

spotlight on

the Animal Welfare League



of Alexandria

Over 50 years of caring

Summer/Fall 2005

The Canine Games Move to Episcopal High School

Over 600 dogs expected at 'Dogtoberfest!'



Max wins a medal in last year's Ball Catch.

The 14th Annual Canine Games will be held at Episcopal High School in Alexandria on Saturday, October 8. The League's signature event attracts over 600 dogs from all over the D.C. Metro area! This year's 'Dogtoberfest' theme is inspired by Bavaria's world-famous fall celebration and dogs of every athletic ability can compete in games such as the 40-Yard Dash (36.58

meter dash), Steeplechase (*der Hund is hoppen und zumen*), Bobbin fur Bratwurst and many more games named for the spirit of Bavaria -- all in good fun! The top three finishers in each game will be awarded bronze, silver and gold Canine Games medals.

The cost to pre-register is \$20 per dog; on-site registration is \$25 per dog. Additional dogs from the same household are \$15 each. Spectators, both human and canine, are free. The first 400 pre-registrants receive a T-shirt and Doggie Bag filled with goodies from the League and our sponsors. All dogs must have current rabies vaccinations. On-site registration begins at 9 am. The games will officially open at 10 am and will run until 12:45 pm. The event will conclude with an awards ceremony at 1:15 pm.

In addition to canine competition, there are fun things to do for all ages: meet wonderful Shelter dogs, take a chance on our raffle, have a souvenir button made with your dog's photo, and enjoy the food and lively Bavarian music. There will be a Rootbier Garden and prize for the best Bavarian-dressed dog. Top-notch vendors will be there with unique pet-related merchandise for sale. And don't forget to cast a vote for your favorite 2006 pet calendar entry!

Registration forms will be available at the Shelter and at www.alexandrianimals.org.

The Dog Who Wouldn't Leave

Some of the dogs in our adoption program go home just a few short days after being put up for adoption. Sometimes, it takes a bit longer to find just the right match. But then there was Elwood - the dog who just didn't seem to want to leave us. Elwood came to us after a succession of homes. He seemed to have been passed around from one home to another. By the time he reached the League, he was five years old, had not been neutered, had never been trained not to pull on the leash (and at his size, that was a significant problem!), and also had a heartworm infestation.

Underneath all of these issues, Elwood was a very loving, tolerant, easy-going dog. He did all the things that a stereotypical Labrador should do - fetched anything that was thrown for him, drooled a lot, stared adoringly at whoever was petting him, and ate anything within reach.

The most pressing issue for Elwood was his need for heartworm treatment. Because of the expense and the need for a quiet environment following treatment, this is not something the League is able to do often. In Elwood's case, though, his exceptional personality prompted us to consider

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Elwood with his favorite toys.

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about the league

HOW TO REACH THE LEAGUE

Vola Lawson Animal Shelter
4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304
703/838-4774 Fax: 703/838-4862
www.alexandrianimals.org
CFC and United Way designee number: # 8372

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday through Friday: 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m.
Closed on Wednesdays for adoptions and animal visiting.

ADOPTION PROGRAM

One of our most important programs involves placing homeless companion animals in carefully chosen, permanent homes. Our animal adoption program is one of the most successful in the country and has been praised by national animal welfare organizations. For more information, please call 703/838-4774.

ANIMAL CONTROL and 24-HOUR ASSISTANCE FOR ANIMALS

The League provides animal control services for the City of Alexandria. Our Animal Control Officers enforce State and City laws pertaining to the welfare and control of animals. They are on duty Monday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. At all other times, a trained staff member is on call to respond to animals in need. Please call 703/838-4774 any time you feel an animal needs help.

HUMANE EDUCATION

The League's Community Outreach Coordinator is available to speak to your group. To schedule a presentation or Shelter tour for children or adults, please call 703/838-4774. The League also offers Animal Awareness Camp, a summer day camp for children. Visit our website to learn more.

REDUCED-COST SPAY/NEUTER

Through the cooperation of local veterinarians, the League enables all pet owners to have their animals spayed or neutered at a reduced cost. Certificates can be purchased at the Shelter during regular business hours.

LOST AND FOUND

We offer a lost and found program to aid people in finding their pets. Each year, hundreds of lost pets are reunited with their owners through the League.

