

## Lansing Unleashed E-News for May 1, 2007: Dog Paddle on Friday, May 4th

Hello Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks:

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

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1. **Dog Paddle on Friday, May 4 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Hawk Island County Park:** It is almost time for our annual dog swim on the beach at Hawk Island County Park, 1601 Cavanaugh, Lansing. Hawk Island is between Aurelius Road and Pennsylvania Avenue and just south of the future site of our dog park. Those who have attended our past swims will tell you what a wonderful time the dogs and their owners have. Ingham County is kind enough to allow us to use their beach for this one evening, so make good use of the fun in the sun. Admission cost is \$5 per dog for members and \$10 per dog for nonmembers. All owners get in free. If you are not a member now, you can join at the event and your admission price will be included in the membership fee. Individual membership is \$15 and Pack (Household) is \$25 annually.

As with any wet and wild swim party, there are a few rules:

a. Two dogs allowed per adult handler; b. Dogs must wear their current licenses and be leashed when out of the water; c. An adult must accompany dogs and kids; d. Dogs are allowed on the beach area only; and e. Owners must be prepared to enter the water to assist their dogs.

Questions? Contact us at [info@lansingdogparks.com](mailto:info@lansingdogparks.com) or call 517-974-3103. We again thank the Lansing Parks and Recreation Department for cosponsoring this event. The weather should be great so plan on coming out and helping us raise the final funds we need to open the Soldan Dog Park in June!

2. **Ingham County Animal Shelter 2007 Adoptathon, May 5 and 6:** The Ingham County Animal Shelter is holding a 30 hour non-stop adoptathon at the Fifth Third Bank, 2112 Jolly Rd., near Jolly and Okemos Road in Okemos starting at 10 a.m. this Saturday, May 5 and not ending until 4 p.m. on Sunday, May 6. All the adoptable pets from the shelter will be there and adult spayed/neutered dogs and cats will be half priced! Low cost micro-chipping will also be provided from 10-4 on Saturday and 10-3 on Sunday. We will be there on Saturday with our display and information about the Soldan Dog Park opening in June 2007. If you are not too tired from the doggie pool party on Friday night, please join us at this fun event.

3. **Happy Tails Dog Walk on Saturday, May 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. on Lansing River Trail:** The annual Happy Tails Dog Walk, sponsored by Lansing Parks and Recreation Department on behalf of the future Soldan Dog Park, is just around the corner. A wonderful group of Parks and Rec staff takes the lead and our Friends group pitches in with volunteer help. All dog lovers are invited to come and walk with their favorite canine companions on-leash. The 2007 Walk is set for Saturday, May 12 starting at 1 p.m. Meet and register at Elm Park (on Elm Street between Cedar and Washington) between 1 and 2 p.m., walk the River Trail at your own pace to Moores Park, with a stop

for water along the way. Your trip back on the trail will end at River Point Park, where there will be information on dog care, health, grooming and other related products. Charge is \$3 per dog or \$5 for two dogs. If you become a FGLDP member at the event, your registration fee is waived. Your registration fee and any donations will go toward opening the Soldan Dog Park this June! If you have any questions, email us at [info@lansingdogparks.com](mailto:info@lansingdogparks.com)

**4. Digging Dogs in Hard Hats at Soldan Dog Park Groundbreaking on April 19, 2007:** We had a wonderful turnout for the ceremonial ground breaking of the FIRST public off-leash dog park to serve the greater Lansing area! The event was held on April 19 at the future site of the Soldan Dog Park at the very north end of Hawk Island County Park. Howard Soldan II, Soldan Feeds & Pet Supplies, donated \$50,000 to help fence the park and asked that the park be named in honor of his parents, Howard and Erna Soldan. Howard and his mother, Erna, were on hand to help us with the ground breaking ceremony. Murdock Jemerson, Lansing Parks & Rec Director, introduced Mayor Virg Bernero, who spoke about the City role. Bernero also acknowledged Ingham County and our Friends group in this cooperative venture for a new city park. Brian Smith represented the Lansing Parks & Recreation Board while Andy Schor, District 5 Commissioner, spoke on behalf of the Ingham County Commissioners. Ingham County Parks & Recreation Department was represented by Director Bob Moore and Willis Bennett, Hawk Island Park Manager. Dignitaries from our local area included City Clerk Chris Swope and a representative from Congressman Mike Rogers office.

