

SPRING 2025

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#### Meetings

When: First Monday of each  
Month  
Time: 5:30 pm  
Location: American Legion,  
Macomb



Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



## Spring Greetings,

April 8<sup>th</sup> marks the 4-year anniversary of the signing of the *Memo of Understanding* between the HSMC and the McDonough County Board related to the new animal shelter. It memorialized an agreement to ensure the continuation of the working partnership and cooperation that was currently in existence between the two entities. In the *Memo of Understanding* it was agreed that HSMC would be responsible for all the fundraising for construction of a new animal shelter and that the McDonough County Board would be the owner of the real estate and the new shelter upon completion. We are very hopeful that a year from now construction of the new shelter facility will be well underway and we will be seeing the fruits of all our efforts. With the community's ongoing support and generosity, we have close to \$1 million in the building campaign coffers and are confident that we will continue to raise the additional dollars necessary to complete the project.

One of HSMC's primary objectives is to find homes for all adoptable dogs and cats at the shelter. The partnership and cooperation we have with the shelter staff make this a possible goal. Zack Welch and Malique Reardon are doing a superb job in keeping the dogs and cats healthy and in the public's eye. The shelter, although old and in disrepair, is clean and as welcoming as possible. The staff care about the animals' physical and emotional well-being. Part time staff, Annetta Ogle and Tristan Kirkham round out the team to keep the shelter running smoothly and to be receptive to visitors and phoned requests. Another critical piece to this puzzle is the group of foster caretakers we have who welcome dogs and cats into their homes. You will read the story of Yara who was found abandoned by Zack and Malique and is now thriving in a foster (probably soon to be forever) home.

The third annual Casino Night was a successful and enjoyable event. It was again held at Park Place of Macomb; the smaller crowd lent itself to a more relaxing atmosphere for accessing the casino tables and engaging with fellow participants. We are very thankful to the sponsors who supported the event so generously, the planning committee, the volunteer card dealers, and participants. We want to thank Dorothee and Karl Gossel for once again donating a week in their Costa Rica condo as a prize. This is always a valued opportunity for Casino Night attendees. The lucky winners were thrilled! While the amount we brought it was a bit lower than in past years, we still felt very good about how the evening went and received positive feedback.

We are now planning for the annual HSMC fundraiser which supports our budget to fulfill the HSMC initiatives. As always, we will keep you informed and very much hope you will be able to attend.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps  
HSMC President







The third annual Casino Night was another success! Nearly 200 people attended and \$30,000 (net) was raised for the New Animal Shelter Building Campaign. From dog kisses to casino chips, fun was had by all. We're successful because of support from the Park Place owners, our sponsors, our guests, and the WIU football team who helped unload and load the equipment! We especially thank All Pets Veterinary Clinic for their Royal Flush sponsorship which helped our bottom line and allowed us to give participants a gift of playing cards and a koozie!



## CASINO Night

### THANK YOU SPONSORS!

<p><b>ROYAL FLUSH</b> All Pets Veterinary Clinic</p> <p><b>FULL HOUSE:</b> Gossel's Dog House Sharon Lindahl Park Place Macomb Al and Evie Reusch</p> <p><b>STRAIGHT</b> Arnold Brothers Heating &amp; Cooling Don and Joy Hubner IPI Wealth Management, Inc. RWE Clean Energy Sutton Law and Mediation, P.C.</p> <p><b>PAIR</b> All About Pieces Rosemary Aten Century 21 Purdum-Epperson Clugston-Tibbitts Funeral Home First Bankers Trust Bill and Jean Maakestad</p>	<p><b>FLUSH</b> Bougher, Krisher, Stuckart, &amp; Clark, Attorneys at Law P.C. Clocktower Community Bank Community News &amp; Market Edward Jones Seth Minter, Preston Gray, Jordan Pounders, Matthew Lawver, Michael Eckardt Karl and Dorthie Gossel Dave and Jackie Thompson</p> <p><b>PAIR</b> Make Fit Happen McClure Small Animal Housecall Service PLLC MidAmerica National Bank Kathy Veroni &amp; Kathy Orban Pumo Insurance Agency, Inc. Refreshment Services Pepsi of Macomb Steve and Amanda Silberer Skip and Bonnie Skripps Tom and Ann Stites</p>
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## Yada– A Story of Resilience

*A post from Heather Chute, Yada's foster mom (March 5<sup>th</sup>)*

"It's been four fast weeks since I took Ms. Yara in as a foster! (She is) the dog that was found on a property in Blandinsville over a month ago – starved, skinny, scared, shot, and left in the cold to SUFFER. Her shot back right leg had to be amputated. With all that this pup has been through she still absolutely loves humans. She has come so far in recovery! Gaining weight, which we are almost there, to just being a fun and happy girl! She maneuvers around so well with three legs like she doesn't know she doesn't have four legs. We all know I'm a Foster Fail. I just need to finalize it! It's the best kind of failure to feel, and I'm so thankful for doing it!"



