

HUG A PET

A FEAST AND FASHION FIT FOR A KING!



This year's eagerly anticipated Mutt Strut on the Cat Walk took the stage on September 24th to a full house. Over 300 people enjoyed this year's production of "The King & I" saluting the GMHS shelter's animal "kings" (and queens). Emcee John Phillips (in spectacular costume!) led the proceedings which grossed over \$30,000.00 for the shelter's daily operations.

Fashions, as in years past, were provided by Lili's of Ghent and sales were brisk, particularly of items in royal tones and animal prints in keeping with the theme of the day. As always, an affable (and generous) Jim Fields and his fine models did a superb job.

Lovely local models were a huge hit as always. Susan Briggs, Shannon Fedors, Sarah Finney, Mary Lib Hoinkes, Karen Malo, Cara Randolph, Louise Theberge, Tammye Van Clief, Cheryl Walker, and Nina Watkins received enthusiastic rounds of applause but were regrettably upstaged by the show-stopping animal "kings" and "queens" in the finale.

We owe deepest thanks to sponsors Chesapeake Bank, Colonial Virginia Bank, Mary Lib Hoinkes, EVB Community Bank, Phillips Energy, Inc., Wal-Mart, Haley-Mansfield-Koptish Financial Group of Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC, Member SIPC, Sandy Hatten and Joyce Richter, The Inn at Warner Hall, W.J. Matheson & Co., Legacy Financial Group-Barbara Kerr, and Sulgrave Antiques/The Gadfly; also to our business donors Ken Houtz Chevrolet-Buick, Jim Fields and Lili's of Ghent, Tidewater Tropical Greenhouses, Sunrise Farms, Lowes, and Ultimate Electronics; and of course to our Mutt Strut Committee members Emily Barbee, Peggy Bowditch, Kathie Cohen, Sara Delo, Shannon Fedors, Wanda Friend, Betsy Henderson, MaryAnn Hubbard, Annie Rex, Joyce Richter, Cheryl Walker, Carole White and Cam Williams. Special thanks also to the members of the National Junior Honor Society of Ware Academy for a fine job of animal handling before and during the show.



Pictured from left to right: Mary Lib Hoinkes, Linda Grow, EVB Community Bank, Judy Mansfield, Financial Group of Wells Fargo, Joyce Richter, Melissa Crawford, Chesapeake Bank, Petie Matheson, W.J. Matheson & Co., Elizabeth McCormick, Phillips Energy, Inc., Cheryl Dame, Colonial Virginia Bank, Amanda Lancaster, The Inn at Warner Hall and Betsy Henderson, Sulgrave Antiques/The Gadfly. Not pictured; Barbara Kerr, Legacy Financial Group and Wal-Mart.

One of the highlights of the show featured the "Merry Men" of the Mutt Strut: Roger Anderson, Bart Barbee, Buddy Bland, Steve Bland, John Bowditch, Richard Browder, Bill Cumberland, John Hastings, Jake Henderson, Marv Hohenberger, Dieter Hoinkes, Ken Houtz, Ralph Jackson, Robert Johnson, Rick Klein, Eric Morgan, Herve Ouellette, Jay Smith, Scott Thacker, Court Van Clief, Bill Walker, PB White, Dean Williams and Dick Zima. In addition to doing a brilliant job of keeping the guests happy (and sated with raffle tickets as well as beverages) the Merry Men rose to the challenge from a donor in the room of taking to the runway themselves to raise additional funds (some tucked into waist bands!) for our "kings" and "queens." Hats off to the guys!



Thanks to the cooperation and help of so many friends of the animals, our Mutt Strut was a huge success. A good time was had, much-needed funds were raised, and most importantly five animals found new homes!

(Pictured at left, Grill Package Raffle Winner, Becky Meeker)

OUR COMMUNITY CELEBRATES A NEW BEGINNING FOR THE GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS HUMANE SOCIETY



On the sunny Saturday morning of August 1, 2009, the animals of the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society – and their people – took a long awaited step forward into a new future and a new home.

The grand opening of the new GMHS animal shelter began with an early opening to the public at 9:00AM. The lobby quickly filled with visitors who were welcomed by volunteers and staff, and greeted with the excited barking of puppies and the curiously sweet faces of our cat condo residents at the front door.

