



Fairfax Pets On Wheels Summer Update

July 2014



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Annual Picnic at Frying Pan Farm Park

The sun was shining brightly and the sky was a clear and beautiful blue when all arrived for the annual FPOW picnic at Frying Pan Farm Park. After a week of almost unbearable humidity, drenching rains, and terrible storms, the sunshine and low humidity were so very welcome on June 14, 2014. It was a bit windy, but that was all right because everyone knew that it was those very winds that had ushered in the spectacular day. It seemed that Mother Nature herself was smiling on Fairfax Pets On Wheels and its family of volunteers and guests.

Many volunteers arrived several hours before noon to fill and tie the red, white, and blue balloons and place them along with the tablecloths of the same colors. They also quickly became busy displaying wares for sale, arranging materials and gifts for registration, organizing the food serving tables, filling the doggie bowls, setting up the pet agility and play equipment, putting up signs, and generally doing a multitude of tasks as final event preparations. At the same time, the DJ was setting up his musical equipment while the caterers were bringing in the food, and the photographer was arranging

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Talented Teen

Congratulations to recent Falls Church High School graduate, Greg Mills, for winning the first competition for the 2014 Paws for a Cause t-shirt design. Greg and other FCHS art students submitted their designs for judging by Kathi Baker, Ruth Benker, and Judy Mitnick. As the winner, Greg received \$250 for his efforts. Greg is planning on taking a gap year and then is going to art school to study graphic design with an emphasis on using computer generated designs. The t-shirt with Greg's design will be revealed at the 2014 Walk on October 5.



Greg Mills is presented with a check by Laura Muiznieks, Greg's teacher and Chairman of the Fine Arts Department at Falls Church High School.

her studio. Everyone felt happy to be outside on a lovely day, and the breezes were blowing just swiftly enough to fill the air with the delightful scent of the edibles being prepared.



Bronze Certificate Recipients: Dave Martin, Joan Violante, Pat Leader, Laurie Stone with Madelynn Arnold.

As the more than one hundred FPOW canine and human volunteers and their guests arrived, they registered for the event with the help of Volunteer Fairfax's Mike Dyre, Leslie Dyre, Maggie Dyre, and Debbie Swindell. At that time each individual received a blue cooler with the FPOW logo containing a portable pet Frisbee and pet treats. Volunteers also signed up for their gift pet trading card photos which would be taken throughout the day by Robin Burkett and her associates of Paw Prints Photography. In addition, there was the option to purchase FPOW clothing and memorabilia from Judy Mitnick throughout the picnic hours.

As all were socializing in anticipation of the first

main event (FOOD), some of the volunteers and their tail wagging companions were interviewed by videographer Kris Higgins for a new FPOW video currently in production. Kris also took many photos of the various activities throughout the hours of the celebration. Likewise, DJ Michael Galvin captured memories on film as the day progressed.

After some time for becoming acquainted and reacquainted, all party participants turned their attention to President Madelyn Arnold who announced the official beginning of the picnic. She said that it was then time for everyone to proceed to the serving tables and to begin partaking of the edibles prepared by King Creole Caterers who have always presented FPOW with a delicious and abundant feast. This year was no exception. There was fried chicken, pork barbecue, cold slaw, macaroni and cheese, potato salad, rolls, cookies, vegetarian choices, and those wonderful chocolate brownies. There were also soft drink choices. Of course, there was canine cuisine too as there were large doggie bowls full of treats available at all tables as well as easily accessible water bowls everywhere.



Silver Certificate Recipients: Charlie Viall, Paula Burger, Patty Kwapniewski, Al Doehring with Madelynn Arnold.

As attendees dined on the scrumptious array of delights, they were entertained as they looked over at the field adjacent to the picnic pavilion where some of their beloved canines joyfully frolicked and played games with equipment brought by Kathi Baker and Patty Kwapniewski. The day was not too hot and not too cold, just perfect for these outdoor activities, and the dogs seemed to know

that they were being rewarded for their contributions and that this was a day especially for them. Meanwhile then and throughout the afternoon everyone enjoyed the party music being played by DJ Michael Galvin.

