

# The Pig Berry Press

Volume I, Issue I

March 2006

### Special points of interest:

- Piggy Heights a permanent part of Florida history.
- People Will Be People
- Poopsie gets run over
- Grace and Sassy
- Vincent Gets Buddy
- Onyx

### Inside this issue:

Vincent Van Goeh Gets a Buddy	2
SPCA Fundraiser	2
Update on Onyx	2
If It Ain't Pigs, It's People	3
Poopsie Gets Run Over	3
Human Medical Issues	3
Grace & Sassy Update	4

## “Welcome to the Pigsty” Closing

After almost two years, our downtown storefront affectionately known as “Welcome to the Pigsty” is closing. Not by choice mind you. Orlando developer, Richard Quaid, purchased the historic Rhodesbilt Arcade, where the shop is located. He plans a complete remodel of the 1927 building and all tenants are asked to vacate by the end of the month so that his work can begin.

Although Welcome to the Pigsty wasn't the biggest money maker in the world, we sold some nice things and it did serve to make more than a few people aware of the existence of our sanctuary. Folks said it was the cutest shop downtown but

cute doesn't pay the bills. The cost of rent two years ago was so inexpensive that I simply had to give it a go.

When renovations are complete, late summer/early fall, I would be able to sign a new lease. The new rents will be between \$500 & \$700 per month including utilities and wireless Internet. The low end is more than double what I pay now. Without a very substantial increase in the (buying) public through the Arcade it would not be cost effective to return since for two years breaking even with expenses has been the goal. There simply are very few *boutique* shop-



pers. At this time, Lake Wales is a Walmart community but perhaps Quaid's vision will materialize and downtown Lake Wales will become a thriving yuppie retail community. Time will tell the story.

## UCF Humanities Project

Two grad students from the University of Central Florida visited Piggy Heights March 12th as part of a research project for the Humanities Department. The purpose of the visit was to interview us, and collect data which

will preserve for future generations an account of the economic, social, political, religious, folkloric, and intellectual life of Florida and the South. Data that was collected will be permanently stored in the **Special**

**Collections Department, University of Central Florida Library.** They will be made available for scholarly research and may end up in books, films, and other educational projects.

# Vincent Van Goeh Gets A Buddy

At least he didn't cut them off himself. Does everyone remember Vincent Van Goeh? The little watermelon pig a neighbor brought me a year or so ago pretty hungry and with his ears freshly chopped off?

Well, he has a friend who we named Hemmingway. Hemmi came a few months ago from a situation where the husband, *or his friend*, shot the mother pig and managed to catch one of the babies who he then brought home. His siblings got away. The wife decided



Hemmingway, the house decorator.

he wasn't in a safe situation for the long term and called us. We weren't going to take him...but Vincent had grown too big for the size of the furniture in the house and we had grown weary of his rearranging it on a daily basis.

As tired as we get, the furniture simply has to remain in the same place all the time lest we forget to look before attempting to sit where it was last we remember. It really became an issue when Hemmi stopped

just going to sleep at night and instead ran around taking the bedroom apart. As a result, he had been banished to the outside. Butch felt guilty.

Hemmingway looks exactly like Vincent except he has ears. And he *loves* his daddy, but then don't they all? His daddy loves him as well.

It broke Butch's heart to have to put him outside to sleep but it became a matter of our own survival. We have too much to do too many hours of the day to be deprived of what little rest or down time available to us.

## SPCA Fundraiser

On April 22nd, we will attend our first ever local event to see if we can raise some funds for the sanctuary.

Invited by the queen of fund raising for animals, we will participate in the yearly "Pets on Parade" walkathon to benefit the SPCA of Lakeland. They hope to raise \$100,000 for their SPCA in that one day from 8AM to Noon. The cost is \$50 to set

up a table with literature about the sanctuary, a donation jar, and some things for sale. Nothing is free, not even to other non profits also in the business of saving animals, when the object is to raise money. I have filed that bit of information under 'Notes to

*"Nothing is free, not even to other non profits also in the business of saving animals."*

Myself.' Our cost to participate was generously donated by a friend of Darlynn's Darlins. In addition to getting the word out about our work, our sanctuary, and maybe raising some cash for our own animals' care, I hope to learn something about raising money to care for animals.

## Update on Onyx

Onyx is the tiny black intact boar pig they dumped in my front yard, in a carrier, in the cold back in late November. He was full of worms and mange, and after being left outside all day in the cold and wind without blankets or hay, developed pneumonia.



Yep, that's me, living the life...

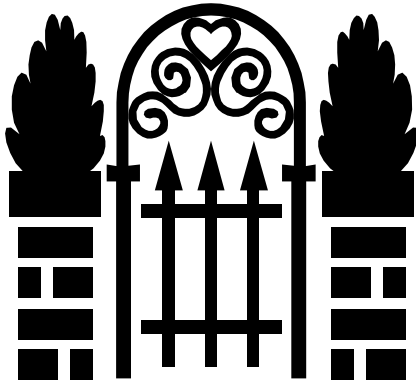
After rounds of antibiotics and parasite control, he's a happy and spoiled little pig who still has a lung problem. Back to the vet we go today. I have been taking him out with me so

that he can get used to other people and situations. He is doing quite well. I'm sure he will be the hit of the SPCA fund raiser. Everywhere we go, he draws crowds...it is pretty interesting how many people are really taken with pigs. And he is interesting in that he won't let just everyone touch him. He's particular.

## If It Ain't Pigs It's People

It's not only *the other animals* that can find themselves at the mercy of unfeeling and cruel humans. That can find themselves without their familiar surroundings and without their personal belongings. That can find themselves being used and abused for personal gain.

