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SHREIBER SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY TO BECOME NEW STEWARD OF PAWS FARM

Mount Laurel, NJ --- A joint statement from Mount Laurel Township, Volunteers for PAWS Farm, and the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine of Rowan University announced that PAWS Farm will be run by the new state veterinary school starting in January 2024. As the current organization running the 10-acre property concludes its time there, Katherine Tweedy of Volunteers for PAWS Farm said, “The Board of Volunteers For Paws Farm, Inc. has diligently and tirelessly repaired and restored all the buildings and grounds of the Paws Farmstead and opened it to the public for the last two summers and is now prepared to turn over this historic and now beautiful Mount Laurel Township property to the new Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine of the outstanding and exemplary Rowan University to preserve and to enhance our beloved Paws Farm.”

Dr. Matthew Edson, Founding Dean of the veterinary school, stated, “Part of our school’s mission is to collaborate with partners in the community to broaden the impact of education in veterinary medicine, and this fits perfectly with that. We see PAWS Farm as an important component of how we want to connect with people in our area to increase understanding of the importance of animals in our lives. This facility will advance our mission of introducing people of all ages and backgrounds to opportunities in veterinary medicine they may have never considered before.” The school is expected to welcome its first class in 2025, pending accreditation approval from the American Veterinary Medical Association Council on Education.

State Assemblywoman, Carol Murphy, said, “As an advocate for animals, both on the farm and in our homes, the funding and programs for PAWS Nature Center and now the Shreiber School

of Veterinary Medicine are essential in keeping our friends healthy and educating our future animal care providers. I will always do what I can to fight for our community and continue the success and growth of PAWS' original mission.”

"The PAWS Farm Nature Center has long been a beloved, community recreational and educational space that offers hands-on learning experiences for families and their children. It is especially fitting that the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine of Rowan University will be running this site, as it is uniquely positioned to foster such programming which will continue to open the eyes of children of all backgrounds to the career possibilities in the veterinary industry. We knew that there would be great value in South Jersey being home to a vet school and partnerships like this underscore the benefits it brings to our communities," said Senator Troy Singleton who advocated for state funding for the vet school, and represents Mount Laurel as part of the 7th Legislative District.

The school seeks to maintain the spirit of this historical property while creating new opportunities to educate people about animals and veterinary medicine. “As the first veterinary school in New Jersey, we are honored to commence stewardship of PAWS Farm and hope to inspire young people to consider veterinary medicine as a future career path,” said Dr. Suzie Kovacs, Associate Dean for Student Success at the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Kovacs will oversee the team running programming at PAWS Farm once it is in place.

There will be a transition period before new programming takes place on site. Dr. Kovacs commented, “We are being very thoughtful about how we proceed. We are currently in the process of hiring the on-site team, developing curriculum, and making plans for the community. We will let the public know about upcoming events and educational opportunities as things come to fruition in the new year. We want to make this a place where people who remember it from their childhood will enjoy bringing their own children and grandchildren here. There will be many new memories made at PAWS Farm.” The school plans to keep the traditional experience alive and well through public access and plenty of programs for youth and families.

Mount Laurel Mayor, Stephen Steglik, commented, “This is great news for our township, which places community first. As a Green Acres location, PAWS Farm is an important part of our town's history, and with the active participation of Rowan University, will remain an important part of its future. When Paws closed right before Covid we made a commitment to the residents

that we would continue to work to find a long term solution. We know there was skepticism based upon everything that was happening around the world. After much hard work, today, we are pleased to announce we have kept this promise.” Fozia Janjua, Deputy Mayor for Mount Laurel Township, said, “The people of Mount Laurel are passionate about building their town into a strong community, and I am pleased to see Rowan University putting real effort into the same.”

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About the Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine of Rowan University

The Shreiber School of Veterinary Medicine will be the first in New Jersey. Once accredited, the School will offer New Jersey’s first Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree, as well as related degree programs designed to shape the future of veterinary medicine and animal health care in the state. For more information visit <https://svm.rowan.edu/>.

About Volunteers for PAWS Farm

Volunteers for PAWS Farm, Inc. is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to restore the buildings and property and support the operation of Paws Farm through fundraising efforts with the intention and hope of bringing back educational interaction with animals and nature. The PAWS Farm website is currently located at <https://www.pawfarm.org/>.

About Mount Laurel Township

Mount Laurel Township is a Township in Burlington County, New Jersey and includes communities such as Ramblewood, Rancocas, and Larchmont. At the last census the population was 42,038. Learn more at <https://www.mountlaurel.com/>.