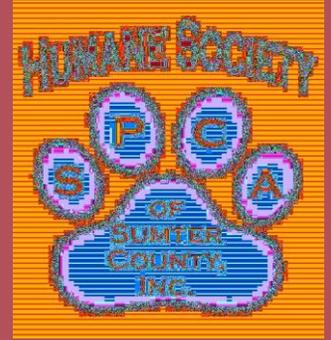


# COOL NEWS & ANIMAL VIEWS

Celebrating 35 YEARS in 2017!



We are SO excited to celebrate 2017 because it marks our 35th Anniversary proudly serving Sumter County! We'll be increasing our programs for our community so stay tuned for that news on the horizon, adding two new fun events to our calendar and be seeking out more volunteers as well as our local businesses partnering in special sponsorships!

With all this positive energy in this landmark year, we're just going for it and aiming high with our ambitious goal of a really "Big Fix!" We want to raise enough funds to offer 2017 Spay/Neuter Vouchers in our anniversary year in order to have a HUGE impact reducing the number of homeless animals in Sumter County. The average S/N cost is \$55/pet.

Send your tax-deductible gift earmarked "The Big Fix" and **together we can be the change we wish to see!**

year. Celine Petrie will continue in her role as Chairman. Bill's successor as the chief operating officer of the Society will be Anne Miller. Her title will be Shelter Manager.

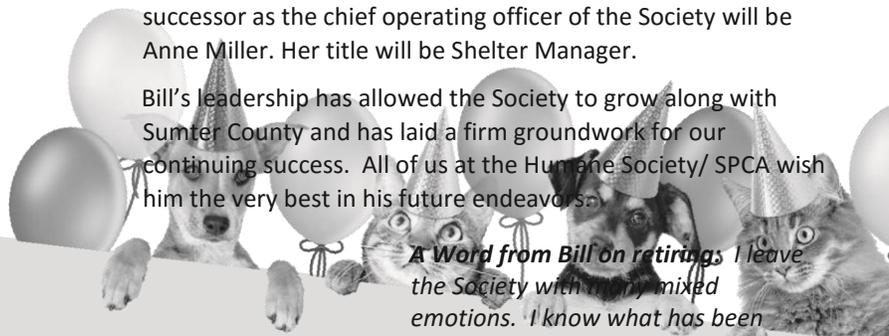
Bill's leadership has allowed the Society to grow along with Sumter County and has laid a firm groundwork for our continuing success. All of us at the Humane Society/SPCA wish him the very best in his future endeavors.

*A Word from Bill on retiring: I leave the Society with many mixed emotions. I know what has been accomplished over the past five years would not have happened without the dedicated help of two of my closest co-workers Anne Miller and Carol LeGrand, Kennel Manager. I know it is time for the Society to take the next leap into the future. I know there is so much more the Society can do for the residents of Sumter County. Over the next few years we need to build the future Green Shelter for the less fortunate animals in our county and with your help this will happen.*

*I also know it is time for me to step back and spend much more time with my lovely wife Margaret. This year is our 50th anniversary. Margaret has always been there for me and I look forward to the opportunity to spend much more time at home with her. Maybe we can spend time working on our bucket list. I am not sure what the future will bring, but whatever it is we will enjoy sharing it together.*

## The Retirement of our President

After eight years working devotedly in many positions including Chairman of the Board and President of our Humane Society/SPCA, Bill Gottschalk, retired on March 23, 2017. Bill joined our HS/SPCA after previously retiring from the United States Navy and subsequently from a civilian job with The Hillman Group. Bill started his volunteer career with us performing maintenance tasks and quickly rose to take on ever increasing responsibility. In his time here, Bill was responsible for bringing adoptable animals onsite at our Lake Panasoffkee facility, overseeing considerable expansion of the shelter, and brokering the agreement with Sumter County Animal Services which resulted in a doubling of the number of animals per year our Society was able to save. For two of his three years as President, Bill also held the position of Chairman of the Board. As part of a reorganization to better deal with the continued growth of our non-profit organization, the roles of Chairman and President were separated last



