



# Fairfax Pets On Wheels Summer Update

July 2010



Jill Davidson, Diane Bente, John Byrum and Scott Thuman

## Maggiano's Welcomes FPOW!

Nearly a hundred FPOW volunteers and guests attended the Fairfax Pets on Wheels Annual Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, June 26, at Maggiano's in Tyson's Corner.

Although none of our four legged friends were included in this affair, the air conditioning, linen table clothes, china and real silverware were a pleasant change from our previous picnics in the park. Nikki DiPalma, event coordinator, kept the activities rolling while Tracy Van Duston, president of FPOW, greeted everyone, introduced our guest speaker and handed out the well deserved awards.

Scott Thuman, from WJLA, Channel 7 and Channel 8 news, shared his story of bonding with his wife's black Chihuahua, Olive, and sang praises of the work done by the human and four legged FPOW volunteers. Thanks go out to everyone on the Appreciation Luncheon Planning Committee: Nikki DiPalma, Tracy Van Duston, Joan Violante, Debbie Zelten, Jill Davidson, Cara Schantz, Madelynn Arnold, Kim Wilkerson, and Patty Kwapniewski, for making the day memorable.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

## Reston Pet Fiesta

On Saturday, May 1, members of the FPOW Speakers' Bureau and volunteers from Cameron Glen staffed the FPOW Booth at Reston Pet Fiesta. A special thanks to Kathi and Dan Baker & Abby, Dick Pruett and Biscuit, Bonnie Burham & Cindy, John Byrum, Joan Violante, Candia Hudson & Nikita, Debbie Zelten and Jumoke, Pat Leader, Sheila Consaul & Portia, plus Jackie Neham and Hailey. From 8:30 AM till 3:30 PM FPOW volunteers met and greeted hundreds of pet lovers, explaining the FPOW mission and encouraging them to join our ranks. These events are important not only for recruitment purposes but for public relations. Thank you for representing FPOW in the community!

Submitted by Ruth Benker



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## The Mary Latshaw Award

The Mary Latshaw Award was established in 1990 to honor Mrs. Mary Latshaw, who was an active volunteer in the Fairfax Pets on Wheels (FPOW) program and its forerunner, Northern Virginia Visiting Pets. After moving to Florida in 1989, Mrs. Latshaw was a volunteer with PUP (Pets Uplifting People), another pet visitation program, until her death in June 1990.

The objective of the Latshaw award is to honor FPOW volunteers who epitomize the goals of the program by giving of themselves through regularly scheduled pet visitation and other program support activities.

The 2010 Individual Award was given to Brenda Pitts. Brenda joined FPOW in 1996 and since that time she has logged more than 1,115 hours of volunteer service.

Brenda visited Leewood Nursing home with her beagle, Lady and her hound mix, Max, until they passed away. Her most recent FPOW pet is a shelter beagle named Sissy. The residents of The Lodge at Leewood always have dog treats available for the pet volunteers and were totally taken by Max. He would make a beeline to one resident who lovingly referred to him as “brown eyes”.

One of Sissy’s special residents is a young man who uses a wheelchair. Each time he sees Brenda with Sissy



*Brenda working at Paws for a Cause*

he follows them around and tells everyone, “I just love this dog”. Brenda has made numerous contributions to FPOW in other areas, too. She is the assistant liaison at Leewood and since 2002 Brenda has been the Merchandise Committee Chair, managing all aspects of our vast selection of FPOW logo merchandise. This is no small task as it entails developing forms used to track sales, storing the merchandise, and making it available at events, ensuring the appropriate quantities are always on hand, and making recommendations

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# Thanks for the Memory

■ In memory of Jasmine, a Yellow Lab, who faithfully served the residents at Iliff Nursing Home and our FPOW organization. She always knew as I started to make preparations for each and every visit to Iliff, it meant she would be doing something special; Jasmine was always the first one to jump on the back seat of the car where she would wait for me to roll down the window and hang her head out the window for the 3 mile drive up the road to Iliff. At the time of the deep snow after several feet of snow isolated us for three or four days last February, paths were shoveled around the house so we could continue to give Jasmine exercise. There came a point where her back legs just would not function any longer, but she still managed to get up and walk. However, it was the recurrent seizures that were progressively getting worse with each passing day that made it necessary for me to call her vet and tell him it was time. Jasmine and I were the best team and the kind

thoughts of our fellow Volunteers, FPOW staff, and the one beautiful, red rose sent to us from Iliff residents are testimony to how much she impacted our lives and the lives of others. From David and Judy Rybak

