



Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

PO Box 17523 Tampa FL 33682
727-656-8368

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fvaonline@yahoo.com
Jan/Feb/Mar 2026

Have a Heart

FVA's 31st Annual Awards Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser



Sunday, February 22nd: 1:30pm to 5:30pm

Location: **Carrollwood Recreation Center**

3515 McFarland Road, Tampa, FL 33618

Catered by:

Chef Panos Ly

World Vegan Cuisine

Speaker

Gene Baur, President and Co-founder of Farm Sanctuary. **'Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds about Animals and Food.'**



For nearly 40 years, Farm Sanctuary has combated the harms of factory farming and encouraged people to see farm animals as friends, not food. Learn about the issues, and how a small all-volunteer organization funded by selling vegan hotdogs outside of Grateful Dead concerts, grew and inspired an international movement.

Gene has been hailed as "the conscience of the food movement" by Time magazine. Since the mid-1980s, he has worked to end factory farming and advocated for a just and compassionate food system. Gene is the author of two best-selling books, and his work has educated millions and inspired an international farm sanctuary movement.

Speaker Moderator: Cathy Unruh, former television journalist, MEOW Now co-founder, Author & FVA lifetime member

2025 Animal Hero & Activist of the Year Awards will be recognized

COST: \$50 in advance, no later than 02/13/26. \$65 at the door. Students: \$35



SPONSOR A TABLE OF EIGHT: three tables available that will be placed at the front, and be first in line at the buffet: \$500.



Volunteers (Tampa Bay Veg Fest or other 2025 event) & current paid members* (paid in 2025 or with your Have A Heart tickets), \$40 until 2/13/26. *Note: memberships start at \$30.



TO RSVP: Mail a check to:

FVA, PO Box 17523, Tampa, FL 33682

Pay online at: www.floridavoicesforanimals.org

Tel: 727-656-8368

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS: If you would like to donate an item for our silent auction, please call ahead; no items accepted without prior approval. Items must be received no later than 2pm on the day of the event! Thank you in advance.

FVA in Action - Quarter 4, 2025

Dear FVA members, friends, and readers, Again, we share with you our recent FVA meetup events! We have over 4843 signed up as 'interested' in our group and activities. As you can see, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. WHERE ARE YOU? Please join our Meetup group, sign up for events that interest you, then attend the events and help the animals! (If for some reason you are unable to attend, *please* be kind enough to change your RSVP. This will help us know what attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

FVA in the Community /Tablings:

10/2, 11/6 & 12/4- Vegan Support Groups held for the past two quarters. Our monthly meetings are Open Forums, held virtually via Zoom. You can join in great discussions with some regular attendees and new ones each time. No pressure to chat, but we always like everyone to introduce themselves. Join our hosts: Kimberly Gronemeyer, Psy.D., Myriam Parham, RD, CDCES, and Cathy Unruh, Journalist, Author and Animal Advocate.

10/3, 12/5 - Karaoke and Potluck Nights at Universalist Unitarian Church, a monthly event organized by FVA Board member, Trevor Chin. Those who attend enjoy sharing yummy vegan foods, meeting new people, and having fun singing or listening to those brave ones who do!

10/5 - Social at The Green Table Restaurant, Palm Harbor – Great food and social shared with 10 attendees. Please support The Green Table and other area vegan restaurants. Volunteer options for TBVF were discussed by Kim, our event volunteer coordinator.

10/25 – FVA tables at Central Florida Veg Fest, Orlando – Promoted FVA, our own TBVF, and distributed educational materials. – Trevor, Myriam & Nachi

11/8 – 13th Annual Tampa Bay Veg Fest, held at Perry Harvey Sr. Park, Tampa. Several thousand attendees enjoyed a day full of vegan food & products. We had almost 100 vendors, including a record number of food trucks, an amazing variety of food vendors, animal sanctuaries & rescues, and a lot of cruelty-free products. Vegan vendors sold clothing, personal care products, produce, native plants, jewelry, and more. The day offered delightful surprises, talented local musicians entertained all day, cooking demos by local vegan chefs, six different types of yoga classes throughout the day, including one for kids, free vegan food samples, coupon offers, and amazing educational experiences by some incredible speakers and professional staff at our Ask A Vegan booth. Many area businesses participated and supported our event. The wide variety of vendors & products offered something for everyone!