Thanks for the Memory

■ In memory of Pat Day who was a special friend, animal lover, and long term supporter of FPOW. Pat always had a smile on her face, a great sense of humor, and she was fun to be around. She was one of the kindest ladies I have ever known. She will be missed by her family, friends, neighbors, and cats. Pat volunteered annually at the FPOW Information Table at the Cat Show where she recruited volunteers, collected donations, and advertized FPOW's Paws for a Cause annual walk in Fairfax City. Last fall she also volunteered at the Registration Table for the walk. From Mark, Kim, Hannah, and Joe Wilkerson.

■ In memory of Suzanne Duvall Clements, the much loved and very missed daughter of Bob and Susie Duvall. Suzanne volunteered with us for FPOW at Fairfax Nursing Center on numerous occasions during her high school years. This experience later helped her decide to foster pets for the Richmond SPCA as an adult. Through this fostering

she helped to socialize these dogs and cats which made them adoptable to their forever homes. We know Suzanne was met at the Rainbow Bridge by her own pets and her many foster dogs and cats. We also know she and her animal friends are enjoying beautiful weather, good health and happiness, and are at peace. From Susie and Bob Duvall.

■ In memory of our much loved and missed cats, LouLou, Remo, Adrian, and Mischa. From Jim and Gina Ash.

■ In honor of Angel, a Sheltie, and to honor the Stille Family for their generosity to all and for their love for animals. From an anonymous friend.

■ In honor of David Martin, a staff member of the National Labor Relations Board, upon this retirement. Congratulations David on your retirement. We will miss you. From the Staff of Harry Johnson Rosenthal, NRLB.

Visit www.fpow.org/tribute to make an online memorial or tribute donation.

After most had satisfied their hunger and others had returned to their tables with second (and perhaps third) helpings of food, Madelynn continued the program with the presentation of awards and special honors. (All presentations of awards were followed by group and individual photos). First on the agenda were the "Hours of Service" Awards.

Those who received "Bronze Certificates" for fifty to seventy four hours of service are: Elizabeth Breyer, John Byrum, Carol Chapin, Jeanine Goldberg, Susan Laume, Patricia Leader, David Martin, Shelley Matthews, Laurie Stone, Marina Tignor, Joan Violante, and Kim Wilkerson. Those who received "Silver Certificates" for sev-



Gold Certificate Recipients: Jill Davidson, Bonnie Burnham, , Kathi Baker, Ruth Benker, Terry Patton, Carla Graham, Madelynn Arnold and Beverly Powell.

enty five to ninety nine hours or service are: Paula Burger, Alvin Doehring, Patty Kwapniewski, and Charles Viall.

Dates to Remember

BOD Meeting: September 8, 2014
7:00 p.m. – Oakton Library, Room #1,
10304 Lynnhaven Place Oakton, VA
22124

Annual Meeting: September 8, 2014
8:00 p.m. – Oakton Library, Room #1,
10304 Lynnhaven Place Oakton, VA
22124

Newsletter Deadline: September 30,
2014

PAWS FOR A CAUSE 3K dog walk:
October 5, 2014 – Weber’s Pet
Supermarket, Fairfax, VA. Visit
www.tiny.cc/walk2014 to register.

BOD Meeting: December 1, 2014 7:00
p.m. – Fairfax County Government
Center – Pennino Building, 12011
Government Center Pkwy, Room
709, Fairfax, VA 22035



Length of Service Awardees for five years: with Madelynn Arnold, Dick Pruett and David Martin.

Those who received “Gold Certificates” for one hundred plus hours of service are: Madelynn Arnold, Kathryn Baker, Ruth Benker, Brian Bryson, Bonnie Burnham, Jill Davidson, Carla Graham, William Mulheron, Terry Patton, Beverly Powell, and Deborah Zelten.

The next awards presented by Madelynn were for “Length of Service.” Each honoree in this category was able to select either an umbrella embossed with photographs of his/her volunteer dog or a professional photo of his/her canine companion. Both will be made by Paw Prints Photography and are to be given to these volunteers as a special thank you for so many years of devotion to the Fairfax Pets On Wheels’ mission.

Those who received certificates for five years of service are: David Gelman, Lynn Gelman, David Martin, Linda Martin, Sandra Mueller, Richard Pruett, and Lisa Swinnerton.

Those who received certificates for ten years of service are: Jacqueline Brady, William Brady, Brian Bryson, Andy Burnham, Bonnie Burnham, Diane Devick, Terry Patton, and Charles Viall.

Those who received certificates for fifteen years of service are: Jennifer Campbell and Cheryl Pendell.

