

Lansing Unleashed eNews: June 26, 2006

Hello, Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks:

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

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1. Lansing Independence Day Parade and Walk with Your Dog on Tuesday, July 4: Start off your Fourth of July Celebration with the Friends of Greater Lansing Dog Parks in downtown Lansing at the Independence Day Parade. Bring your dog (on leash, of course) and meet us at on Tuesday, July 4; the parade begins at 11 a.m. We will be walking behind our award-winning Pooch Precision Team, stepping out in the parade by popular demand.

We are again keeping it simple this year with just our walking group and the Pooch Precision Team. Walkers are invited to wear their red dog park T-shirt or just a red shirt. The parade route in downtown Lansing is being finalized this week. Staging for the parade is tentatively planned for Washington Avenue between Lenawee and St. Joseph Streets. The final route, along with our placement and entry number to help you locate us, will be sent to those who contact us to let us know you will participate.

That is why we would like to know how many dogs and people to plan for so, if you can make it, send an email to Sue Yancey our PPT coordinator at: crested@sbcglobal.net with your name, number of dogs and a contact phone number. If you do not have email you can call Sue evenings or weekends at 517-381-6894. We also need two volunteers to carry our banner. We ask that you bring only one dog per adult handler, please. Sue will let you know the final details as soon as she knows them herself.

2. City of Lansing Budget Includes \$45,000 in Park Millage for Future Dog Park: A big thank-you goes out to Lansing City Council for their approval of the 2006-2007 budget on May 15. Included in the new budget is a \$45,000 loan from park millage funds. The loan will allow us to move ahead now with fencing and opening the dog park by Fall 2006. The loan will be paid back to the City in annual increments by our generous donor, Howard Soldan II, of Soldan Feeds and Pet Supplies. We are now working on finalizing the specifications and details required for issuing a request for bids on the fencing for this 17.5 acre park. Check out the site plan on our web site.

3. Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission Recommends \$5700 Grant For the Future Dog Park: At their May 22, 2006 meeting the Ingham County Parks and Recreation Commission approved their 2007 budget which includes a \$5700 grant for our future dog park at Scott Woods. The grant would include funds for establishing water service to the park, a human-pet drinking fountain, Porta-Jon shelter and signage. The 2007 budget will be finalized this fall and funds would be available January, 2007.

The 2007 Parks budget now goes to the Ingham County Commissioners for their approval. We need your help! If you are a Ingham county resident you can do your part to help by contacting your county commissioner or any of the county commissioners to voice your support for the dog park AND for their votes in favor of the \$5700 allocation in the budget. You may contact commissioners through their offices in Mason at (517) 676-7200, or fax your message of support to (517) 676-7264.

4. Special Thanks to our Dog Park Fence Donors at the Silver Bone Level: In this issue we want to acknowledge our members who have donated at the \$250 level to move us closer to fencing and opening the park. These donors are acknowledged on the front page of our web site and we want to list their names here. They are: Ruth Dukelow, Kathleen Dickenson, Patricia M. Knight, Kristen McCann, Teresa Pietrzak, Pamela Straight, Christine Shafer, Mark and Ellen Sullivan, and Suzanne M. Thiem.

5. Save Monday, July 24 for the Next General Membership Meeting: We are making plans for our annual outdoor general membership meeting in July. We are tentatively planning a dog socialization and play session that will allow members to practice good dog park behaviors under the supervision of an experienced trainer. This would be a leash-free opportunity in a fenced area near downtown Lansing. We will have the details in our next newsletter but for now, be sure to save the evening of Monday, July 24. This will be a members-only event so join now to be eligible, if you are not already a member.

6. Getting Ready for the Dog Park, A Continuing Series: An important part of good dog park behavior is observing the rules of the park. As we move toward a Fall 2006 target for opening our park, we would like to share with you the draft rules. We invite your feedback at info@lansingdogparks.com to tell us what you think about the following proposed rules. They were developed by a committee of members and will have a final review following your feedback. Let us know what you think! (Credit: Content for the proposed rules was adapted from publications of ROMP, Responsible Owners of Mannerly Pets, St. Paul, MN, and from other successful parks around the country.)

Lansing Dog Park Rules and Safety Tips (Proposed)

- 1. Dogs must be under owner control at all times.**
 - a. Owners must have voice control of their dogs.
 - b. Owners must prevent aggressive behavior, biting, fighting, and excessive barking.
 - c. Owners must carry a leash for each dog at all times.
 - d. Owners must be prepared to leave the park if their dog persists in any inappropriate dog park behavior.
 - e. No digging allowed. Holes are hazardous to dogs and humans.
 - f. Dogs must be leashed prior to entering and upon exiting the off-leash area.
- 2. Owners must pick up after their dogs.**
 - a. Pick up after your own dog.
 - b. Take an extra bag and pick up the orphan poop.
 - c. Bring extra bags to contribute to the clean-up bag supply.
 - d. Pick up litter and leave the area cleaner than you found it.
- 3. No dogs in heat are allowed in the park.**
 - a. Be a responsible dog owner. We recommend you spay or neuter your dog.
- 4. No more than three (3) dogs per person. (Number to be reviewed)**
 - a. Do not bring any more dogs than you can closely control.
 - b. You must carry a leash for each dog at all times.
- 5. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.**
 - a. Never leave young children alone with any dog in any situation, even if it is your dog.
 - b. Keep your children away from unfamiliar dogs.
 - c. Never allow children to play or sit on the ground when dogs are present.
 - d. Keep children close and quiet when visiting the dog park. Actions and movements by children can trigger a dogs instinct to chase and bite.
 - e. Remember that you are visiting a dog park with your children; it is not a playground.
- 6. All dogs must be licensed and wear a license in the park.**
 - a. Keep licenses and shots up to date. Ask your vet about an appropriate shots and vaccination schedule for your dog.
- 7. Use of the dog park is at your own risk.**
 - a. Take responsibility for the actions of your dog.
 - b. By state law you are responsible for damages or injuries inflicted by your dog.
 - c. Offer to pay for vet bills, doctor bills and replace damaged property.
 - d. Persons involved in incidents should exchange names and phone numbers and file an incident report.
 - e. Witnesses to incidents should identify themselves to the dog owners.
 - f. Report serious incidents to Ingham County Animal Control.

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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