11/12 - New College Florida – Food Pantry shopping with college students – Laura W. took 3 students shopping for \$250 of vegan food items for the student pantry – Need Picture

11/23 – Lotus Vegan Restaurant, Pinellas Park Social – A delicious buffet meal was shared by a sold out group of over 50 FVA volunteers & friends. Our speaker, Ellen Jaffe Jones, athlete, author, speaker, wowed the audience with her health & fitness stories and how she thrives on a vegan diet. She also shared interesting tidbits about her 7 books. John Nguyen provided lovely music during the meal.

11/27 – ThanksVegan, held at the Carrollwood Rec Center o Carrollwood. A huge array of vegan food was shared by 61 attendees. The delicious food was plentiful and included vegan versions of traditional holiday food and a variety that even included delicious Indian cuisine and plenty of yummy vegan

desserts. Event organized by Trevor Chin, included music and an opportunity to meet new vegan friends.

12/7 – Al Lopez Park Quarterly Cleanup – We had 9 wonderful attendees, who accomplished a lot in a short time. Huge thanks to our hard-working volunteers: Laura P, Ron Gray, Lawrence, Erik H, Christy H, Trevor, Myriam, Nachiket, and Tom Bird (who also organized) for your help!! **We can always use more helpers, so please try to join us next time**

Al Lopez Park Year-Round Feral Cats feeding, trapping for medical care and/or sterilizations- The feral cat care and feeding has been coordinated by Tom Bird for many years. He now needs more volunteers. Currently a few dedicated volunteers take turns once a week making sure the cats are fed. Thanks to Tom Bird, Suzanne House, Ron Gray, Laura Pennington, Amy Anderson, Maggie Litchman, Shawn Beckland and Kenny Echezabal for doing this 365 days a year. Total dedication! Please volunteer to take a turn if possible! We REALLY could use the help!

PLEASE consider helping us with our feral cat colony medical bills fund. This also helps sterilize any cat that joins any of the colonies.

(continued on page 3)



FVA Board at Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Action held at Solid Rock Community School

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ThanksVegan, 11/27/2025

Trevor Chin



ThanksVegan 2025 was held on Thanksgiving afternoon at our new venue, Old Carrollwood Recreation Center, 3515 McFarland Rd, Tampa, FL 33618. This was both to reduce operating costs and preparation labor. It was very spacious to accommodate approximately 180 persons. We set it up initially to accommodate 48 persons, and had to keep adding tables and chairs to accommodate the 61 persons who attended. This count included unexpected walk-ins (we highly encouraged pre-pay tickets).

The variety of vegan food was absolutely great! Wonderful colors and flavors greeted you at the serving tables. Drinks were located in the kitchen area. The coffee machine was used a lot, but people overfilled the basket so lots of grounds ended up in their cups adding to roughage and additional cleanup. These are the grounds I stand on...

Desserts were very abundant and my vegan chocolate pies got rave reviews. Even though the outside covered patio was available for use and the weather was great, it was not really used. The main thing was that everyone enjoyed themselves with great food and great company!

(continued from page 2)

Media and Other Activities:

11/3 – Fish & Wildlife Commission Florida Black Bear Hunt Public Hearing in Havana, FL, just outside of Tallahassee– members of Sierra Club, Bear Defenders, Animal Rights of Central Florida (ARCF), One Protest, Speak Up Wekiva, Bear Warriors, FVA and many others joined in to speak out against the hunt. Thanks to Sierra Club for providing free buses for activists who joined in from several areas around Florida to speak for our cherished black bears. Despite many well-informed activists and members of the public speaking out about the horrific aspects of the hunt, the FWC chose not to listen to 81% of Floridians who opposed the bear hunt. Tragically the FWC voted to proceed with the hunt and not only allowed very cruel and archaic methods, such as baiting, bow and arrows, hounding and more, but made it easy for the FWC to have future hunts without requiring public input.