Madelynn concluded the awards program with the presentation of the very special Latshaw and Shauna Awards. The Latshaw Award for Excellence honors former FPOW volunteer Mary Latshaw and has been given to one or more persons each year since 1990. It recognizes a person (or persons) who has (or have) made outstanding contributions to the FPOW program. This year’s Latshaw Award volunteer recipients are Elizabeth Breyer and Laurie Stone. The corporate Latshaw Award recipient is Michael Galvin. The Shauna Award honors Susie and Bob Duvall’s Irish Setter and has been presented to a volunteer (or volunteers) every year since 1993. This year’s Shauna Award was presented posthumously to Lit’l Duke Patton, Terry Patton’s Boston terrier.

After all had received their awards, Madelynn of-



Length of Service Awardees for ten years: Diane Devick, Andy Burnham, Bonnie Burnham, Charlie Viall, Jacqueline Brady, Terry Patton with Madelynn Arnold.

officially concluded the program with a thank you to the many people who had made this year's event a success. Words of appreciation were given to Robin Burkett, Michael Galvin, Volunteer Fairfax representatives, and Kathi Baker who has masterfully organized this wonderful picnic celebration for the

As the formal program concluded, all were free to go for last delicious tastes from the serving tables, to take some personal photos for keepsakes of this fun filled day, to share more thoughts and laughter with fellow volunteers and guests, or to visit with the wonderful dogs who have given so much to so many. Then there were those who decided to simply sit quietly for a few minutes while they delighted in the beauty of a perfect day and looked ahead to a coming year of service to others which would culminate in another very special volunteer appreciation picnic. See some picnic pics on page 9!

Submitted by Bonnie Mayo Burnham



Latshaw Winner: Elizabeth Breyer

Liz Breyer, an FPOW volunteer since 2007, has made exceptional things happen for the organization. Among her many accomplishments, she alone researched, applied for, and enabled FPOW dog owners to earn hours towards and achieve AKC Therapy dog status for their canine volunteer partners. Serving on the assessment team, she was instrumental in updating our pet behavior assessment forms to better reflect the FPOW goals. Liz also served on the FPOW Board of Directors as



Length of Service Awardee for 15 years: Cheryl Pendell with Madelynn Arnold

past four years. Kathi in turn thanked the FPOW volunteers who had helped her. They include: Madelynn Arnold, Ruth Benker, Andy Burnham, Bonnie Burnham, Jill Davidson, Jeanine Goldberg, Barbara Harding, Pat Leader, Judy Mitnick, Dick Pruett, and Laurie Stone.

Director of Education for two years and during her tenure continually brought awareness to many Pets on Wheels member volunteers of the fun and bonding that agility training offers. She has planned and set up training sessions, seminars, and other similar events and tirelessly encourages all volunteers to participate in activities that promote closer bonds between them and their pets. The result has been even higher quality volunteer teams. She and her delightful dog, Quincy, together make a wonderful example of such an excellent team as they regularly make their visits bringing warmth and joy to the residents of Powhatan Nursing Home. Because of countless hours given and tireless efforts, Liz has helped to make FPOW an even stronger organization, and in appreciation of her many contributions she has been given the Latshaw Award for Excellence.

Submitted by Bonnie Mayo Burnham
(with Kim Wilkerson)



Shauna Winner: Lit'l Duke Patton

Lit'l Duke Patton and his "mom" Terry Patton were



FPOW volunteers at The Virginian for ten years. In Terry's own words, "Lit'l Duke was always a gentle and lovable Boston Terrier, even as a puppy." Certainly the residents of The Virginian would agree. This little bundle of joy in his own custom tuxedo, loved to make friends, sit on laps, give kisses, listen intently to residents, and even to entertain them, especially with his musical ability. He really loved to sing. On many Wednesday evenings at about six

thirty, the residents would gather to listen to the music of a harmonica playing resident, and Lit'l duke would make everyone smile and even laugh aloud as he sang right along with this gentleman musician. Terry believes that her little terrier lived as long as he did because he loved so much to bring joy to others. Even when doctors said that he wouldn't survive until Christmas, he surprised everyone when he made a final visit in the New Year and brought his gift of happiness to The Virginian one more time.

Although he is no longer physically with us, residents still talk fondly about the singing dog who came with the lady. Lit'l Duke Patton was indeed an outstanding FPOW volunteer who made his "mother" very proud, and surely he was smiling and wagging his tale and perhaps even singing a little tune when his name was announced as the 2014 Shauna Award Winner.



