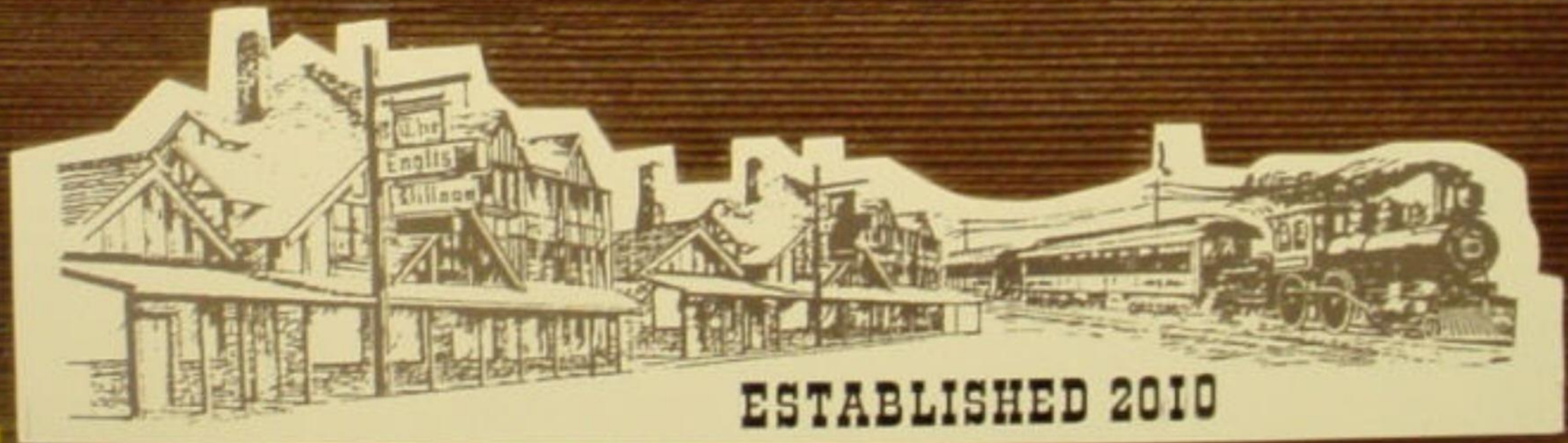


PEPPER DOG PARK



ESTABLISHED 2010

City of Hollister “Pepper Dog Park” Dog Park Project



Goal: To create a new city dog park where both human and animal residents and visitors of the City of Hollister can enjoy a safe, family-friendly outdoor recreational space by September 2010.

Background: On August 18, 2008 Hollister Parks Director Chad A. Fuqua was killed by a drunk driver. Mr. Fuqua’s family has created a foundation – Chad A. Fuqua Foundation – to honor his memory by advocating and providing funding for the Hollister Parks System. Mr. Fuqua’s beloved dog, Pepper, often accompanied him and was his best friend. Pepper, a black Labrador retriever and a rescue shelter dog, was adopted by Mr. Fuqua’s family, after his tragic death. Pepper is a frequent user of the Hollister Parks System, and most recently, she appeared in costume for Hollister’s Centennial “Founders Day” event. The proposed dog park will be dedicated in honor of the special relationship between Mr. Fuqua and his dog Pepper and the relationship that both of them share with the City of Hollister.

Scope: The City of Hollister owns approximately 2 acres of parks adjacent to the Trinity Christian Academy school. A portion of the property is designated as “Tiger Park,” consisting of basketball courts, playground equipment, and green space. The new dog park will occupy 13,000 sq. ft (65’ x 200’) of dog-run space and a small parking area on the park grounds, next to Tiger Park. In addition to being located next to the school, it is also located near single-family and multiple-family residential areas, and it is within easy walking distance of Hollister’s historic downtown.

Because of its location, the dog park will provide safe, family-friendly outdoor recreation opportunities for Hollister residents and visitors, and it will encourage walking, exercise, and other healthy activities in our neighborhoods and City. In addition, as the first dog park in the area, this new park will be a destination for our residents, and it will help to make Hollister a great place to live, work, and play.

