

HUGAPET



Annual Meeting 2009: Almost Home

The membership of the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society gathered on Sunday, May 17th, to hold the Annual Meeting for 2009. This year's meeting had special significance for those who gathered on that rainy afternoon: this was the first Annual Meeting to be held in the new Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society Shelter at 6722 Sutton Road in Gloucester.

At the Annual Meeting of the GMHS, members reviewed the highlights and progress of the year passed, discussed plans for the year ahead, and elected new members to the Board of Directors. This year's meeting focused on the construction progress of the new shelter facility, with tours provided for meeting attendees by members of the Building Committee and other volunteers. Ralph Jackson, Building Committee Chair and retiring Director, gave an overview of the status of the new shelter and recognized construction superintendent Jerry Lapham of David Nice Builders for his extraordinary dedication to the construction of our shelter.



Director Cheryl Dame spoke about the time capsule, donated by David Bristow and Hogg Funeral Home, that will be buried at the new shelter site and invited the community to bring photos and other items to be included.

Co-Chairs of the Capital Campaign, Peggy Bowditch and Cam Williams, made a presentation to the membership about the current status of our fundraising for the construction of the new shelter. It's critical to raise the remaining funds required to allow us to move into the new shelter mortgage-free, so that future funding can be directed towards animal care, rehabilitation and education. Inscribed bricks in our Walk of Honor at the new facility are still available, and are a wonderful way to honor a beloved person or pet in your life while helping to complete our commitment.



The GMHS anticipates that we will be moving into our new home close to July 1. We have come so far in recent years to bring new hope and new beginnings to the homeless pets of our community, and we look forward to celebrating the wonderful gift of a new shelter very soon with the many people and organizations that are making it possible.

Welcome to our New Directors!

At this year's Annual Meeting, the GMHS elected six new directors to serve three-year terms on its Board. The new directors are Mary Ann Hubbard, Betsy Henderson, Robert LeBoeuf, Norman Malo, John Phillips, and Mark Strawn.

The GMHS also said farewell to two retiring directors, Clement Dickey, Jr. and Ralph Jackson. Mr. Dickey served most recently as our Board President and successfully led the GMHS Board into and through our new shelter construction project. Mr. Jackson has served as the Chair of the Building Committee and brought his own construction expertise and unfailing dedication to the animals and people of the GMHS to help make the dream of a new shelter a reality.

We enthusiastically welcome the new members of the GMHS Board of Directors as we gratefully thank our retiring directors for their service. There is much exciting work still ahead!

Featured Pets

MAKE MINE CUDDLES



Doesn't everyone love their quiet time? What could be better than some quiet time with a soft, quiet, cuddly rabbit in their

lap or sitting beside them. Can't you feel the soft fur and the long floppy ears between your fingers, lowering your blood pressure and taking you away from the pressures of your day? Stop dreaming! Fulfill your dream! Come to the shelter and adopt me. My name is Cuddles and I am a black and white dwarf lop-eared rabbit. I am only 2 ½ years old so I still have a lot of good years ahead of me. Rabbits can live up to 10+ years. I have heard that humans think rabbits should be outside pets but we make wonderful house pets. We can be litter-trained, walked (or hopped, sort of) on a leash and enjoy lots of toys, just like other pets. You need to bunny-proof your house, just like you would have to puppy-proof it, by making sure that the areas that I can play are safe for me. For other tips to help you prepare for me when I get home, go to www.makeminechocolate.org. It is well worth your time. Don't wait! Come and adopt me as soon as you read this. If you are too late and I have already gone home, please consider adopting one of my other bunny friends at the shelter who are waiting patiently. Now hop to it!

PARTNER, THE MAGNIFICENT



Have you ever felt like something magical was about to happen? Well, it could with your help! My name is Partner and I am

an English Foxhound. My owner signed me over to animal control because he couldn't afford to feed and care for me. The Shelter Manager came by and saw me and said that I could come to the shelter. She said that I was MAGNIFICENT and she was sure that someone would see my potential and adopt me. It seems that there are lots of animals here at the GMHS shelter with the same story. I am a 2 year old, tan and white neutered male, am heartworm negative, current on all of my vaccinations and flea-free. When I was younger and just learning how to perform tricks, I tried to super-size a bowl of food and instead, I super-sized myself! I am a big boy, weighing in at 80+ lbs. I'm a gentle giant who loves children, other animals and am housebroken. I was adopted and returned because their little dog didn't like me. Maybe if they had given us some more time, I could have won the other dog over with my magic tricks, which I am still perfecting. Please come and adopt me. I am sure that we will live happily and magically ever after. Maybe we can teach each other some new tricks.

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Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat 11:00 – 4:00
Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 Adoptions Only
Closed Wednesday

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SUPPORT THE GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS HUMANE SOCIETY

New Shelter Will Bring New Volunteer Opportunities

The successful operation of the new Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society Shelter will depend on the talents and commitment of our volunteers, as our existing shelter has for so many years. A new Volunteer Auxiliary is in the process of being organized to provide the framework and support that our group will need to take on the exciting new duties of caring for our animals in their new home. We will also have a new youth volunteer program for volunteers ages 14 through 17, who will work together with our Humane Educator, Amy Steele.

Volunteer Dianne Jordan is lending her experience as a past volunteer coordinator at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News to help create an effective structure for our adult volunteer group. It is anticipated that our adult volunteers will be organized under their own Advisory Board, reporting to the GMHS Board of Directors and the Executive Director.

Opportunities for volunteer service are many and varied, with much opportunity for learning about all aspects of shelter operation, support, and community education. At the shelter itself, we will need volunteers to staff the new GMHS Gift Shop, to greet and direct the public when they enter the lobby, to assist with the adoption process, to socialize and exercise the animals, and to assist with facility maintenance and cleaning. We will continue to need volunteers to lead the planning process for key fundraising events such as the Annual Auction, Fashion Show, the Annual Golf Tournament, and to help with events such as the Daffodil Festival, Wings & Wheels and Mathews Market Days. Volunteers will also assist with pet therapy visits in local nursing homes, offsite adoption events and animal transports.

We soon will be reaching out to our current volunteers to begin the scheduling process for duties needing coverage at the new shelter. If there is a particular role you'd like to play at the shelter, be sure to let us know!