Submitted by Bonnie Mayo Burnham

Corporate Latshaw Winner: Michael Galvin

Michael Galvin has become much more to FPOW than a professional DJ who has been hired for many of the organization's events. He has been a real friend to the group of volunteers for many years. Six years ago while working a second job for a mobile DJ company, he was sent to Webers Pet Supermarket for a "Paws for a Cause" walk. He said that he set up his equipment near a dumpster, found a power outlet, and then asked the group's leaders how he could best help them. According to him thus began his relationship with FPOW.

Michael said that while watching what he termed the "amazing plethora of dogs and an occasional cat," he decided to choose "Who Let the Dogs Out" as the first song and that from then on he was treated as an "insider" and a "member of the team." After working at several other FPOW events, he left the DJ company but continued to work for the volunteer group. He stated that he is now familiar



Laurie describes herself as a Pisces who loves the water. She also enjoys hiking, working out, reading, and travelling to new places. Growing up in a military family, she has lived all over the United States. Her father was transferred to Virginia at the beginning of her high school years and she has lived in Virginia since that time. Laurie's husband of 25 years is a retired firefighter who served as a member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Laurie became a Fairfax County Government employee eight years ago after working in marketing and business development for various technology companies for over 20

years. Ironically, her current position is in strategic planning in the Chief's office at the Fire and Rescue Department.

with the organization's ways and is able to "customize" his "approach." Not only does he undoubtedly make events more festive, but he himself graciously volunteers by setting up tables, taking photos, acting as Master of Ceremonies, and by generally helping activities to run more smoothly. FPOW also thinks of Michael as a team "insider," and it is in appreciation of his continued support and loyalty that he has been awarded the Corporate Latshaw Award.



Submitted by Bonnie Mayo Burnham

Latshaw Winner and Volunteer Spotlight: Laurie Stone

The Volunteer Spotlight is on Laurie Stone who was recently named a winner of the Mary Latshaw Award for Excellence at FPOW's annual picnic and also serves as FPOW Board Secretary. She keeps the records of the Board's meetings and correspondence, as well as, thanking all of the lovely folks who donate to our charity. Laurie began serving on the Board in 2010 as the Director of Fundraising. She is the sponsor of the Donation Dawg that "lives" at Kilroy's restaurant in Springfield. Laurie and her husband, Mike, are friends of the owner.

Laurie was introduced to FPOW by her neighbor, Diane Bente, who has been a FPOW volunteer for over 20 years. She joined FPOW in the summer of 2003 with her Shih Tzu, CJ, who was just over a year old then. Laurie had done other volunteer work but was interested in FPOW because it was an



activity that she could share with CJ. CJ is a very sweet and “laid back” Shih Tzu who loves to cuddle. He also loves to eat. Laurie has never found a dog treat that he doesn’t like!

CJ enjoys visiting at Commonwealth because he loves all the attention he receives from the residents. He really loves to have his ears scratched! Due to work priorities and CJ’s health, the team has not been visiting at Commonwealth much during the past year. Laurie would like to get back to a regular visiting schedule.

One very touching memory for Laurie was the first person CJ met on the team’s initial visit to Commonwealth in 2003, they visited Mr. Brown. He was a retired military officer who was bed ridden due to a stroke. CJ quickly got in the habit of curling up next to Mr. Brown in his bed and, over the years, they developed a close bond. Although he passed a few years ago, Laurie and CJ have kept in touch with his family who became friends to the FPOW volunteers during their weekly visits at Commonwealth. For many months after Mr. Brown passed, CJ would stop at his former room to look for his friend.

Laurie enjoys participating in FPOW’s annual fundraiser, Paws for a Cause. She believes it is a fantastic event and a lot of fun for volunteers (both human and four-legged) as well as for all the sponsors and other participants and is a great way to reach out to possible new volunteers with our group. Laurie and CJ know that being a FPOW volunteer is a rewarding experience. She loves seeing the joy that CJ brings to the residents they visit. Thanks to Diane Bente for recommending FPOW to Laurie!

AKC Expands Therapy Dog Titling Program

The American Kennel Club has expanded its Therapy Dog Title program, adding four new titles, to recognize a broader range of dogs who do therapy work.