LICENSING

The League handles dog and cat licensing for the City of Alexandria. Annual fees start at \$10 for dogs and \$2 for cats. Multi-year licenses are now available also.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We conduct fun-filled activities for pet lovers throughout the year. Find details of upcoming events in this issue, on our website or call 703/838-4774.

DONATIONS *We need your help!*

The League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and relies on tax-deductible donations to fund our programs and services. Donations of items for the animals are also greatly appreciated. For more information on giving to the League, please call our Development office at 703/838-4774 ext. 206.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Volunteers perform a variety of helpful functions for the League, such as dog walking, cat socializing, helping out at special events, transporting injured or orphaned wildlife and more. To learn more, call 703/838-4774.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Gordon Kromberg - President
Gwen Jennier - Vice President, *ITT Industries-Advanced Engineering and Sciences; Angel Dog Music*
Betsy Willis - Treasurer
Rosemary Pollard - Recording Secretary
Patricia Donohue, DVM, *Alexandria Animal Hospital*
Nancy Hamilton
Maurice Levite
Carlos Mejias, *Olde Towne School for Dogs*
Kasia Mendelsohn, *U.S. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration*
Diana Titus-Allen Waller

2006 Pets Calendar: A Call for Entries

Every pet that is entered in our calendar contest will appear in the League's 2006 Pets of Alexandria Calendar. Any pet residing in Alexandria or that has been adopted from the League is eligible.

Pets may only be entered once. The entry fee of \$10 per photo includes one calendar. Voting will take place at the Canine Games on Saturday, October 8 (see cover article). Start recruiting family and friends now; there is no charge for people to attend the Canine Games and every vote counts. The top vote-getter will receive a custom pet portrait by Robin Burkett of PawPrints Photography, which will appear on the cover; the next 12 vote-getters will appear as 'pets of the month.'

The 2005 calendar raised over \$10,000 for the League through entry fees, votes, and calendar sales! Advertisers covered the cost of printing. Your entry can help make the 2006 calendar the best yet!

Print the entry form from our website or pick one up at the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter.

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Adopt a Pet & Save a Life

Are you ready to add a pet to your family? We urge you to check the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter first. We have dogs, cats, birds, hamsters, ferrets, rabbits and more! And we usually have a big selection of adult animals as well as puppies and kittens that are all waiting to become part of a forever home. Are you looking for a specific breed of dog? Most people don't realize that over 25 percent of our Shelter dogs are purebreds.

The animals waiting to be adopted are wonderful! They are here for a variety of reasons; one of the most common is that their previous owners have moved without them. Some of them are here because their owners are allergic or they just didn't realize the amount of time that it takes to properly care for a pet.

The reality of pet overpopulation in the United States is that there are more companion animals out there than there are homes for them. By adopting a Shelter animal, you will be providing a home for an animal that otherwise risks being euthanized. Animals at the Shelter are eager to find a new home and are just waiting for a special person or family to come along. All of the dogs and cats adopted from the Shelter are spayed or neutered to

ensure that we do our part to reduce pet overpopulation by eliminating the chance for any unwanted litters.

Our animals are evaluated for health and temperament before being placed up for adoption. Our staff is very knowledgeable about pet care and behavior and they specialize in matching up each animal with the right person. Many things are taken into consideration when making a lifestyle match, including any available history we may have on the animal, exercise and grooming needs, as well as other factors for compatibility.

Don't be discouraged if, when you first visit the Shelter, there are no animals of the breed or type you want. We receive new animals every day and the selection can literally change overnight. This is a match for life and we want you to wait until you find the right match.

Another advantage to adopting a pet is that our adoption fees are low—only \$50 for a dog or cat—even less for other types of animals. We encourage you to visit and meet our animals in person. The adoption department is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 12:00 PM – 8:00 PM and weekends from 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM. We are closed on Wednesdays for animal viewing. You can also view many of our animals at www.alexandrianimals.org.



After cats and dogs, guinea pigs are the most adopted animal from the League!