**This is a reminder that not all heroes wear capes, sometimes they wear fur.**

Stacy adopted Rita and Phillip from the McDonough County Animal Shelter last year. Stacy discovered that Phillip had a special gift.

As many cat owners know, cats frequently wake up their owners each and every morning. Phillip was no different. Then suddenly Phillip's habits changed several weeks ago. Phillip started waking up Stacy between two and three times a night in addition to his usual morning routine. Poor Phillip was getting in trouble for his nocturnal habits but Stacy didn't have the heart to lock him out of the room.

Stacy has seasonal breathing issues and started wearing her Fitbit, which includes an oxygen saturation feature. Much to Stacy's amazement, every time Phillip woke her up, her Fitbit indicated her oxygen levels were not normal, even when using a CPAP machine. To quote Stacy, "He's been saving my life... literally."

Way to go, Phillip!



## Meet Savannah Ballard, newer HSMC Board Member



Savannah is a Warren County native who moved to Macomb in 2021 to pursue her Bachelor's Degree in Communication at Western Illinois University. During her senior year, Savannah partnered with the Humane Society of McDonough County as part of an independent study program. This opportunity allowed Savannah to work with the HSMC board members on social media initiatives, infographic marketing and fundraising events supporting the organization. When Savannah graduated WIU in 2023, she decided to take a job with the City of Macomb as their Marketing and Downtown Development Director and become an official board member of the HSMC. "I enjoy being an active member of the HSMC because I support their mission to find homes for all adoptable animals in the county", Savannah says. "I find that my volunteer efforts truly make a difference and help area animals in need". Savannah and her boyfriend Drew have one rescue cat, Dolly, who has been a proud member of the family for the past 4 years.

## Celebration of Dee Kruzan at The Wine Sellers

On January 31<sup>st</sup>, Bill Maakestad and friends played some of Dee Kruzan's favorite songs at The Wine Sellers for a large crowd that included Dee's friends and colleagues. Dee, who passed away in mid December, was a Spanish teacher at Macomb High for over 30 years. The tip jar was full – with \$800 of tips and donations going to the HSMC Building Campaign.



Thank  
you



Felix Chu retired in January from the HSMC Board. We wish him all the best and thank him for his 10 years of service on the Board!



### **Granger and Zari – A Very Happy Second Chance**

Granger and Zari, two-year-old Great Danes, were brought to the shelter after an unfortunate altercation at their home. After spending too much time in the shelter where they didn't have the space or opportunity for exercise we reached out to Wilson's Dog Training in Cuba, Illinois to see if they could get them ready to find their forever homes. With their training and promotion, Granger and Zari found their forever home together, a home with a huge fenced-in yard and two humans to make them feel at home and love them. We so appreciate Wilson's Dog Training and the Geneseo couple who adopted them and are giving them a great life together.

Wilson's Dog Training has become a valued resource for HSMC.



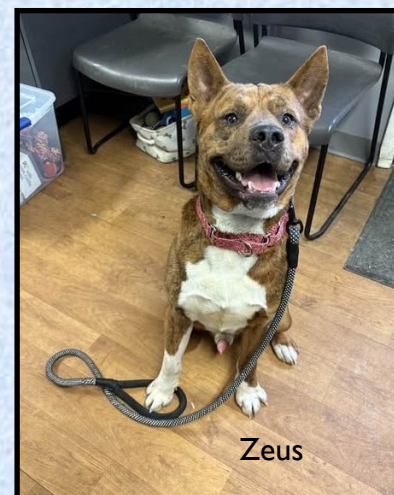
Adoption Day!



Wilson's Training

Happy in their new home!

Zeus is so happy to be going to his forever home after spending time at Wilson's Dog Training in Cuba, Illinois. We so appreciate Wilson's and their support to Zeus in learning how to be a very good boy and well behaved pet.