To make a tax deductible donation to the FPOW Memory Book in someone's memory or honor, please send your check with brief letter to the FPOW address listed on the back of this newsletter (including pet/person's name, to whom you wish acknowledgement mailed, and a brief detail of the occasion). Your memorial will be permanently entered into the FPOW Memory Book, an acknowledgement will be sent, and the announcement will appear in a future edition of our newsletter.

for new items to be added to the list of available merchandise. Brenda goes out of her way to help out with Temperament Testing when she volunteers at the event to make merchandise available to the new volunteer teams.

over 400 hours of ADMINISTRATIVE service between 4/1/09 and 3/31/10 and they are the reason our organization can function as smoothly as it does. Tracking and processing all of the FPOW paper work for over 300 volunteer teams can be a thankless and massive job.

## Corporate Latshaw Awards

There were two 2010 Corporate Latshaw Awards winners this year. The first was given to the FPOW Fairfax Area Agency on Aging Volunteer Team consisting of Jill Davidson, Carla Graham, Diane Bente, John Byrum, and Ruth Benker.

FPOW has a team of unsung heroes who work in the background, are rarely noticed and are absolutely indispensable. They deserve to be not only noticed, but honored. It's one of those jobs, much like a cleaning house, that no one appreciates unless you stop doing it. The team has supplied FPOW with



*Scott Thuman and Kate Law of The Virginian*

Some of the duties this team tackles are maintaining a file for every volunteer and pet, answering the many "hotline" telephone calls, handling numerous e-mails, sorting and redirecting mail, and answering endless program questions. If this wasn't enough, each and every member of this team also does facility visits with their pet partners. Together they racked up over 350 VISITING hours. Leading by example, these folks teach us how quiet dedication and service profoundly affects FPOW and our mission.

The second Corporate Latshaw award was given to the dedicated staff at The Virginian. Since 1993 Fairfax Pets on Wheels volunteer teams have been visiting the residents of The Virginian's Healthcare

Center and Assisted-Living. Pet teams have come and gone, staff members have retired, and dozens of our dear resident friends have passed on. During that time Christopher Isherwood, Executive Director, Pricilla Kneisley, Administrator of the Healthcare Center (the nursing home) and Judie Powell, former Activities Director and our primary contact for many years, have been staunch supporters of FPOW. When Judie retired last year, Sharry Henk was named the new Activities Director. From the beginning these staff members have been extremely supportive of our program because they know first hand the importance of the human animal bond and the benefits that our pets and their handlers bring to the residents we visit.

On numerous occasions The Virginian has given back to our program by allowing us to host FPOW events in their Assembly Room. When FPOW celebrated its 25th year anniversary at each facility that we visit, the Virginian helped organize the facility event and provided the refreshments and assistance from staff so that the Healthcare Center residents could attend the celebration.

The Activities Office has thanked their FPOW volunteer teams with pet parties and special treats and clever prizes for the pets and their owners. Once each year, the Virginian celebrates all Virginian volunteers with a lovely brunch. In addition some of the FPOW teams have participated in fun doggie fashion shows attended by Virginian residents from all levels of their community.

The Virginian has been a steadfast sponsor of FPOW's Paws For A Cause Walk since the fund raiser was established in 1996. For the past two years, the Virginian has sponsored our walk at the highest level and last October more than 10 staff members from the Virginian walked as a group in support of our cause.

## The Shauna Award

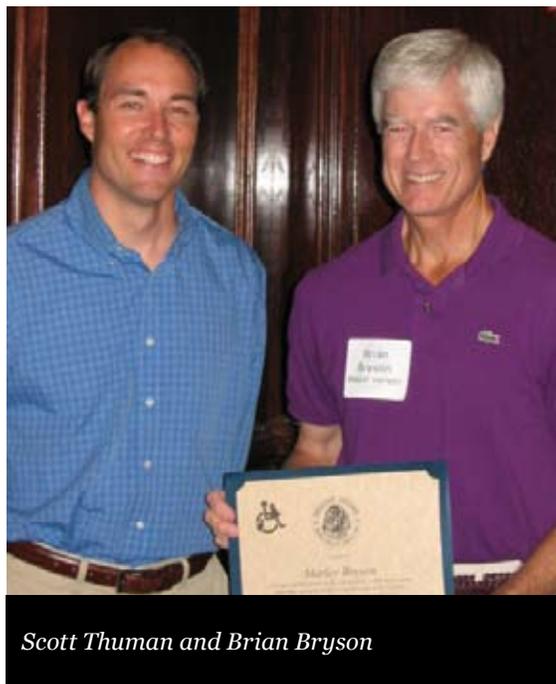
The Shauna Award was established in 1993 to honor Shauna Marie Salisbury, beloved Irish Setter of Susie and Bob Duvall, who died on March 26, 1993. Shauna was an active participant in Northern Virginia Visiting Pets and later in the FPOW program from April 1987 until January 1993, well into her 14th year. Shauna epitomized the pet volunteer and was instrumental in getting residents of the facilities she visited to communicate with staff, family and volunteers. As the senior training dog of the Fairfax Nursing Center she trained

many new four-legged volunteers. Shauna always had a smile on her face and a happy wag of her tail.