*I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to have served the Society and our County in the protection of animals.*

## Our Chairman's Review

Even though you will be reading this in April, it's our first newsletter of the year so on behalf of everyone at the Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County, Inc., **I would like to send a heartfelt "thank you" to our community for its enthusiastic support this past year.** This generosity was demonstrated in the sponsorship of major projects as well as attendance at our events throughout Sumter County, via monetary donations and donations of pet food and cleaning supplies, as well as in the interest expressed in volunteering, pet adoptions and fostering.

### Many other changes took place this year including several new programs:

- At the end of April 2016 we became a Petco Adoption Partner, housing some of our many adoptable cats at PETCO's Villages area store. This allowed us to reach adopters in a wider area and save even more lives.
- By the end of 2016, we had adopted 75 cats directly from the PETCO location.
- We re-started our Foster Care program and placed a number of kittens, cats and dogs needing special care in loving foster homes until they are ready for adoption.
- We began performing Feline Leukemia/FIV testing in-house.
- Perhaps the most visible change was the new wrap on the van. The large eye-catching graphics of animals and the message "Save a Life – Adopt, Donate, Volunteer" serves as a mobile billboard as we go about our daily tasks.

### Existing programs continue to grow, too:

- Our monthly "Meet and Greet" at Regional Recreation Centers in The Villages introduces our adoptable pets to interested adopters and volunteers.
- Kibbles, our Pet Food Pantry, increased 23% in the number of families on the program and increased 42.6% in the number of animals served.
- Dramatic increase in the number of animals in our Spay/Neuter voucher program, serving 878 animals in 2016.

### We have expanded hours, too:

- The HS/SPCA Office is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to

## New Giving Opportunities!

We've partnered with **Caring Cent**, by helping save a life with spare change and it's a free secure way to help us year-round. Similar to our donation banks CaringCent, allows you to "round up" your purchases to the next dollar directly to us! Register your credit or debit card securely at <https://donate.caringcent.com/#/go/hsspca>.

With **Giving Assistant**, your purchases at over 2800+ popular online retailers have the power to support our mission by helping us go further, and do more. You can earn cash back and donate up to 100% of your earnings to us! Visit [www.GivingAssistant.org](http://www.GivingAssistant.org) and select us as your charity of choice. It's

Amazon Shoppers: Visit our "Gift List" at [www.smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2999283](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/59-2999283) for items we routinely need for a clean healthy shelter!

Visit **Ebay For Charity** and see how easily you can help! If you are an Ebay Seller and wish to help, please consider making a portion of your sale directed to our non-profit. Check out the lovely donated items we have on our own Ebay page at <http://www.ebay.com/usr/hsspca>.

Join our "**Humane Heroes**" with a monthly automated online donation for your convenience. Contact our Shelter Manager, Anne Miller for details.

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Starting with the building of our new Catty Shack, major renovations to the old Kitty Kottage and Kitty Quarantine and canine agility areas in January 2016 awarded to us by GreaterGood.org as their 100th Rescue Rebuild project. It continued with generous gifts from local residents of the pole barn in late spring, a renovation/expansion of the Kitty Quarantine area and a brand new Kennel Hold area for dogs in the fall, making this a year of tremendous growth for our HS/ SPCA. And when we needed a new dryer, one of our wonderful volunteers stepped up and reimbursed us for the cost. Words can hardly express the gratitude we feel toward these amazing donors. We also deeply appreciate every donor who sends in a contribution or drops off needed supplies and, of course, our awesome volunteers who make it possible for us to keep the shelter running with a minimum of paid staff. Thanks, too, to the many animal advocates who tirelessly network the available animals and the numerous rescue groups with which we partner to place animals in forever homes. You are all a vital part of our HS/SPCA and it could not be done without you!

