



# The Home Stretch

April—May 2007

Volume 12, Issue 3

## Inside this issue:

Pet Insurance	2
Hound Friendly Hotels	3
Hound School	4
Dewey Beach	5
Heat & Hounds	6
In Memoriam	7

## GPA—MN Presents GreyFest 2007!

### Barb Gates, President

GreyFest is a yearly celebration to honor our hounds and raise money to help retired racers find homes.

**When? Saturday, June 2, 2007**

11:00AM - 4:00PM

Raffle 3:00 p.m.

**Where?** Spooner Park, Little Canada, MN (see map below)

Spooner Park is at 351 Eli Road in Little Canada, approximately 10 minutes north of Saint Paul, 0.3 miles from 35E and the Little Canada Road exit.

#### *From the south*

Go north on 35E. Exit on Little Canada Road.

Turn right at the top of the exit. Take a quick left onto Centerville Road. Go about 1 block. Turn

right onto Eli Road. Park is 1/2 block on the right.

#### *From the north*

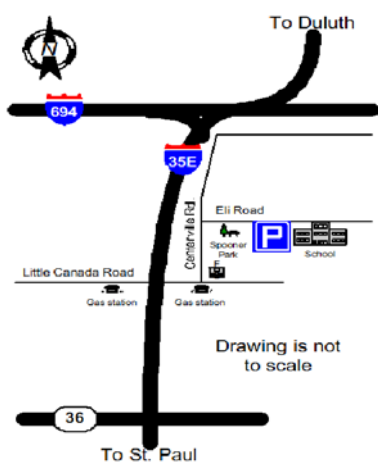
Go south on 35E. Exit on Little Canada Road.

Turn left at the top of the exit. Go over 35E. Turn left onto Centerville Road. Go about 1 block. Turn right onto Eli Road. Park is 1/2 block on the right.

#### *Parking*

There is a lot at the shelter. Lots of on-street parking and a school parking lot next to the park.

(Continued on page 3)



## GPA's New Senior Adoption Program

### Luana Ball, Secretary

The senior greyhound, is there a better companion? I think not! I sit here typing on the laptop as my own senior girl Minnie has her head buried in the grass while snoozing in the sun. After awhile she'll stroll to a little shade and then back to the sun again to warm her old bones. As my sweet girl faces 14 I savor every moment I can watching her enjoy life and feel comfort in the simple things like sun, grass, a belly rub, ear scratch, or a special treat. This 14 year old has as much life in her as her seven year old brother Sammy --- she may be a little slower but she's way more dignified!

That's the beauty of the senior greyhound and my introduction to GPA-MN's new **Senior Adoption Incentive!** If you have previously adopted from GPA-MN and would like to

(Continued on page 4)

## Upcoming Events

### GREYFEST:

Saturday, June 2nd

### Egan Funfest & Parade:

Wednesday, July 4th

MN State Fair

Renaissance Festival

## The Home Stretch

GPA—Minnesota's

### Mission Statement

Greyhound Pets of America—Minnesota is the Minnesota chapter of a national non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to finding loving, responsible homes for retired racing greyhounds and also younger greyhounds that haven't been successful at the various tracks throughout the country. We also take great pride in educating the public that retired racers make excellent, loving pets.

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### Newsletter Committee

Jen Jett—Chair  
Brian Jett—Editor  
Anne Ford  
Barb Gates  
Wendi Johnson  
Sylvia Kresal  
Nicole Middlecamp  
Dan Middlecamp  
Samantha Shine  
Susan Spiller  
Susan Starr

## Insurance: Options for a New Owner

### Brian Clark, Vice President

GPA-MN has provided all the vetting for your new greyhound while he/she was in our care. Your dog has been spayed or neutered, received a dental cleaning, is current with his/her vaccinations and has been de-wormed if necessary. GPA-MN will inform you of any known health issues affecting your new greyhound and may cover expenses for follow-up care for some specific issues in approved cases (e.g. – if a second round of de-worming is necessary).