The health and safety of parks users are of high importance, and, therefore, the project is designed with these considerations in mind. The dog run area will be enclosed by 6’ fencing, including a double-gated entry system and a partitioned area to keep the dogs contained in the area and to promote good behavior and safety among the animals. Water, animal waste receptacles, trash receptacles, and other standard-park equipment will be installed on the grounds. The City of Hollister has designed this park after researching industry standards for safety and other best-practices.

This is an exciting project for the City of Hollister for many reasons. It is a unique amenity in our community; it will provide safe, fun, and free recreational opportunities for our residents; and it honors two friends of the Hollister Parks System: Mr. Fuqua and his dog Pepper. The park will be named “Pepper Dog Park” in their honor.

Goal and Objectives

Goal: To create a new city dog park where both human and animal residents and visitors of the City of Hollister can enjoy a safe, family-friendly outdoor recreational space by September 2010.

Objective I: Secure a location for the dog park on city owned property.

Measurement: Location selected and mapped for the project.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Parks Department.

Date completed: September 2009.

Objective II: Prepare list of supplies and equipment needed to complete the project.

Measurement: Bill of materials and site layout maps produced.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Parks and GIS Departments.

Date completed: June 2009. Updated May 2010.

Objective III: Secure funding for the project.

Measurement: Sufficient financial and/or in-kind contributions committed to complete the project according to the plans.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Economic and Community Development Department.

Timeline: July – August 2010.

Date completed:

Objective IV: Purchase supplies and equipment.

Measurement: All supplies and equipment in possession of Parks Department.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Parks Department

Timeline: August 2010.

Date completed:

Objective V: Install all equipment and materials; park readied for public use.

Measurement: All materials are properly installed according to the plans.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Parks Department

Timeline: August 2010.

Date completed:

Objective VI: Open dog park to the public and hold ribbon-cutting celebration event.

Measurement: Residents and visitors able to use park.

Responsible party: City of Hollister Public Information Office.

Timeline: September 2010.

Date completed:

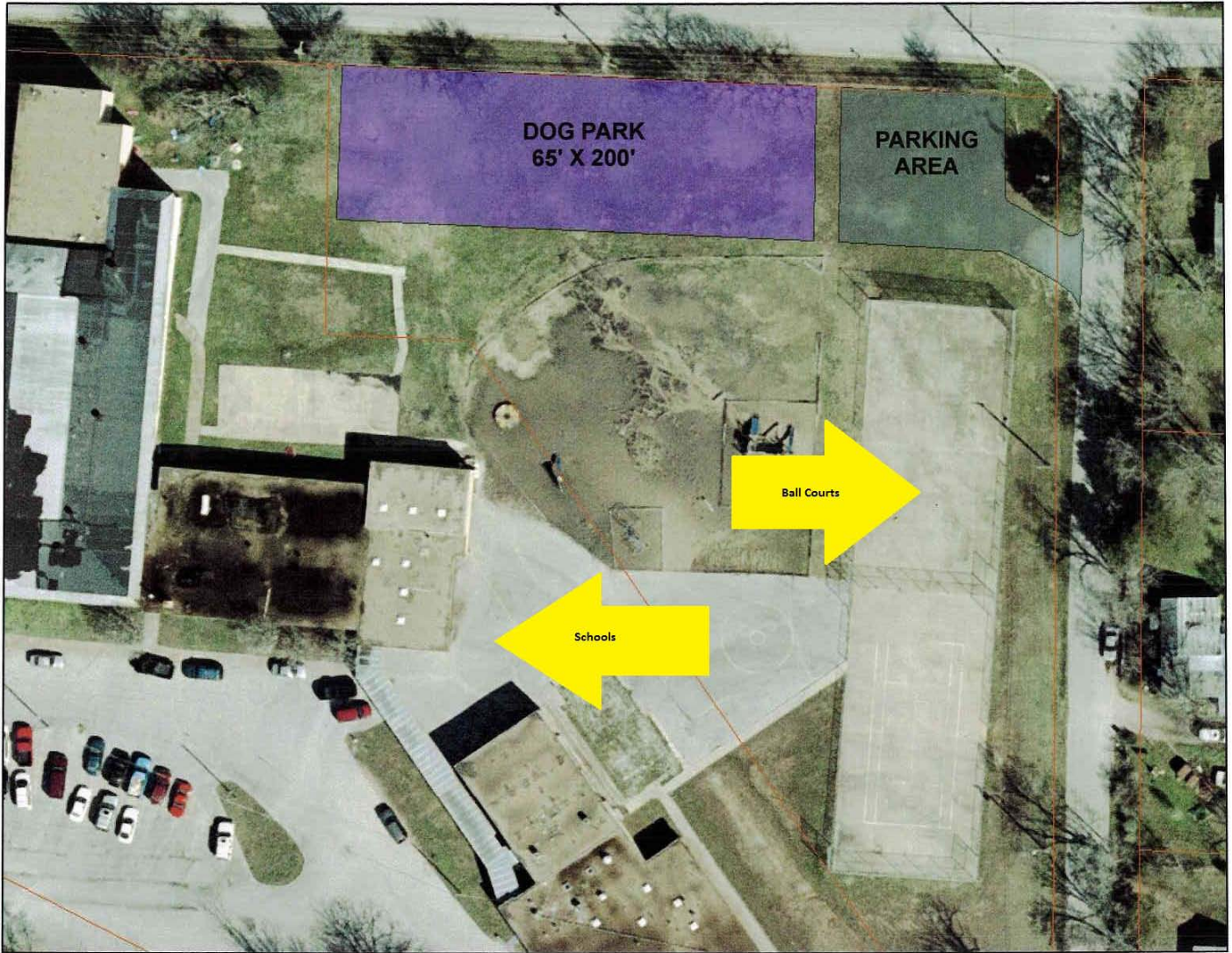
Estimated Materials Budget

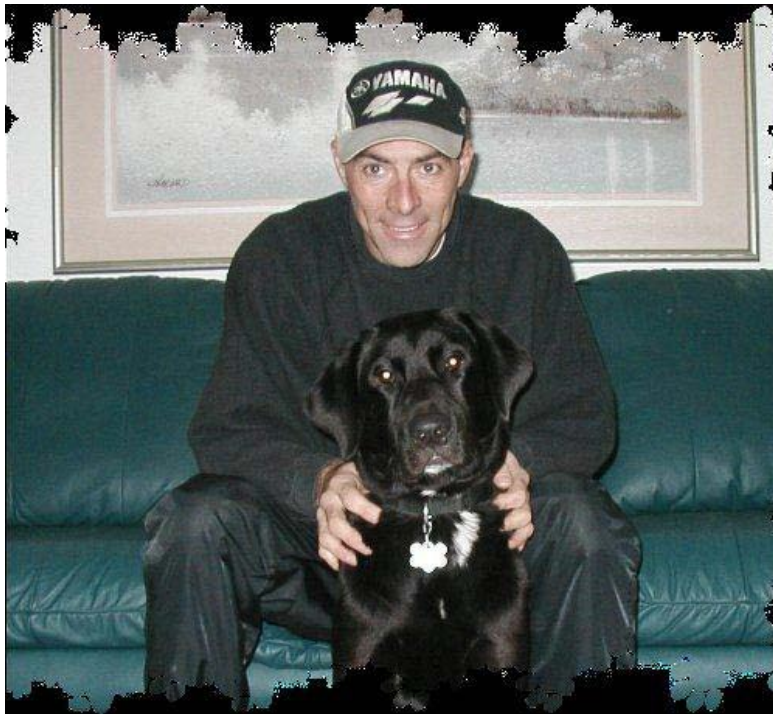
Fence	Equipment and Installation	\$ 4,000.00
Water Hydrants		\$ 100.00
Signage	Rules and Regulations	\$ 100.00
	Park Name	\$ 350.00
Animal Waste Receptacles (4)		\$ 350.00
Trash Receptacles (4)		\$ 350.00
Total Materials		\$ 5,250.00

Site Information

Total Park Grounds	77,591 sq. ft
Pepper Park Grounds	13,000 sq. ft
Dog Park Area	16.8% of Total Property
Assessors Appraisal of Total Property	\$20,000.00
Dog Park Appraisal (\$20,000.00 x 16.8%)	\$3,360.00

Site Plan





Chad A. Fuqua and Pepper Dog



Vonnie Fuqua-Mathiesen and Pepper Dog at Hollister Centennial

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POWERED BY YOU AND THE NEWS-LEADER

Hollister dog park effort is inspired by canine

Late Parks Director Fuqua rescued dog from euthanasia.

