



A Helping Hand

Fall
2008

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Volunteer makes a big difference for shelter dogs

By Debbie West

"We can all be angels to one another. We can choose to obey the still small stirring voice within, the little whisper that says, 'Go. Ask. Reach Out.' Be an answer to someone's plea."

—Joan Wester Anderson

New Marion County Dog Shelter (MCDS) volunteer, Jen Roper, is an angel to the dogs at the shelter. Although she signed up as a volunteer to walk dogs at the shelter, she began to see other ways she could help the dogs she met during her walking sessions.

One day while putting away a dog she had just walked, Jen met "Cody." During her brief meeting with this dog something clicked and Jen saw that he was friendly, loving and thrilled with human attention. He needed a family. She knew that she had to help him find a home. She printed

the shelter's adoption flyer with Cody's picture on it and took it to work.

Jen is the assistant manager at the Battlecreek Courthouse Athletic Club in Salem. So during her workday she made a point to put in a good word for the MCDS dogs. She asked all her co-workers to consider adopting Cody. Jen made a point of talking about Cody and other adoptable dogs at the shelter while conducting classes and talking with the

club's members.

Within two weeks of becoming a volunteer and an advocate for the MCDS dogs, Jen's efforts paid off for Cody who was adopted by one of Jen's co-workers.

Jen is a shining example of how each and every person can make a difference. Jen's commitment to finding a forever home and the extra effort she gave made a HUGE difference for Cody and his new family.



Edwin and Cody with Jen. Way to go, Jen!

Emergency volunteers expand ability to help community during disaster

By Bill Wylie

Marion County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (MCARES) members Frank Gruber and Don Busch volunteered 35 hours installing an emergency amateur radio station on the Silverton Hospital Grounds.

MCARES provides volunteer radio operators for stations during an emergency such as those at local hospitals, Red Cross, and city, county and state emergency management offices.

MCARES members regularly practice digital communications, which is sending an e-mail over the airwaves, in preparation for disaster relief. Digital communications supports the greater volume of logistical information required by

modern disaster management organizations.



Don Busch (top) and Frank Gruber (bottom) install necessary equipment

Meet Melissa Austin

Melissa Austin is the new Environmental Services Multi-Family Recycling Program Specialist. Melissa is an AmeriCorps Volunteer. She will continue work on, and expand, the apartment recycling program. Additionally, she will be involved with this year's Marion County Master Recycler class and the Earth Day Celebration.

Melissa's career interests include community outreach in relation to community building and sustainable behaviors, which she is exercising with her projects here at Marion County.

Melissa is a native Oregonian, born and raised in Salem. She attended Western Oregon University and Oregon State University studying forensic chemistry and microbiology. After moving back to Salem last October, she has been transforming her career path. She enjoys interacting with the community and educating them on carbon footprint-reducing behaviors.

Melissa can be reached at 503-566-4159, or by e-mail at maustin@co.marion.or.us.



Welcome to Marion County, Melissa!

Marion County Dog Shelter volunteer spotlight

By Allison Barrows

Lynnette Graves has become an integral part of the Marion County Dog Shelter. You may have seen her at the Marion County Fair when she was staffing the shelter booth and at Dog Fest at the Raffle Booth. She spent four days at the fair greeting the community and educating people on what we do at the shelter to help stray dogs. Her love of dogs has grown into a love of the shelter.



Lynnette staffing the raffle booth at Dog Fest 2008

Lynnette serves on the Dog Fest Committee, is responsible for helping with the set up at our adoption outreach events, conducts volunteer orientations, and last, but not least, she does all the filing for the shelter.

Thank you, Lynette for never being afraid to try something new and growing with us at the shelter!

Cadets: Preparing the Next Generation of Public Safety Professionals

By Undersheriff Jason Myers

One-hundred and fifty kids 14-20 years descended upon Camp Rilea in late August for the 29th Annual Law Enforcement Challenge. Five of those kids represented Marion County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), and before peers, advisors and spectators, they competed in events from "high-risk traffic stops" to "courtroom testimony" to "precision driving."

