



COMPASS

ANIMAL RESCUE

GROUP AIMS TO TACKLE SPAYING, AREA BY AREA

By Lia Russell
The Virginian-Pilot

The statistics are alarming: 43 percent of all shelter animals – more than 15,000 cats and dogs – were euthanized in Hampton Roads in 2008.

Nearly 3,000 of them died in Norfolk.

Animal Rescue of Tidewater, a non-profit group, has a plan to help those numbers drop.

In January, the group formed a committee called Spay Hampton Roads (SHR) to explore and implement programs to reduce and ultimately eliminate pet overpopulation.

The group plans to tackle the issue systematically. They are identifying neighborhoods that have the most strays and lowest incomes, and will there offer free pet sterilization services.

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more info

A list of low-cost clinics in the area. Page 9

See SPAY, Page 9



NORFOLK POLICE, FIRE-RESCUE ARTIFACTS

2 museums under 1 roof set to open

By Matthew Bowers
The Virginian-Pilot

You like badges? They've got badges, starting with one from about 1875, hand-engraved "Norfolk Police 4."

You like guns? They've got guns, cases of them, even an 1813 militia musket with bayonet.

You like old photos? They've got them, too, including reproduction mug shots of a dapper man in a bowler hat. His alleged crime? Stealing chickens.

The new Norfolk Police Museum and Norfolk Fire-Rescue Museum – two museums under one roof – are scheduled to open in the next few weeks in what was a downtown visitor center at 401 E. Freemason St., near the Moses Myers House.

"What we're trying to do here is have something for everybody," said Jim Melchor, a retired government oceanographer and volunteer curator of the police museum for a decade.

"If you like patches – most people like patches – over there we have every patch Norfolk police have ever had."

The 213-year-old police de-



BILL TIERNAN | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

partment has had a museum since 1919. But it has been closed since June 2008 because of construction at its previous location, the downtown police administration building on Brooke Avenue. This will be the first public fire museum, although artifacts were displayed at the department's training facility.

Melchor and Lt. Jim Bailie, a city firefighter for 13

years, have felt called to tell the story of public safety in the city, and they've been working for free since October to get the exhibits in shape.

Charles Knight, a curator at the MacArthur Memorial, whose staff will manage the site, has been helping.

That site will have two sides: police on the left,

More MUSEUMS, Page 12

Displays on the wall of the Norfolk Police Museum include weapons used over the years and a jail cell. The museum will open soon at 401 E. Freemason St.



HARRY MINIMUM
SHADOWING
NORFOLK

FOR NORFOLK, A MARATHON OF ITS OWN

City officials are expected to announce this week that the Norfolk Freedom Marathon road race is coming in 2011.

City officials hope it eventually will rival the successful Shamrock Marathon in Virginia Beach.

A group that has incorporated as the Freedom Marathon Inc. expects to sign a deal Monday that will result in a half-marathon being run in Norfolk on Veterans Day weekend in mid-November of 2011. A full marathon will be run in 2012.

The group had originally proposed sponsoring a race that would have been called the

See MINIMUM, PAGE 3

CRIME REPORT

A look at crimes reported around the city.

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He Is Risen, Hallelujah!

"This is the promise that He hath promised us, even eternal life." 1 John 2:25

We hope your family experiences the Joy of the Easter Resurrection!

Happy Easter from Kathy and Mick Shaw and their grandchildren Noah, Addison and Courtney!

Norfolk Botanical Garden...Part of What Makes Norfolk the BEST Place to Call Home! Mick Shaw 286-0800



Continued from Page 6

Seeking an array of merchants to sell products, also for non-profits and community organizations as a fundraiser. Information Domenick Fini 441-2345 or finid@festevents.org.

FUNDRAISERS

Birthright's Charity Bowl VII 12:30 and 3 p.m. Saturday, Victory Lanes Bowling Center, 2513 Victory Blvd., Portsmouth. Benefits Birthright of Norfolk, Inc., an emergency pregnancy service. \$25 bowler, \$100 for family. 471-1080 or BRNorfolk@verizon.net to register.

"Celebrating Children, Celebrating Community, It Takes a Village" fundraising event, 4 p.m. April 11, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 520 Graydon Ave., sponsored by the Children of Hagar, Permanent Supportive Housing, Poetry, dancing, music. Please bring a non-perishable food donation for Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. 583-0502.

Community Leader Breakfast April 20, 8-8:30 a.m. registration/networking, 8:30-10:30 a.m. program, Ted Constant Convocation Center, 4320 Hampton Blvd. Hosted by the Young Leaders Society, United Way of South Hampton Roads. \$10 YLS member, \$15 non-member, prepayment required. Registration and RSVP by April 13 to www.unitedwaysshr.org/yls or 853-8500, ext. 146.

Friends of Festevents 2010 Season Gala/Golf Tournament

19th Annual Gala, 6-10 p.m. April 12, Town Point Club, 101 World Trade Center, Suite 300, cash bar. \$35 per person.