CLIFF SAIN • NEWS-LEADER • JUNE 16, 2010

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A once-unwanted dog in Hollister could become the inspiration for the area's first dog park.



Pepper is shown with her former owner Chad Fuqua in an undated photo. Pepper will be the namesake of a dog park in Hollister if enough funds can be raised. (Submitted by Vonnie Mathiesen)



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Back when Hollister kept its own pound, Parks Director Chad Fuqua had the unpleasant task of carting unclaimed animals to Springfield to be euthanized.

On a particular trip in 2001, he was driving a black labrador retriever puppy to its doom when he decided he couldn't go through with it.

"She looked at me," Fuqua told his mother, who insisted at the time that her son did not need a dog.

In August 2008, when Fuqua was 40, he died when his motorcycle was struck by a drunken driver making a U-turn on a highway. The dog, named Pepper, is now owned by Vonnie Mathiesen -- the mother who once said her son didn't need a dog.

Now, Mathiesen said the Chad A. Fuqua Foundation hopes to raise funds to start Pepper Park -- a dog park in Hollister.

"There is no dog park in Hollister or Branson," said Mathiesen, who is the city's assistant administrator. "It would be a fenced-in space where you could go and let your dog run leash-free."

The park, which would be located at Evergreen Avenue and Laurel Street, next to Tiger Park and Trinity Christian Academy, still needs funding to become a reality.

"We have a site located, we have the materials identified, we're just working on securing funding,"

said the city's community and economic development director, Rob Dixon.

The foundation is working on obtaining a grant through Petco, but Dixon does not want to rely on it.

"Even with the grant, we can add a lot more with donations," Dixon said.

Branson might get a dog park of its own, but the process is in a very preliminary stage.


"There is a need, not just from residents but from visitors as well who don't have a place to walk their dog. ... They could use a place to take their dogs off-leash."

-- Cindy Shook, Branson parks director

HOW TO HELP

Donations for the Hollister dog park should be mailed to Vonnie Mathiesen, P.O. Box 638, Hollister, MO 65673. Anyone needing more information about Branson's dog park committee may call Cindy Shook, 335-2368.

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Branson Parks Director Cindy Shook said a committee of interested residents, the Dog Park Community Action Group, has met a couple of times and visited Springfield's dog park to get some ideas. She said any dog park in Branson would most likely follow the model in Springfield, where a private group would raise funds but the city would run it. In Springfield, users can pay \$25 a year to use the dog park, or \$10 for a single day.

Shook said the city owns some land next to Stockstill Park that might be suitable, but more information would be needed.

She said the area needs such a park.

"There is a need, not just from residents but from visitors as well who don't have a place to walk their dog," Shook said. "People take their dogs to the park all the time but they have to be on a leash. They could use a place to take their dogs off-leash."

Hollister would like to keep its park free of charge, Mathiesen said.

Mathiesen said she "threw a fit" when her son decided to keep Pepper. Now, though, she has decided the dog, which she's had since she returned from visiting her son in a hospital, was intended for her all along.

"I don't think he got her for him. I think he got her for me," she said.

Chadwick Carter of Forsyth pleaded guilty to first-degree manslaughter in the death of Chad Fuqua. He was sentenced to 120 days in prison and 10 years' suspended execution of sentence.

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A Dr. Pepper can, a set of loving eyes and a man's heart rescues her from death's jaws

Posted in General, Opinion by The OleSeagull on the June 20th, 2010

She probably didn't suspect that the journey she was on would end with her death as she felt the vibration of the truck's wheels rolling underneath the cab floor where she lay with her chin propped up on an empty Dr. Pepper can, but she certainly had to sense that something drastically different was about to happen. That aside, she just looked up into the face of the man driving the truck.