GPA-MN would like to remind you to plan for the costs of your greyhound's regular care as well as unexpected injuries or illness. It is your responsibility to provide all veterinary care for your dog after adoption. If you do not have the savings to cover unexpected expenses, you may want to consider other options, such as pet insurance. Even if you don't plan to maintain insurance long-term, it can help to provide you with peace of mind when you first adopt and are adjusting to the additional expenses of owning and caring for your new pet.

Below is a sampling of a few major pet insurance provider plans. If you are interested, please visit the provider's web site for detailed information about these or other plans. *GPA-MN has no relationship with, nor endorses, any of the providers listed below.*

Pet Health Inc. - Shelter Care Plan - [www.sheltercare.com](http://www.sheltercare.com)

- Use any licensed vet
- Introductory offer 1 month of coverage for \$1. \$12.95 / month thereafter.
- Covers most injuries, accidents and illnesses
- \$100 deductible per incident
- Covers 100% of costs after deductible up to the policy limit.
- Additional plans available online



(Continued on page 6)

## New Fostering Announcement

### Pat Walsh, Foster Coordinator

I am pleased to announce we are going to help offset the cost of food while the hounds are in foster homes. In the past the responsibility of feeding the hounds while in foster care was the sole responsibility of the foster family. We will give foster families a \$20 Petco gift card to offset the feeding costs each month there is a foster hound in their homes. Decreasing our costs and increasing our fundraising has made this possible. Also, we have had donations made with the specification of helping fosters while the hounds are in our care. We will continue this as long as we are able.

Do not feel you have to take this card every time you foster; it is one way GPA can say "thank you" to our fosters for all that they do! If a foster stays longer than a month, we will arrange to get the cards to the foster families. We are very pleased that we are in a position to help our foster families feed these hounds while they are in our care. Also if you cannot foster you can always donate a \$20 card to GPA-MN and we will give it to a foster hound. Once again, thank you for thank for helping our hounds find their forever homes!

## News from the Board: GREYFEST 2007

(Continued from page 1)

### **Why Should You Go?**

#### **Greyhounds!**

There will be A LOT of them. All sizes... all colors... all loveable.

#### **It's our biggest fundraiser of the year!**

Help raise money to help other retired racers find homes. All proceeds benefit retired racers!

#### **A chance to socialize!**

See old friends and make new ones.

#### **Shopping!**

T-shirts, collars, jewelry, art... we've got vendors from around the country selling greyhound-related goodies.

#### **Contests and Prizes!**

Best costume, youngest dog, shortest male, tallest female, fastest peanut butter licker, and of course (weather-permitting), Speed Alley!

#### **Photo opportunities!**

We have a photographer ready to take pictures of your hound racing down Speed Alley.

#### **Food and drink!**

We've got something for everyone, including the vegetarians.

#### **The raffle!**

We have AWESOME raffle items.

#### **Greyhounds!**

Did we mention lots and lots of greyhounds?!

#### **Need another reason?**

Because it's a GREYT time!

#### **Want more information?**

Please see [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)



Halle Berry ain't got nothing on this grey girl!

## GreyFest: Hound friendly accommodations

### **Lisa Quast**

Are you coming to GreyFest from out of town and don't want to drive home after a fun-filled day of excitement and activities? The hotels listed here are pet-friendly and are within a few miles of Spooner Park. This is only a short list - there are many other hotels in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area that are pet friendly which can be found by searching the internet or calling the hotel directly. Please note: in some cases there may be a nominal, non-refundable pet charge. When making your reservation, please be sure to let them know that your greyhound(s) will be staying with you.

#### Best Western White Bear Country Inn

4940 Highway 61 North, **White Bear Lake** 651-429-5393

#### Best Western Kelly Inn (Saint Paul)

161 St Anthony Ave, **St Paul** 651-227-8711

#### Holiday Inn North

1201 West County Road East, **Arden Hills** 651-636-4123

#### Wingate Inn - Minneapolis

970 Helena Ave N, **Oakdale** 651-578-8466

## Volume 12, Issue 3

### **Board Members' Contact Information:**

The board wants to be accessible to the chapter members. Please contact us with concerns, questions, suggestions, or to get involved. Below are the email addresses for all the board members and the committee each is chairing. If interested in getting involved with a specific committee, contact that board member directly. More information will be published about the various committees.

