, FL 32967
Contact: Florence Howe
Phone: 388-3892

The Humane Society is the only non-profit organization providing safe refuge for homeless, abandoned, injured or lost companion animals. The volunteer program is seeking assistance in the organization's many programs, which include greeter/pet boutique, adoption placements, foster care for pets of

teach basic financial skills, act as reading buddies and share their expertise with the children.

Background checks and references are required and on-the-job training is provided. The hours are flexible, and both seasonal and part-time positions are available.

A volunteer appreciation dinner, t-shirts and a loving environment in which to share your special skills are offered.

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**Dogs for Life, Inc.**
P.O. Box 650023, Vero Beach, FL 32965
Contact: Shelly Ferger
Phone: 567-8969

Dogs for Life is a non-profit organization that offers specialized programs preparing dogs to become service companions for people with disabilities (guide dog, signal dog, etc.), and pet-assisted therapy dogs to assist in the well being of those in need of support and love. Responsible dog ownership education is stressed in its education programs. The organization manages the Dog Park on 12th Street and 16th Avenue, a safe, clean environment for dogs and their owners to socialize, and offers obedience classes at the park.

To help with its growing programs and responsibilities, Dogs for Life is looking for assistance with general administration.

And, if you have a friendly dog, consider volunteering to be trained to work together in the community programs, including *Read to Dogs* and *Trauma Therapy*.

Applicants (human and canine) should have some obedience training. Volunteers and their dogs must pass the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Class. Dogs already holding the AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate will qualify for the program with minor additional training.

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**Early Learning Coalition of Indian River County**
4350 43rd Avenue, Vero Beach, FL 32967
Contact: Susan Schumacher
Phone: 564-4095

The Early Learning Coalition of Indian River County is a non-profit organization serving low-income and at-risk preschool children by providing them with quality educational opportunities. It is part of a three-county coalition, serving Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties.

The organization seeks volunteers to represent Indian River County as Private Sector Members on its board. Applicants should be affiliated with private industry, such as business owners, CEOs or executives with policy/decision-making authority. Retirees who serve on a private business board may also apply.

Applications are available at the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce, the Sebastian Area Chamber of Commerce and the Early Learning Coalition of Indian River County at Dodgertown Elementary School.

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**Economic Opportunities Council of Indian River County (EOC)**
P.O. Box 2766, Vero Beach, Florida 32961
Contact: Sue Morales
Phone: 589-8008
E-mail: eochjp@bellsouth.net

EOC, the federally designated Community Action Agency for Indian River County, provides services and programs to children and families living in poverty within our community. Head Start is the largest program under the EOC umbrella, serving 245 children in Indian River County.

Volunteers are needed in Head Start classrooms serving 3- and 4-year-old children from low-income homes. They support the teachers through reading stories, stimulating conversation and assisting individual children.

Assistance is also needed with vision and hearing screenings (completed within the first 45 days of school). Dentists and/or dental technicians are needed to help serve those children whose dental needs compromise healthy growth and development. Volunteers can also help with filing and general clerical work.

A background in education is helpful but not necessary, but the desire to nurture young children is most important. A criminal background check is done on persons volunteering 20 or more hours per month. Seasonal and full-year positions are available.

Head Start centers are located in Wabasso, Gifford, central and south Vero Beach and in Fellsmere and are open during the school year, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers are honored at a spring appreciation luncheon.

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**Environmental Learning Center**
255 Live Oak Drive, Vero Beach, FL 32963
Contact: Janet Barkett
Phone: 589-5050
E-mail: info@elc.web.org
Website: www.elc.org

The ELC is a not-for-profit education center located on Wabasso Island between A1A and US1.

Volunteers are needed to work in the Entry Pavilion,

# Wellness Fair

Photo courtesy of Strategic Communications

Residents and visitors check out the displays at Indian River Estates East recent Wellness Fair.

## *Wellness fair draws crowds*

FOR HOMETOWN NEWS

A recent Wellness Fair at Indian River Estates East in Vero Beach featured more than 30 exhibitors and drew a great crowd of residents and prospective residents. Indian River Estates East is an ACTS Retirement-Life Community with more than 600 residents.

Speakers included Dr. Paul Hatten Jr., who addressed radiology screenings for wellness; Dr. Thomas A. Baudo, who spoke about Macugen, a new treatment for wet macular degeneration; Dr. James Shafer, who gave a talk on memory disorders; and Dr. Christopher Stepanek, who made a presentation on chiropractic uses of cold laser therapy.

Exhibitors included Dogs For Life; Goodtime Getaways; the Council on Aging; Alzheimer/ Parkinson Association; the Arthritis Foundation; Fifty Plus Lifestyles; VNA Hospice; Deaf & Hard of Hearing Service of the Treasure Coast; Perkins Pharmacy; Greens Plus; Select Medical Rehab Services; Indian River Memorial Hospital Emergency Room/Wound Care; United Way 211 Help Line; Dr. Larry Landsman, dermatologist; Grall, Fanaro and Glenn, attorneys at law; and the Atlantic Vein Center.

A variety of screenings also were offered. Perkins Medical Supply provided oximetry screening; Florida Eye Institute tested for glaucoma; Beltone Hearing did hearing tests; Vestibular Balance provided balance screening; IRMH Stroke Team/Diabetes provided blood sugar screening; and Dr. Michael R. Hansen provided foot screenings. Longevity Fitness Club & Spa and Massage Works provided massages to attendees.

A nonprofit corporation, ACTS Retirement-Life Communities is the nation's largest owner/operator/builder of continuing care retirement communities with 17 senior resort communities in four states, including six in Florida.

*For more information, visit* www.actsretirement.com.

