

## Lansing Unleashed E-News for February 6, 2007: New Play Sessions Set

Hello Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks:

Welcome to our February 2007 E-newsletter issue. In this E-newsletter:

1. **Soldan Dog Park Update**
2. **2007 Strategic Planning**
3. **Save the Dates for Play Sessions**
4. **A Big Wag of the Tail Thank You to Our 2006 Annual Appeal Donors**
5. **Sponsors Page Added to Web Site**
6. **2006 Annual Report: What a Year!**
7. **2007 FGLDP Officers Elected**
8. **Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members**

**1. Soldan Dog Park Update:** At our Annual Meeting on January 22, 2007 we enjoyed an update on park construction planning and timelines, presented by Murdock Jemerson, Director, Lansing Parks & Recreation, and Mike Bristor, Project Manager, Landscape Architects & Planners, Inc. (LAP). We were pleased to have Willis Bennett, Hawk Island Park Manager, at the meeting to fill us in on Ingham County's contributions to the project.

Since the contract was awarded to LAP, they have worked with Lansing and Ingham County staff and FGLDP to work out details of site planning and bid specifications. The details are now complete and the fencing bid process is being carried out by the Lansing Purchasing Dept. Once bids are received they will be reviewed by LAP and the city will award a contract—assuming that bid amounts fall within the planned budget. (Initial estimates indicate that they will but keep your fingers crossed!) Once the contract is awarded, implementation and completion of construction depends on contractor scheduling and Michigan weather.

So what does it all mean? We expect to have the **Howard and Erna Soldan Dog Park** open by the end of June 2007. In the meantime, we will let you know when you can join us for Groundbreaking Day. Think digging dogs in hard hats!

**2. 2007 Strategic Planning:** If you are a current member of Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks, consider joining us for our annual planning session. We will outline a work plan for this exciting year in park development on **Saturday, February 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Location will be decided when we know the size of the group, so let us know right away if you are willing to work.

**What is involved?** You will receive a planning outline and agenda to review in advance. Then participate at the planning session on 2/24 and help with follow-up on plans. Topics include planning for groundbreaking and grand opening events; finalizing park rules and incident reporting; and future fundraising needs including a small/shy dog area in the park and beachfront development.

Volunteer by sending an email with your name, phone number and any particular area of interest to [info@lansingdogparks.com](mailto:info@lansingdogparks.com) or by calling Ellen Sullivan, President, at 517-484-7417 or Cindy Ballard, Vice President, at 517-974-3103 with the same information. We welcome your participation!

**3. Save the Dates for Play Sessions:** Our next two dog park play session are now confirmed for Sunday, February 25 and Saturday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m. at the site of the future Howard and Erna Soldan Dog Park at Scott Woods. The site will be available for off-leash use **ONLY** on the days of our scheduled play sessions. The fenced area is at the north end of the future dog park site, with an entrance on the east side of the park, just south of the intersection of Willard and Ruth Streets. Contact us in advance if you need detailed directions.

The Play Sessions will continue to be supervised by experienced dog trainers and behaviorists to give us input on how our dogs are handling the off-leash experience. Alex Chodakowski, Owner/Trainer, BusyPaws Dog Training, will be with us on February 25. Robin Sackevich, a new member and Animal Science graduate with 25 years of animal experience, is scheduled for March 10. Be sure to ask our experts for pointers on improving behavior of your dog in the dog park setting.

We will be adding additional supervised play sessions once we know the construction schedule for the park. Remember that play sessions will continue to be free and members-only events; we welcome members both new and current to join us. If you are not currently a member, you will need to join or renew

on-line prior to the play session; we do not collect memberships during the event. To renew your membership or join online, go to [www.lansingdogparks.com](http://www.lansingdogparks.com) and click on Membership.

Remember, no more than two dogs per human for these events. **IMPORTANT REMINDER:** All dogs must be licensed and have proof of licensing to participate. Put that license tag on the dog collar now! Proposed dog park rules will apply for the event and remember: Under state law you are responsible for damages or injuries inflicted by your dog. Please note there are no restroom facilities at the site, so plan ahead.