The 2010 Shauna Award winner is Marley Bryson, a cocker spaniel belonging to Brian Bryson. This team visits Mount Vernon Nursing and Rehabilitation Center once a week and misses the opportunity only when Brian travels out of town.

Marley typically starts each visit by seeing all the residents in the physical therapy room where he gets a warm reception and everyone asking him to come over for a friendly pat on the head or ear rub. Often there are 20 or more residents in PT who can't help but smile with the constant wagging of his little Cocker tail and smiling face. The PT staff enjoys having Marley working the room as it provides a little break during the therapy regimen.

Marley then makes the rounds passing each room in the two floor facility and looking for familiar faces in the activities room. Whenever someone wants to say hello, Marley will happily oblige them by spending a few moments visiting. One resident in particular, a stroke victim was having difficulty recapturing her ability to speak English. It seemed like Marley helped this resi-



*Scott Thuman and Brian Bryson*

dent get her point across during his visits and the visit always ended with the resident clearly saying, 'bye, bye'. Marley is also well known among the staff at the Mount Vernon facility including the Administrator, support staff, nursing staff and all the others who help the facility run smoothly.



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## Volunteer Hours Awards

### **Bronze = 50 -74**

- Paula Burger 66
- Mariann Durante 60
- Pat Dutton 54
- Harry Gedney 74
- Stecia Lansdell 51
- Renee Ostebo 57
- William Price 68
- Laurie Stone 74
- Charles Viall 57

### **Silver = 75-99**

- Elizabeth Breyer 87
- Judith Chopp 87
- Nikki DiPalma 92
- Alvin Doehring 76
- Patty Kwapniewski 97
- Dan Rollyson 96
- Joseph Vinson 93
- Joan Violante 84

### **Gold = 99 or more**

- Sabine Arndt 191
- Kathryn Baker 309
- Pete Barnes 227
- Ruth Benker 303
- Diane Bente 118
- Brian Bryson 126



*Silver Hour Awardees*

- Bonnie Burnham 175
- John Byrum 174
- Lori Caplan 109
- Bobbie Cippel 116
- Jill Davidson 237
- Norbert Dee 141
- Carla Graham 137
- Patricia Leader 109
- Debby Weinstein 583
- Deborah Zelten 105

## Dates to remember

**BOD Meeting at Leewood: September 13, 7:00 pm**

**Annual Meeting All Members at Leewood: September 13, 2010 8:00 pm**

**Newsletter Submission Deadline: September 30**

**Paws for a Cause: October 3, Noon Weber's Pet Supermarket, NEW on-line registration at [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org)**

**Ombudsman & Adult Protective Services Educational SEMINAR at Leewood: November 9, 7:30 pm**

**BOD Meeting at Leewood: December 6, 7:00 pm**

**Newsletter Submission Deadline: December 30**

## Number of Volunteers and Hours Logged between 1/1/09 - 3/31/10

Facility	# of Volunteers	# of Hours
Virginian	53	1837
Sleepy Hollow	11	354
Powhatan	25	1013
Mount Vernon	19	491
Leewood	24	241
Iliff	29	860
Commonwealth	17	1042
Cameron Glen	66	1976
Burke	28	334
Arlington Hospital	2	58
Arden Courts Fair Oaks	20	188
Arden Courts Annandale	15	423
Administrative	6	132

## Animal Control Officers Report Disturbing Statistic

An article in the Fairfax Times in April reinforces the fact that not all northern Virginia pet owners are as responsible as FPOW pet owners -- I was astounded to learn that "animal control officers found that about half of pet owners had current licenses and vaccinations."

Remember when visiting, if other dogs are in the facility and are not FPOW dogs, that we give them a "wide berth". After all, our dogs are there to work – that is their job in the nursing home – not to play. Greeting their fellow FPOW colleagues is certainly acceptable, but just like their two-legged partners at their place of employment, getting back to work is expected after the social niceties.