#### **Luana Ball, Secretary**

luanaball@yahoo.com

#### **Brian Clark, Vice-President**

balanclark@hotmail.com

#### **Mark Downey, Treasurer**

mark@nervecenter.net

#### **Barb Gates, President—PR/ Media Chair & Festival Coordinator**

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#### **Chris King—Special Events Coordinator**

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#### **Barb Lund—Volunteer Coordinator**

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#### **Lisa Quast—Fundraising Coordinator**

lquast@memsi.com

#### **Teri Petrin—Adoption Coordinator**

xracinggreys@msn.com

#### **Pat Walsh—Foster Coordinator**

pat.walsh@baileynursery.com

## The Home Stretch

### Wanted:

### Digital Cameras

Do you have a digital camera that you no longer use? If so, why not consider donating it to GPA-MN. We will provide you with a receipt documenting your tax deductible donation. It will be put to good use photographing items for online GPA-MN fundraising as well as capturing pictures of our wonderful members and their greyhounds at special events.

Email [info@gpa-mn.org](mailto:info@gpa-mn.org) or call (763) 785-4000 and we'll arrange for pickup.

Thanks for your support!

### Seniors:

Loyal, dignified, & loving  
Could one ask for more?



## The Joys of a Well-Trained Hound

### Ann Moe

This last month Angie and I took part in a Basic Obedience Class put on by Andrea Del Signore and Jen Jett at It's a Dog's Life Dog Day-care in South Minneapolis. I would like to recommend this class to all the greyhound owners—old and new.

The basic obedience class was eight weeks long. I would have to say, it started out with lots of confusion and some disbelief. This was the trainers' first greyhound-only class, and I think some of the curriculum needed adjusting for our dogs "special needs." Many people walked into the first class or two and thought, "my greyhound will never do that!" Yet with lots of practice, patience, and yes, *tons* of treats, at the last class every dog had made amazing progress and most were successful in all exercises we learned.

My goal for the class was to get Angie ready to be a therapy dog; she needs to pass the AKC's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) test. The class went through everything we would need for



Graduation night! Happy hounds and owners.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Senior Adoptions

*(Continued from page 1)*

provide a loving home for a greyhound who is **8 years of age or older then the adoption fee is waived - \$0!** **Brand new adopters have the adoption fee reduced to \$100 if they adopt a senior.**

Talk to anyone with a senior greyhound within our GPA-MN membership and I know they will only have wonderful things to say about these very special companions! They are sweet, loving, playful, and spirited!

Most often the senior greyhound has been returned to our group through no fault of their own. Their families often report not having enough time for them or they are moving and can't take a pet.

The returned senior greyhound has been socialized and knows how to be a polite member of a family. Older dogs, especially those who have once known it, appreciate love and attention and quickly learn what is expected of them to gain and keep that love and attention.

Will they be with you for more than 5 years? Maybe not - there are no guarantees how long we will be bested with any hound we adopt. The senior greyhound will give you a lifetime worth of love in the time you do have together. By adopting a senior greyhound you make a firm statement about compassion and the value of all life at all ages.

We will be sharing stories from our own members who have adopted senior greyhounds through GPA-MN. They are heartfelt and touching as are the spirits of these regal and dignified greyhounds.

Will you consider opening your home and your heart to a senior greyhound?

To learn about senior greyhounds that may be waiting for someone special to love them visit our website at [www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org) or, if none are available at the time, please let us know that you would be interested in welcoming a sweet senior into your home by e-mailing us at [adoptioninfo@gpa-mn](mailto:adoptioninfo@gpa-mn) or calling 763-785-4000!

*Next month Aimee Finley will share her senior adoption story!*

## Dewey Beach: Spring vs. Fall

### Kari Keller

The 3rd Annual Spring Dewey, was held in Dewey Beach, Delaware, April 13-15. A couple of years ago, a group of people decided to create Spring Dewey to return the Dewey experience back to what it really was all about: the hounds and not shopping. This year 80 people registered with 170 hounds and 9 vendors. It's a very small event compared to Fall Dewey but we enjoyed it just the same. For more information go to: [www.deweyspring.info/](http://www.deweyspring.info/).