# JUNE

# 4-H Obedience and Behavior Classes

Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

## 4-H "Best Friend's" Off-Leash Dog Park

12th Street and 16th Avenue Vero Beach

- Memberships Available to 2 ½ acre fenced park
- Separate Big Dog/Small Dog Areas
- Clean, Safe, and Fun

## Dog Obedience & Behavior Classes

### Training Classes Open to the Public

***With Shelly Ferger, Canine Behavior Trainer***
***Motivational and Positive Reinforcement Training***

Basic Training - Sit/Down/Stay/Come/Heel

*Learn to communicate with your canines and understand their behavior*

On-Going Dog Training - "Pay As You Go"

*This Drop-In Class is open to any dog and handler with prior obedience training*

Rally Obedience - Right Turn, Left Turn, Jump

*Navigate an obedience course while having fun with your dog*

AKC - Canine Good Citizen Certificate

*Earn a certificate for your dog's good behavior*

**For Information and Registration Call (772) 567-8969**

# Fur, Feathers, Fins & Skins

SHELLY'S CANINE

## Private and Group Obedience Training

Shelly Ferger
Canine Behavior Trainer
Assistance Dog Training
Leader 4-H Dog Master's Club
Dog Park Director

25 Years Specializing in Family Canine Behavior Counseling

Dog Aggressiveness
Jumping
Housebreaking

567-7990

## Dogs for Life

Living, Loving, Learning

**4-H "Best Friend's" Off-Leash**
**D O G P A R K**
12th Street and 16th Avenue • Vero Beach

- memberships available to 2 1/2 acre fenced park
- separate big dog/small dog areas
- clean, safe, and fun

**Training Classes Open to the Public**

**Dog Obedience & Behavior**
**C L A S S E S**
*With Shelly Ferger, Canine Behavior Trainer*
*Motivational & Positive Reinforcement Training*

Basic Training - Sit/Down/Stay/Come/Heel
*Learn to communicate with your canines and understand their behavior*

On-Going Dog Training - "Pay As You Go"
*This Drop-In Class is open to any dog and handler with prior obedience training*

Rally Obedience - Right Turn, Left Turn, Jump
*Navigate an obedience course while having fun with your dog*

AKC - Canine Good Citizen Certificate
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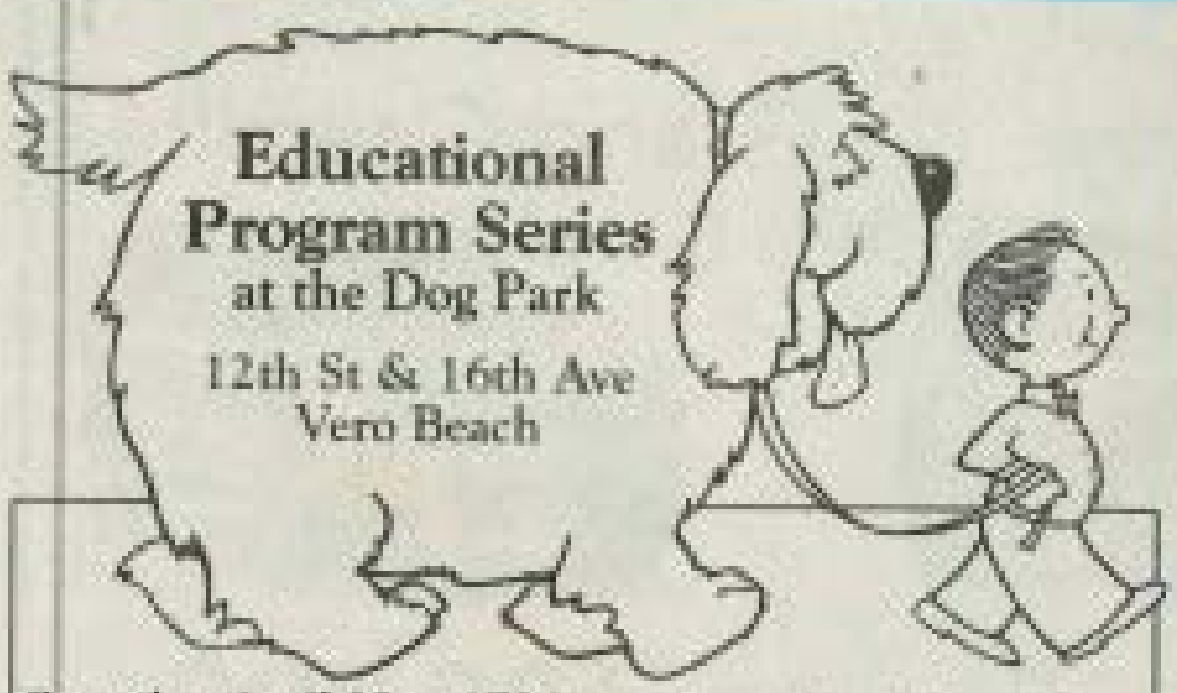
**For Information and Registration Call**
**(772) 567-8969**






**Saturday April 23 at 2PM** - A multi Law Enforcement Agency K-9 Demonstration & K-9 Hero Memorial Bone Presentation **(No Dogs Please at this Program)**

**Saturday April 30 at 2PM** - Dog Park Open House in honor of Be-Kind-To-Animals week May 1-7. **Dogs welcome "On-Leash"**. *"There will be raffles from local city related businesses. Activities for kids & A "Square Dancing with Dogs" Show"*

**Saturday May 7 at 2PM** - "How to Train Your Dog with Motivational Training Techniques" **Dogs welcome "On-Leash"**.

**Saturday May 14 at 2PM** - "Understanding Canine Behavior Workshop" **Dogs welcome "On-Leash"**.

*Each program is being offered at a cost of $5 per family, bring your lawn chairs & be prepared to have fun!*

Dogs for Life

For More Info call Dog Park Director: Shelly Ferger 567-8969

# Galas & Giving

**GOING TO THE DOGS.** Dogs for Life, Inc. Director **Shelly Ferger** presents a series of programs at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park. K-9 dogs are more than just man's best friends – they're partners and on Saturday, DFL will present **St. Lucie County Deputy Michael Colton** and **Indian River County Deputy Brian Reimsnyder** with K-9 Memorial Bones in honor of K-9 heroes lost last year. Where can you go to watch a dog square-dancing show? On April 30, at the dog park – of course. While you're there, get your pet-care questions answered by the **4-H Dog Master's Club** and others. Learn motivational training techniques on May 7, and understand why your pet behaves like that on May 14. Programs begin at 2 p.m. and each is $5 per family. Except for the K-9 event, "on leash" dogs are welcome.(772) 567-8969.



