

County partners with college for better care of shelter animals

By **BRIAN WOODS**
STAFF WRITER

WESTAMPTON — The Burlington County Animal Shelter will benefit from a few extra helping hands through next year.

Veterinarian technician students will assist the shelter on Academy Drive with its operational needs until the end of May.

The Burlington County Board of Freeholders authorized the free agreement with Camden County College's Veterinary Technology Program at its meeting last Wednesday.

"It's a great program. You have the vet techs in training, and it allows them to get a little bit of hands-on work, supported by our vet, Dr. (Christopher) Torre, and it gets more help to our animals," Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio said.

Garganio called hands-on experience one of the hardest things to come by when starting out in any field, and said the experience will benefit the animals, too.

About five students at a time will accompany the program's teacher to the shelter. Program director Peggy Dorsey said they will help with anything the shelter



(File) Kelly Donnelly, of Mount Holly, a supervising animal attendant at the Burlington County Animal Shelter in Westampton, verifies the microchip information on a female Dalmatian puppy being adopted by Jordan Distler, of Mount Holly, in March.

NANCY ROKOS / PHOTOJOURNALIST

needs, as well as practice restraining animals during medical situations and test fecal matter.

"It gives the student an opportunity to work with a more varied group of animals, because these animals don't just sit still for you," Dorsey said. "The animals we use at the college are our private pets, and they are used to being handled. In a sheltered environment, they are going to be handling animals who are frightened or fractious, and have to learn how to restrain them."

As part of the agreement,

the college's program will also open up its campus lab for extra testing the shelter may need to do on animals.

"That will cut down their cost. If we have to bring bloodwork back, we have the equipment here to do it," Dorsey said.

She said it's all about what can be done to find animals a home.

"If we can make the animals more adoptable, what better goal is there than that?" Dorsey said.

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100th birthday set for this weekend at Washington Crossing Historic Park

By **TYLER MILES**
STAFF WRITER

American Revolutionary War buffs, park-goers and local officials will ring in the 100th birthday of Washington Crossing Historic Park in Upper Makefield, Pennsylvania, this weekend just like they would for a loved one.

They'll sing "Happy birthday" to the park and have cake.

Washington Crossing Historic Park will celebrate Friday through Sunday with free site tours each day and a birthday party Sunday during which Revolutionary War reenactors will speak with attendees during the festivities, educating them on the war and their specific character.

"We're celebrating the fact that here were some folks 100 years ago concerned about protecting and saving the site and they had the foresight to preserve the land," said Joseph Capone, executive director of the Friends of Washington Crossing Park. "A century later, Washington Crossing Historic Park hosts tens of thousands of visitors every year who come to see the point from which the Continental Army launched the daring counterattack that turned the tide of the Revolutionary War."

In the months leading up to the famous Delaware River crossing in 1776, the Continental Army lost numerous battles and many thought it would lose the war. George Washington and his troops retreated to Pennsylvania to regroup. As

soldiers deserted due to lack of food and warm clothing, Washington hatched the plan to cross the river and attack Hessian outposts in Trenton.

About 2,400 troops left from near what was then known as McConkey's Ferry at about 6 p.m. on Christmas Day. They rowed overnight through wind, sleet and snow, and marched into Trenton Dec. 26. There, they defeated the Hessians, giving Americans the victory they needed to want to keep up the fight.

In 1895, the Bucks County Historical Society placed a stone marker at the spot from where Washington's troops launched their crossing.

In 1917, the historical society, Daughters of the American Revolution, Patriotic Order of the Sons of America and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania worked together to create the Washington Crossing Park Commission, which established the 500-acre park at 1112 River Road in Upper

Makefield the same year.

The public can attend and participate in a free tour of the vast park's amenities, such as the historic village and the Thompson-Neely House and farmstead, which offer clues about 18th century life. Tours will be available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours normally cost \$6 per person.

Admission to the 125-foot Bowman's Hill Tower, which was built between 1929 to 1931 on the park's property, will be free all weekend from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well. Tours normally cost \$6 per person.

"I think it's great that the park is open for free so that people who might not usually think about going to the park can experience everything it has to offer," said Mary Ryan, an Upper Makefield supervisor and park volunteer for more than 20 years.

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