

parking lot. Baranek thanked several County departments for their assistance including Facilities Management, Engineering, the Gloucester Sheriff's Office work crew, and most importantly, the volunteers that dedicate countless hours at the Shelter.

According to Martinez, 196 volunteers contributed close to 11,000 hours of service to both the GMHS and the County's Animal Shelter last year alone.

"Our volunteers tirelessly come day and night, in the rain and in the snow and in the hottest of weather caring for these animals," Baranek said. "They deserve my biggest thanks." Speaking to the volunteers who attended the ribbon cutting for the new area, Baranek said, "Without you all, these dogs would not be going out of the front door to their forever homes."

Unlike some other shelters, dogs that come to the Gloucester Shelter are never euthanized for space restrictions or length of stay requirements. "We share the same understanding that the lives of all pets are valuable, Martinez said. "We're working hard together to provide them with the best and happiest existence possible."

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