In January I decided I wanted to see what Spring Dewey would be like so I booked a beach house and bought my plane ticket. When we arrived at Dewey, the sun was shining but I knew it would not last, so we headed to the beach first thing. It rained that night during dinner and we were amazed when two bright rainbows appeared side-by-side. The next day we went back to the beach but it was windy and chilly so we didn't stay long. We did some shopping and walked the Rehoboth Boardwalk. Friday night we went to the ice cream social and all the hounds got a birthday party hat and party collar. Saturday

was beautiful so we spent a couple of hours on the beach. We laughed as one hound tried to dig to China. It was fun to see all different colored hounds. We even saw 2 chocolate hounds which I found out are rarer than a blue hound. It's always sad to leave Dewey and I always go to the beach one last time on the way home.

Greyhounds Reach the Beach (Fall Dewey) is held the first weekend of October every year with 2007 being the 13th year. This event started with group of people that wanted to get together and hang out for a long weekend. It has evolved into the "superbowl" of greyhound events with approximately 100 vendors. Michael McCann of The Greyhound Project said, "Dewey is the largest Greyhound gathering in the world. We suspect that we had about 1500 to 2000 people in 2006 and around 3000 hounds." It always seems to rain at some point during the event with last year having the worst weather when a nor'easter blew the vendor tents down and flooded many side streets.

For more information go to: [www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/](http://www.adopt-a-greyhound.org/dewey/)

### GPA-MN Resources

As an organization, we take great pride in giving our members access to information open forums where they can ask questions, make comments and just talk about greyhounds.



#### GPA—MN's Email list

To subscribe to the GPA-MN E-Mail Correspondence List and automatically receive a digital copy of the *Home Stretch* go to:

[www.gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/list\\_gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/list_gpa-mn.org)

#### GPA—MN's Home Stretch

To request a digital copy of the newsletter *only* that you can read on your computer screen or print to read later go to:

[http://gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/gpa-mn-newsletter\\_gpa-mn.org](http://gpa-mn.org/mailman/listinfo/gpa-mn-newsletter_gpa-mn.org)

To request that a paper copy of the newsletter be mailed to your home please send your name and address to [info@gpa-mn.org](mailto:info@gpa-mn.org) or leave this information on the GPA-MN phone line which is 763-785-4000.



#### GPA—MN's Website

Visit our website to learn about special events, volunteer opportunities, greyhounds available for adoption and helpful links.

[www.gpa-mn.org](http://www.gpa-mn.org)

#### PETFINDER.COM

Petfinder.com is where we keep information and pictures of all our greyhounds that are currently available for adoption. If you are interested in adopting another hound, or know someone who might be, have them check it out. Just visit [www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com) and under the breed category, select greyhound. Easy as that!

## Hounds at the Lupient Chevrolet

### Sylvia Kresal, Meet & Greet Coordinator

A big greyhound ROO and THANK YOU to Bill Ward and staff at Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington for inviting GPA-MN to host a Meet and Greet in their spacious showroom. Amid hot dogs and hot cars 17 hounds and their owners arrived to spread the word about greyhound adoption. KOOL 108 was also there broadcasting from the showroom and radio personality Barry Siewart interviewed Chris King (Special Events Coordinator and proud mom of Jacki). This impromptu interview brought in some folks interested in greyhound adoption who had heard the interview on their car radio.

A big thank you to these attendees: Aimee and Tipper; Julie, Tano, Elwood, and Evie; Lou and Willow; Chris and Jacki; Robin, Denise, and Mully; Sylvia, Neil, Chuck, and Dave; Diane, Al, and Abbey; Paula and Louis; Nicole, Dan, Sadie and Mardi; Bob, Cooper and Jubilee; Kari and Passion, Sparks, and Olga. (This was Olga's debut Meet and Greet. She is able to resume all activity after a successful treatment for heartworm. Kari describes her as "the energizer bunny.")