At 10:00AM, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark the official opening of the shelter. Speakers included Board President Dieter Hoinkes,

and Building Committee Chairman Ralph Jackson, for whom the road to our new shelter has been named to honor his commitment and personal dedication to bringing the new shelter to life for our community. The day also marked the grand opening of the shelter's new Pawsitively Purrfect Gift Shop, organized and run by more of our fantastic volunteers. The gift shop is a super place to shop for pets and people, and will be a destination on its own with the holiday season approaching.

And the best part of the day? A total of 40 cats, dogs, kittens and puppies found new forever homes on this one day – a new record for the GMHS!



Photos courtesy of Richard Welton

A FLASH FROM THE PAST By Joe Gowdey

When I and a host of volunteers were struggling to prepare the Society's first shelter to receive animals in 1976 there was no way that we could foresee the beautiful quarters the Society now occupies. We had been given a \$1.00/year lease on an old house in bad (bordering on very bad!) repair, located on Rt. 14, next to what was M&G Transportation. We rewired, replumbed, patched rat holes, built outside dog pens, and at last were able to begin accepting animals. It was all rather primitive in retrospect, but we were proud of it. The building, despite our efforts, was so porous that we had occasional visits from wild animals: black snakes that kept the rat population under control around the outside pens. One morning the manager opened the building to find that the American kestrel (sparrow hawk) that had been caged in the food prep room was now a large lump in the belly of a big black snake that had slithered in during the night. As a result of that large lump, the snake was itself now caged. We put him back to work chasing rats. In the early '80s the Society acquired some land on RangTang Road and began dreaming of and actively planning a new shelter. A \$35,000 bequest from Emily Dimock Heath, helped us move into the construction phase, but not without some problems. The Building Inspection department threw up roadblock after roadblock. Finally, I went to the County Administrator and told him that if he did not get Inspection off our back we were going to abandon our

plans to build in Gloucester County. It worked, and we were able to proceed. We contracted for a shell building, which was wired, plumbed, insulated, dry walled, and otherwise finished out by volunteer labor. We built the kennel building entirely with volunteers. The facility opened in late 1984, with much fanfare and celebration. All told, the final cost was between \$55 and \$60 thousand. At about that time, Anheuser-Busch was closing out their "zoo" at Busch Gardens in Williamsburg, and offered the Society all their chain-link fencing. We organized a caravan of trucks and thus acquired many thousands of dollars worth of fencing for the price of carrying it away. With it, we constructed all the outside dog runs, the large animal pens, and fencing around other outbuildings. I once counted the number of post holes my ex-wife, Anne, had dug by herself with an old, manual post hole digger: 94! One would have been wise not to have challenged her to an arm wrestling match! I wish I had the space and a better memory to thank all those who volunteered their time and labor to make the RangTang road dream into a working shelter that housed the Society for 25 years. I am mightily impressed with the new facility, and am confident that it will serve our local counties very well for many years to come. I am sure that the present day members, staff, and volunteers are as proud of the new quarters as we, the old guard, were of the RangTang facility.

LILLY'S NEW PAD



Choosing a pet is a lot like falling in love. You may not be able to put into words why that happened, but somehow your heart tells you that it's right! That was the case for Joanne Bartlett, the first person to adopt an animal at our new shelter.

When Joanne lost her beloved fifteen-year-old basset hound, Raffles, she knew that she would eventually choose another dog to join her family and enrich her life. She simply needed a little time before making that decision. A summertime visit from her two grandchildren, Chris and Jessica, spurred her on to choose her new companion.

One visit with Lilly quickly tells you why Joanne lost her heart to this two-year-old hound. Lilly's luminous brown eyes express complete trust in

mankind. She is eager to please and her lean, sleek body allows her to move with complete grace. This gentle, caring animal has graduated from the status of a stray to having a home by the river with her own couch to enjoy. How's that for a success story!

Joanne is happy. Lilly is happy. And everyone who knows them is happy. They're a perfect match. There's something very satisfying about a story that ends with, "And they lived happily ever after."

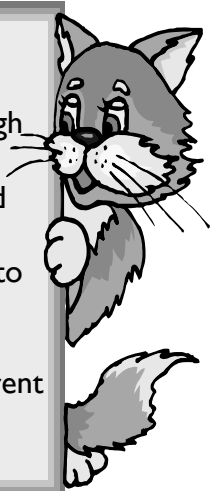
p.s. Help make a "happily ever after" for Lilly's sister, Minnie, currently still at the shelter...come in and ask for her or one of our other amazing animals!

...OUT OF THE BOX

Help Us Blossom

Support the GMHS by purchasing flower bulbs through www.bloominbucks.com.