Welcome to New Board Member: Maurice Levite



Maurice Levite is a nationally recognized leader in not-for-profit/association management and fundraising, with more than 25 years experience. His professional experience includes service at such premiere organizations as the National Society of Fundraising Execu-

tives, Medlantic Healthcare Group and the American National Red Cross, where he served as Vice President of Development until his recent retirement. He now serves as Executive Counsel for Development Resources Inc. handling a few select clients like the World Bank, United Nations and Project HOPE. Originally hailing from Mississippi, Maurice has been a resident of Alexandria for over 30 years, and is the proud owner of a black Lab named Rachel. Maurice is an avid golfer, tennis buff, and enjoys sailing with his son on the Chesapeake Bay. Maurice joined the Board in February 2005, and has recently stepped up as co-chair of the League's newly formed Development Committee.

Do You Get E-News? Our monthly E-Newsletter, *Animal Welfare Matters*, is full of information about Shelter animals, special events, volunteers and more. To subscribe, visit our website at www.alexandrianimals.org. *Worried about Spam?* Your email is safe with us – We never share or sell our list.

upcoming events

For more information about any of our special events, visit www.alexandrianimals.org or call 703/838-4774.

Calendar

September 18 Bunny Day Spa (see article at right for more details)

October 8 14th Annual Canine Games (see cover article for more details)

October 16 Reduced-cost rabies vaccination and microchip clinic, 2 - 4 pm

The clinic will be held on Sunday, October 16, from 2-4 PM at the Shelter. The cost is \$10 to vaccinate each dog or cat; \$30 for each microchip. Three-year vaccinations will be given to animals with proof of current inoculation; others will receive a one-year dose. Proof of ownership is required for microchipping. Proof can include vet records, photographs or a pet license. No reservation necessary. Cats must be in carriers and dogs must be on leashes. *Tip: For a much shorter waiting time, arrive between 3-4 p.m.*

October 2 Blessing of the Animals
You and your pet are invited to a special event at the Fairlington Methodist Church (3900 King St, Alexandria - 703/671-8557) on Sunday, October 2 from 4-5 pm. The League will also be bringing adoptable animals; each pet will receive an individual blessing.

November 12 Annual Dinner & Silent Auction (see article at right for more details)

December 2-4 Pet Photos with Santa at Olde Towne Schol for Dogs (see article at right for more details)



Bunny Spa Day

What better way to welcome fall than with a glorious afternoon spa? Your rabbits will enjoy individual grooming, manicure, pedicure, and a massage by our famous bunny masseuse, Aileen Hudspeth, who is back after two years! This event will be held on Sunday, September 18 at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria from 1-4 pm. Space is limited

and the cost is just \$25 per rabbit. Reservations must be accompanied with a check, or pay by paypal. Also enter a raffle for a fabulous basket of soaps and luxurious bath items (for humans only). Details to come. To RSVP, email or call information@friendsofrabbits.org, or (703) 548-6793.

Annual Dinner & Silent Auction

Join us on Saturday, November 12, for our Annual Dinner & Silent Auction. This annual event is an opportunity for us to share with you the accomplishments and success stories from 2005-- after all, it couldn't happen without you! Each year the silent auction attracts a unique assortment of items for the home, vacation packages, artwork, antiques, and pet-related services. This is the perfect time to splurge on yourself, your pet or to shop for special people on your holiday list.

The cocktail reception and silent auction bidding begin at 6:30 PM. The reception will be followed by dinner, presentations and our special animal story.

The Annual Dinner & Silent Auction will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites on First Street. Look for your invitation soon!

If you have a unique item or service you'd like to donate to our auction, please contact Lesa Miller at 703/838-4774, ext. 210.

Pet Photos with Santa - An Old Town Tradition!

Our clever elves are very busy working on this year's special backdrop for Santa, who will be making his regular stop at Olde Towne School for Dogs on Dec. 2, 3 and 4 to pose for professional pet portraits. Carlos Mejias and his staff will make sure that pets look picture perfect for this Alexandria holiday tradition. The backdrop changes every year so your pet pictures will always look different-- Some pets have been coming for over 10 years! Portrait packages and holiday greeting cards will be available. Reservations can be made after November 15 by calling 703/836-7643. Olde Towne School for Dogs is located at 529 Oronoco Street in Old Town Alexandria.

Elwood (continued from page 1)

him a special case and go ahead with the treatment, which is essentially a set of injections, given three weeks apart. During those three weeks, it is essential that the pet remain as calm and stress-free as possible. Elwood went off for his first heartworm treatment and returned to the shelter within two days to recover. A few weeks later, he went back to the veterinarian for the second round of treatment, and after it was over, he again happily jumped in the car for the ride back to the shelter.