**Dog park open house:** Dogs for Life, 2 p.m., "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Open to on-leash dogs and their owners. Local veterinarians, groomers, pet shops, 4-H Dog Master's Club and dog trainers will be available to answer questions. Raffles, children's activities, more. $5 per family. (772) 567-8969.

## Dogs for Life to conduct classes

VERO BEACH — Dogs for Life Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing services to the community has added a drop-in "pay-as-you-go" continuing obedience class at the 4-H Best Friends Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

Any dogs and handlers who have basic obedience training experience may attend this drop-in class. The cost is $10, with all dog park members charged half price.

For information, call dog park director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

## RSVP

**Volunteers for pet-assisted-therapy program needed:** Dogs for Life is looking for volunteers with friendly dog companions. DFL volunteers and their certified therapy dogs attend preassigned regular sessions at various schools, libraries, clubs and other locations participating in the "Read to Dogs" program and the "Trauma Therapy" program. Applicants must have basic obedience training with their dog and hold an AKC Canine Good Citizen Certificate. DFL offers training to obtain needed training and certifications. (772) 567-8969.



**Workshop:** Dogs for Life, Inc., "Understanding Canine Behavior," 2 p.m., Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Open to on-leash dogs and their owners. $5 per family. (772) 567-8969.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

20th, Vero Beach; (772) 581-0536.

**May Dance:** 7-10 p.m., Senior Center, IRC Council on Aging, 686 14th St., Vero Beach. Music by Rythmairs. $6 per person. (772) 469-2062.

**Motivational dog training techniques:** Dogs for Life Inc., 2 p.m., "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. $5 per family. (772) 567-8969.



# Dogs for Life group seeks help from residents

For Hometown News

Dogs for Life is asking for pictures and stories of dogs and the lives they touch for a book they plan to publish in time for the December holiday season. A selection committee will decide which pictures will appear in the book which will be sold to raise funds for Dogs for Life.

Material and photos should be submitted no later than Aug. 1. Mail to Carol Pena, 935 Marigold Lane, Vero Beach, FL 32963.

For more information, call (772) 492-0559 or e-mail Mary Mitchell at *MaryM34116@aol.com*, Carol Pena at *cavaliers@ix.netcom.com*, Patti Snell at *zenitoday123@hotmail.com*, Ann Ford at bford@gtlakes.com or Shelly Ferger at *Shellysc@bellsouth.net*.

# APRIL

# Pet Events



## PET EVENTS

### UPCOMING

**CFA Cat Show:** April 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., April 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus, Melbourne. $4-$6. (321) 727-7285.

### MARTIN COUNTY

#### FRIDAY

**Adoption League:** Adopting Racing Greyhounds introduces ex-racing dogs to the public noon-2 p.m. Fridays at Pets Mart, 2435 N.W. Federal Highway, Jensen Beach. (772) 229-1025.

#### SUNDAY

**Adoption League:** Adopting Racing Greyhounds introduces ex-racing dogs to the public 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays at Pets Mart, 2435 N.W. Federal Highway, Jensen Beach. (772) 229-1025.

#### UPCOMING

**Second Annual Equine Rescue & Adoption Foundation Inc. Hoedown:** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. April 28, Caring Fields Animal Sanctuary, Palm City. Horse demonstrations, games, crafts for children, pony rides, equine seminars and music. Donations help the foundation. (772) 283-2434 or (772) 284-8754.

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LISTING

**The deadline:** We recommend you submit materials at least two weeks in advance of your event.
**Where do I send it:** Send by e-mail to yesdesk@scripps.com.
**What do I include:** As much information as possible, including the name, date, location and time of the event, plus a phone number so we can contact you if necessary.
**Questions:** Call (866) 894-9861.
**View our events calendar online:** TCPalm.com

### ST. LUCIE COUNTY

#### UPCOMING

**Equine Rescue & Adoption Foundation:** April 28, 12 - 4 p.m., Adults $20, Children $10; Caring Fields Sanctuary, Palm City. Second Annual Benefit. Pony Rides/Busch Wildlife/Petting Zoo/Face Painting/Live Country Band/Equine Demonstrations/Children's Activities. All proceeds will benefit the horses. (772) 220-0150 or www.equinerescueft.org .

#### CLASSES

**Dog Obedience:** St. Lucie County's Parks and Recreation Department is offering dog obedience classes at the Fort Pierce Community Center, 600 N. Indian River Drive. Each course is six weeks long with basic and advanced training available. $80; training includes help with nutrition and discipline problems. (772) 342-5275.

### INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

#### TUESDAY

**Dog Training:** 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesdays at 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. $14 per class. Puppy Kindergarten is the introductory level for dogs older than 16 weeks. Dogs learn several basic skills using reward based training methods. (772) 978-7863.

#### THURSDAY

**Dog Training:** 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Thursdays 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. $14 per class. (772) 978-7863.

#### SATURDAY

**Dog Training:** 8 a.m. Saturdays at Dogs for Life, Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Basic obedience training, $60. (772) 567-8969.
**Dog Training:** 9 a.m. Saturdays at Dogs for Life, Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Agility, Novice, AKC Canine Good Citizen, Assistance Dog and Pet Therapy Dog Training. $10 per class; drop-in, pay as you go. (772) 567-8969.
**Dog Training:** 2 p.m. Saturdays at 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. $14 per class. Puppy Kindergarten is the introductory level for dogs older than 16 weeks. Dogs learn several basic skills using reward based training methods. (772) 978-7863.
**Dog Training:** 1 p.m. Saturdays at 7900 12th St., Vero Beach. $14 per class. Basic Obedience class is the next step in training your dog. Enhance your relationship and learn how to train your dog to be a great companion. (772) 978-7863.

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

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

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

Dogs must be inoculated, neutered & social.

Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

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

# Fallen K-9 Honored

Vero Beach
Hometown News

#1 Voted Outstanding Newspaper in the Country

Friday, May 20, 2005

## Fallen K-9 honored

*By Heather Leigh Carroll*
*staff writer*

VERO BEACH – Dogs honored two local K-9 unit dogs at an open house at the Dog Park on 12th Street for Life as "Hometown Heroes."