In addition to the AKC Therapy Dog title (a dog is eligible for this title after 100 hours of visiting as an FPOW volunteer), dogs can now earn:

- AKC Therapy Dog Novice title (a dog is eligible after 20 hours of FPOW visiting),
- AKC Therapy Dog Advanced title (a dog is eligible after 200 hours of FPOW visiting),
- AKC Therapy Dog Excellent title (a dog is eligible after 400 hours of FPOW visiting), and AKC Distinguished Therapy Dog title (a dog is eligible after 800 hours of FPOW visiting).

AKC initiated its Therapy Dog program in 2011 to recognize dogs who have worked to improve the lives of the people they visit. The program does not represent a certification, but, rather, is a recognition of a dog’s achievement. AKC initially offered one title that a dog could earn when it had completed a designated number of visits. At least a dozen FPOW volunteers have earned that title since the program’s inception.

All dogs—purebred or mixed breed—are eligible to earn the Therapy Dog titles. For the complete description of the program and the requirements for applying for the titles, please visit akc.org. You can find a brief description of the program and how to request an FPOW certification for your visiting hours at fpow.org/akc.

Let us know when you earn a title, so we can celebrate with you!

Submitted by Liz Breyer



2014 Volunteer Satisfaction Survey

Many thanks to the 51 FPOW volunteers who took the time to complete the 2014 Department of Family Services Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Solutions Satisfaction Survey.

The FPOW Board of Directors is looking at the data to determine where attention needs to be focused in the upcoming year.

(Continued on page 10)

To view all 2014 picnic pictures, visit www.fpow.org/Picnic2014



Length of time as a volunteer:

- 29% five years or more,
- 61% two to four years,
- 9.8% seven months to one year, and
- 35.29% less than six months.
- Overall, 58% of volunteers were either very satisfied or satisfied with their volunteer experience.
- 96% felt they received the support and guidance they need to accomplish their volunteer activities.
- 100% said they use their skills and abilities to do meaningful work.
- 100% felt their volunteer service has a positive impact on the people they serve.
- 96.7% felt their communication with FPOW Volunteer staff was satisfactory or better and
- 54% felt their communication with Volunteer Solutions staff was satisfactory or better.

In the Comments Section, volunteers were frustrated with the background check fingerprinting and driver's license record check taking so long and being inconvenient to have performed. It should be noted that the last week of June, the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging informed FPOW that individuals who have had fingerprints done at their place of employment in the last six months to one year can submit the results to FAAA, in lieu of new fingerprints.

Additionally, potential new volunteers can go to their Fairfax County police station and have their fingerprints done there for a nominal cost and then submit the results to the FAAA.

Some of the other comments received included:

"It'd be nice to see a small blurb or paragraph from a senior resident or staff member on what the program means to them/how they're affected by it/ what they think of it."

"FPOW is a great volunteer organization that I am proud to be a part of; however, I feel that we don't, as a whole, get the recognition that we deserve from our sponsor."

Again, thank you for taking the time to give your feedback and thank you for volunteering with our great organization.

Please Join us for the 19th Annual Paws for a Cause 3K Walk Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014 at 12:00 noon

Weber's Pet Supermarket 11021 Lee Hwy, Fairfax

Register
online at:
www.tiny.cc/walk2014
or visit
www.fpow.org



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Fairfax Area Agency on Aging
12011 Government Center Parkway, #708
Fairfax, VA 22035-1104



Fairfax Pets
on Wheels, Inc

Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is a volunteer program working with the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, 12011 Government Center Parkway, #708, Fairfax, VA 22035-1104. FPOW Volunteer Hotline: (703) 324-5424. Visit www.fpow.org
Please use the FPOW Hotline number for nonemergency calls if you are an FPOW volunteer or currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act on your message or return your call if more information is required.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: September 30, 2014

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EDITORIAL POLICY

This is your newsletter. Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., volunteers may contribute articles for publication. Articles will be reviewed by the editors. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted for publication. We cannot guarantee the return of documents or photos (if used). Because Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc., is under the sponsorship of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, the FPOW Newsletter must be approved by the FAAA prior to publication. Letters to the editor are welcome and encouraged. Letters must be signed, but if requested, your name will be withheld.

All correspondence should be directed to:

Fairfax Area Agency on Aging

Attention: FPOW Newsletter

12011 Government Center Parkway, #708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

(703) 324-5411

Email:

dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov



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