He easily and completely settled himself in to our routine. It didn't matter who walked him; he was simply happy to go for a walk. It didn't matter who fed him or who petted him or who threw the toys for him; everyone quickly became his friend. When the League treats dogs for heartworm, they generally spend those three weeks in a staff member's office to have as quiet an environment as possible. Because of this, we got to know Elwood very well, and he quickly garnered quite the fan club.

After his heartworm treatment was successful, Elwood needed to be neutered. This should have been a routine act, but not for Elwood! The first time we took him for his neuter appointment he had an elevated temperature and the veterinarian recommended waiting a week before his surgery. Back to the shelter he went and we started joking that Elwood was so happy with us, that he didn't want to leave.

We rescheduled his neuter for the following week. However, he then developed diarrhea a day before his scheduled surgery and it had to be postponed again. Back to the shelter again.

Finally, one week later, amongst many quips of "third times a charm," Elwood was neutered and we were determined to find him the best home possible.

A few days later, a nice woman came in and was smitten with Elwood. We conducted a home visit and her adoption of him was approved. She took him home the following day, but we later received a panicked phone call from her - Elwood was absolutely terrified of the elevator in her complex. Somehow she had gotten him into her apartment on the 14th floor but in trying to take him out for a walk, he proved to be petrified of the elevator! He simply would not go near; he was so worried that he wouldn't even walk through the adopter's door into the hallway. So, off to the rescue went our staff person, in whose office Elwood had hung out during his stay at the shelter. Armed with treats and Elwood's favorite toys, she was sure he would be excited to see her and would happily walk out to greet her. But, no, walking out the door meant Elwood would be near

the elevator! After 30 minutes of gentle encouragement, Elwood bravely passed through the doorway for a hug but as soon as Elwood heard the bell announcing the elevator's arrival, he bolted down the hallway in the opposite direction! The next option was to get Elwood down 14 flights of stairs. Coaxed along with a bag of treats (he is after all a Lab!), Elwood ran after his friend (who is thankfully very physically fit!). He was very happy to reach the outdoors as it had been quite some time since his last potty break. The adopter consulted with us and we all concluded that running up and down that many stairs several times a day was not realistic, so the adopter reluctantly returned Elwood to us.

Once again, Elwood jumped into the car, settled down to eat some more treats, and back to the shelter he went!

Elwood was probably with us for an additional two weeks before the McMullen family met him and fell in love with his happy smile and good-natured personality.

One of the first things we asked the McMullens was "Do you have an elevator"?! Who would have thought that would be an application question! Happily, the McMullens didn't have one. After a successful home visit, Elwood finally left the shelter for his new permanent home.

And Elwood has happily stayed in his new home. We recently spoke to Ms. McMullen and when asked about Elwood, she said, "Oh my gosh, Elwood is the most wonderful dog in the world. He just loves everybody! The children constantly say, "Mom, we're so lucky! Can you believe we got him?". He is just the perfect dog.". Elwood recently celebrated his birthday and he had his very own party, along with his new family and his best-canine friend, Lucy!

Wishful Thinking

(the animals may need what you don't)

- ◆ COMFORTERS and BLANKETS
- ◆ KONG TOYS for DOGS
- ◆ Kleenex, paper towels, bleach
- ◆ Bathmats with and without rubber backing
- ◆ Copier paper: any color

Please no sheets, pillows or plastic litter pans.

spotlight on volunteers

If you're one of the many thousands who visit our website (www.alexandrianimals.org) daily, you'll have seen many of our animals' happy, smiling faces, posing for the camera! Our website is updated weekly with photos and profiles of many of our adoptable animals. The vibrant images and descriptions set our adoption pages apart from most others and are responsible for many people coming to our Shelter to meet the animal they fell in love with online.

The League's adoption pages are mastered by two wonderful teams of volunteers: The Cat Team and The Dog Team.

The Cat Team. The feline crew is comprised of Bryce and Kara. Bryce is the talented photographer who can get even the most frisky cat to take time out for a photo shoot. Kara is the creative force behind the written cat profiles. She crafts the descriptions after getting up close and purr-sonal with the cats, giving chin rubs and finding their soft spots.