One of Indian River County Sheriff's Office seven K-9 units was honored at the event. Deputy Brian Reimsnyder lost his partner, Quattro, Nov. 17 in a traffic accident. The two were on their way home after their patrol shift was over.

◆ See Fallen K-9 A3

Cliff Partlow/staff photographer
K-9 officers from Vero Beach, Sebastian and St. Lucie County gave a demonstration at the Dogs For Life Dog Park April 23.

**FALLEN K-9**

Continued from page A1

The two had been partners for two and one half years.

Quattro assisted in the arrest of 48 suspects while in the line of duty. He was honored at the event for his heroic work performed in the K-9 unit.

Before becoming a member of the K-9 unit, Quattro had been trained in both narcotics searching and patrol duty. All of the K-9 units in Indian River County are trained in both areas.

The K-9 units are not only used for patrol purposes, said Deputy Reimsnyder.

The units go to community events and schools conducting demonstrations, he said.

"They spend a lot of time in the lime light in the community," he said.

His new partner, Iando, joined him the first week of December, and has been an excellent partner and family member.

His children play all over the dog and Jando is as gentle as can be, Deputy Reimsnyder said.

It is amazing how the dogs can switch the switch from work to play immediately.

The other dog honored was St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office Deputy Mike Colton's K-9 partner Vasko, which was killed in the line of duty.

Vasko was fatally shot June 25 while apprehending a suspect in a carjacking and kidnapping in Fort Pierce.

Vasko was honored for his fearless efforts in the pursuit of the suspect.

Deputy Colton had his new partner, Pino, with him at the Dog Park. The two have been partners since September.

"He has turned into quite an addition to our family," Deputy Colton said.

Typically, the canine partners go home with the deputies and become part of the family.

Pino gets along with Deputy Colton's three children and his retired German shepherd partner Cello, he said. Cello had to retire due to a medical condition preventing him from serving on the force.

Both of the dogs received an engraved bone on the "Memorial Wall of Bones" at the dog park.

FAREWELL TO K9 QUATTRO

CHRIS WEATHERLY staff photographer

Indian River County Sheriff's Office Victims' Assistance Coordinator Judy Deeson, left, comforts Deputy Brian Reimsnyder, his wife, Cathleen, and daughter, Taylor, 8, after a 21-gun salute is made in honor of Deputy Reimsnyder's K-9 partner, Quattro, on Wednesday at the First Church of God in Vero Beach. Reimsnyder and Quattro were partners for two years until the dog was killed in a Nov. 17 traffic accident. "He was over and beyond a pet," said Reimsnyder. "He was my partner. He stayed at home with me and was like one of my children."

# Police dog mourned at service

By Alexi Howk
staff writer

VERO BEACH — Dressed in black fur, Spike, Bach, Justice and Nitro were fit for a funeral — that is, a man's best friend's funeral.

The four-legged canines, along with 10 other police dogs, came out to pay tribute to one of their fellow K-9 officers, Quattro. The dogs, which consisted of mostly black German shepherds from varying law-enforcement agencies, barked and howled in chorus as several gun shots blasted through the air in honor of a dog that served his county well.

"He was more than the government's property. He was a friend and a trusted

"(Quattro) was no less an officer than anyone standing here today and should be honored as such. He truly served this community well and asked for nothing in return."

Sheriff Roy Raymond
Indian River County Sheriff

Service participated in the service. They gathered in front of a lake outside the church after leading about a four-mile

## QUATTRO

FROM B1

ing in return."

Quattro's handler, Deputy Brian Reimsnyder and his wife, Cathleen , consoled their 8-year-old daughter, Taylor, during the service as she shed tears in front of the memorial table that bore Quattro's pictures and a poem titled, "Don't Cry for Me."

"It's been a struggle to say the least," Reimsnyder said of his partner's death. "It's a bond that goes beyond a pet. He's like one of my children."

Quattro lived with Reimsnyder and his family for two years and was Reimsnyder's first canine partner. He was one of six canines purchased by the Sheriff's Office. Just one hour after being on duty for his first assignment, Quattro apprehended a robbery suspect.

Reimsnyder's sister-in-law, Charlene Lawrence, said Reimsnyder took Quattro to every family function.

"The first thing I thought when I saw that dog was, 'Where can I get a dog like that?' He had these perfect big ears that stood straight up, and he was so sweet," she said.

Lawrence, a Vero Beach resident, attended the funeral with her mother, Marianne Cooney, who drove down from Ocala to pay her respects.

Patty Schell, a volunteer with the canine group Dogs for Life, attended the service with eight other volunteers from the group and two dogs.

"We know what it's like to lose a pet and how difficult it is," Schell said.

Quattro was just one week shy of his fifth birthday before he died. Reimsnyder said he had just gotten off duty from a drug investigation when he left the door and the gate to the dog's cage open in the back of his vehicle with Quattro inside. "I said while he was talkin his neighbor, the canine jumped out and ran acrc the road into the path of motorcycle.

Reimsnyder rushed hi partner to a nearby vete narian hospital where b died from his injuries. R snyder had Quattro's bo cremated and said he wi keep him at his home in special curio cabinet ne some of the dog's memoi

However, Reimsnyder part of the healing proce moving on, which mean will soon be partnered with a new canine, Jando (pronounced Yondo). Jando is a 2½-year-old German shepherd who comes from Germany, unlike Quattro who came from Hungary.

"There's only one Quattro," Reimsnyder said.

- alexi.hawk@scripps.com

## County K-9 dies in accident

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY — Sheriff's Office deputies are mourning the loss of a K-9 German shepherd that was struck by a motorcycle and killed Wednesday evening.

Quattro, who had been partnered with Deputy Brian Reimsnyder for two years at the Sheriff's Office, had just gotten off duty after he finished a successful drug investigation.

"Quattro and I shared a bond and a partnership that only others like us can fully understand," said Reimsnyder. "The loss of my partner is devastating to me personally, to my family and to the agency. He will be sorely missed by all."

Vero Beach resident Charles Edward Briley, 58, was driving his motorcycle north on the 8000 block of 91st Avenue when Quattro ran in front of him, Flescher said. Briley refused medical treatment on scene.