FVA sends donations to local shelters - Sanctuary Monthly Donations:

Nov - \$200 donated to – Compassion Kind for help with multiple projects

Dec - \$200 donated to – Jungle Friends, Gainesville, to help with monkeys rescued from trafficking

FVA Demos for the Animals:

10/11 – Go Vegan Demo at St. Pete Market - a peaceful demonstration to help spread compassion for all sentient beings. Many people do not think about the most common cruelty that is committed every day on the weakest and meekest of the animals - the ones that are used as production units for "food". Let's raise awareness about our food choices and spread the word that ♡ Love and Peace☺ starts on our plate. Hosted by Hussein

11/28 – Fur Free Friday Demo, Westshore Plaza, Tampa. There is no room for fur in a compassionate closet. There are lots of warm options and fashionable alternatives to wearing dead animals. Four brave souls held signs and spoke to a few shoppers about the cruelty of fur. Trevor, Sue P, Myriam & Natchiket

12/20 – Puppy Mill Demo at Sunshine Puppies, Clearwater, to help educate people about the cruelties of buying a puppy from any store which gets its puppies from Puppy Mills and/or backyard breeders. Attendees: Nachiket Burade, Andrea Schleiber, Trevor Chin

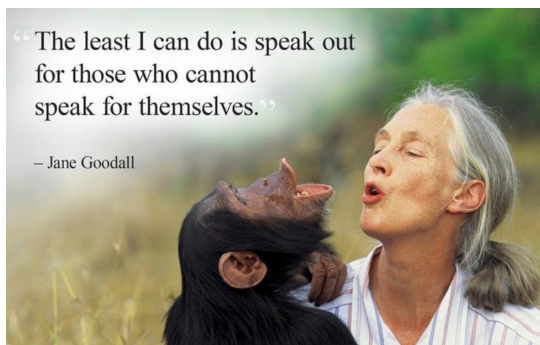
Please check our FVA Meetup calendar to join us at events like these and more so we can get to know each other. Finally, PLEASE support vegan restaurants in your area. Most need your support to survive these difficult times. If you can't dine in, order take out! We hope to see you soon!



FVA Volunteers at Al Lopez Park Cleanup 12/7/2025

Tribute to Jane Goodall, PhD

Trevor Chin



From the forests of Tanzania to the streets of Hollywood, tributes have poured in for **Jane Goodall**, after the global conservation icon died at age 91 from natural causes in her sleep. Known for her integral research work on chimpanzees in the 1960s, Goodall revolutionized the science of primates and transformed humans' understanding of their closest biological relatives.

Goodall's work has earned her recognition across the globe: she was awarded the *U.S.'s Presidential Medal of Freedom*, the country's highest civilian honor, earlier this year and was appointed by the United Nations in 2002 to be a *Messenger of Peace*—becoming one of a handful of such honorees worldwide.

Several billionaires also honored Goodall for her work. **Melinda French Gates**, a noted philanthropist, remembered Goodall on X as “an extraordinarily powerful advocate, inspiring young people all over the world to stay curious, compassionate, and committed to building a brighter future for people, animals, and the environment.”

Ingrid Newkirk, who founded the animal welfare advocacy group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), celebrated Goodall's “long and fine life” and remembered her as “a gifted scientist and trailblazer who forever changed the way we view our fellow animals.” Newkirk remembered how Goodall helped PETA in several campaigns, including stopping UPS from shipping animal trophies and calling for the closure of marine theme park SeaWorld. “She leaves behind an extraordinary legacy, and we encourage everyone to follow in her animal-respecting footsteps,” Newkirk said.

Jane's legacy continues through her **Roots & Shoots**, a global youth program created to empower young people to create positive change for people, animals, and the environment through community action projects, inspired by the idea that small actions (shoots) can grow from strong foundations (roots).