I'm sure some of you saw the post about the older (78) woman, without family, that a pretty familiar "pig



person" had promised to watch out for and take care of her animals if anything should ever happen to her. Seems all this woman really had in the world was her animals. In return for the care of her animals and herself, whatever of her assets was left upon her passing would pass to this person who had gained her confidence and who she thought was her advocate.

As so often hap-

pens with people, it became about the estate and the money instead of about the woman and her animals. The woman had a medical issue and went to the hospital, the woman who was supposed to have her best interests at heart called animal control and had all her animals put down that very day, then hired an attorney (at the woman's expense) intending to have the woman declared mentally incompetent, so she could seize *absolute* control of all her assets. She put the lady in a nursing home, ransacked her house and took everything of value. That could have been the end of the story. As it turns out it is just the beginning. Update next issue.

## Poopsie Gets Run Over

"OMG...he's going to get run over," I thought three years ago when I screeched to a halt and scooped up the little Pekenese dripping blood from the raw wound on the inside of his back leg. Off to the vet we raced where the wound was cleaned, debrided, and sutured. It was the result of a too tight sweater and the constant rubbing where holes had been cut for his back legs. He was

running loose along a busy road in a fairly unpopulated area and I thought the chance of finding his owners was probably remote so I had him neutered as well.

One recent Friday night he managed to get out of sight and under my van as I

returned home from work. His pelvis is fractured and his leg is broken. And I have yet another huge vet bill.

The first surgery failed so he had another. He's a tough little dude who has no clue he is all of 8" tall and 14" long. I'm not telling him. He thinks he's a big dog.

"OMG he's going to get run over I thought as I screeched to a halt..."

## Human Medical Issues

It really is a shame that medical care in this country belongs for the most part, to the financially well off or to the very poor. Or to the illegals and those who know how to 'work' the system. The everyday working stiff is just S...O...L.

I'm sure you all can just imagine my horror as I watched this *thing* growing

on my chest. Rapidly. No insurance. I was forced to use money that would feed the animals for more than a whole week to go to my doctor who I haven't seen in two years so he could tell me what I already knew. "OMG," he says, "that's a squamous cell carcinoma. You have to go for blood work." I told him that was not an option and he needed to

remove it right now before it grew any more.

Long story short, he removed it, I went back yesterday for a check up and lab results. As big a chunk as he took, he didn't get clear margins. Bummer. Now we'll do the cryo thing for a couple of treatments and see what happens.

## DARLYNN'S DARLINS INC.

Piggy Heights  
2842 Rosalie Lake Road  
Lake Wales, FL 33898

Phone: 863-696-3424  
Fax: 863-696-3738  
Email: [darlynn@darlynnsdarlings.org](mailto:darlynn@darlynnsdarlings.org)



*THERE'S A NEW DAY  
DAWNING...we invite you to join us  
for a walk in the light.*

*We're on the web!  
[www.darlynnsdarlings.org](http://www.darlynnsdarlings.org)*

Darlynn's Darlins, which was founded as a 501(c)3 organization back in 2001, is moving steadily away from a **rescue** focus, for the time being at least, and more in the direction of public education, awareness, and building a financially sound and secure base for the sanctuary.

Unlike most animal rescue operations, we do not collect donations for the purpose of shuffling animals (aka finding them homes), nor for ending their lives because we can't find homes. We solicit donations **so that we can provide** a lifetime home and lifetime care for those animals who would be put to death due to the lack of homes for all that need them. Unfortunately, we have pretty much reached the limit that our personal funds, space, and effort will allow. That is not to say that we will never have another animal come to live with us. That is to say that we are going to do what we should have done long ago: focus on doing what we do and raising money to fund what we do - provide lifetime care for animals. Hopefully, in the process, people will be encouraged to give more conscious thought to the long and short term consequences of the choices they make for themselves, and for all the other beings with whom we human beings share this earth.

## Grace & Sassy

Grace, the almost dead feral who couldn't possibly live given the condition in which she was found is, of course, by the Grace of God, alive and well. April 17th will mark one year with us. What a difference a year makes. It's been a long time since anyone could see a bone, other than the swollen leg which is still a problem. She is the most wonderful girl. She is tame and she is loving. She has a wonderful way.

I like to think she sees shadows. Otherwise, she has the most acute sense of smell and hearing that ever existed in a being. She is able to determine my exact physical location with uncanny accuracy. She loves her mom



Lazy Grace Today

and it makes me sad that I don't have the time I would like to spend with her. She has a buddy, Sloopy, who is a very old pig, and doesn't see very well either, and who I can't seem to put weight on no matter how much or what I feed her. She does get her food and she does eat her food. She doesn't have worms unless they are immune to all the conventional worm treatments. Other than being so skinny she seems just fine. We have no reliable history on her or the four that came with her some four years ago.

Sassy. I don't know what to say about Sassy. She is a bona fide miracle, plain and simple. As far as we

are concerned there can be no earthly explanation for her complete recovery. She has gained back some of the incredible amount of weight she lost so that her skin no longer lays on her body in folds. Her shoulders and hips finally have meat covering the bone.

She spent fully a year and a half laying down on one side or the other unable to move herself. She moved only when one of us physically changed her position, either to prop her up to eat, or to clean her, or to turn her from one side to the other to preserve the integrity of her skin. For her to one day get up and just go on...learning how to walk again, learning how to stick up for herself in a group, being able to move to where she wants to be is nothing short of a present day miracle.