# Programs at Dog Park



## IN BRIEF

### Programs planned at dog park

VERO BEACH — Dogs for Life Inc. will conduct a series of four educational programs open to the public starting Saturday at the 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park at 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach.

At 2 p.m. Saturday, the nonprofit group will kick off the series with a Law Enforcement K-9 Hero Memorial Bone presentation. In honor of two K-9 heroes lost last year, representatives will present printed K-9 memorial bones to the families of St. Lucie County Deputy Michael Colton and Indian River County Deputy Brian Reimsnyder. A multi-agency K-9 demonstration will be held. No dogs, please, at this program.

In honor of Be-Kind-To-Animals Week May 1-7, the group will open the dog park to on-leash dogs and their owners at 2 p.m. April 30. Local veterinarians, groomers, pet shops, 4-H Dog Master's Club and dog trainers will be available to answer questions about how to care for your dog.

Dog-related items will be raffled off and there will be children's and other activities. Dogs for Life will give a presentation on its assistance dog training, pet-assisted therapy, volunteer and dog park programs. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

A presentation on how to train your dog with motivational training techniques will be conducted at 2 p.m. May 7 at the park. Dogs are welcome on-leash.

A final workshop on understanding canine behavior will be conducted at 2 p.m. May 14 at the park. Dogs on leashes are welcome.

This series is being offered at a cost of $5 per family. Participants should bring lawn chairs.

For more information, call dog park director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.



## COMMUNITY CONNECTION

**Law Enforcement K-9 Hero Memorial Bone:** Dogs for Life, Inc., 2 p.m., 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park, 12th Street and 16th Avenue, Vero Beach. Demonstration. Open to the public; no dogs please. $5 per family. (772) 567-8969.

JEFFERSON AWARDS 2005

## Volunteer blends dogs, helping children

MOLLY BARTELS staff photographer

Patti Schell, center, listens intently as Tana Aley, 7, right, reads a book to Schell and her dog, Chloe, at the Boys and Girls Club in Vero Beach on March 16.

By Jennifer Brannock
staff writer

Patti Schell's affection for volunteer work extends well beyond puppy love.

In fact, the 53-year-old Sebastian volunteer with the Dogs for Life Inc. organization in Vero Beach has managed continuously to mesh her love of dogs with her aspirations to help struggling children, the sick and the elderly in the community for the past 2½ years.

That is why Schell was named one of five local winners of the Jefferson Awards for service to the community. The local awards are sponsored by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers — which include The Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News, the Fort Pierce Tribune, Th Jupiter Courier, the Press Journa of Vero Beach and the Sebastia Sun — and the TV station WPTV i West Palm Beach.

Schell works part-time doin odd jobs in her neighborhood, suc as mowing lawns, cleaning and do

See VOLUNTEER, B2

### ON WPTV

See a profile of Patti Schell on News Channel 5 at 5:30 tonight.

**COMING FRIDAY**

Kenneth Bowers, founder of Operation Hope, an agency helping the homeless in Palm Beach County work their way off the streets.

### VOLUNTEER

FROM B1

sitting. She spends the majority of her time training her Labrador retriever, 2-year-old Chloe, and participating in programs offered by Dogs for Life, including "READ to Dogs," "Square Dancing with Dogs" and "Trauma Therapy Dogs."

"To me, dogs have the ability to show what God's love and forgiveness is like," she said. "Sure, I always go goo-goo over puppies, but for the actual training and the give-and-take that happens

chance to hone their skills by reading books to an eager, non-judgmental audience of furry friends.

"The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the most terrifying thing for children is to have to get up and read in front of a class," Schell said. "The dog is intently listening to their story, and is very understanding. The dog just wants to love on them."

Schell and Chloe also visit homeless shelters regularly, as well as those who have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives, to play headfirst into her work with others as a means of relieving her own stress.

"The dogs sense everything we are going through, and if I was a nervous wreck, (Chloe) would be, too," she said. "It was my therapy, really, because I got to do that during the numbness of it all."

Dogs for Life Founder Shelly Ferger, who nominated Schell for her Jefferson Award, said Schell was instrumental in helping the nonprofit agency expand north from Vero Beach into Sebastian.

"Some people, no matter

### TODAY'S AGENDA

**Early Learning Coalition of Indian River County**, 8:15 a.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

**Indian River County School Board Superintendent's NAACP Monthly Meeting**, 11 a.m., 1990 26th St., large instructional conference room.

**Indian River County Veterans Town Hall Meeting**, 11:15 a.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

**Indian River County Cultural Council Board of Directors**, 4 p.m., West Wing of Riverside Theatre.

**Sebastian Staff Workshop Collier Creek Canal Project**, 6 p.m., City Hall, council chambers.

**Indian River County Planning and Zoning Commission**, 7 p.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

# Easter Bonnet Parade

# MARCH

# Pooch Parade

Join the *First Annual* Indian River Shores

## Pooch Parade!

Where: Indian River Shores Community Center

When: Sunday, March 20th
2 to 4 PM

2:00 - Dog Tail Hour

2:30 - Easter Parade & Judging

3:30 - Do-Si-Do for Dogs

3:45 - Doggie Egg Hunt

### Many Categories, Many Winners!

- Best Easter Bonnet
- Best Trick/Talent
- Best Tail Wagger
- Most Amusing
- Owner/Dog Look Alike

- Refreshments!
- Square Dance Show! Do-Si-Do for Dogs directed by 4-H Members and DFL Volunteers.
- Prizes!
- Outdoor Show Ring!

Strut your *Chic* Shitzu, your Sharp Shepherd or March Out your Marvelous Mutt!

## RSVP! REGISTER NOW!

Entries Open to Indian River Shores Residents Only

$10.00 Entry Fee  $5.00 Spectator Fee

Only One Dog per Handler Please

A Canine Easter Parade to Benefit Dogs for Life

Dogs for Life is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization that trains adoption and assistance dogs.