Bear Warriors Lawsuit against FWC Bear Hunt



September 17, 2025. Bear Warriors United filed second lawsuit against Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission to stop the Bear Hunt in December. Bear Warriors United filed the new lawsuit in Circuit Court in Tallahassee. The suit argued that the conservation commission's approval of the bear hunt violates Florida's constitution and asks a court to issue an injunction to stop the December hunt.

November 17, 2025. the Sierra Club chartered three large buses to take activists from Tampa, Orlando and Jacksonville to protest the hunt in Tallahassee, FL.

November 24, 2025: Court decided in favor of the bear hunt.

December 9, 2025: With 172 bears scheduled to be killed, the FWC has remained silent about how many have been killed one week into the slaughter. When News 6 asked the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for an update on the number of bears harvested on Monday, they were told to file a public records request for any data queries. Bear Warriors United offered permit holders \$2,000 if they agree in writing not to hunt.

Although the bear news for this year is heartbreaking, despite all our collective efforts and still losing the hunt battle, there was one significant victory. There were 52 bears saved when that many permits went to people who did not kill bears. Out of 172 issued that's a decent number. Sierra deserves a lot of credit for helping inform non-hunters how to get permits. We will always keep fighting for bears and ALL wildlife. In a year we will have a new Governor, and we hope new commissioners will be appointed to replace those who voted for the bear hunt, despite the huge opposition. We all need to push for a big change in the FWC members and the selection process. If so, then the future can look a little brighter. In the meantime, there is still a lot we can do for wildlife. PLEASE see the article about proposed trapping on page 5.

Al Lopez Needs

By Laura Pennington



For several years, a small group of dedicated cat lovers have been feeding the abandoned cats at Al Lopez park. We have had them fixed and vaccinated. The cats have come to know us and love us. Some are friendlier than others. The ones just off the path in the woods, will eagerly come when we call, looking forward to their food and being petted. It is quite endearing. The total number of cats to be fed at the park is 6 if they all show up.

.We also feed another small colony near by.

One of the members of our group has recently become ill and is no longer able to feed for us. We are looking for someone to fill his spot. Ideally this person would feed once a week, but any help on any basis would be greatly appreciated. We are flexible as far as which day this person feeds and it can be any time of the day. If you are out of town or have other commitments, we will have someone else in the group cover for you. Generally we all bring our own cat food, but assistance with that can be provided as needed.

I think you will find this opportunity to be rewarding and meaningful. We have established a group chat to share information about the cats and just to share our experiences with them. We would love to meet with you and show you how it's done. If interested, please contact Laura Pennington, (813) 340-7562.

* * * * *

New Trapping Rules Proposed After 50 years!

by Kate MacFall, Humane World for Animals



The FWC is in the process of updating their rules on wildlife trapping and Florida advocates have an opportunity to make a difference for countless animals at the next FWC Commission meeting Feb 4th-5th in Tallahassee. There are harmful changes we strongly oppose like removing the special use permit requirement for steel traps, and some positive changes we support like banning outdoor use of glue traps. We need advocates to come to Tallahassee and speak in support of the humane changes and oppose the cruel expansion of traps like leg/foothold and body crushing steel traps. The meeting agenda is not posted yet, but as it gets closer you can find the agenda here: [Link to FWC agenda](#)

Indiscriminate trapping maims or kills any poor animal who steps in the wrong place and trap check time is 24 hours. FWC staff's proposal allows the public to use a barbaric steel trap like body crushing or leghold trap with just a minimal amount of education via a video. It is extremely important that Floridians speak respectfully in support of the positive changes to be sure they **remain** in the proposed draft and are not removed. Please see talking points below and join us in person in Tallahassee Feb 4th-5th at the FWC meeting and speak up for wildlife!

FWC changes expand the use of cruel devices while offering no real oversight, no intervention, no license, no consumer or wildlife protections, and no annual fee for commercial trappers or for the public.