Bloomin' Bucks with Brent and Becky's Bulbs is a progressive fundraising program designed to earn select Non-Profit organizations cash for every order received through the Brent and Becky's Bulbs website!



WE NEED YOUR HELP

If you have extra time and would like to help animals in need, the GMHS has a task for you!

We are currently recruiting for the following volunteer positions:

- 🐾 Dog Walkers
- 🐾 Gift Shop Volunteers
- 🐾 Cat Room Volunteers
- 🐾 Foster Families

For more information on these positions or others, please contact us at 804-693-5520.

Volunteer applications can be obtained by visiting our shelter or through our website at www.gloucestermathewshumanesociety.org

Want to help, but don't have time to devote?

The GMHS currently has a need for the following; **Purina Kitten Chow or Wal-Mart Special Kitty Kitten Chow and Print Advertisement Sponsors.** Sponsoring one of our animals in the Gloucester Gazette or the Southside Sentinel increase their chance of adoption. Many of our animals have been placed in loving homes due to this type of exposure. Plus ad sponsors get the added benefit of having their name placed under the animal they are sponsoring, which is a great way to promote your own business. For more information on how you can become an ad sponsor, please call Joyce Crum at 804-693-5520, ext. 306.

SHELTER FYI....

As a result of the current economic climate, more animal surrenders have resulted in our shelter being full to capacity. Therefore we will only accept animals from the following counties: Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex. We have instituted a fee schedule for owner-surrenders effective September 1, 2009. If your animal is accepted for surrender to the GMHS, the following fees will apply:

- Dogs and puppies - \$20.00
- Cats, kittens and other small animals - \$10.00
- Litters or multiples - \$5.00/each

PAWSITIVELY PURRFECT



Now open to the public our Pawsitively Purrfect boutique offers uniquely creative gifts for pets and people. Leashes, collars, picture frames, animal toys, clothing, and gifts for the home are just a few of the wonderful items you will find inside. Pawsitively Purrfect is located in the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society animal shelter. Be sure to stop by and check us out for all your Holiday shopping needs. Hours of operation are: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

A "paws applause" goes out to Penny Doyle for making our new gift shop a reality.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB VISIT



Members of the Gloucester Boys & Girls club recently visited the GMHS to tour our new facility and learn how they can help animals waiting for adoption. The children also received a valuable lesson on the proper way to "meet and greet" dogs. Pretty Girl (shown above) sat

patiently as the children lined up to demonstrate this technique. For information on scheduling a tour, please contact our Humane Educator, Amy Steele, at 693-5520 ext. 309 or email amyteele.gmhs@yahoo.com.

Who Is Joe Gowdey? Joe was on the GMHS board for many years, serving as the President and Vice President. Other accomplishments include; the Langley Research Center's "Outstanding Volunteer Service Award" in 1983, and the Society's "Man of the Year" award in 1988-89.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 31, 2009

The GMHS First Annual Trick or Treat Adopt-A-Thon

6-8 pm at the shelter

Fill out your adoption application in advance to take advantage of the great adoption specials of the night.

Be sure to bring a treat for the animals

- Costume contest at 7:00 pm
- Trick or Treat for children

November 6 & 7

Urbanna Oyster Festival

Come visit the GMHS booth.

November 15, 2009

Paws N Claus

11 am - 3 pm

Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society-Main Lobby

- Pet Photos with Santa
(All types of pets are welcome)
- Holiday Shopping in our Gift Shop
- Pet Adoptions

December 5, 2009

Gloucester Holiday Parade

2:00 pm

Main Street, Gloucester Courthouse

Cheer us on as we march down Main Street in the parade and stop by the GMHS booth.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

Over the summer, the GMHS began a Youth Volunteer Program geared toward teenagers 14 to 17 years of age. We are proud and very thankful to announce that Youth Volunteers devoted approximately 520 hours to the GMHS from July 11 to August 31. We would like to thank ALL of our Youth Volunteers and recognize **Amber Chrest** and **Lorna Woodie** for topping our list as the Youth Volunteers who devoted the most hours during this time.

JOIN THE UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN today and select the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society as the organization you wish to help. A little bit goes a long way in saving the lives of homeless animals.

WHAT'S IN YOUR WALLET?

Support the GMHS with every purchase you make!

You are invited to apply for the Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society special Visa® Platinum credit card through **Capital One Card Lab Connect**. As a valued supporter, 1% of every purchase you make is automatically donated to the GMHS. Plus, Capital One will donate \$25 after you make your first purchase.