That man was Chad A Fuqua, at the time the Director of the Hollister Parks Department and his trip that day was to take a homeless female Black Labrador mix from the Hollister Dog Shelter up to Springfield for euthanization because she had exceeded the authorized time at the shelter. Although he had done the same thing on other occasions, this time, as the dog looked into his eyes from the top of the Dr. Pepper can something happened. As he told his mom later "there was just something about her eyes."

Fuqua turned the truck around, went back to Hollister and adopted "Pepper," named after the Dr. Pepper can upon which her chin was resting at the time he decided to turn the truck around. As part of his adoption and relationship with Pepper he had her spayed and they shared seven wonderful years of companionship before Chad's untimely death in 2008.

On the night of his death, as soon as his mother left the hospital, she went to Chad's house where she found Pepper curled up on his bed waiting for his master to return. Ever since, Pepper has been living with the mother of the man who saved her from death providing a special comfort to his mother as she deals with the grief of the death of her son.

Although Chad's rescue of Pepper is poignant; every day hundreds of dogs are euthanized because there is no one to rescue them. The enduring message of Chad and Pepper's story and the continuing story with Chad's mother is the celebration of the animal human bond and the positive impact it can have on one's life. Too, it is a silent plea to take responsible care of your dogs, consider having them spayed or neutered and adopting dogs from local animal shelters to help cut down on their suffering and the number of dogs that have to be euthanized each day.



The effect of Chad rescuing Pepper that day goes beyond just the personal relationship between master and dog. Pepper has a special relationship with the Hollister Parks Department that started while Chad was alive and has continued through today. Pepper routinely participates in various events such as appearing in costume at Hollister's Founders Day and walking with her master in the Relay for Life Cancer Survivors Walk to mention a couple.

During a recent interview with Vonnie Mathiesen, Hollister's Assistant City Administrator, Chads mom, and Rob Dixon, the Director of Economic Development it was announced that the city of Hollister is working on a project to build the areas first "Dog Park" to be named the "Pepper Dog Park," in honor of Pepper.

The park would be on two acres of land that the city of Hollister owns and would provide a safe secure area where area residents and visitors alike could let their dogs run leash free. Dixon describes the park as a quality of life amenity that will cost a little over \$5,000 to build. It is anticipated that the funds for the building of the park and its maintenance will come from grants and private contributions and voluntary labor.

Saved from the jaws of death by "A Dr. Pepper Can, a set of loving eyes and a man's heart," Pepper has been a constant source of joy to her masters, servant to her community, local icon for responsible pet care, pet adoption and the catalyst for the areas first dog park. One can only wonder how many lives could be positively influenced by the 100s of "Peppers" that are euthanized every day.



submitted photo

Gideons celebrate 50 years

STAFF REPORTS
John and Carolyn Gideon, of Springfield, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 27, at the Executive Conference Center at 910 W. Battlefield in Springfield.

John Gideon and Carolyn Sime were married June 26, 1960, by the Rev. John Crockett at Community Presbyterian Church in Forsyth.

Carolyn Gideon works as an interpreter for the deaf and John Gideon works for Kraft Foods. The Gideons now have two children and two grandchildren.

The anniversary celebration will be hosted by their children, Jeff Gideon and Carla Bracey, and friends and family are invited to attend without gifts.



submitted photo

Jones, Coleman engaged

STAFF REPORTS
David and Rose Jones, of Reels Spring, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Emilee Christine Jones, to Patrick Ryan Coleman, son of Janice Cokeman, of Kimberling City, and Ken Coleman, of Springfield.

The bride-elect graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in hospitality and restaurant administration and is employed by T.G.I. Friday's in Austin, Texas.

The prospective groom graduated from Missouri State University with a degree in finance and is employed by Dell in Austin, Texas.

The couple plans an April 23, 2011, wedding at Lindbergh Wine Garden in Branson.

Pooch park in the works

By LISA SOTO
Cover Feature

HOLLISTER — Pepper Park may soon become a reality for dogs in the area.