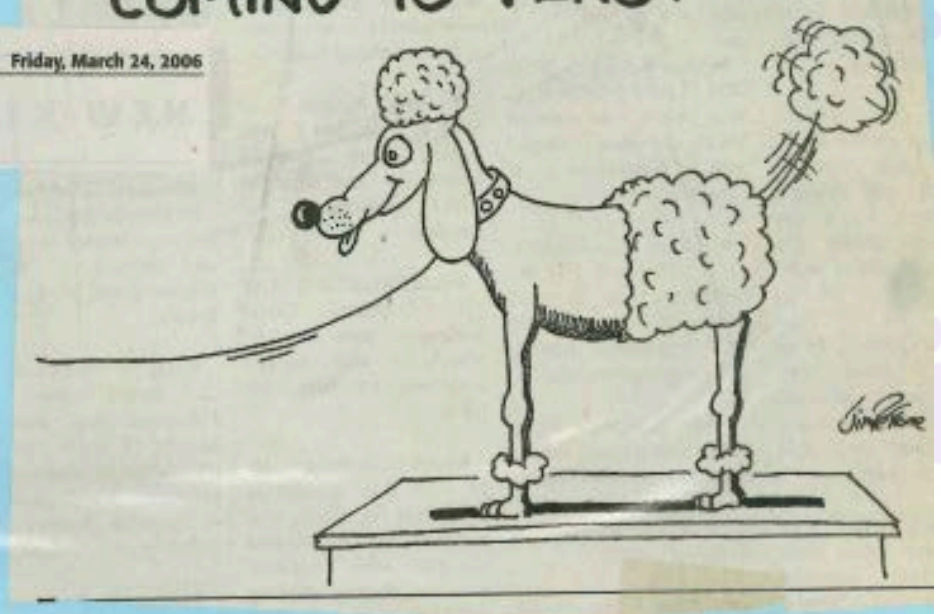
Please feel free to make a tax deductible donation to Dogs for Life Inc.

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

# VIEWPOINT

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2005 ◆ HOMETOWN NEWS ◆ WWW.HOMETOWNNEWSOL.COM

DOGGIE FASHION SHOW COMING TO VERO!



Hometown News Friday, March 24, 2006

## Community Notes

### Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show for dogs

Dogs for Life, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community, is hosting a "Doggie Easter Bonnet Parade and Fashion Show with Tricks" and an Easter egg hunt at the "Best Friends" off-leash dog park, located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach April 15 at 2 p.m.

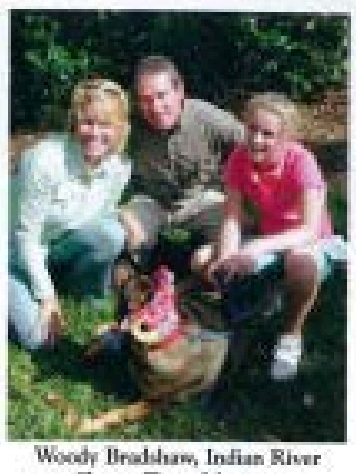
All entries are a $5 donation, and everyone is a winner. The 4-H Dog Master's Club will have homemade dog cookies for a $1 donation and Dogs for Life volunteers will offer a $5 donation photo opportunity.

Spectators can enjoy for free. Bring your lawn chair. Well-behaved dogs with leashes are welcome.

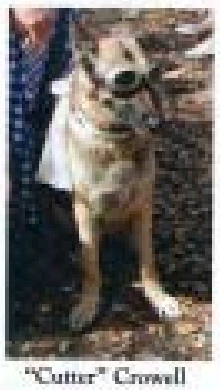
*For information on this event, dog training classes, the 4-H Dog Master's Club, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park contact executive director Shelly Ferger at (772) 567-8969.*

"Coco" Hoffman, Lucy Sanperton, Eve Hoffman, Martha Lincoln, "Katie" Lincoln, Joan and "Tiger" Sullivan

Judges included Indian River Shores Council Member Fran Atchison, Sheila Lowenstein, Indian River Shores Vice-Mayor Dr. David Becker and Indian River Shores Council Members Bill Ahrens and Bill Kenyon



Woody Bradshaw, Indian River Shores Town Manager Robert Bradshaw, their daughter Alex and "Lucy"



"Cutter" Crowell

## INDIAN RIVER SHORES POOCH PARADE BENEFITS DOGS FOR LIFE

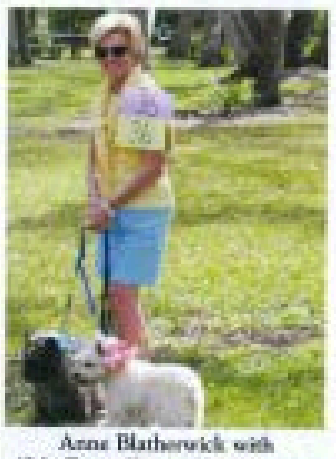
The first annual ***Indian River Shores Pooch Parade*** to benefit Dogs for Life was held at the Indian River Shores Community Center on March 20.

The event featured a parade of talented and well-dressed canines and their proud owners, vying for prizes in categories including Best Easter Bonnet, Owner/Dog Look-alike, Best Trick/Talent, Most Amusing and Best Tail Wagger.

The committee included Shelly Ferger, Eve Hoffman, France Kenyon, Ann Kusch, Martha Lincoln, Barbara Readdy, GiGi Smithers and Patsy Woronoff.

Shelly Ferger of Dogs for Life and France Kenyon

Joan Messex and "Mousie"



Anne Blatherwick with "MacDougall" and "MacKenzie"

Pam Hill, her grandson Hadley Nelson and "Berkie" Hill

GiGi Smithers and "Henry"

Sherry Alvarez with "Kassie" Stutt and Jennifer Carter with "Molly" Lynch

Vero Beachside News

VOLUME VIII, ISSUE XVI APRIL 11, 2005 40 CENTS

# Vero Beachside News

MOON OVER BUFFALO, p.9
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HAWAIIAN LUAU, p.5

Pampered pooches turned out with their owners for the Easter Bonnet Parade held at the Indian River Shores Town Hall on Sunday, March 20. Prizes were awarded for the most beautiful and creative chapeaux, the best tricks, the best tail wagger, etc. More than sixty pooches entered the grueling two-hour event (of which only one charming entry admitted to being a mongrel). Judges included commissioners of Indian River Shores. The lavish parade benefitted Dogs for Life, Inc. of Vero Beach which trains previously-owned dogs as assistance, service and therapy dogs.



