

HARBOR HAPPENINGS

Volume 13

Issue 66

Winter 2016

Bellwether Harbor Newsletter

Welcome to our new way of keeping you updated on projects and animals at the shelter on a quarterly basis. There is always lots of activity here and we want to share it with the supporters who make it all possible. At the bottom of the newsletter is a tear off that you may send back with a donation if you choose. You have the opportunity to donate to the projects that we highlight in each newsletter. If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email please use the same tear off to let us know. It will help keep our costs down while keeping you informed. We thank you for your support in 2016.

Mark Your Calendar....

Bellwether Harbor will be hosting a 2 day hands-on seminar, *Working with Reactive and Aggressive Dogs*. Nationally known trainer Brenda Aloff will be at the shelter on May 14-15, 2016. Aloff is best known for her books "Get Connected with your Dog" and "Canine Body Language". She focuses on positive reinforcement and correctly reading the dog and responding. The seminar will be held in the Bellwether Harbor Training Room from 9:00-5:00 both days. Reservations will be required to attend the seminar. Please email contactus@bellwetherharbor.org or call 231-924-9230 for more information and ticket prices.

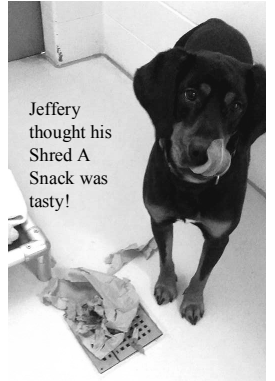
Have you Met.... Puma?

Puma is a sweetie. He loves to play and gives great snuggles. This boy knows how cool he is and struts around to show you. He loves to eat and wants to know what you are up to, but likes his alone time too. Puma would do well with kids and is not intimidated by dogs. He is an orange and white domesticated short hair. Puma's approximate date of birth was 5/24/07 and his date of arrival was 9/27/14. Puma is neutered, up to date on vaccines and has tested negative for FIV/FLT. He will also be microchipped before going to his forever home.



Dog Enrichment Program Begins

At the direction of Animal Care Coordinator Sheri Church, we are trying a new enrichment program for our shelter dogs. The program is designed to entertain the dogs while they are in their kennels. The activities vary by day so that each dog's brain stays engaged and stimulated. Different scents are placed on the backside of the kennel at the end of the day like: cinnamon, vanilla, basil, lemon, orange or lime. This gives the dog an unfamiliar smell to enjoy overnight. They also have a schedule of toys and treats they get during the day. Our dogs have been enjoying the "Shred a Snack" which is a paper sack filled with treats and food that they can shred and enjoy. Thanks to a generous donation from Karnemaat Farms the dogs are munching on some large carrots. Two nights a week the dogs get a "Frozen Delight" which is kibble, sliced apples, sliced bananas and peanut butter frozen in water. The delights are then popped out of their containers and the dogs have a fun treat to lick and play with once the shelter is closed. After just a short time the dogs are loving this new program and look forward to their new treats!



Quarantine Kennel Receives Facelift

In March of 2002 Bellwether Harbor opened its doors to the first group of dogs and cats. Abandoned and abused animals have been filling it ever since. The first stop for these animals is the Quarantine area. As you can imagine after 14 years of housing animals, cleaning and disinfecting this area started to show some wear and tear. It became clear that we needed to resurface and paint the area. We had animals living in the area that would need to be moved out of harm's way. The decision was made in November no more intakes until the project was complete. Thanks to loving families adopting pets into their homes we were able to empty our quarantine area the end of January. This gave the green light for the Quarantine Resurfacing Project.

The walls, doors, floors and cabinets will be power washed, sanded, stripped and painted. Once the project is done the Quarantine area will be as good, if not better, than when we first opened our doors.

