



A Publication of the Port City Lions Club
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Web Page <http://galions.org/18b/portcity/>

Monthly News

District Convention

Now is the time to make your plans to attend the 18-B District Convention on February 24, 25, and 26, 2006, in Hinesville, Georgia—home of the 3rd Infantry Division and Fort Stewart.

Events are scheduled for Friday to Sunday. On Saturday morning, you can either play a round of golf or visit historical sites in Liberty County. The Past District Governors Association luncheon and meeting is scheduled for noon. The cabinet meeting is at 2:30 pm in the new Army Education Center. And—our banquet will be at Club Stewart!

International Director Terry Graham and his wife, Jean, from New Castle, Ontario, Canada, will be our special guests. Come and help show them our Southern hospitality.

District Governor Visit

The Savannah Port City Lions Club is pleased to welcome District Governor Lew Waldrop on his official visit to our club. District Governor Lew will be presenting his program on Tuesday February 7. Our regular business meeting has been rescheduled for February 21.

Vocal maps lead blind

ROCHESTER HILLS — Almost every day, Grosse Pointe City resident Jeff Kenyon takes the bus to his volunteer job at Children's Hospital of Michigan.

Kenyon, 29, is sight impaired, and navigating his journey to Detroit is often a challenge. "Bus drivers don't always announce street corners," he said, and "mystery streets" can lead nowhere.

On Dec. 7, Kenyon was in the midst of a five-day training session at Leader Dogs for the Blind in Rochester Hills, learning a new technology system that will aid him while he is traveling to his volunteer work and with his job searching efforts.

Trekker is the revolutionary audio system that uses Global Positioning Systems and digital maps as aids to the sight impaired. Leader Dogs for the Blind offers training in the system, providing travel expenses, meals, lodging and five days of classroom instruction.

Trekker users can pinpoint exactly where they are, learn about local attractions and find out how to get to specific destinations with Trekker. The GPS capability lets them know their location, anywhere in the world, with con-

tinually growing precision.

By pressing a button at an intersection, GPS formats give an audio reading of the location, including streets, restaurants and points of interest.

"Currently, we've got the 'perfect storm' of consumer products and assistive technology," said Harold Abraham, director of technical services at Leader Dogs for the Blind, on Rochester Road. "We don't get that very often."

Trekker fits in the palm of the hand and offers the visually impaired greater freedom, raising their confidence in their ability to travel near or far, for business or pleasure. "It helps me plan routes when I'm going for a walk," Kenyon said. "I want to know what streets I'm passing."

Pauline Ulrey traveled from Indiana for Trekker training at the Rochester Hills Leader Dogs facility. Ulrey, who has been blind since the age of 2, is a field representative for Leader Dogs, working in public relations for the organization.

"I travel for Leader in strange cities constantly," Ulrey said. "I can map my route from my hotel to addresses." Trekker also makes sure cabdrivers stay on route, she said.

Although Trekker's synthesized speech may sound strange to most, the sight-impaired find the verbal messages invaluable. "We get real used to listening to synthesized speech," Ulrey said.

The training is available to the legally blind who use a cane or dog guide and are physically able to spend several hours a day walking. Dog guide users should have six months experience with their current dog before training with Trekker, Abraham said.

Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided dog guides to the blind community for more than 66 years. Since its founding in 1939, the organization has provided independent mobility to more than 13,000 visually impaired men and women.

The school's training services are provided free of charge, but do not include the cost of the hand-held Trekker device, which retails for \$1,600, \$1,900 for an advanced version.

For more information about Leader Dogs for the Blind, call (248) 651-9011, or visit the Web site www.leaderdog.org.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversary
None in February
Birthday
Mary Ann Barbieri February 10