Bryce has been volunteering with the League for nearly two years. He has a big heart for all creatures, but especially cats. "I believe I have a strong bond to our feline companions, love the fact that all of them have different personalities, and really enjoy helping out the ones who are in transition to finding a new forever home. I really enjoy my work in the cat room and feel that I can make a difference in the lives of these beautiful animals." For the past six months, Bryce has also been the cat photographer for our website. "Handling the digital photography for the website is the highlight of my week, something I always look forward to and something that I feel makes a difference in finding homes for these wonderful companions."

Kara has been volunteering at the Shelter for nearly two years and she also started working in the Shelter as cat companion. Drop by the cat room and you may find her answering questions from potential adopters, cuddling the kitties, scooping litter boxes, refilling water bowls and doing whatever else is needed. "The best reward is always a nice purr. I've also been known to run around the cat room with a wand toy to entertain all of the kitties at once. They love it!" Getting a great picture for the website is definitely a two-person job and during the weekly photo shoot, Kara works with Bryce in obtaining the purr-fect photo for our website. "Every week you can find me in the cat room meowing, barking like a dog, and doing anything else I can to get the kitties to look at the camera. It's very rewarding when I hear that someone came to the Shelter because they saw a particular cat's photo or profile on the website. It's great to be a part of helping a wonderful cat find a loving home".

The Dog Team. Tomoko and Ann make up the canine contingency. Tomoko's photography skills capture the real personality of our dogs, while Ann's spot-on descriptions make you want to rush to the Shelter and meet the dogs!



Bryce, Tomoko, Ann and Kara give our Shelter animals extra exposure to potential adopters with wonderful website postings.

Tomoko has been volunteering for over four years and in that time she has helped with a variety of jobs, including walking dogs, wading through a sea of laundry, cleaning kennels until they sparkle and helping to make our cats happier. Tomoko can also be seen at most of our special events--always lending a helping hand. Her talent in dog photography is clearly evident - just look at the smiles on the dogs' faces! "I especially enjoy doing photos since it gives me a chance to get to know each dog so well. It makes me very happy when I come for the photo session and find out that the canine friends that I spent some time the pervious week are already living happily with their new families."

Ann has been volunteering since 2004 and started working the Sunday morning shift doing laundry, washing dishes and cleaning kennels. Ann has found that "just about anything can be laundered or put through the dishwasher, given you have the industrial model--dogs and cats not withstanding." During photo shoots, Ann discovered kitty treats and peanut butter have amazing powers of persuasion over the canine species! She has many reasons why she enjoys volunteering so much. "Speaking in ridiculous, cutesy voices to dogs is not only acceptable, but encouraged (to get their attention for the photo), nobody gets tired of the line 'so my dog did the most precious thing ...' and "knowing that, in some small way, I helped the right person connect with the right dog makes it all worthwhile."

The League is very appreciative of all our wonderful volunteers. They truly make a difference in our animals' lives.

humane education

Emergency Pet Care Packets

The League urges people to have something it hopes they will NEVER have to use, but is there just in case. Free 'Emergency Pet Care' packets are now available and contain information and telephone numbers that every pet owner should have at their fingertips in case of emergency, such as an animal poison hotline, emergency veterinary care and Animal Control. Residents living in multi-unit housing may request their rental office make these packets available to the rest of the rental community. Our Community Outreach Coordinator is available for mini-presentations to your community group. For Emergency Packets or to schedule a presentation, contact lmiller@alexandriaanimals.org or 703-838-4774, ext. 210.

Humane Education for Every Age

The League has programs available on a wide variety of animal subjects; most can be tailored to any age group, youth or adults. Presentations cover pet overpopulation, dog bite prevention, living with wildlife and more. For a brochure and complete list of presentations, please contact our Community Outreach Coordinator at 703-838-4774, ext. 210.

Our Feline Friends

(celebrating National Adopt-A-Cat month)

It was all about cats on Sunday, June 12, when a crowd of 40 people gathered at the Shelter for our first-ever session of "Speed Seminars." Dr. Nancy Suska (VCA-Beacon Hill Cat Hospital), Dr. Jerry Hinn (Fort Hunt and Hayfield Animal Hospitals), Dr. Andrea Tasi (Kingstowne Cat Clinic) and Terri Grow (PetSage) spoke for 15 minutes each on a different cat topic. These entertaining mini-presentations touched on a wide variety of subjects, from solving litterbox problems to senior cat care. It was all part of our annual Feline Follies event in celebration of National Adopt-a-Cat month where the entire month of June is devoted to promoting what's wonderful about our feline friends. Feline Follies also featured a cat photo contest and the couple that submitted the winning photo, Marian Urnikis and Joe Ahlgren, enjoyed great seats at a Washington National's game; their photo subject, Osiris, received a cat bag filled with treats.