We, and the facilities we visit, know that FPOW pets have been health certified (with current rabies shots and free and clear of any infectious diseases) and have been temperament evaluated plus our FPOW handlers have been trained in proper visiting etiquette. All non-FPOW pets have an unknown health status, please be mindful of this fact.



Submitted by Ruth Benker



*Gold Hour Awardees*

# NATIONAL CAPITAL CAT SHOW

September 11-12, 2010  
Dulles Expo and Conference Center, Chantilly, VA

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WWW.NATIONALCAPITALCATSHOW.COM | ADDITIONAL DETAILS IN THE SHOW LISTING BELOW



I am looking for help at the NATIONAL CAPITAL CAT SHOW!

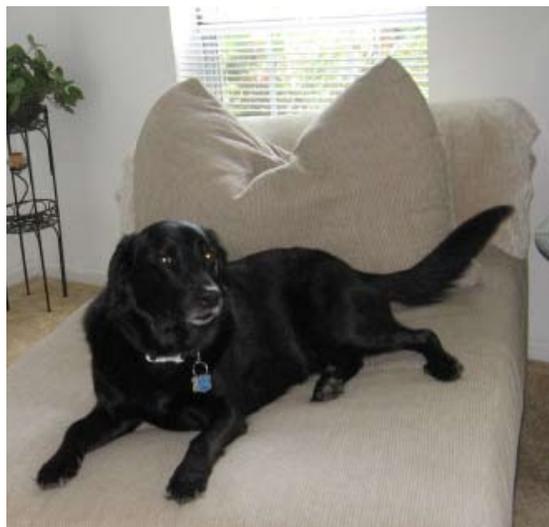
I am looking for volunteers to work alongside FPOW speaker bureau members for morning and afternoon shifts staffing an informational table for FPOW. Volunteering at our table will allow you FREE admission to the event. Hundreds of beautiful cats, tons of great people and animal shopping, plus you'll get to spend time with other terrific FPOW volunteers and help recruit needed volunteers.

If you are interested please contact: Kim Wilkerson by E mail: [mwilkerson@juno.com](mailto:mwilkerson@juno.com)

## Candia & Nikita share their talents

Our volunteer spotlight this quarter is on Candia Hudson, who is involved with senior citizens in both her professional and her volunteer careers. She volunteers at Cameron Glen with her dog Nikita.

Candia is an area native and currently resides in Reston. She loves the area for its convenient location, lush scenery, historical and cultural assets, many festivals, and the sense of community in the Reston area with its opportunities for all ages. Candia recently became engaged to Alan, who is originally from Chicago. Alan also provides volunteer assistance and care to the elderly and has joined Nikita and Candia as a guest while visiting Cameron Glen. Candia is employed in the mortgage banking industry, where she works on the financing, construction, and servicing of nursing homes and assisted living facilities. She has an adult son, Samuel, who in addition to his civilian career is a member of the Virginia Army National Guard.



Nikita is a Black Lab/Golden Retriever mix whose full name is Nikita Liberty. She was given this name because she was adopted in Pennsylvania shortly after the September 11 attacks. Candia and a friend were visiting there and stopped to see some four month old puppies. The friend, a big guy who didn't know what to do with a puppy, was holding Nikita, and Candia went over to say hello. Nikita leaned over and put her little head right under Candia's chin, and the rest is history. Nikita recently celebrated her 9th Birthday and is still full of energy.

The volunteer team has been visiting Cameron Glen since 2003. Nikita is well known there for her great disposition, and she enjoys practicing her visiting skills whenever and wherever she sees a senior citizen or someone in a wheelchair or using a walker. Nikita has a special love for visiting in the Alzheimer's /Dementia wing at Cameron Glen. She often

waits at the door to the unit and insists that the volunteer team go in to see the residents. Sometimes the residents ask Candia "who is bringing whom" to the visit, since Nikita seems to be in charge of greeting ev-

everyone with a friendly smile and a wag of her tail.

Candia enjoys the fact that FPOW is a great way to share the love and happiness of a pet with others. She also likes the flexibility of the program that allows her to visit as time permits and to be spontaneous about getting into the facility when she has an hour or so to give to the program.

Candia has a personal insight into what FPOW visits can mean to residents at a facility. Her own mother, Mrs. Sledge, was a patient at Cameron Glen while she received physical therapy when recovering from a stroke. Nikita made sure that other volunteer teams went in to see her "grandmother" when they visited. Candia's mother would telephone and let Candia know about her special visitors. The first time Candia saw her mom use the wheelchair on her own was when she got up from her bed to wait for the FPOW volunteers to arrive. Candia was able to see first-hand what a difference a visiting pet can make in the life of a resident.