All the benefits of Visa® Platinum and more!

Get all of the competitive credit card benefits you want and expect as well as a simple way to support our cause. This Capital One Visa Platinum card has:

- No Annual Fee
- Low Introductory Purchase Rates
- Custom card designs - show support and help spread the word
- 1% of every purchase automatically donated to our organization



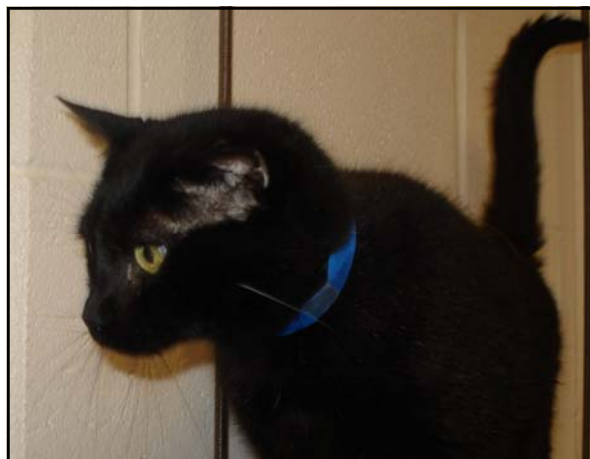
Please visit <https://www.cardlabconnect.com/GMHS> and apply for your GMHS Capital One Card today. Choose one of our designs or design your own.

“SUPER SIX” AND SPONSORED PETS GET SUMMER ADOPTIONS JUMPING!



If you've visited the shelter recently, you may have noticed that some of our dogs and cats have gotten new signs for their temporary homes at the GMHS. Several have been designated as “Super Six” pets because they have been residents of the shelter for six months or more. Many of these good cats and dogs just need a little of your time and attention so that you'll see how special they are. We encourage visits for a little social time with our Super Six pets, and they in turn will thrive with the extra attention. Some of our Super Six pets are also Sponsored Pets, and come with special thank-you gifts from their sponsors for

their new adoptive families. Sponsor gifts include gift cards to local pet stores, supplies of special food, or pre-paid adoption fees. Come by the shelter to meet our very super Super Six pets, or choose a pet of your own to sponsor!



HOLIDAYS ON THE WAY!

Don't forget to shop the GMHS booth at Market Place Antiques in the White Marsh Shopping Center. Proceeds from items sold benefit the shelter. Have any items you want to donate? Please call and speak to our Executive Director for more information: 804-693-5520 ext. 307.

HUGAPET

Gloucester-Mathews Humane Society
P.O. Box 385
Gloucester, VA 23061

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
White Marsh, VA 23183

Phone: 804-693-5520 Fax: 804-693-2009
Email: information@gloucestermathewshumanesociety.org
Web: gloucestermathewshumanesociety.org
Mon, Tue, Thur, Fri, Sat 11:00 – 4:00
Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 Adoptions Only
Closed Wednesday



SUPPORT THE GLOUCESTER-MATHEWS HUMANE SOCIETY

HERE IN THIS HOUSE...

I will never know the loneliness I hear in the barks of the other dogs 'out there'. I can sleep soundly, assured that when I wake my world will not have changed. I will never know hunger, or the fear of not knowing if I'll eat. I will not shiver in the cold, or grow weary from the heat. I will feel the sun's heat, and the rain's coolness, and be allowed to smell all that can reach my nose. My fur will shine, and never be dirty or matted.

Here in this house...

There will be an effort to communicate with me on my level. I will be talked to and, even if I don't understand, I can enjoy the warmth of the words. I will be given a name so that I may know who I am among many. My name will be used in joy, and I will love the sound of it!

Here in this house...

I will never be a substitute for anything I am not. I will never be used to improve peoples' images of themselves. I will be loved because I am who I am, not someone's idea of who I should be. I will never suffer for someone's anger, impatience, or stupidity. I will be taught all the things I need to know to be loved by all. If I do not learn my lessons well, they will look to my teacher for blame.

Here in this house...

I can trust arms that hold, hands that touch... knowing that, no matter what they do, they do it for the good of me. If I am ill, I will be doctored. If scared, I will be calmed. If sad, I will be cheered. No matter what I look like, I will be considered beautiful and known to be of value. I will never be cast out because I am too old, too ill, too unruly, or not cute enough. My life is a responsibility, and not an afterthought. I will learn that humans can almost, sometimes, be as kind and as fair as dogs.

Here in this house...

I will belong. I will be home.

(author unknown)