## MORE THAN SIXTY DOGS (AND THEIR OWNERS) PARADE IN FESTIVE EVENT HOSTED BY INDIAN RIVER SHORES

## MY ANSWER:

By Billy Graham

Dear Dr. Graham: I have never felt worthy of being

school shooting, we can be sure that the heart of God is broken over such tragedies. The Bible says, "...the wicked and those who love violence his soul hates...for the Lord is righteous..." (psalm 11:5,7). From another per-

Vero Beachside News High Society Pooch Parade 13

MORE THAN SIXTY DOGS (AND THEIR OWNERS) PARADE IN FESTIVE EVENT HOSTED BY INDIAN RIVER SHORES

2 Religion Vero Beachside News

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Lowchen Breed

↑ Carrie Stutt

← Winston Stutt

Carrie Stutt

Carrie & Winston Stutt

# Jefferson Award

JEFFERSON AWARDS 2005

## Volunteer blends dogs, helping children

MOLLY BARTELS staff photographer

Patti Schell, center, listens intently as Tana Aley, 7, right, reads a book to Schell and her dog, Chloe, at the Boys and Girls Club in Vero Beach on March 16.

By Jennifer Brannock
staff writer

Patti Schell's affection for volunteer work extends well beyond puppy love.

In fact, the 53-year-old Sebastian volunteer with the Dogs for Life Inc. organization in Vero Beach has managed continuously to mesh her love of dogs with her aspirations to help struggling children, the sick and the elderly in the community for the past 2½ years.

That is why Schell was named one of five local winners of the Jefferson Awards for service to the community. The local awards are sponsored by Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers — which include The Stuart News/Port St. Lucie News, the Fort Pierce Tribune, The Jupiter Courier, the Press Journal of Vero Beach and the Sebastian Sun — and the TV station WPTV in West Palm Beach.

Schell works part-time doing odd jobs in her neighborhood, such as mowing lawns, cleaning and dog

See VOLUNTEER, B2

### ON WPTV

See a profile of Patti Schell on News Channel 5 at 5:30 tonight.

**COMING FRIDAY**

Kenneth Bowers, founder of Operation Hope, and agency helping the homeless in Palm Beach County work their way off the streets.

### VOLUNTEER

FROM B1

sitting. She spends the majority of her time training her Labrador retriever, 2-year-old Chloe, and participating in programs offered by Dogs for Life, including "READ to Dogs," "Square Dancing with Dogs" and "Trauma Therapy Dogs."

"To me, dogs have the ability to show what God's love and forgiveness is like," she said. "Sure, I always go goo-goo over puppies, but for the actual training and the give-and-take that happens

chance to hone their skills by reading books to an eager, non-judgmental audience of furry friends.

"The more I thought about it, the more I realized that the most terrifying thing for children is to have to get up and read in front of a class," Schell said. "The dog is intently listening to their story, and is very understanding. The dog just wants to love on them."

Schell and Chloe also visit homeless shelters regularly, as well as those who have experienced some sort of trauma in their lives, to play

headfirst into her work with others as a means of relieving her own stress.

"The dogs sense everything we are going through, and if I was a nervous wreck, (Chloe) would be, too," she said. "It was my therapy, really, because I got to do that during the numbness of it all."

Dogs for Life Founder Shelly Ferger, who nominated Schell for her Jefferson Award, said Schell was instrumental in helping the nonprofit agency expand north from Vero Beach into Sebastian.

"Some people, no matter

### TODAY'S AGENDA

**Early Learning Coalition of Indian River County**, 8:15 a.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

**Indian River County School Board Superintendent's NAACP Monthly Meeting**, 11 a.m., 1990 25th St., large instructional conference room.

**Indian River County Veterans Town Hall Meeting**, 11:15 a.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

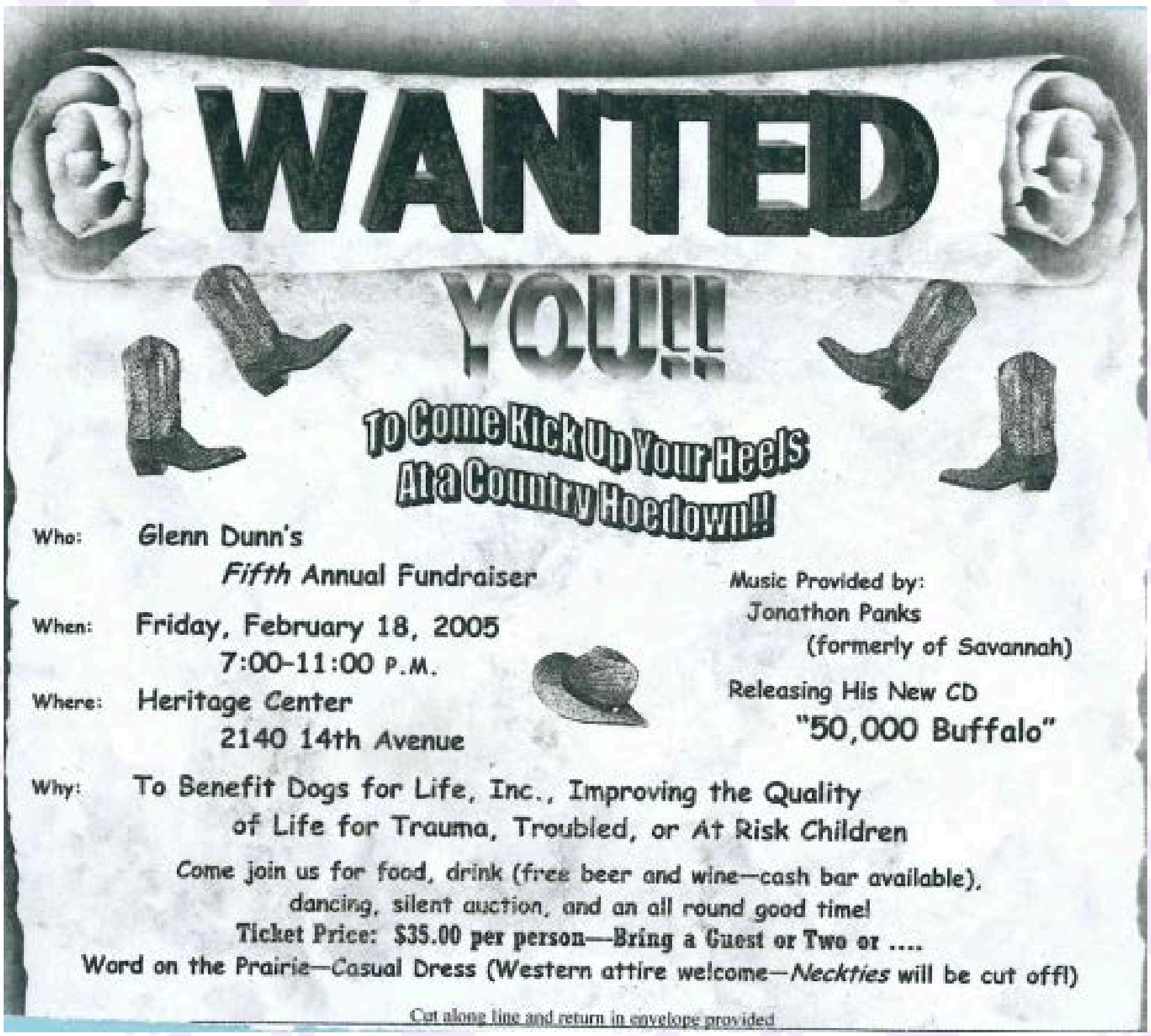
**Indian River County Cultural Council Board of Directors**, 4 p.m., West Wing of Riverside Theatre.

