

SENIOR TIMES

44th YEAR AS
CENTRAL OHIO'S
NEWS MAGAZINE
FOR SENIORS

NOVEMBER 2025

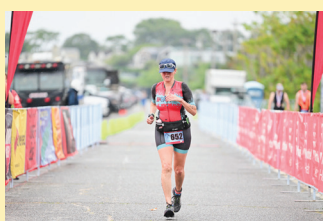
Volume 44 - Issue 11

FEATURING



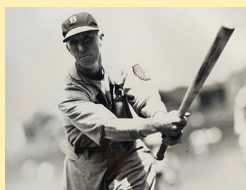
**Linda
Ronstadt**

page 2



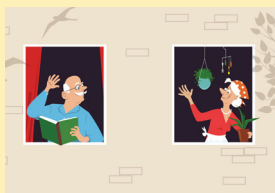
**It's never
too late!**

page 3



**Remember
Hank Goudy**

page 4



**Number 1
retirement
priority**

page 5



**Alaska by
land and sea**

page 8

INSIDE

Crossword.....10

Footprints of Columbus.....4

Marci's Medicare.....10

Savvy Senior.....11

Seventies Flashback.....2

Senior Times is now available at



ALMOST HOME DOG RESCUE OF OHIO

Seniors and senior dogs rescue each other

By Mary Anne White

Seniors who have dogs as pets often enjoy several health benefits: Better heart health from walking the dogs; improved mental health from pet companionship; and increased social interaction. But pet ownership for seniors is often prevented because of affordability. Limited income and the high costs of veterinary care often discourage seniors from the enjoyment of having a pet.

Almost Home Dog Rescue of Ohio (AHDRO) may have a solution. Their Senior-to-Senior "permanent foster" program pairs individual seniors with senior dogs. A senior who wants to "foster" a dog shares their home, provides love, and exercise for the dog. The AHDRO provides food, veterinary care, and quarterly grooming for the senior dog. If the senior is no longer able to care for the dog, the dog returns to the care of the AHDRO until another foster is found.

In 2004, Cindi Jenkins lost her husband, her pet dog, and her cat, all within a few months. "I came home one afternoon to a silent and empty house. I thought, 'This place feels like a tomb.'" Since she grew up with collies as pets, she contacted AHDRO. The coordinator at the time called and asked if Jenkins would take a sable-and-white senior collie for just "a sleepover." The collie ended up staying until passing away from Cushing's disease later that year.

"In September of 2005, I had a collie named Cassie. Then I fostered Blaze, a tri-color rescue from West Virginia. They were later joined by a 9-month-old sheltie puppy named Ladybug. Soon thereafter, I fostered



Kathy Garvin with her dog

a 14-year-old medically fragile dog named Brady, whose owners had moved and abandoned him tied to a tree in mid-July. He had a skin and muscle disorder that required \$100 in medications per month. I referred to them as the Fab Four."

Brutus—a sheltie was another of her fosters. Jenkins describes his personal-

cord for total number of "foster fails." Seven times she intended to foster, but ended up adopting the dogs instead. She currently is fostering two dogs. Bentley is a 12-year-old, 65-pound tri-color that she describes as "a big horse of a collie who loves to play." Bentley's Michigan owners passed away, and their son was going to have Bentley euthanized when the veterinarian contacted AHDRO

memories of many of the volunteers - including Rakich - for previous pet collies eventually changed the focus to the rescue of collies and shelties. They rescue dogs from puppy mills, hoarding situations, and owner surrenders. Rakich currently shares her home with a collie named Casey and a Bernese Mountain Dog named Mack.

According to Rakich, "Ohio is second-highest in the nation for its number of puppy mills. We also rescue dogs from many surrounding states like Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania and beyond into the Carolinas and Tennessee. Many dogs come to us with medical needs like heartworm, skin conditions, or physical issues of some kind. Some have never known what it feels like to stand on grass or ride in a car.

"The 'Freedom Drives' as we call the journeys from where the dogs are rescued and brought back to Ohio may involve eight or nine volunteers, each driving 1 to 1-1/2 hours to meet another volunteer



Cindi Jenkins with Bentley and Russell.



Cheryl Rakich and her dogs Casey and Mack

for their rescue. Her second foster is Russell, an owner-surrendered sheltie.

Cheryl Rakich is one of three women who founded AHDRO in 2003. She said the Senior-to-Senior Program is one way in which "We rescue people as well as dogs." The non-profit's original intention was to rescue all dog breeds. However, the love and

where the dog then changes vehicles. Sometimes it takes eight or nine hours for the dogs to arrive in central Ohio, where they are treated by the veterinary staff at VCA on Sawmill. Fosters take the vet-treated rescue dogs into their homes and observe the dog's character. Other volunteers then post the dog photos and

See **DOGS**, page 2

Jenkins holds the re-