Pepper is a "rescue dog" who, on the way to be euthanized, found a home and a family and helped inspire the idea of a dog park, which would be at the corner of Evergreen Avenue and Laurel Street on land already owned by the city next to Trinity Christian Academy and Tiger Park.

Assistant City Administrator Vonnie Mathiesen, who now owns Pepper, said plans for a dog park have been in her head for more than two years.

"Clad (Fuqua) was very proud of his rescue dog," Mathiesen said.

Fuqua was Hollister's son, was killed in a motorcycle crash in 2008.

Fuqua was Hollister Parks and Recreation director at the time of his death. He was responsible for transporting unwanted animals from a local shelter to Springfield to be euthanized. Fuqua took a liking to Pepper, however, and couldn't follow through with that particular trip. He took the black Labrador retriever pup home with him, Mathiesen said.

"Now she sits in the co-pilot seat in the RV, while I sit in the back," Mathiesen said of Pepper. "City Administrator Rick Ziegenfuss" says she went from



Lisa Soto | Branson Tri-Lakes News

THE LAND FOR PEPPER PARK is on the corner of Evergreen Avenue and Laurel Street next to Trinity Christian Academy.



submitted photo

PEPPER rides in the co-pilot seat in Vonnie and Bryan Mathiesen's recreational vehicle. Plans for Pepper Park are in the making and the total cost to complete came out to \$5,250, which could be obtained through a Petco grant or private donations.

enthusiasm to euphoria." Mathiesen said Hollister's new dog park will comply with all safety regulations common with that type of park.

It will be fenced and double-gated and will have water hydrants, as well as animal waste receptacles. She said she never realized how important an area dog park was until she became an RV'er.

"Where can you take a dog, leash-free?" she said. "Hollister has a leash law."

Hollister's new director of community and economic development, Rob Dixon, has applied for a grant through Petco in the amount of \$5,250, which he said will cover the costs to completely outfit the land to accommodate an area for dogs.

Labor to complete the park will consist of volunteers and parks department personnel.

"What we are trying to do is increase the amenities in the community. We are trying to do that at no cost to our residents," Dixon said.

He also said the grant, if awarded, may not cover the entire cost. Mathiesen said it may be a matching funds project. "Donations of material, donations of money or donations of time are very much appreciated," Dixon said.

He added that Pepper helps the city out by taking care of hot dogs left by attendees at outdoor city functions.

Dixon hopes to know whether the grant has been accepted in a month. However, he said that private donations could significantly reduce any time spent waiting for funds to become available.

NEW ARRIVALS



Drake Alexander Thoenel was born May 11, 2010, to Miranda and Sean Thoenel, of Kirbyville, at Skaggs Regional Medical Center in Branson. Drake weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long.

Grandparents are Andrea Clay, of Paris, Ark., Frank and Maureen Thoenel, of Festus, and Barbara Thoenel, of Kansas City.



Brooklyn Skye Deel was born May 12, 2010, to Tina and Mike Deel, of Kirbyville, at Skaggs Regional Medical Center in Branson.

Brooklyn weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Grandparents are John and Regina Murray, of Poplar Bluff; Sara Deel, of Hollister, and Tony Deel, of Springfield. Sibling is Gavin.

Twin Island barber loves clowning around

By JOSHUA CLARK
Professionalism Focus

Bill Klaus doesn't mind being called a clown, especially when he's dressed like one.

Klaus, a local barber, has been performing as Chopper the Clown for the past 15 months, and is living the time of his life. "When you're in street clothes, if you act crazy and stupid, people assume you're looney," Klaus said with a smile. "But if you're in full makeup, it's accepted. Looking back on it now, I wish I had started this 30 years ago."

Klaus has always had a soft spot for performing for children, and began taking magic lessons and performing as a magician in 1991 in Bakersfield, Calif. After years of performing and being part of magic clubs, life got in the way and Klaus put his magic career on the back burner.

After gaining early retirement from the California Department of Corrections, Klaus took a job at a company which provided safety and first aid. During that time, he was involved in an car crash resulting in neck surgery. Thanks to workers' compensation, Klaus found a pivotal part of his future.

"So many people misuse the system, but I thought it was the perfect way for me to learn a trade," he said. "That way if I wanted to move somewhere, I'd have something to take with me anywhere."