The Marion County Sheriff's Office Cadet Unit is a program that is designed to challenge teenagers with an interest in law enforcement to build skills that will give them an advantage when applying for careers within public safety. MCSO works to help the cadets build confidence, use teamwork, take initiative and learn responsibility. Cadet Jason Remmy has been working toward a full-time career with the Sheriff's Office for three and a half years. He says that his favorite part about the Unit is the opportunity to interact with the public and handle their calls for service, verifying for the MCSO that the next generation of police officers

will be prepared professionals.

The Cadet Law Enforcement Challenge (LEC) is a competition that Cadets train for throughout the year. For three days in late August, Cadets from approximately 15+ different Oregon law enforcement agencies compete in a variety of scenarios that are designed to replicate the experiences they may have as full time police officers.

The LEC is the big, fun event for the Cadets, but they are also required to complete at least 20 hours of service each month riding with deputies, assisting at safety fairs, marking abandoned vehicles or a variety of other support functions. Requirements of the Unit include, (among other requirements):

Cadet must be between the age of 14 ½ and 21, be enrolled in school and maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA, maintain an excellent driving record, pass a background investigation, and remain alcohol and drug free. The MSCO is

recruiting for cadets at:
<http://www.co.marion.or.us/SO/jointheteam/cadetunit.htm>

Sheriff volunteers help at Detroit Lake

By Doc Nelson

Marion County Sheriff's Office Volunteers began conducting boat inspections this summer at Detroit Lake. Volunteers are assisting at the Mongold boat ramp and at Kane's and Detroit marinas.

As the summer months heat up, several Marion County Sheriff volunteers are providing boat safety inspections so deputies can spend their time on the lake.

The volunteers are not enforcement officers; they cannot issue citations and their inspections are not mandatory. Their role is to advise boaters of any missing safety requirements and possibly head off a citation if stopped on the water by a patrol deputy. Boaters who pass a checklist by the certified volunteer will receive a compliance sticker good for one year.

A first year program, boat inspections by volunteers will most likely be expanded next year.

During the month of May alone, the Marion County Sheriff volunteers accrued a total of 169 hours by working at two community events, performing office duties and assisting the marine safety patrol.



Cadets Chad Lane, Jason Remmy, Jeremy Royle, and Kevin Ely accept awards at the 2008 LEC.

Marion County's

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Marion County volunteers—
connecting the county to
the community.

Announcements

Contact Glenis Chapin, 503-588-7990 or
volunteer@co.marion.or.us

- **Last Dog Shelter Orientation and Dog Walking Training for 2008 on November 15, 9 a.m.—12:00 p.m.** Volunteers interested in walking dogs, helping people adopt dogs or doing community outreach can contact **Debbie West at 503-391-5362.**
- **Interested in helping others? Interested in the Criminal Justice System?** You can help others while learning valuable skills by becoming a Sexual Assault Response Advocate for the Marion County District Attorney's Office- Victim Assistance Division. Training is scheduled in January and is held over 2 weeks (4 evenings and 1 Sat.) Requirements: 18 years of age or older, no criminal history, reliable transportation (bus not acceptable), working telephone, non-judgmental attitude, and a desire to help others. Many who work full-time can still help others and their community by assisting victims of sexual assault. After training, commitment is simply one 24-hour shift per month for one year. **Contact Kathie Beach at 503-588-3571 or an application is available at: <http://www.co.marion.or.us/DA/victimassistance>.**
- **Love to shop and want to help animals at the same time?** Join the Marion County Dog Shelter at the 8th Annual Shopping Extravaganza at the Woodburn Company Stores on **Saturday, November 8th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Event tickets are only \$25 and proceeds from tickets sales benefit the Marion County Dog Shelter. There are a limited number of tickets for sale! Your ticket includes: savings at your favorites stores, lunch & dessert by Wild Pear Catering & Pepsi, wine tasting, gift wrapping, and more. For more info on the event visit <http://www.shop-woodburn.com>. **To purchase tickets, contact Jolene Bray, 503-365-3177.**
- **Volunteers needed for 8th Annual Shopping Extravaganza!** Buy your ticket, work a two-hour shift between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and then go shopping! Volunteers can help welcome people, take tickets, check in shoppers, wrap gifts and staff the hospitality suite. Want to help? **Call Jolene Bray, 503-365-3177.**

