

Lansing Unleashed eNews: December 2, 2006

Hello, Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks:

Welcome to our December 2006 eNewsletter issue. In this eNewsletter:

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1. Update on Status of Opening the Dog Park: It is almost the end of 2006 and you are all wondering what is happening with opening the dog park. We thought the park would be opening by late fall 2006 since our fund raising goals were almost accomplished. We are disappointed to learn that the planning and design phase of preparing to open the park is taking longer than anyone had anticipated. Recently, the City of Lansing, Parks and Recreation Department contracted with Landscape Architects & Planners (LAP) to manage the logistics of getting the park open. This includes reviewing the Master Plan drawing, doing onsite surveying and topographic surveying and creating final drawings, cost estimates and specifications for bidding purposes (fencing, water, paths, etc). We will be meeting very soon with LAP staff to discuss the specifics and to identify a new projected date for opening the park.

With your help, we have raised over \$80,000 toward the cost of opening the park. We are continuing our fundraising efforts because we, like you, are not going to give up until Lansing has a public leash-free dog park for all of us to enjoy. Please hang in there with us and keep the faith. We will let you know further details, especially a projected opening date, as soon as we find out ourselves after we meet with LAP staff. In the meantime, we are working on adding more off-leash Play Sessions at the future site of the park. Check your inbox for our earlier email with details regarding the December 9 Play Session.

2. The Perfect Gift-Holiday Collars for Your Furry Friends: Thanks to a generous in-kind donation from FGLDP member Marcia Charette, Owner of Fetch Pet Care, we have holiday pet collars available for purchase. Our friends at the Spotted Dog Café, 221 S. Washington Square in downtown Lansing, are handling sales for us so there is easy access Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. While you are there you may pick up a great healthy lunch, too! For only a \$10 donation you can choose a Red/Green Lighted Collar in Small (14") or Medium (18") OR a Green Jingle Bell Collar in Small (Fits 12-16"), Large (Fits 16-22") or Extra Large (Fits 20-26"). These are the perfect collars for your holiday picture-taking! Get them now while supplies last. All donations will go toward fencing for the park.

3. A Message from the Dog-Annual Appeal Coming Soon to Your In-Box: It is that time of the year when your doggie best friend will ask you to make a contribution to the Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks 2006 Annual Appeal. For each of the past two years our members and friends have generously added to our treasury to bring us closer to our goal of opening the park. This year we are trying a different approach by using this e-mail list to contact you. Please put your doggie friend on your gift list by making a donation to the dog park. Your dog will enjoy the result even more than that bag of dog biscuits—well, almost! Coming soon to your inbox.

4. 2007 Membership Renewal: Okay, we admit it! It is really confusing to keep track of whether you are a current member or not! This is partly due to changing our membership year from May-June to a calendar year (January-December) and partly due to, well it is just darn hard to keep track of everyone since our organization is growing by leaps and bounds (at last count we have more than 230 memberships).

This year we are trying something a little different to help everyone figure out if they need to renew their membership for 2007 (January to December 2007). All current members who are due for renewal for 2007 will be sent an email renewal notice (or a mailed notice for snail-mail only members). We will also send a 2007 membership confirmation notice to those who are paid ahead through December 2007. If you do not receive a notice, you are not a current member so please consider joining. Membership dues and donations support construction and maintenance of the park. Remember that Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and donations, including your membership donation, are fully deductible for income tax purposes to the extent allowed by law.

And just a reminder, membership benefits include: a) discount admissions to certain dog park events; b) admission to our member-only events like the popular Practice and Play Sessions; c) discounts on merchandise like our fabulous tee-shirts and sweatshirts; d) your pet in our Pet Gallery; e) advance notice of special events; f) voting rights at our membership meetings and g) our monthly newsletter. You can renew your membership online at our secure website at www.lansingunleashed.com or download the membership application and renew by mail. Your choice!

5. Calling All Volunteers-We Need a Few Good Women and Men: It is that time of year (no, not the holidays) when we are seeking candidates who would be interested in running for office for our organization. Remember we are an all-volunteer group who must rely on our members to step forward to help with the many duties required to keep the organization afloat. Besides, we really, really need some fresh ideas, viewpoints, and energy-it gets pretty lonely when we have only ourselves to talk to. At our January 22 General Membership Meeting we will be electing individuals for the following positions: President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you have a secret (or not so secret) desire to become more active in our organization and would like to run or to find out more about these positions (we have position descriptions for each elected office), please send us an email at info@lansingdogparks.com by Monday, December 11, 2006 or call Ellen Sullivan at 517-484-7417. If you are not up for running for an elected position but would like to volunteer in another way, just let us know that too. Consider giving the gift of your time to help open our dog park as soon as possible.

6. Save the Date-January 22 General Membership Meeting: Please save the date for our next General Membership Meeting on Monday, January 22, 2007 at the Foster Community Center, Lansing. We are seeking your ideas and suggestions for the informational program at the meeting. The program will follow the official meeting including the 2007 election of officers. If you have a program idea for this meeting or really any of our general meetings just shoot us an email at info@lansingdogparks.com. We are waiting to hear from you.

7. Welcome to Our New and Renewing Members: Welcome to our new and renewing members including: Erin Jerick, Leslie R. Hayden, Brittni Gedert, Barbara Buckley, Debbie Anchak, Kristin Pfauth, Jen Clapp, Kathy Redmond, Carolyn Moulton, Kitty Mitchell, Mary E. Dougherty, Melinda Lee Caveney, Susan Lithander, Mary Wilkins, Liz Esdale, Dick Baker, Kathy Reid, and Amy Cooper.

That is all for now. Woof! Stay in touch through our web site at: www.lansingunleashed.com

Our organization does most of its direct mail communication via email to save on postage costs. Email addresses are used for information on dog parks and dog related events and are not shared with third parties. Paid members without email access will receive mailings through the U.S. Postal Service.

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