Zeus



## Business Members

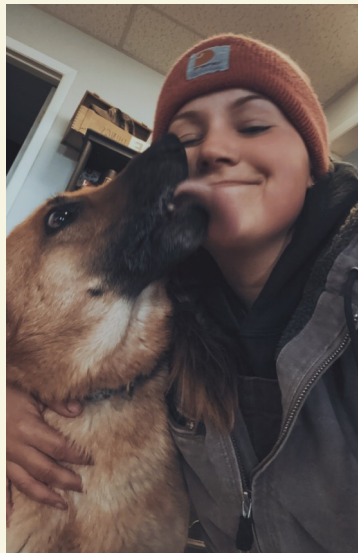
ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen  
 All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
 American Legion Post 6  
 Arnold Brothers  
 Bushnell Veterinary Services, PC  
 Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home  
 Community News Brief  
 Dawg Haus  
 First Mid Insurance Group, Beau Ingledue  
 Gossel's Dog House  
 Green Shingle Graphics  
 Haymakers  
 Hickory Kennels  
 Krista Skien Photography  
 Matthew S McClure, DMD  
 Owl Storage  
 Pet Supplies Plus  
 Royal Printing  
 Square Music Macomb  
 Sweet Briar Corner Market  
 RWE Renewables Americas LLC  
 Wine Sellers

## Community Support

During events such as Moon over Macomb, we often have an activity where children can make dog pull toys from braiding old t-shirts. This is made possible by the generous people in our community who collect t-shirts for us: Stacy Sunn, Goodwill manager, and employees; Ann Wood, Crossing Thrift Store; and Dr. Amy Waschull and her staff, who hold T-shirt drives. Thank you for your generosity and support which allows us to hold this activity. The children love it! Thank you to board member Patti Douglas for coordinating the collection.



The HSMC received the Chamber of Commerce Service Organization Nonprofit of the Year award last night at the awards ceremony at Park Place. It was a very nice honor!



A few months ago, Loren Dimmitt offered to foster Sadie for the McDonough County Animal Shelter. Sadie is a beautiful shepherd who loves attention and lives well with horses, cats, chickens, turkeys, and even a snake at Loren's horse farm. She enjoys attention and her people. Sadie insists that she be the only dog in family, so that has limited her adoption possibilities. She is a lovely girl, with good manners — she is hoping to find her new best friend and forever home.

*Memorial donations were made in 2024 to honor those we have lost:*

Gary Applegate  
Steve Archer  
Julie John Aten  
Eric Benson  
Sawyer Bloomfield  
Rob Brummett  
Butch and Mr. Trouble  
Kenny Coghill  
Vernon Cracraft  
Laura Sadler Cripe  
Mike Dickson  
Stella Eck  
Taco Eck  
Kandy Enright  
Bertie Ford  
DuWayne Furman  
Joan Harris  
Sue Hodges  
Swig Horton  
Patricia Huston  
Kelly Upton Jameson  
Linda Jobe  
Scott Johnson  
Geri Flynn Kleinkopf

Delano "Dee" Kruzan  
Dannie Lester  
Barb Lieber  
Dr. Charles "Chuck" Lotz  
Albert "Bud" Lucas  
Lisa Malinak  
Debra Mansir  
Tim McDonald  
Chad McKinney  
Linda Metcalf  
Spunky Ogle  
Brendon Payne  
DeAnn Pearson  
Carolyn Lane Higgins Raymond  
Terry Rhoads  
Sally Sallee  
Terry Schindel  
Shakespeare  
Mary Taylor  
Diane Tyson  
Sparky VanDevender  
Haneke Venugopalan  
Joan Moore Whalen  
Nola Wheeler

MCDONOUGH COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

101 E. Tower Rd.  
Macomb, IL 61455

(309)837-2989  
mcas@macomb.com

OPEN:  
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 11AM - 5PM  
SATURDAYS: 10AM - 12PM  
SUNDAYS & HOLIDAYS CLOSED

Shelter Staff:

Zach Welch  
Malique Reardon  
Annetta Ogle (part time)  
Tristan Kirkham (part time)



Save the date for July 26,  
2025! We're putting a new  
spin on our summer  
fundraiser with CatTails and  
Comedy!

Details are forthcoming!  
You won't want to miss it!