To complete a project of this size comes with a hefty price tag. But for Bellwether the cost is more than just financial. We have not been able to fulfill our mission to rescue abused and abandoned animals during this time. Bellwether should be ready for new animals the first part of March. This will be an exciting time, we will have space for 10-12 cats and 4-5 dogs! That will be a 34% increase to our animal population in a short amount of time! This also means we will incur a spike in animal care related costs like medications, vaccinations and medical treatments with our new guests.

Our staff is anxious to begin this project so that we can focus on our mission to help animals. If you would like to donate to our Quarantine Kennel Project please use the "Tear Off" at the bottom of this letter and check the "Kennel Project" box. The Bellwether Harbor staff appreciates your support during this exciting, yet busy time.

Bellwether's

Mission Statement

"Helping animals and people make a connection through education, training and adoption"



Please mark the area for your donation:

Animal Care

Memorial Garden

Kennel Improvement

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to receive this newsletter via email.

Current email address _____

Bellwether Harbor's



RFR 2016 FUNDRAISER

June 4th, 2016 at Branstrom Park, Fremont MI 8:00AM - 12:00PM

Join us to Run, Walk or Shop for a Great Cause

This year's Run Forrest Run will be a timed 5K Run on the Trails of Branstrom Park or a 1 Mile Fun Walk on the paved pathways of the park. We encourage you to involve your whole family, even the 4 legged members!

The 5K will follow the Fremont Cross Country course. Are you a past cross country runner? Want to see if you can still tackle the course with the same gusto? Are you curious what the current students talk about as being a hard course or would you like to enjoy the morning in one of the most beautiful spots in West Michigan? Then Run Forrest Run is the race for you. Not only will you be helping the animals at Bellwether Harbor but you will have a blast doing it!

Our Silent Auction and Bake Sale will be held in the Lodge at Branstrom Park. You will be able to bid on some awesome items before the race and take them home when you are finished. The race begins at 9:00am, the silent auction and bake sale will open from 8:00-10:00am.

Ready to run? Sign-ups for Run Forrest Run can be done online at <http://www.active.com/fremont-mi/running/races/bellwether-harbor-run-forrest-run-2016>. Entry fee for the 5K Trail Run and 1 mile fun walk is \$20 for 15 years and older and \$15 for 14 years and under. After May 20th the entry fee will increase to \$30 and \$25 respectively. All participants that register on or before May 20th will receive a 12th Annual Run Forrest Run T-shirt. Late and same day participants will be given shirts based on availability. Awards will be given to the Top 3 Overall Male and Female competitors and the Top 3 Male and Female Masters competitors. Another fun component to the online registration is the ability for you to raise funds for Bellwether. The same link above will take you to the fundraising page so you can start raising money for our animals today. Use the easy step by step instructions and your friends and family from all over can quickly and safely donate through the Run

Memorial Garden Gate Project Underway

Executive Director Dani Merrill, Building and Grounds Coordinator Carmen Froehle, and Development Coordinator Melanie Baden met with students from Newaygo County Career Tech's Welding, Construction Trades, Mechatronics and Graphic Design programs in February to begin the next phase of the Bellwether Harbor Memorial Garden. A few years ago a student from Career Tech, Hunter Way, won a contest for his entry gate design. Thanks to a generous contribution from the estate of Robert Schumer we are able to bring life to his design.

Currently, the students are working on plans that are best for the winning gate design and will withstand the Michigan weather. They were also given the task to develop the size of the arch based around a handicap accessible sidewalk that will be installed from the parking lot to the bridge. The students were challenged to think of materials, design and placement that will maintain quality with minimal maintenance. We are eagerly awaiting to see what these bright, young minds present.

"It was exciting to present to the students, they asked great questions and made us think about things we had not before." Baden remarked, "I'm excited to be a part of the next phase of the Memorial Garden."

The Memorial Garden is located on the East side of the Bellwether Harbor property. It is our hope by the end of the summer our sidewalk and gate will be in place. Please use the tear off sheet at the bottom of the newsletter to donate to

