



Wanted: A Dog Park In Davie To Call Our Own **A Guest Editorial**

For all dog owners who wish there was a dog park in Davie, there is hope on the horizon. A group of dog lovers has been working hard by gathering signatures on a petition, attending town council meetings, and passing out flyers and raising awareness at events such as the Orange Blossom Festival, the Flamingo Gardens Pet Expo and the Davie Craft

Fair, all to get a dog park in Davie.

The face of Davie is changing. The town has done a great job of preserving its rural atmosphere by preserving open space. With increased growth, rising home prices, and dwindling space, it will become even more important for the town to provide for all its residents' needs. Dog parks are in keeping with wide open spaces and do not require expensive infrastructure costs such as ball fields or swimming facilities. They provide gathering places for all types of residents: single people and families who do not want to leave behind a family member the family dog when they go to the park, and elderly or anyone who may have limited mobility so they can let their dogs off leash in a safe, enclosed dog park to give them exercise. A dog park can also be a gathering place for special events, where pet adoption groups and local businesses can set up booths and tables to promote their businesses.

The Davie Dog Park Group is in the process of becoming a 501 (c) (3) organization, but right now we are just a group of residents who want a dog park in Davie. The key members are Marie Etzler, Sandra Amaya, Fran Oppedisano, and Tina Marie Wright.

We have attended Davie Parks & Recreation Advisory board meetings, the Senior Advisory board meeting, the Open Space committee board, and Davie Town Council meetings. We have discussed issues such as explaining what exactly a dog park is. Fran made a great PowerPoint presentation with photos of dogs playing at a local dog park. She also showed photos of the agility equipment, the entrance with the double gate, benches and water fountains. We have gathered over 400 signatures on our petition, demonstrating resident support for a dog park. We have also presented our petition to the town council and presented information such as how other cities handle liability issues and what rules are posted at various dog parks.

The Parks & Recreation department presented a cost analysis of what it would cost to build and maintain a dog park. Neighboring cities have spent as little as \$60,000 to as much as \$500,000 on their dog parks, leaving a lot of room to decide how much Davie wants to spend. Construction costs would include any site preparation needed, fencing, grass, water fountains, benches, and trees. Maintenance costs include irrigation and grass mowing, water and electricity, replacing dog waste bags, fertilizing the grass, and pest control spray.

There is still debate about the location and whether it should be in an existing park or if the town should buy new land. Some locations that have been discussed by the Parks & Recreation division included Wolf Lake, Sunny Lakes, Lange Park, the van Kirk property and Robbins Lodge Park. Most of these have been excluded as possibilities due to zoning, other uses, etc. There is also a potential bond that the town wants to present and include the dog park on it.

Our website is:

<http://www.geocities.com/daviedogpark>

It lists the latest news on the progress of getting a dog park in Davie, events where we will be promoting the dog park, and links to email addresses for every Davie town council member so residents can let their council member know that they support a dog park in Davie.

We also have an email where people can contact us: daviedogpark@yahoo.com.

We now also have cute bumper stickers promoting the dog park. People can get one by emailing us, joining our group or attending one of our events. Make your voice heard! Contact us to help get a dog Park in Davie.

- Marie Etzler



Davie Pioneer Celebrates 92nd Birthday



Jack Griffin celebrating his 92nd birthday along with two of his great grandsons, Lucas and Ethan Hemingway, age 2 1/2. All live in Davie. Mr. Griffin came to Davie from Jellico, TN in 1919, when he was just six years old. His father had just died, so his mother moved her four young children to Davie to be closer to her parents, Stephen and Susie Carson. Mr. Griffin retired 30 years ago as Superintendent of the Bus Garage of the Broward County School Board. He has outlived two wives, Vivienne Compton Griffin, who died in 1968, and Edna Hammer Griffin, who died in 1995. His son, the late Wesley Griffin, a Davie police officer, died in 2001. His daughter, Karen Griffin Scott, lives in New York state. He has 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandsons.

MICHAEL GIACIN
TILE, INC.

Complete Bathroom Remodeling Specialists
Tile • Fixtures • Cabinets • Enclosures
Tub to Shower Conversions • Shower Pans
Repair and Alterations

954-922-4112