**4. A Big Wag of the Tail Thank You to our 2006 Annual Appeal Donors:** Thanks to the generosity of our many members and supporters, so far we have raised almost \$1800 through our year-end Annual Appeal-remember the charming *Letter from the Dog* email that you received in early December? We humbly thank the following 2006 Annual Appeal donors: Bob & Cindy Ballard; Terry Chapman; Kathleen A. Dickenson; Morgan Haeger; Kathy Haviland; Malinda Hudkins; Dee King; Valerie Lewis; Viki Lorraine & Ethel Pangborn; Ronald G. Paige; Tanya Paslawski & Alexander Morese; T. Pietrzak; Jennifer Quimby; Mark & Ellen Sullivan; Ruth Ann Wendrow; and Jim & Linda Williams. It is still not too late to donate. Please remember that all of your donations go toward opening Lansing's first off-leash dog park: the **Howard and Erna Soldan Dog Park**. Follow the link to our secure website to donate: <http://www.lansingdogparks.com/donations.html>

**5. Sponsors Page Added to Web Site:** Be sure to check out the Sponsors page just added to our site at <http://www.lansingdogparks.com/sponsors.html> This is one way we recognize the major donors to the **Howard & Erna Soldan Dog Park**: Howard Soldan II of Soldan's Feeds & Pet Supplies, our \$50,000 naming rights sponsor; the City of Lansing; Ingham County; Petco Foundation; and our newest \$1,000 donor, Tom Metevier, owner of Wag'n Tails Pet Resort. We are also very appreciative of those member-donors listed on the web page who are fence donors (\$250).

**6. 2006 Annual Report: What a Year!** Each year we publish our version of an organizational Annual Report to our members and supporters which details our activities and accomplishments for the year including progress toward meeting our goals. For a small, all-volunteer organization, we sure are an active and capable group. Here are some of the 2006 highlights: 241 memberships (over 283 individuals are members); \$20,000 raised during the year; and over \$92,000 raised/pledged to date for the Soldan Dog Park. The full report is on our website; please check out what your organization has been up to!

**7. 2007 FGLDP Officers Elected:** At our January 22nd Annual Membership Meeting, the following officers were elected to serve during 2007: Ellen Sullivan, President; Cindy Ballard, Vice President; Morgan Haeger, Secretary; and Rebecca Vanvelzor, Treasurer. The following individuals have generously agreed to serve during 2007 at the request of our president: Deb Lintemuth, Membership Chair; Dana French, Finance Chair; Dusty DeHaven, Communications Chair; Jen Quimby, Communications Co-Chair; and Kim Miller, Web Site Tech Chair. All officers and board members are volunteers and receive no compensation other than the undying love and devotion of their furry friends! Lastly, we wish Laura Harwin and Wes Oliver the best of luck in their move to Pennsylvania (Laura was our 2006 Secretary). Laura and Wes, we will miss you!

**8. Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members:** We have a zillion new and renewing members to welcome (well, that is only a slight exaggeration) so we had better get right to it. Our new and renewing members include: Allan C. Fiscus; Todd Parker; Tracie Mansberger; Sarah Tyriver & Kris Gaumer; Nancy Stark & Ben Wells; Christine Shafer; Ed & Jane Marin; Victoria Hoelzer-Maddox; C. Diane West; Jean Gillespie; Marie Dimitrijevic; Susan M. Canty; Lynette & Sean Johnson; Lisa Stier; Debbie Hughes & David Snyder; Norma Eppinger; Victoria Campbell-Arvai; Katie DuBois; Gloria Lewis; Kris Elsesser; Janice Meyers; Cheryl Bartz; Dyana Males; William A. Black; Carolee Ware; Susan Merkle; Lisa Sahr; Darcy Kelley; Jennifer Quimby; Susan Frazier; Robin Mitschke; Robin Sackevich; Tom Metevier; Erica & Donald Sorrells; Cara Preston; Rhonda & Bill Scanlon; Bob & Cindy Ballard; Terry Chapman; Kathleen A. Dickenson; Morgan Haeger; Kathy Haviland; Malinda Hudkins; Dee King; Valerie Lewis; Viki Lorraine & Ethel Pangborn; Ronald G. Paige; Tanya Paslawski & Alexander Morese; T. Pietrzak; Mark & Ellen Sullivan; Keith Tarjanyi; Ruth Ann Wendrow; and Jim & Linda Williams.

Remember that we have a number of members who have paid ahead or donated at a level that allowed them a multiple-year membership. Our current membership for 2007 is now 130 strong. If you have not gotten round to updating your membership, visit our website to join or renew online at <http://www.lansingdogparks.com/donations.html> or mail your membership renewal to the address on this newsletter.