Sponsors: Alexandria Animal Hospital, Fort Hunt and Hayfield Animal Hospitals, PetSage, VCA Beacon Hill Cat Hospital and VCA Old Town Animal Hospital.



The summer campers had visits from many animal professionals, including Dr. Patricia Donohue of Alexandria Animal Hospital. Chewie, the League mascot lends a helping (paw).

Scenes from Camp

The League's Animal Awareness Camp is a series of week-long, summer day camps for youth ages 9-12 and 13-15 years old. Over the summer, campers learned about Shelter life, were visited by animal professionals in the community, spent time interacting with Shelter animals, let their creativity loose and came away from camp with an increased appreciation for the creatures that share our world.

CFC/United Way Giving #8372

We are grateful to our friends who thoughtfully designate the League as recipients of their workplace giving campaigns. The United Way and Combined Federal Campaigns generate a significant portion of the dollars needed to care for the thousands of animals received at the Shelter each year.

Does your office have a kick-off party or a campaign fair? We welcome the opportunity to send a representative who can help educate the community about our programs and services and to encourage donations. Thank you for your support.

Community Caring

Barkley Square Gourmet Dog Bakery: Our friends in Wales Alley keep tails wagging at the Shelter with their (still) delicious day-old treats-yumm!

Because Safeway Cares: The Van Dorn and Old Town Safeway stores have chosen the League as their local charity for 2005. Both stores will be holding fundraisers throughout the year to help our Shelter animals.

The Association of Human Resource Management: This Alexandria organization generously donates its used printer cartridges to our recycling program. The League receives \$1 for every laser and inkjet cartridge we collect. A drop box is located in the Shelter lobby.

Gifts to the League

Your tax-deductible donation can be mailed in the enclosed, postage-paid envelope or sent to: AWLA, 4101 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22304. Gifts can also be made securely online at www.alexandriaanimals.org. To learn about other giving opportunities, please contact our Development Office at 703/838-4774 x206. Thank you!



4th Annual Mini Golf Classic Raises Over \$19,000!



Vice Mayor Redella Pepper enjoys the Celebrity Putting Contest at the 4th Annual Mini Golf Classic.

On Wednesday, June 8, the 4th Annual Eisenhower Avenue Mini Golf Classic drew close to 200 people to Cameron Run Regional Park where they spent a summer evening enjoying mini golf, food, live music and a silent auction. \$19,200 was raised for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria and the Eisenhower Partnership, co-organizers of the event. This year, the Mini Golf Classic added more family fun with face painting and balloon animals. Delicious food was provided by **La Prima, Restaurant Depot** and **Rocklands Barbeque**. Also new this year was a celebrity putting contest—guests competed against Delegate Brian Moran, Channel 7's John Harter, Vice Mayor Redella Pepper and Belle Haven Golf Pro, Chad Mosely, for a chance to win a prize. Over the years, the Mini Golf Classic has proved a successful way to draw businesses and families to the Eisenhower Valley for an evening of fun in support of two local non-profits. "It's a great example of two organizations combining resources to create a winning situation all around," declared Tara Blot, the League's Executive Director. We greatly appreciate the support from individuals and businesses, including our Grand Sponsors: **Courtyard Marriott** and **Marriott's Residence Inn**—both of Alexandria.

Eagle Sponsors: **Alexandria Animal Hospital, Alexandria Gazette Packet, DigiLink, Inc., Hoffman Company, LCOR Inc., New Target, Inc., Simpson Development;** Birdie Sponsors: **ABC Imaging, The Andrews Agency, FASTSIGNS Alexandria, Mount Vernon Gazette, Mount Vernon Voice, Schreiner, Legge & Company, Washington Suites Alexandria, Whole Foods Market, Wm. D. Eulle & Associates, Inc.;** In-Kind Sponsors: **All American Printing, Inc., Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and Restaurant Depot.**

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