Annual Golf Tournament, April 13, 11 a.m. lunch and registration, 12:30 shotgun start, Captain's Choice & Round Robin flight event, Ocean View Golf Course, 9610 Norfolk Ave. \$1000 per foursome, sponsorship opportunities available. 441-2345.

"Instruments of Art" Exhibit/Silent Auction items on display now through Tuesday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, NYFO, 350 22nd Street in Palace Station. The sale of used musical instruments transformed into works of art by local artists, benefits Tidewater Arts Outreach. TWartoutreach.org.

Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet 2-5 p.m. Saturday, The Murray Center, Taste 'N See, 455 E. Brambleton Ave. \$35. Proceeds benefit the Bishop Herman Clark Sr. Scholarship fund. 714-5793 or 857-1221.

YWCA "Women of Distinction" Luncheon/Awards Ceremony 11:30 a.m. April 15, Norfolk Waterside Marriott, 235 E. Main St. Proceeds benefit the YWCA programs for women and children. \$50. RSVP by Friday to www.ywca-shr.org or 625-4248.

civic league meetings

Campostella Heights Civic League, 7 p.m. Monday. Campostella Heights Resource Center, 1714 Mount Vernon Ave. 543-1415.

Colonial Heights/Hyde Park

Civic League, 7 p.m. Monday. Colonial Heights Church of Christ, 833 Marvin Ave. 489-0357.

Ocean View Civic League, 7 p.m. Wednesday. Mary D. Pretlow Anchor Branch Library, 111 W. Ocean View Ave. 587-8060.

South Bayview Civic League, 7 p.m. Thursday. Third Presbyterian Church, 8065 Carlton St. 587-6514.

religion notes

EVENTS

Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 6400 Newport Ave. Easter services, Mass of the Lord's Supper, Stations of the Cross, more. 8 and 10:30 a.m. today. 423-8305. www.blessed-sacrament.com.

Christ United Methodist Church, 1601 E. Bayview Blvd. Palm Sunday service, 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Holy Week services, 7 p.m. April 1-2; 8:30 and 11 a.m. April 4. Easter sunrise service will be at 6:30 a.m. on the beach at Grove Avenue. 587-9773.

Eckankar, 1500 E. Little Creek Road, Suite 203. Eckankar, worship services. 11 a.m.

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SPAY

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es funded through grants and donations, committee chair Sarah Crawford said.

"Our goal is to take these targeted programs one at a time through each of the cities in Hampton Roads," she said.

The effort starts April 16 in the Denby Park and Oakdale Farms area, she said.

"Animal overpopulation is a hard battle to fight if you don't attack the problem at its roots," Crawford said.

Targeted programs reduced the stray animal population in San Francisco by about 60 percent over a 10-year period, according to Peter Marsh, a New Hampshire lawyer who spearhead a similar campaign there.

Now SHR is taking its cues from Marsh, whose studies found that while middle- and higher-income neighborhoods pretty much have beaten the problem, lower income areas still suffer from pet overpopulation because of the cost of sterilization.

"That's why free and low-cost spay/neuter clinics are so important," Crawford said.

Tidewater Animal Rescue initiated a free spay and neuter program in Ocean View last year, offering 21 clinics

finding a clinic

Local low-cost clinics

Virginia Beach SPCA, 739-9306

Norfolk SPCA, 383-6620

Chesapeake Humane Society, 546-5355

Suffolk Humane Society, 538-3030, press 1

Low-cost mobile clinics that travel throughout Hampton Roads:

PETA's SNIP-Mobile, 622-7382, press 3

Virginia Beach SPCA Neuter Scooter, 323-7729

to learn more

For information, call 456-1354. Residents of Oakland Farms and Denby Park can leave their name and number to schedule an appointment.

The group is setting up a Web site, spayhr.org, for information and donations.

in which 539 cats and dogs were sterilized.

"We want to replicate that program in other parts of the city," Crawford said.

"But it has to be free because we want this to be available to those who can't

afford it."

Low-income areas with high incidences of strays in Norfolk, based on calls to the city's Animal Control Bureau, include Oakdale Farms and the northern part of Denby Park.

That's where SHR wants to offer about 600 surgeries over an eight-month period beginning this spring.

The group plans to later move on to the Lamberts Point and Park Place area, then to other neighborhoods, in an effort expected to take years, Crawford said. "There's no quick fix, unfortunately," she said.

Crawford believes that the local stray animal problem can be reduced by 75 percent over the next decade.

The group is seeking donations to fund the program.

"We hope to eventually get the local municipalities involved," Crawford said. "We want to demonstrate to them that spay/neuter programs are more cost effective than sheltering animals and also provide a more humane solution."

"Once cities realize that, we're hoping to have municipal support and realize our long-term goals," she said. "Ultimately, it can save tax-dollars."

Lia Russell, 222-5829, lia.russell@pilotonline.com

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