Klaus chose to pick up the trade of barber.



submitted photo

BILL KLAUS AS CHOPPER THE CLOWN will be at Branson Landing's Clown Around event Saturday, June 19.

"I love it because it's low key," he said. "You just hang out and talk to people, which is something I love to do."

Klaus remained in California to care for his mother. Once she passed, he felt the need to move and picked Tazoo County.

He opened Table Rock Barber Shop next to Twin Island Market on Missouri 86. Once the economy began to take a turn, Klaus started looking for ways to make extra money.

"I decided to get back into doing kids' shows and things like that with my magic," he said. "One of my customers asked me if I had ever thought about being a clown."

Klaus was intrigued by how much fun a friend had performing as a clown for the Shimmers. Once he decided to become a

professional clown, he knew he would need a name.

"I went with Chopper first, until one of my friends pointed out that is rhymed with Flipper, and I didn't want the kids thinking I was a dolphin," he said. "So then I figured since I'm fond of motorcycles and I chop hair, Chopper was the best name to use."

One of the main reasons Klaus continues to perform is the joy it brings to the children. Last year he met a 3-year-old girl and her 14-month-old brother.

"The little girl was hanging onto her dad's hand and wasn't letting go," he said. "The little baby, he was tilting his head and smiling as I was making funny faces. He seemed to like it."

Then the baby boy began crying. Klaus immediately backed away from the young family.

"I said 'Uh oh, Chopper scared the little guy,' and the little girl let loose of her father's hand," he said. "She ran over and threw her arms around me and said, 'Don't worry Chopper, he does that to everyone.' That's what makes it all worth it."

Since he began his foray into clowning, he has become vice president of a local COAL, Clowns of America International, clown alley, and president of a local magic club, and was named 2010 Magician of the Year by the International Brotherhood of Magicians, Ring 325.

Klaus is available for birthday parties, festivals, fairs and just about any other occasion. He is also interested in helping those who wish to become a clown.



Joshua Clark | Branson Tri-Lakes News

Klaus and other area clowns are slated to be at Branson Landing this afternoon, June 19, for the annual Clown Around festival.

"I'll be doing balloon animals and balloon yo-yos and just acting crazy," he said. "We'll have a good time."

In addition to the clowns, the Lauling will feature face painting and huge interactive inflatables from Monkey Moe's, including a monkey barrel bounce, Rescue Heroes play area, a

BILL KLAUS gives Dagg Bethell a haircut Thursday at his shop, Table Rock Barber Shop.

10094

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Branson Mall eyes partnership for cancer walk

By ANASTASIA WAGNER
News

The Branson Mall Entertainment Complex has partnered with the Susan G. Komen Foundation of the Ozarks to organize the first Walk for the Cure in Branson. The benefit has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, July 18. The walk will be 3.5 miles and begin at Branson Mall on 76 County Boulevard, to Mickey Gilley Theatre and back.

Brad Peterson and Jordan Hawkins, both of Branson Mall, met with Mary Purvis Tuesday to secure a third-party sponsorship. Purvis is a representative of Komen for the Cure Foundation Ozark's area affiliate.

Peterson got the idea for the benefit through musician Candy Coburn and her band, Coburn's song "Pink Warrior"



submitted photo

FROM LEFT, BRAD PETERSON, Mary Purvis and Jordan Hawkins pose for a photo.

is used as the anthem for the Susan G. Komen foundation. Coburn supports Komen for the

Cure through her life and her music. She was raised in southern

Missouri and four of five band members are from Branson. "It all started because Josh in (Komen's) band wanted to start a show here," Peterson said. "Then I saw (Coburn's) story in 417 Magazine. I always enjoy hearing about someone from our area doing good things."

The meeting discussed specifics of the event, including use of the pink ribbon logo and the amount of the proceeds that will go to the Komen Foundation.

"Our first goal is to raise awareness," Purvis said. "We need to get educational messages out there. It's about mission."

Hawkins is confident that area businesses and shows will partner in the event and that it will be a success.

"Everyone I've talked to about the event was so excited to come out," she said.