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Win \$100 in The Mirror's coupon challenge

Want to win \$100 just for saving money? The Mirror is sponsoring a contest in April to find the most coupon-savvy shopper in Federal Way.

Throughout the month of April, whoever saves the most money using coupons found anywhere in the Federal Way Mirror will win a \$100 giftcard to the local store of your choice.

Save your receipts for proof, and we'll tally them up.

Check The Mirror's print edition every Friday for the best coupons for local restaurants, groceries, retail, auto services and more.

The winner will be announced May 18. The Mirror will report how much money the winner saved and how it was done, all thanks to your local newspaper.

Questions? Please contact Mirror publisher Rudi Alcott at ralcott@federalwaymirror.com or (253) 925-5565.



Senior Resource Guide: Special section inside

Check out the 2012 Senior Resource Guide inside today's Mirror, starting on page 13. The section provides information on senior health, finances and lifestyle, along with resources for recreation. Pictured above: Pickleball is popular at the Federal Way Community Center, which hosts daily activities for seniors without requiring a membership. The center also sponsors several affordable road trips all year. Also inside: Doctors from St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way offer advice on stress relief and cancer screenings. *ANDY HOBBS, The Mirror*

City shops for an arts center

Mayor also optimistic about Crystal Palace

BY GREG ALLMAIN
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The Federal Way City Council reviewed a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) draft to be sent across the nation for the future performing arts and conference center (PACC) project that first began moving in 2008.

During an April 3 special meeting, Patrick Doherty, director of economic development for the city, briefed the council on where things stand with the PACC. Doherty also briefly touched on the Crystal Palace project proposed last year for an adjacent site.

Doherty reviewed the history of the project, touching on some of the major developments, including the 2010 purchase of the former Toys R Us property in the city's downtown core, the would-be home for the PACC.

"The city purchased that site in December of 2010, with a \$5 million state grant on the condition that the PACC is constructed within ten years, or the money will need to be returned with interest," Doherty said.

Since the ball began rolling in 2008, Doherty said the city conferred with LMN Architects to begin with, and had them develop some cost estimates for the PACC last year.


The price range for the project through LMN would vary between \$44.5 million to \$50 million, a cost estimate that caused the city to take a pause and review its options.

"We thanked them for their work, and started to

NEWS UPDATE


[more ARTS CENTER, p. 12]

Delivery change: Your Mirror will arrive between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. Fridays. If you do not have your paper by 6 p.m., contact (253) 872-6610 or circulation@federalwaymirror.com.



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Fake service dogs: Pet owners tap ADA loophole

BY ANDY HOBBS
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When is a service dog not a service dog?

By definition, service dogs are trained to perform specific tasks for people with disabilities. Service dogs assist people with physical and mental impairments, whether by guiding the blind, pulling a wheelchair or alerting an owner to an impending seizure.

However, some pet owners bring their non-service dogs into public establishments like restaurants and grocery stores — and easily get away with it.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 grants specific rights and prohibits discrimination related to service dogs. There are no requirements for licensing, certification or identification of service dogs, according to the U.S. Department of Justice. The animals are not required to wear special collars, vests or harnesses. The ADA makes it unlawful to require proof of a disability or identification for the service dog.

When dealing with so-called service animals, businesses are only allowed to ask two questions of dog owners:

[more DOGS, page 8]



A pitbull works as a service dog for a woman who says she suffers from seizures. Shown wearing a pink service dog vest, the pitbull is a constant companion who alerts the woman if she shows signs of a seizure, she said. FILE PHOTO



VOTE



FIRE





EMS

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[DOGS from page 1]

- Is the dog required because of a disability?
- What task or service has the dog been trained to do?

A dog owner's answer to these two questions must be taken at face value, regardless of whether the dog's service status is legitimate. If a service dog is out of control or exhibits behavior that threatens the health or safety of customers, the law allows businesses to ask the owner to remove the dog

from the premises. Otherwise, a business can risk accusations of discrimination as well as charges, fines and lawsuits.

The proliferation of pet owners who pass off their dogs as service animals is seen as a threat to the validity of genuine service dogs.

Debby Phillips, president of Guide Dog Users of Washington State, relies on a seeing eye dog. The labrador was trained specifically to assist and guide her in day-to-day activities.

"Sometimes people will

come up to me and say, 'is that a service dog?' I didn't get questioned so much a year ago," Phillips said. "My dog is a seeing eye dog and he guides me wherever I'm going. My dog actually has a specific purpose in what he does."

The value of such fully-trained guide dogs can be up to \$50,000, she said. The cost involves raising and training the dog over the course of several months, often up to two years.

Several websites sell "identification packages"

that help pet owners create the illusion of a trained service dog.

For \$249, customers visiting the site for Service Dogs America, for example, can buy a special doggie vest and ID cards that label the dog as a service animal. The company claims the package, along with a self-administered test, helps owners "clearly identify your dog as a service dog and avoid awkward confrontations when entering public places with your dog."

The website also states that owners are responsible for training their dogs and ensuring they meet proper criteria: "Service Dogs America recognizes that you may train your own dog and supplies you with the appropriate identification to allow your dog to accompany you anywhere the public is allowed."

Legitimate service dogs are trained to behave in public, and usually remain calm and obey the disabled owner's commands.

What do you think?

On April 11, The Mirror asked this question on Facebook: **What do you think about people bringing non-service dogs into places like restaurants or grocery stores?** Here are some responses posted.

- Amberlynn Ellis: I leave my dog at home, so can you.
- Mary Menard: I think the animals need to be healthy, groomed and behaved to the high standards that service animals are. In that case, I am in favor. I especially oppose poorly groomed animals in public because they shed lots of allergens wherever they go. Humans' need to breathe supersedes pets' desire to enjoy public spaces. I would like a certification

available, like the Canine Good Citizen Test, plus a grooming and health test that would earn pets access to public places only when accompanied by the human companion who tested with the pet.

- Melodie Hardwick: I'm allergic to dogs, so I'm not a huge fan. However, if a dog is well-behaved and can sit without bothering other people, it's no problem. There is a place I go to in Seattle occasionally that is dog-friendly and most dogs there are well-behaved. Occasionally though, there will be a dog owner that lets their dog roam free, and it will come around and try to eat the food on your table. Gross. When that happens, the dog and owner should be kicked out immediately.
- Jason Coleman: In restaurants and grocery stores? Absolutely not! Any place that serves/sells food is no place for animals. It's rude, ignorant, and selfish for dog owners to think they can bring them in to those places. Even non-food stores like the mall, clothing shops, sporting goods stores, etc., are no places for non-service animals and dogs. Many people are allergic to dogs/cats, not to mention the health risk if the animal has an "accident" in the store.

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