Over our 35 year history, our non-profit has continually worked towards expanding our shelter programs for Sumter's animals. It is gratifying to our staff, Board, volunteers and myself to know our community values and supports the necessary work we do.

**We invite you to visit our shelter, meet our great team and our animals plus see how YOU make a difference. I personally look forward to meeting you!**

With our sincerest gratitude,

Celine Petrie  
Chairman of the Board

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## Special "HOPE Fund" Rescues

Our HOPE Fund was created to assist abused and neglected animals in emergencies or with critical needs in their care; named in honor of a newborn kitten which was witnessed being thrown from a moving vehicle and saved by caring Sumter residents. Any funds exceeding an animal's needs are applied for animals facing such need in the future.

This year began with two urgent pleas for help for two loving young dogs who faced gross neglect and physical conditions that required special surgical attention. You, our community, came through with our request for that extra helping hand and donated towards their larger than average medical needs. In mid-January, Rane, a year old black Labrador mix, was a victim found struck by a car with no owners claiming her at the County facility. Upon availability, we pulled her out and brought her for immediate medical attention and discovered she had a dislocated hip and three pelvic fractures. In addition, she was not spayed or micro-chipped, had fleas and

was very malnourished. Rane still displayed a loving joyful personality despite all she had experienced.

Rane faced the possibility of her hind leg amputated due to the severity of the damage and to avoid potential long-term pain. However, based upon Dr. Shannon Kennedy's evaluation, he felt it best to give this young dog a chance by keeping her leg and performing an FHO (a femoral head osteotomy where the head of the femur is removed or reduced down in size). Her costs were estimated between \$1K-1.5K in addition to physical therapy. Rane's surgery went very well, so much so, that our vet was stunned at how fast she was recovering AND her foster home loved her so much they adopted her!

We were barely into February, when we found poor sweet Nellie, a 15 month old Catahoula mix puppy barely able to stand or walk in our County facility. She was surrendered by people who said they found her as a stray and who provided her most basic needs. Nellie urgently required orthopedic reconstructive surgery on both her dislocated knees to avoid affecting the quality of her development as an adult. In addition, she was very malnourished, flea infested and had little positive interaction with people. We know this young girl deserved a chance at a pain-free happy future, so we took her to our shelter and planned the series of surgeries she would require. Nellie underwent surgery for the first knee and our own vet fostered her in this critical time. Unfortunately, during recovery Nellie's insecurities with people worsened into aggressive and unpredictable behavior and she damaged her fragile knee. The prospects for subsequent surgical repair, the second knee surgery and a spaying later was not something we felt Nellie or any handler could safely manage for months ahead. It seemed that being able to live a pain-free life was not in her destiny. With great regret by all her caregivers, we made the difficult decision to euthanize Nellie. We do our best to insure a quality happy life for each animal but in the very rare case such as Nellie's, we feel the peaceful end of pain is in their best interest.

## News Around the State:

The new **Florida Animal Friend** license plate helps end pet overpopulation for an additional \$25 annual tax-deductible donation. All proceeds fund spay/neuter programs across Florida. Visit [www.floridaanimalfriend.com](http://www.floridaanimalfriend.com). Our HS/SPCA has received grants to help us offer FREE spay/neuter vouchers for pets of qualifying low income Sumter County residents.

Visit [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov) to learn of the many animal related laws within the FL House and Senate (HB# and SB#) under review especially:

HB 515: Companion Animal Protection Act, HB 871: Animal Abuser Registry, SB 212: Animal Hoarding, SB 320: Dogs in Vehicles and SB 512: Greyhound Racing.



Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538 352-793-9117  
[www.hsspc.org](http://www.hsspc.org)

## Our Mission

- Encourage responsible animal ownership practices through education;
- Report incidents of animal cruelty and/or neglect to government agencies chartered to take appropriate action;
- Provide care for adoptable animals that are injured, abused, unwanted or abandoned;
- Secure permanent homes for as many adoptable animals as possible;
- Provide spay and neuter services for animals to be adopted, as appropriate, to reduce unwanted animal populations.