Candia advises that a new volunteer should try to find a good "role model," an experienced volunteer to observe on initial visits after the on-sight training. She feels fortunate to have had some good role models that made her own initial visits much easier and less intimidating. Some techniques she learned were: (1) to let each resident she visits participate and interact with Nikita to the extent that the resident and Nikita both feel comfortable; and (2) always keeping safety and care first, allowing the resident to give Nikita a command such as "sit" and "down," to let Nikita extend a paw, to have the resident give a treat, or to have the resident talk to Nikita while she (Nikita) listens.

Nikita has also participated in some of Cameron Glen's special events: a Hawaiian Luau, a "Dancing with Your

Dog" event, and an Olympic celebration complete with Olympic medals. Candia says that it was great fun to see the dogs participating in these events and the joy that the residents displayed watching the antics of the canine "athletes."

Nikita and Candia have represented FPOW at the Reston Pet Festival. Candia is always encouraged by the amount of interest our program generates at these events. She was recently invited to join the Speakers Bureau and participated in the training for the Speakers. She is looking forward to spreading the news that FPOW is a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to share the love and happiness of a pet with others and make their day brighter. Candia says that she is always touched by the power of a happy pet to make a positive difference in someone's life, be that someone the resident of a nursing facility or the human that presumes to be the pet's owner.



Submitted by Madelynn Arnold

## 5th Annual PET PHOTO CONTEST

Photo Contest Theme: BEFORE & AFTER

Share with us your favorite pair of photos featuring your pet. There will be 4 gift certificate prize levels and 4 honorable mentions.

E-mail your pet photos to: [fpowphotocontest@cox.net](mailto:fpowphotocontest@cox.net) before 8/30/10. (Note: One E-Mail per photo entry please.)

Entries MUST include your name, pet's name, and phone number. No professional photography please.

In your E-Mail entry, enter as many different photo pairs as you like, but please send each entry in a separate E-Mail.

Winners will be announced on 9/13/10 at the Annual meeting & showcased on our FPOW web site ([www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org))

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## Photographers Needed!

Do you have a digital camera? Have you often thought that you could take a better picture than the DMV? Well, FPOW wants to give you that opportunity -- FPOW needs photographers to take the pictures of volunteers for their badges after their pets have pass their behavior evaluations. Pet Temperament evaluations are held monthly generally from 6:30pm to around 9:30pm.

Once the date for the temperament test has been determined, an email goes out to all photographers asking for a volunteer for the session. You can work as many/few sessions as your schedule permits. Training will be provided. If interested, please send email to ruth.benker@verizon.net.

## Interesting Article

Here's a link to an interesting article on *The New York Times* website on elderspeak, "the sweetly belittling form of address that has always rankled older people."

We hope you find it interesting, educational and helpful in your visits.

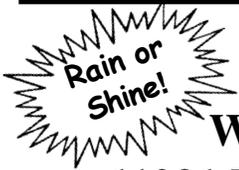
<http://tiny.cc/tye69>

## More Pics from the Annual Appreciation Luncheon



**See you at the Fairfax Pets on  
Wheels 3K Walk!**

**October 3, 2010 at 12:00 pm**



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**Register online at:**

**[www.tiny.cc/walk2010](http://www.tiny.cc/walk2010)**

or visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org)

and click on

**Dates to Remember**

***DIRECTIONS to The Walk:***

**From VA I-495, take 66 West to  
Route 50 East to West Route  
29/Lee Highway, to Weber's in  
shopping center on left  
(parking in rear)**



## Are A Breed Apart

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Fairfax Area Agency On Aging  
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Please use the FPOW Hotline number for non-emergency calls if you are a FPOW volunteer or one who is currently in the pipeline. Someone will either act upon your message or return your call if more information is required.

## DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT FPOW NEWSLETTER: September 30, 2010

### FAIRFAX PETS ON WHEELS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive Committee:

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Director of Volunteer Development – Patty Kwapniewski

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Director of Volunteer Relations – vacant

Director of Fund Development – vacant

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Director At Large – Joan Violante

Director At Large – Cara Schantz

The Newsletter Committee Chairman: Kim Wilkerson

Editor: Denise Elliott

### 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. In addition, 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

ATTN: Fairfax Pets On Wheels Newsletter

12011 Government Center Parkway, Suite 708

Fairfax, VA 22035-1104

(703) 324-5411

Email:

[dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov)



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