After a strenuous afternoon of lying on dog blankets and given excessive attention by everyone who walked by the greyhounds were sent home with treat bags of doggie animal crackers. That made their day perfect! Thank you, Bill and Lupient Chevrolet.



Hounds on the sales floor at Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington

## The Home Stretch

### Recipe of the Month

#### Frosty Cubes!

1. Mix large container of yogurt (with live acidophilus cultures and no sugar or flavors) with ground carrots, apples (raw or cooked) or lightly cooked ground liver.
2. Ladle into ice-cube trays and freeze.
3. Serve to your favor hound as a cool summer treat!

Susan Spiller



#### Human & Hound friendly bug spray

1. Make tobacco juice: 3 pinches of chewing tobacco in an old nylon sock soak in a gallon of hot water until mixture is dark brown.
2. Combine 1 cup lemon dish soap, 1 cup antiseptic mint mouthwash, and 1 cup tobacco juice
3. You can put this in a 20 gallon hose spray container or you can use 1 teaspoon per gallon.
4. Spray and enjoy a safe, chemically and bug free yard. Reapply after rain.

Barb Lund



## Hound Health—Preparing for the Dog Days of Summer

### Susan Spiller

Spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner, is your hound ready? Now is the time to start building his stamina. If you have not been walking him regularly through the winter months, start with short walks a couple times a day. Slowly work toward your walking goal. Taking it slowly will aid in avoiding injury for your hound and you.

Sun and longer days means more time spent outdoors playing and lounging. Avoiding the sun and heat of the day between 10am and 4pm is best. Dogs don't sweat the way humans do and are susceptible to heat stroke. Heat stroke can come on quickly so prevention is key! Be sure to have plenty of fresh water available and rest often in the shade.

#### Some Summer Safety tips:

- Never leave your dog unattended during the peak sun hours of the day.
- Never leave your dog unattended in a closed vehicle.

- All greyhounds will and can sunburn. White dogs with their pinker skin are usually more prone to get sunburn. Use sun block if your greyhound has to be out in the sun for any length of time. Don't forget to put it on yourself!
- Get your greyhound a 12" deep children's pool for them to cool off in.
- Take your walks at cooler times of the day.
- Contact your vet about flea and tick medication, and follow your vet's advice for heartworm prevention.
- Make sure all plants and fertilizers within the hound's reach are non-toxic.
- Asphalt and hot concrete can burn your hound's pads. Be aware!
- Be sure your hound has access to plenty of fresh water.

Have a superb and safe summer with your hounds!

## Insurance

*(Continued from page 2)*

VPI Pet Insurance – VPI Standard Plan - [www.petinsurance.com](http://www.petinsurance.com)

- Use any licensed vet
- \$10.75 / month
- Covers most injuries, accidents and illnesses.
- Covers up to 90% of costs after deductible (see online VPI Benefit Schedule for full details)
- \$50 deductible per incident
- Additional plans available online

Pets Best Insurance – Pets Accident Plan - [www.petsbest.com](http://www.petsbest.com)

- Use any licensed vet
- \$9.92 / month
- Only covers treatment related to accidents, not illness.
- \$75 deductible per incident
- 80% coverage after deductible up to the policy limit.
- Additional plans available online

## Waiting at the Bridge

Kay Hunt—Maya

Mary Vasterling—Whisper

*Editor's note: We regret that some data on recent Bridge Kids was lost. Please contact us so we can your notice into the next issue.*

## In Memoriam

*Missy*

(b. 10/1/97 – d. 1/7/07)

Missy came into our lives on July/15/2000. Missy's adoption came about with the help of Marcy Barger. To this end we owe Marcy an immense debt of gratitude. We could have never adopted a greyhound more suited to us. She had three favorite things in life: The first being able to travel in the motor home. Missy saw many places in the USA but preferred Turtle River State Park in North Dakota. It was at this park she could go for walks and see many kinds of wildlife that were a real curiosity to her. The second was ice cream. She enjoyed the many trips we made to the Ice Cream Parlor for her favorite cone. The third was her stuffed toys. Her favorites were her bunny, pumpkin, and football. She liked to go out in her back yard and chase the two bunnies that would appear out of nowhere. She never did catch them but she enjoyed the challenge. Missy was fairly fast even in retirement and won 1<sup>ST</sup> and 2<sup>ND</sup> place in the GreyFest Fun Run. Missy made her final journey to the Bridge to be with her little sister Star (a Whippet) on January/7/2007. She is not by our side but she will never leave our hearts. Run free pretty girl.