Key Changes:

- **"Registration" only** – Trappers must register, but this is still **not a license**. No annual fee, no enforcement funding. **Training requirement** – Online videos only.
- **Mandatory Reporting** – But only for commercial Trappers. Must log what they catch, kill, or release ("data collection"). **Still no oversight of the millions of amateurs trapping in their backyards daily**, so Reporting will only track less than 1% of those trapping our wildlife.
- **GlueTraps banned** - for outdoor use.

Dangerous Trap Expansion:

- **Steel-jaw foothold traps, coon cuffs, cable restraints (locking snares), and Conibear body-crushing kill traps** now allowed **without a Special Use Permit**.
- **Trap restrictions:**
 - * Steel Jaw size and type limits, and 300' setback from residences
 - * Conibear body-crushing traps must be set underwater
 - * FWC claims these changes might protect pets and non-target victims—**they won't**.

Impact on Homeowners:

- Limited to **ONE box/cage trap** unless training and registration as trapper is completed.
- **24-hour trap check rule remains; animals must not be held for more than 12 hours.**

Every Animal Still a Target:

- No change to Florida's vague definition of "nuisance animal."
- Any species can be trapped under this subjective label.

What's Next:

- Final approval expected at the **FWC Commission meeting in February 2026**. Watch the Nov 6 meeting recording (first topic of the day): [Florida Channel link](#)

Call to Action:

- **Demand licensing, fees, and oversight** for commercial trappers.
- **Require sounder, science-based non-lethal solutions** to wildlife conflicts.

Share this information with neighbors, policymakers, and community groups.

TBFV 2025 Volunteers:

Kasia Adamietz
 Jill Arbetter
 Nylah B.
 Kristen Baker
 Alain Belizaire
 Bryan Bell
 Lisa Billarakis
 Shannon Blair
 Stevie Boettcher
 Angela Bolen
 John Bowden
 Scott Brady
 Nachiket Burade
 Trevor Chin
 Kathleen "Kacee" Clarkson
 Melissa "Lisa" Clarkson
 JC & Kami Conklin
 John Dresser
 Ted Ellquist
 Sid Fernandez
 Miriam Fernandez
 Judy Ferrell
 Christina
 Lisa Franklin
 Marie Galbraith
 Kevin Garcia
 Margarita Gracheva
 Samantha Green
 Jessica Greene
 Deb & Tim Griffin
 Kim Gronemeyer
 Timaree Hagenburger
 Amanda Hartman
 Rob Hastings
 Harland Hill
 Jessi Hill
 Suzanne House
 Eric Hollis
 Debbie Ingram (Kid's talk)
 Jeremy Johnson
 Denise Joiner
 Ellen Jaffe Jones
 Ashley Kelly
 Diane Koon
 Val Lang
 Demetria Laousis
 Margo Lawson

Nathan Loper
 Beth MacChesney
 Amy Machado
 Jim Maloy
 Florence Marsan
 Marcia Miller
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 Diane Moreton
 Sara Newberger
 Emily Newberger
 Beverly Nwokoye
 Adam Orenstein
 Olivia Pane
 Shariq Parvez
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 Erika Reif
 Truddie Reif
 Michele Root
 Larry Rumbough
 Andrea Schleicher
 Erotida Sevo
 Jacinda Shapiro
 Timothy Sixta
 Pam Stevens
 Nadia Tenouri
 John Thomas
 Tom Lyons
 Tom Thompson
 Evan Tokarz
 Bruce Toscano
 Lib Triplett
 Jen Underhill
 Cathy Unruh
 Vegan Evan
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(provided FREE classes)

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FVA Central at Tampa Bay Veg Fest, 11/08/2025



Nachi hooked on Veggies

You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless, please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will both help the environment and to enable FVA have more resources for helping animals.

