

## **Labs4Rescue**

**Rocky Hill Parks & Recreation is partnering with Labs4Rescue for the first annual "Rocky Hill Dog Days in the Park & Labs4Life Doggie Walk-a-Thon" on Saturday, June 7 (rain date Sunday, June 8) from 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM at the Veterans Memorial Amphitheater in Elm Ridge Park. This fundraiser will include adoptions of Labrador Retrievers and Lab mixes; a reunion of Labs4Rescue volunteers, foster homes and adopters; and an organized dog walk. Monies raised will benefit the future dog park at Rocky Hill and Labs4Rescue.**

Labs4Rescue is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing and finding permanent homes for Labrador Retrievers and Lab mixes that are found in high numbers in rural Southern and Midwestern animal shelters, as well as those in local shelters.

The breed is one of the most popular in the United States, and many "backyard breeders" in the South have tried to cash in on this fact by creating small-scale puppy mills, thereby creating a surplus in the region and making the dogs easy to come by - and easy to dispose of - when they are no longer wanted. Combined with the facts that spaying and neutering are not encouraged, and Labrador females can give birth to large litters of 10-12 puppies, it's not hard to see why Southern shelters routinely put down up to 60 purebred Labs and Lab mixes each week. Given only 3-5 days to be adopted, and routinely disposed of by the inhumane method of being placed in crudely constructed "gas chambers," the need to rescue is obvious. The shocking statistics say it all - of the approximately 10,000 dogs which were gassed from these regions last year, at least 7,000 were purebred Labs or Lab mixes.

The organization has grown to employ a professional transporter who delivers an average of 30 Labs a week to foster or adoptive homes throughout the Northeast that have been pre-screened by local representatives. To date, the group has rescued 6,415 Labs since its inception in 2002.

Those interested in finding out more about Labs4Rescue adoptions, sponsorships or fostering can visit their website at [www.Labs4rescue.com](http://www.Labs4rescue.com) or speak with the volunteers attending this event.

Rocky Hill's Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for park development, park maintenance, recreation programming, senior

citizen programming, and aquatic programming for the community, and plays a strong role in assisting many community groups in their events and programs. Its mission is to provide comprehensive recreational and park programs to all ages at a reasonable cost to improve the quality of life for the residents of Rocky Hill. The goals of the Department are to improve health benefits, enhance self esteem, reduce stress, and provide life skills for all Rocky Hill residents. The programs are intended to promote family unity, reduce crime, strengthen neighborhood involvement, and provide safe, developed parks where these programs can take place and where residents can renew their spirits in natural settings. For more information, please visit <http://www.rhparkrec.org/>.

Kick off your summer by making new friends, exercising your dog, and helping Labs4Rescue save lives!