Jim and Bev Martin  
Winnipeg, MB.Ca.

*If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you; that is the principal difference between a dog and a man.*

**Mark Twain**

## Hound School

*(Continued from page 4)*

this, and I have to say Angie is ready for the test. Also helpful was that the class covered expectations of well behaved dog and how to control and change certain behaviors. The final reward though was when everyone walked through all the exercises so well and we all cheered each other on at the last class. Good job Jen and Andrea.

*Editor's note: Angie, Mardi, Sadie, Passion, Buck and Boogie all passed the CGC' test. Andrea and Jen will be at GreyFest and will be offering another Grey-only class.*

Volume 12, Issue 3



**PETCO.com**  
Where the pets go online.

Greyhound Pets of America—  
Minnesota

Would Like to Say:  
"THANK YOU"

To Our PETCO Sponsors

With their help, many retired racers have found and will continue to find loving and caring homes.

Participating PETCO Stores:

*Apple Valley PETCO  
Burnsville  
Coon Rapids PETCO  
Duluth PETCO  
Eden Prairie PETCO  
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Highland PETCO  
Richfield PETCO  
Ridgedale PETCO  
Rochester PETCO  
St. Cloud PETCO  
W. St. Paul PETCO  
Woodbury PETCO*

PETCO stores in Minnesota have supported our organization in "EVERY" way possible. Their help financially through their various fundraising efforts has been invaluable to our organization.

GPA-MN would like to thank both the PETCO Foundation, and the dedicated men and women of the local PETCO stores who go the extra mile and help us in finding loving homes for retired racers.



Greyhound Pets of  
America - Minnesota

P.O. Box 49183  
Minneapolis, MN 55449

763-785-4000

newsletter@gpa-mn.org

www.gpa-mn.org

*Address Service Requested*

## Donations

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**Susan & Steve Bielmeier** to GPA-MN in honor of **Barska**.

**Karen Miller** to GPA-MN in memory of **Jessica's** birthday—she would have been 16 on June 13th.

**Kari Keller** to GPA-MN in honor of **Spark's** birthday and **Passion's** Gotcha Day.

**Linda Shea & Pete Opitz** to GPA-MN for the **Heal-A-Hound Fund for Olga**.

**Paul Caputi** to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

**Rita Reese-Clark** to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

**Joshua Plummer** to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

**Cindy Foss** to GPA-MN in for the hounds

**NGA** to GPA-MN on behalf of **Jennifer Plombon & Don Evans and Talica**.

**Rescuepetstore.com** to GPA-MN on behalf of **Rebecca Reed**.

**The United Way** made a matching contribution to GPA-MN to go along with **Shari S. Gray's** previous donation.

**The Petco Foundation** to GPA-MN in for the hounds.

**The Tennant Foundation** to GPA-MN in for the hounds

*The smallest acts of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention. – Oscar Wilde*

## Special Thanks

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GPA-MN would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their support and financial aid:

PETCO Stores — throughout the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Rochester

PetSmart Charities Spay & Neuter Grant

Pet Expo—Mankato, MN 507-625-2505

Brooklyn Park Animal Hospital 763-566-6000

Cottage Grove Animal Hospital 651-768-0200

Maplewood Pet Care Clinic, P.A. 651-770-8373

Alta Veterinary 612-285-6550

Chanhassen Vet Clinic 952-934-8862

Blaine Area Pet Hospital 763-754-2131

Lupient Chevrolet of Bloomington 952-884-3333

Chuck & Don's Pet Food Outlet 612-926-8161

Speed EZ Printing 763-545-1707

Fast Frame 612-924-9213

Barnes & Noble