

'Kickin' It with the Cops' celebrates its second year with community



PHOTO C/O AMY SLAY

Police Chief Scott Shepherd, city councilors Ken Roberts and Mike Fleck and Mayor Jeff Gowing (above) were among the volunteers in the dunk tank at the second annual Kickin' it with the Cops event.

By Caitlyn May
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Amy Slay hasn't been a city councilor for nearly five months but on Saturday, she proved she's still invested in the community.

Slay, who left the city council in February after purchasing

land outside of the city's limits making her ineligible for her seat, hosted the second-annual Kickin' it with the Cops event.

She started the event last year as a way for community members to interact with local law enforcement in a positive way and to build bridges across the community.

This year, she hoped to serve at least 150 people with free hot dogs grilled by Mayor Jeff Gowing.

She served more than 240. "It went amazing!" she wrote in an email in response to questions about the event. "It was a great turn out... We added a face painter this year and some great raffle prizes."

Raffle winners were drawn Monday night. Tony Rumble won the grand prize, a one-night stay for two at Village Green, two tickets to the Cottage Theatre production of "Shrek the Musical" and a gift card for dinner at Jack Sprats.

Shalis Lundgren won a custom made wooden bowl by Simon Specialties, Ashley Grable took home a gift card to Jack Sprats, Kevin Worley won a gift certificate to the Brew Station, Michelle Knee also won coffee in the form of a gift certificate to the Espresso Barn as did Ashley Kilday.

Police chief Scott Shepherd called the event a success, but noted that he may have more officers volunteer for the dunk tank next year, relieving him of some of the duty.

"This event is something that is an activity that makes us feel good and it's positive for the community," he said. "It went really well."

Saturday's event also saw community leaders brave the dunk tank, letting residents take a shot at sending them into the cold water below.

Councilor Mike Fleck, Gowing and Shepherd all volunteered for shifts in the tank while officers from the department met with residents and took advantage of the photo booth set up behind the police station.

As for plans for next year, Slay said, "I think this year was perfect so hopefully it will be exactly the same next year."

Pet tips 'N' tales

By Mary Ellen
"Angel Scribe"



Emergency Purr-paredness

Moving to the Hawaiian Islands with pets is no easy task because of the rabies laws. No arriving cat or dog, regardless of age, is exempt. Each pet has a mountain of paperwork, fees and a paws-ible quarantine of 120 days because Hawaii does not have rabies, or want it. Yet, they do have Kilauea volcano.

Pat's daughters, Vickie and Debbie, live on Hawaii's Big Island in Pahoa and they encouraged their 89-year-old mother to move from Cottage Grove and join them. Pat submitted the pet paperwork, sold her home, shipped her household goods to Hawaii, and flew with her 10-year-old pets, Penny the Yorkie, and two Siamese cats, Chip and Dale, to their new home in Pahoa.

A month later, multiple earthquakes woke her up, then to top things off, Kilauea blew its top. Pat felt safe because, "Lava flows downhill and I lived up hill from it at Leilani Estates."

So, she was not purr-pared to evacuate.

Then the No. 8 fissure blew open on her street and everything changed. Vickie sped to her rescue and as they were putting pets in carriers a police officer arrived and urgently announced, "Evacuate! Now!"

They fled to Vickie's home with Pat's pets. In their panic, clothes, medicine, family photos, important papers and valuables were left behind in the flight to save their lives.

Two days later, the fissure's heat set Pat's new home on fire, then lava encased the ruins in 10 feet of black hardened rock.

Then two days after that, Vickie's home was circled by lava forcing them to evacuate. A day later, Debbie also had to abandon her home because of toxic volcanic gases. All three families and their pets scrambled to find places to live.

Today, Pat is living with a total stranger, Paula, and her three



Pat and blind dog, Penny, are happy to be alive. An active volcano has them appreciating the small things in life.

dogs. Paula opened her home to Pat and their friendship was immediate like long lost friends so Paula said Pat could stay with her indefinitely.

Penny loves her three new dog pals, and Chip and Dale are adjusting to being sequestered in Pat's bedroom.

"There's nothing I can do about what has happened," said Pat. "There's no telling when the volcano will go dormant. I am numb and don't cry. I'm grateful that I have my animals, we are safe and we have a place to stay where we are welcomed."

"Yesterday, after a doctor's appointment I went to a restaurant. My teenager server said, 'I know that you lost everything, so I paid for your meal.' Through all this turmoil, I have learned how kind people are."

TIPS:

Everyone should have a list on hand in case of a natural disaster. Once you learn you have to evacuate, panic mode stops normal thinking. Those with pets need to paw-pare extras.

- List things needed for two weeks and keep with the pets' carriers: Documents, photographs, human/pet food, kitty litter, puppy pads, medical supplies in case of a pet emergency, clean-up products for car sick animals, and harnesses for cats because you can't leave them in carriers for days on end.

- Have a carrier for each pet, their vet records, toys, towel, favorite blanket, and a photo of each animal in case one escapes. Have them microchipped.

- Put extra leashes, collars, food bowls, and pet food with the carriers to grab at a moment's notice because not everyone is given a day to prepare. Some families, like Pat, only have minutes.

- During floods, bungee cord pet cages to floatation devices like swimming kick boards or a cooler.

Christine Ballantine, Founder of the Western Canada Pekingese Club said, "I always have an under-seat airline bag packed, for my Pekingese, in case of emergency. The bag contains: ziplock bag with a week of dry kibble, favorite treats, food/water dishes, water bottles, two leashes, paper towels, poop bags, grooming brush and a pet first aid kit."

Retired fire chief, Dan Olsen, adds, "We also have a bottle of hydrogen peroxide (for cuts and scratches), duct tape (for emergency repairs), paper towel rolls and toilet paper. We use a 'grab and go' backpack for pet and people essentials, and a small cooler and five-gallon bucket (with lid) in the car with supplies."

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