**Sebastian Staff Workshop Collier Creek Canal Project**, 6 p.m., City Hall, council chambers.

**Indian River County Planning and Zoning Commission**, 7 p.m., County Administration Building, commission chambers.

# FEBRUARY

# Glenn Dunn's 5th Annual Fundaraise Hoedown



# Read to Dogs

**From:** "Charlotte Petersen" <charlotte@magnetron.com>
**Date:** 2005/02/16 Wed PM 12:25:21 EST
**To:** "Shelly Ferger" <shellysc@bellsouth.net>
**Subject:** Emailing: DSCN0447, DSCN0448

This is the bulletin board that I did at St. Ed's. We will keep adding pictures to it...

Love,
Charlotte
The message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:
DSCN0447
DSCN0448

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

# Smooch-a-Pooch

**PRESS RELEASE**

CONTACT: Shelly Ferger, Director
772-567-8969

**"Smooch-a-Pooch" Valentines Celebration at the Off-Leash Dog Park**

Dogs for Life, Inc. (DFL) a non-profit organization dedicated to providing services to the community is celebrating Valentines Day with a "Smooch-a-Pooch" theme at 4-H "Best Friends" Off-Leash Dog Park located on the corner of 12th Street and 16th Avenue in Vero Beach on Sunday February 13th at 4 PM.

DFL is inviting members of the public to bring their dogs for an On-Leash trail walk at the Park. During the trail walk attendees will be invited to stop at various booths. A photo opportunity will be available while "Smooching a pooch", (yours or ours); a custom paw print of your dog may be stamped and a free dog park membership as well as a free basic obedience class will be raffled.

The Indian River County 4-H Dog Master's Club will have homemade dog biscuits available and DFL Representatives will give presentations on their Assistance Dog Training Program, Pet Assisted Therapy Programs, Volunteer Programs and Off-Leash Dog Park Membership as well as providing free information on common dog training problems. Bring your lawn chairs, and be prepared to have fun.

For information on this event, dog training classes, or membership to the Off-Leash Dog Park contact Director Shelly Ferger (772) 567-8969.

# Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteer Opportunities at Dogs for Life, Inc.

### Pet Assisted Therapy

**Read to Dogs** – This Program is designed to encourage children to read. Volunteers and their specially trained dogs become the children's reading "buddies". Dogs must pass an AKC Canine Good Citizen Test as well as a DFL administered Public Access Test. Volunteers must attend DFL training workshops on a regular basis. Most of all Students thrive from the companionship of a dog feel more comfortable with dogs because they are non-judgmental and do not make fun of them if they make a mistake.

**Trauma Therapy Dogs** – This Program provides warmth, love, and comfort those who experience post-traumatic stress, depression, and other disorders. Trained Volunteer and Dog Teams work with both children and adults.

### Assistance Dogs

Hearing Dog – A door knock, a ringing telephone, a smoke alarm, and an alarm clock are sounds a person with a hearing impairment may be missing.

Mobility Assistance Dog – Rising from a chair, picking up a phone, and retrieving a fallen object are simple tasks that can be daunting to a person with a physical challenge. Our experienced assistance dog training volunteers work with people in their own home environment and help train the dog to respond to and serve people with special needs.

### Companion Dogs

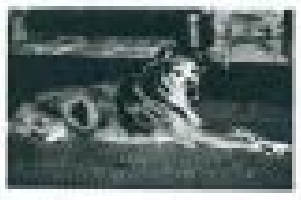
- **Dog Behavior Hotline** – Provides free counseling for dog behavior problems.
- **Dog Placement Referral Program** – Provides services for dogs needing homes and people looking for dogs.
- **Foster Dog Program** – House dogs that have been displaced until they can be placed in a permanent home.

### Dog Park

A Dog Park is a place where our loyal dogs can run leash-free, socialize with one another and have a good romp.

DFL volunteers assist with facilitators at the park, and hand out educational materials at many local community events.

Dog Obedience Classes are conducted at the park. Volunteers assist the 4-H Dog Master's Club members in addition to the general public training their dogs with motivational techniques.



Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning


**Dogs for Life, Inc.**
**P.O. Box 650023**
**Vero Beach, FL 32965**

**(772) 567-8969**


Dogs for Life
Living, Loving, Learning

*Volunteer Program*

**(772) 567-8969**