YES I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:

☐ \$300 Teddy* Lifetime ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$15 Student ☐ _____ Other

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to volunteer for:

☐ Phone Tree ☐ Attending Demonstrations ☐ Staffing Outreach Tables ☐ Website ☐ Newsletter

☐ Investigations ☐ Other: _____

I prefer to receive my Newsletters: ☐ Electronically via email ☐ Regular Mail

** In loving memory of Keith Roghair's dog, Teddy*



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GOOD NEWS

☺ **Sep 2025: Student travel company Rustic Pathways confirmed that it has removed cruel elephant bathing from its tour offerings!** PETA confirmed this compassionate decision is a major win for elephants exploited for tourist attractions and appeals to the growing number of young people seeking ethical travel experiences that let elephants, and all animals, live in peace. These sensitive elephants endure physical and psychological abuse and have had their spirits broken to make them compliant for photo ops and other direct tourist interactions

☺ **Oct 2025: Victory! Historic Declawing Ban Signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom.** California Governor Gavin Newsom recently signed Assembly Bill 867 into law, officially banning the cruel practice of declawing cats statewide. This groundbreaking legislation is the culmination of years of advocacy by advocacy groups as well as powerful support from local communities across California. Source: In Defense of Animals (IDA)

☺ **Dec 2025: The Humane Society of Pinellas and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay are joining together as a united "Humane Society of Tampa Bay" to build a stronger, more sustainable future for pets and the people who love them on both sides of the bay.** This unity will:

- Save more lives across Pinellas and Hillsborough,
- Expand access to affordable veterinary care for Pinellas families,
- Offer more volunteer and community engagement opportunities,
- Keep more local families together, and
- Strengthen vital programs such as TNVR and humane education in neighborhoods throughout both counties.





Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date **L Lifetime member**
X Newsletter exchange **C Courtesy**

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Go Green!
 Have me emailed to you!
 fvaonline@yahoo.com



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



All events are posted on our Meetup Calendar so if you haven't signed up for our meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals, and then sign up.

Visit <https://newdaynewchef.com/episodes/> to watch **New Day, New Chef** vegan cooking show hosted by **Jane Velez-Mitchell**

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello**

Every Wed at 11am WMNF 88.5FM **Talking Animals** radio show with **Duncan Strauss**

Every Fri at 11am WUSF Ch 16.1 **Jazzy Vegetarian** cooking show with **Laura Theodore**

Check out the **Vegan Myth Busters** radio show hosted by **Ellen Jaffe Jones** anytime by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/> or live every Tuesday at 6PM EST on The Dr. Don Show on KAAA and KZZZ at <http://www.talkatoz.com>

2/5, 3/5 6:30pm Vegan Support Group Zoom Mtg. FVA is hosting a series of vegan support groups on the first Thursday of each month to help you cope with the challenges of living in a non-vegan world. Please check FVA Meetup Calendar. Note: No Vegan Support Group for January.

1/2, 2/6, 3/6 6:30pm Vegan Potluck & Karaoke, Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, 11400 Morris Bridge Rd, Tampa 33637 FVA hosting this fun event every month. Bring a vegan dish and your best singing voice. Please RSVP on FVA Meetup.

1/25 1pm-4pm FVA/Lotus Vegan Special Buffet with Jacinda Shapiro, 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL 33781. 727-549-1688 Jacinda is a Registered Nurse who will give a talk on **The Protein Myth & Diabetes Epidemic**. You **must** purchase tickets **in advance**, either from FVA Meetup or from an invitation email.

2/22 1:30pm-5:30pm FVA Have-A-Heart Dinner & Silent Auction, Carrollwood Rec Center, 3515 McFarland Rd, Tampa, FL 33618. This new venue is to cut our operating costs and site labor. Bring friends and family. You **must** purchase tickets **in advance**, either from FVA Meetup or from an invitation email, plus you can purchase 50/50 Raffle Tickets and also become an FVA Member (if you haven't done that yet).

3/8 10am-11am FVA's Al Lopez Park Cleanup, 4810 N Himes Ave, Tampa, FL 34614 Volunteers are needed to help clean up Al Lopez Park. The animals could use your help to keep their environment clean. Bring drink (eg water or other beverage), sunscreen, bug repellent, hat, sunglasses, long pants & long sleeves. Gloves, trash bags & grabber poles will be provided.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has" - Margaret Mead