We took a few moments to recognize our other major donors including Petco Foundation and Wagn Tails Pet Resort along with our Silver Bone Fence donors, then it was on to the main event. Five digging dogs with one doggie supervisor, all in festive hard hats and bandanas, took to the dirt. A big doggie thank you to our digging crew including: Erin Darling and Bell, Ruth Dukelow and Dora, Morgan Haeger and Domino, Deb Lintemuth and Chevy, Kristin McCann and Rosco and Robin Sackevich and Belle. We hope you caught us on the local news that evening. Stay tuned for our Grand Opening Celebration in June.

**5. Update on Opening the Soldan Dog Park and A Call to Small Dog Owners and Lovers:**

Dewitt Fencing has started construction of the perimeter fencing at the park. Depending on the weather, it is estimated the fencing should take 2-3 weeks to complete. Remember we have over 17 acres to cover. In the meantime, clearing of the site continues along with creation of the signs to be used at the park, installation of the pet/human drinking fountain, placement of the Porta-Jon, poop bag dispensers, etc. Everything is moving forward to our highly anticipated June opening, so cross your fingers!

At the request of you, our loyal membership, we have been investigating the possibility of enclosing an area within the park just for small dogs. This is a standard feature in dog parks of any size and protects the very small and miniature dogs from their bigger brethren. We have located what we think is the best spot for a small dog area; it is the SE corner of the park right by the main entrance and would be an area approximately 80 feet by 110 feet. (This is the largest area possible to still be in the front of the park).

We have a unique opportunity while Dewitt Fencing is on-site to get the small dog area enclosed but to do this we will need your financial help. The anticipated additional cost of the small dog area is \$5000. We need all of our members and supporters, who own or love small dogs, to consider making a donation RIGHT NOW towards creation of the small dog enclosure. If 20 people would donate \$250 OR commit to collecting the same amount from family and friends, we could create a safe zone for our diminutive companions. Please consider making a donation at the \$250 level or at any amount that you can afford. Go to our secure website at [www.lansingunleashed.com](http://www.lansingunleashed.com) and click on membership to make your contribution or send a check to P.O. Box 27164, Lansing, MI, 48909.

Make sure you note on the online donation or on the check that it is for the small dog area. If we can raise the money in May the small dog area could be ready in time for the gala grand opening of the Soldan Dog Park.

**6. Play Sessions Pictures Available:** We have had wonderful volunteer help in recording the antics at our play sessions. For the March 10 Play Session Jan and Al Bronson, loyal Animal Placement Bureau foster parents and volunteers, took pictures of the afternoon. Check our web site soon to look for pictures of your dog. For the April 14 Play Session Sandra Rowan, one of our members who is just starting a photography business, volunteered to take pictures. Her pictures are available for viewing at <http://sandrakay.zenfolio.com/p583810797> and prints may be purchased by contacting her at [sandyp2000@yahoo.com](mailto:sandyp2000@yahoo.com) Print prices range from \$6 to \$10, depending on size and quantity.

**7. Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members:** Our membership continues to grow and we welcome the following new and renewing members: Sarah Taber, Evette Miya Atkin, Marcia Hooper, Sharon Ann Granger, Val Kurzynowski, James Salehi, Shirley Robertson, Jared Carpenter, Michele Dykins, Jacalyn French, Diane Ballard, Sara Kanya, Laurie Bass, Julia Almendarez, Michelle and Daniel Fuhrman, Daniel and Karla McCandless, Beth Donaldson, Jose Marco Quintero, K&M Dental Lab (Kenneth & Margarita McWilliams) and Jeanne G. Carey.

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.

**8. Getting Ready for the Dog Park: A Continuing Series:** This month we want to share more of what we have learned at our Play Sessions. The Play Sessions reinforce why we will have basic rules for our public dog park. When the dog park is open we hope to have a volunteer group of Dog Park Ambassadors to help park users observe the rules. Contact us if you would like to be a future Dog Park Ambassador.

One of our proposed rules states that dogs must be under the control of their owners at all times. What we have observed at our play sessions is that trouble can arise when dog owners are more involved in talking with other owners than in paying close attention to their dogs. Owners should be actively engaged with their dogs to prevent aggressive behavior such as biting, fighting and excessive barking. Remember that, just like people, dogs sometimes have bad days. You should be prepared to leave the park if your dog persists in any inappropriate dog park behavior. This helps him to learn that there is a negative outcome for the undesirable behavior. You can practice keeping your dog under control at home or with the help of a skilled trainer, and then try again another day.

That is all for now. Woof! Stay in touch through our web site at: [www.lansingunleashed.com](http://www.lansingunleashed.com)

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