

Ventura Police Department to Hold 4th Annual "Bark Out Loud" Comedy Night Benefiting the Department's K9 Unit

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Incident: Ventura Police Department to Hold 4th Annual "Bark Out Loud" Comedy Night Benefiting the Department's K9 Unit.

Location: The Majestic Ventura Theater, 26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura, 93001

Date/Time To Occur: Saturday, July 25, 2015, 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Personnel Involved: Ventura Police Department K-9 Officers and Featuring Fritz Coleman NBC4 Weathercaster

Narrative:

Event Information:

On Saturday, July 25, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., the Ventura Police Department (VPD) will hold the 4th Annual "Bark Out Loud" Comedy Night benefiting the department's K9 Unit. The event takes place at the Majestic Ventura Theater in downtown Ventura.

The evening begins with a cocktail hour from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., dinner, provided by Stephen's Market of Ventura, will be served at 7:00 p.m. and the comedy show will begin at 8:00 p.m. Professional comedians performing include Sandy Stotzer, Billy Batz, and Fritz Coleman NBC4 Southern California's weathercaster as this year's featured comedian. Our K9 Teams will of course be on site not only conducting demonstrations throughout the evening but will be roaming the crowd so individuals can meet the officers and their partners, have their pictures taken with them, or even purchase VPD K9 merchandise. The evening's festivities also include a silent auction and raffle.

Tickets are \$45 and are available at www.venturapdk9.org , www.venturatheater.net , or by calling 805.207.7484, or 805.339.4474.

Bark Out Loud Background Information:

The idea of having a comedy night to benefit the K9 Unit came from members of the K9 Team themselves. The department's K9 Unit is very active in the community hosting a number of "meet and greets", K9 events, demonstrations, and other functions. Sergeant Brian Hewlett, supervisor of the Unit, said "When we first came up with the idea of "Bark Out Loud" (in 2012) we were all in agreement in that we wanted to host a fundraiser that would not only draw a number of people, but something that was a unique and fun way to interact with the public while at the same time shining the spotlight on our k9 program." Continued Hewlett, "Bark Out Loud is now in its third year and has become the most successful K9 fundraiser we have. Over the last two years we've raised \$44,000 through Bark Out Loud and the community's support of not only the event but our department is very rewarding and appreciated."

National Police Dog Foundation and Fundraising Information:

All proceeds from the event will go to the local non-profit organization, the National Police Dog Foundation (NPDF). The NPDF has been a generous supporter of our K9 Team for several years and seeks donations from the community to purchase and train police dogs for law enforcement agencies throughout Ventura County.

In fact all of VPDs K9s (past and present), along with the costs of their training, are paid for through the generosity of community donations and the NPDF, and not through taxpayer dollars. On average, the cost

for a canine is \$12,000 with an additional \$6,000 to \$10,000 for basic and advanced training and certifications. Additional information on the NPDF can be found by visiting www.usk9fund.org

Our department wants to again express our sincere appreciation to the community for their support and to all the companies, organizations, and individuals who have helped to make the event such a huge success.