## Board of Directors

Celine Petrie, **Chairman**  
 Grover Stewart, **Vice Chairman**  
 Cindy Samp, **Secretary** Cheryl Courtright  
 Robert Fitzgerald  
 Claudia Labbe, **Fundraising/PR**  
 Gloria Litman, **Community Outreach Adoptions**  
 Jane Mouradjian, **Volunteer Chairman**

## Staff

Anne Miller, **Shelter Manager**  
 Carol Legrand, **Kennel Manager** Patty Bennett, **Kennel Tech.**  
 Star Gusman, **Adoption Coordinator** Kathryn Lane, **Treasurer**

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 “Regretfully, we learned **2017**

**Pet**

*Shredding” event will no longer*

**Adopti**

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# on Calendar *that the big annual "Paper be conducted.*

But we wish to

sincerely thank the Rainbow Family & Friends Club of The Villages, Buffalo Ridge Animal

**@ The Villages Regional Recreation Centers**  
Meet adoptable animals at our monthly pet adoption days at varying Regional Recreation Centers in The

Hospital, Hill's Shred Express Villages every 3rd Friday from 11am-1pm, weather and all our community who permitting at the outdoor adjacent gazebo. So MARK

participated for the last 6 YOUR CALENDARS! years with generous support and effort towards this **4/21/17** – Paradise Rec. Ctr.

"green" event. It has made a tremendous impact raising **5/19/17** – Rohan Rec. Ctr. **6/16/17** - Eisenhower

Rec. Ctr. over \$41,000 towards animals **7/21/17** –

Mulberry Rec. Ctr. in our community! We are truly

**8/18/17** – Seabreeze Rec. Ctr. grateful for all the

love shown **9/15/17** – Lake Miōna Rec. Ctr.

to us by all the new friends we made and hope that this **10/20/17** – Colony Cottage Rec. Ctr.

friendship continues! **11/17/17** – Laurel Manor Rec. Ctr.

Thank you to all!" **12/15/17** – Paradise Rec. Ctr.

**August** Blankets, Towels & Flat Sheets

**8/19 "Clear the Shelter"**

**Adoption event,** OdoBan Odor

Eliminator & Disinfectant and

Bleach at our shelter, in

planning stages



Volunteers

October

kitchen trash bags

## Calendar of Events

Check our website & Facebook for latest updates

**April** National Animal Cruelty Prevention Month

**4/05 Mission Oaks Pet Adoption/Supply Drive**

10am-1pm, US 301, Oxford

**4/15 Spring Fling Easter Fly-In,**

Free Flight Airport, Coleman, 9am-12,

Pancake Breakfast & Family Fun!

**4/22 Earth Day & 35th Anniversary PAWty!** Apr: Tegan Henick 10am-

2pm at our shelter. **May** Humane Society/SPCA of Sumter County

Month!

**5/5 Hurricane Expo,**

Rohan Rec. Ctr. The Vlgs, 10am-2pm

**5/20 Webster Pet Day,**

Webster City Hall, 9am-1 pm

**June** National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month

### of the Month

2016

Nov: Verena Ward

Dec: Christine Pena

2017

Jan: Sheila & Ed Conte Feb: Cathy Burns

Mar: Judy Hutton

### Wish List

Gift Cards: Walmart/Sam's Club, Gas cards & local businesses

A year-round need of dry dog/cat food (especially Purina O.N.E.)

Clumping cat litter

**10/21 Blessing of the Animals,**

Hope Lutheran Church, CR 466, The Vlgs. 9am General Office supplies (copy registration, 10am  
Service paper, Epson #127 Black/Color Inks, postage stamps)

**Remember to donate your  
recyclable used ink  
cartridges, old cell phones,  
and alum. cans! We have  
convenient drop off  
locations throughout the  
County too.**

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