



City of Clermont

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NEWS RELEASE

City of Clermont's Pups in the Park Event Draws Crowd

CLERMONT (June 18, 2021) – Attendees had a doggone good time at the first Pups in the Park.

The City of Clermont and the Clermont Police Department hosted the free event Sat., June 12 at Lake Hiawatha Preserve.

About 500 community members enjoyed a full morning of activities, including a 1-mile walk, Puppuccino with a Cop, a dog swimsuit competition and a Frisbee contest.

"We'd like to thank everyone who came out and made this first-time event so successful," Mayor Tim Murry said. "We were thrilled with the turnout, and we look forward to making Pups in the Park an annual event."

Shoppers browsed dozens of vendor tents and visited food trucks while live DJ music kept an energetic atmosphere. Pups received a city logo bandana.



Dog swimsuit competition judges smile with the winning dogs and their owners June 12 at Lake Hiawatha Preserve.



Cpl. Philip Pollen interacts with a puppy at the Puppuccino with a Cop tent.

At the Puppuccino with a Cop tent, police officer "bark-istas" gave out cups of whipped cream and dog treats, shared local resources with dog owners and struck a pose at the photo booth.

"Events like these build upon our community relations," Police Chief Charles Broadway said. "It is important for our officers to get to know the community they serve, including its furry friends."

For the dog swimsuit contest, nearly 30 fashionista pups strut their stuff down the green carpet. The judging panel consisted of Mayor Tim Murry, Council Member Michele Pines, Police Chief Charles Broadway and Pat the Dog Owner Pat Caracciolo, an event sponsor.

The dog swimsuit competition winners were:

- Best Male – Pierre the Chihuahua-pit bull mix with owner Melissa France
- Best Overall – Jiko the Labrador retriever with owner Brittnee Griffin
- Best Female – Sienna the greyhound with owner Lindsey Capria
- Honorable Mention – Maverick the greyhound with owner Andrew Wood

Sporty dogs showed off their fetch skills at the Frisbee competition and took home a free Frisbee with the city logo.

The Frisbee contest winners were:

- First Place – Lilly the border collie with owner Christian Torres
- Second Place – Zeus the golden doodle with owner Danny Fontana
- Third Place – Bailey the miniature Australian shepherd with owner Cassie Behling



Zeus the golden doodle jumps to catch a Frisbee at the competition.



Council Member Ebo Entsuh participates in the 1-mile dog walk with his Airedale terrier, Maverick.

Winners of both competitions were awarded commemorative plaques.

Those participating in the 1-mile dog walk enjoyed the park's shaded scenery, as well as plenty of fun stops along the way.

Several local companies supported Pups in the Park, including Orlando Health South Lake Hospital, Foxtail Coffee Co., Doggy Delights by Allison, Haven Property Group, Jayslights and Walmart.

The City of Clermont hosts exciting events year-round. Keep up with what's happening at www.ClermontFL.gov/calendar.

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About the City of Clermont. Clermont, Fla., is known as the Choice of Champions® due to its international reputation as a training ground for elite athletes and the community's celebration of the championship spirit. Founded in 1884 as a model town, the city of 40,000 is about 20 miles west of Orlando and is set among picturesque hills and pristine lakes. Clermont is the largest city in Lake County. More at www.ClermontFL.gov.