

# OUR TOWNS

## AROUND TOWN

### FLOWmobile to visit City Hall

The Florida Licensing on Wheels mobile office will be at Ormond Beach City Hall, 22 S. Beach St., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday. Get a driver's license/ID card, change of address, renewals, replacements, and vehicle registration and disabled parking permits, as well as other needs. No appointment needed. For details, visit gathergoet.com or call 850-617-2000.

### County plans Toys 4 Kids softball tournament

The Volusia County Parks, Recreation and Culture Division is organizing the annual Toys 4 Kids Tournament Dec. 4-6 at Robert Strickland Park, 1670 Strickland Range Road, Holly Hill. The team entry fee in this three-game guarantee tournament is \$275. The entry deadline is Dec. 1. For information about the tournament draw, call Marlin Ballou at 386-265-2298. For payment information and other questions, call David Hinson at 386-274-0175 or email dhinson@volusia.org.

### Food Brings Hope partners with Atlantic High School

Food Brings Hope, a non-profit organization dedicated to eradicating hunger, poverty, and homelessness among Volusia County students, has added Atlantic High School to its roster of school partners. TeenZone is an afterschool program for middle and high schools where students receive additional academic support, nutritious meals, and enrichment activities. Food brings Hope currently provides for eight active TeenZone programs.

### Young Farmers collecting Toys for Tots

Volusia Young Farmers and Ranchers and Volusia County Farm Bureau are collecting new, unwrapped toys until Dec. 15. Toys will be given to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program where they will be distributed to local families. With every five-toy donation, toy giver will receive a raffle ticket and a chance to win a \$100 Visa gift card. Name, address and phone number required for raffle. Farm Bureau membership is not required to enter raffle or to donate toys. Toy donations can be made during normal business hours at the Volusia County Farm Bureau office, 3090 E. New York Ave., DeLand. For information, call Victoria Register at 386-785-6751 or email at victoria@ferntrust.com.

### 15th annual SEV Community Thanksgiving dinner

The 15th annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner is set for Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Hollister Hall, 215 Palmetto St., New Smyrna Beach. Free to the public. Donations accepted. The dinner is sponsored by Southeast Volusia groups and churches. For information, call 386-428-4371 or 386-428-8537.

### Eighth annual Child in Me Exhibit

The eighth annual Child in Me Exhibit invites children ages 7-10 and their guardians to Daytona Beach City Island 2 p.m. Wednesday or 10:30 a.m. Saturday at 105 E. Magnolia Ave., Daytona Beach. In one hour guests will create a magical and fun mystery project. Classes are free. To register, call 386-257-6038 or 386-258-5333.

## ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH

# Resident awaits special human

By Thomas McGauley  
Correspondent

DAYTONA BEACH — Michelle is the last of the Sochi dogs. All of the other Russian street dogs who came to America have found forever families.

But Michelle still lives at the ARNI Foundation. And at her age, she faces this reality: older animals are the most difficult to place in adoptive homes.

"People will fight over puppies," said Nikki Linn, the director of ARNI, a no-kill animal shelter in Daytona Beach. "But maybe 1 percent of the people who come in here are looking for older animals."

But Linn is optimistic: November is National Adopt a Senior Pet Month.

"Senior animals make such great pets," Linn said. "They appreciate everything. And they're house broken."

Linn was behind the effort to bring 25 stray dogs from Russia to Daytona Beach. Leading up to the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, reports circulated that Russian authorities were euthanizing dogs in the resort town on the Black Sea.

So Linn took action, the dogs traveled 6,000 miles, and stepped onto the safe grounds of ARNI.

So many people wanted a Russian puppy that ARNI had prospective adoptees write essays on why they wanted a dog.

Michelle, a black German shepherd mix, curls in a ball in her small kennel room. Two stuffed animals are near her.

"She's loving, but she's timid," said Janice Roushey, the shelter manager at ARNI. "She's been through so much. She deserves a good home."

Down the hall, amid barking dogs, a woman taps at the glass of a cat room, and smiles and waves at the kittens.

"Always the kittens," said Alyssa Cavarretta, a kennel tech. "Most of them find homes as soon as they get here."

Michelle's tongue hangs out because many of her rotten teeth had to be removed. Linn estimates she is 9 years old. Her coat is flecked with gray.

In the front office, a young couple is delighted with a puppy, and the puppy is delighted with them.



Arni Shelter manager Janice Roushey gives 9-year-old Michelle some loving smooches. November is adopt a senior dog month.

NEWS-JOURNAL/THOMAS MCGAULEY

November might be National Adopt a Senior Pet Month, but on this day, no one shows any interest in Michelle. And in the year that she's been at ARNI, no one has come close to adopting her.

She was born and abandoned at the meeting point of sea and mountains. She survived the streets of Putin's Russia.

In her kennel room on Mason Avenue in Daytona Beach, with her stuffed animals, Michelle waits to say dasvidaniya to shelter life forevermore.

## Oasis Church thanks Halifax Health



Volunteers from the Oasis Church of Ormond Beach visited Halifax Health Medical Center of Daytona Beach for a special appreciation event Oct. 17. Church volunteers visited each nurse's station in the hospital, providing nurses and physicians with power bars and Gatorade. The group also toured the hospital's pediatrics unit, bringing with them a red wagon full of toys. In addition, the group provided patients in the Center for Women & Infant Health with mother/baby gift bags. PHOTO PROVIDED

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