

## SUMMER 2025

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onoughCounty

### Inside this issue:

Comedy to the Rescue	2
Skip and David	3
Sam and Dean	3
WCIL Gives	3
Cookie	4
Loren Dimmitt	4
\$10K Memorial Match	5
Business Members	6
Gimme Shelter Golf Outing	6
Shelter Assistance	7
Shelter Information	7

### Meetings

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



Humane Society of McDonough County

# Waggin' Tales



Happy Summer Greetings,

June 4th turned out to be a very happy day when I received a phone call from the state of Virginia. I listened to the voice mail (after not responding to an unknown number), and called back immediately. A very nice woman named Gloria Caldwell Vankan talked to me about growing up in Macomb and wanting to do a match challenge for the new animal shelter in honor of her parents, Ernest and Helen Caldwell who have both passed on. Gloria, who graduated from Macomb High in 1967, and her husband will match up to \$10,000 of the donations made throughout the summer months. What makes this even more special is that both Gloria and her husband, Ed, are both are very involved in animal rescue in Virginia, currently serving as adoption counselors for the Nelson County SPCA and Hopeful Hounds of Nelson.

The timing of this offer was fortuitous. We now have the location of the new shelter building with the City of Macomb leasing the HSMC the land just east of the current shelter. A new Memo of Understanding has been signed by the County Board and the HSMC saying the HSMC will own the new shelter and lease it to the County to be the operator of the animal shelter and have sole responsibility for all costs of operation. At this time we are working to finalize the plans for the new shelter and move on to determining actual costs and a contractor for the construction. We have close to \$970,000, but are sadly aware that we will need at least \$500,000 more to make the new shelter a reality. We are hopeful that the community will respond generously to the Caldwell Vankan match challenge. It's been amazing to watch the building campaign account grow to where we can actually begin the building process. We are so thankful to all.

On another note, we are so excited about our fundraiser to support the HSMC annual budget for our initiatives. *Comedy to the Rescue* will be held July 26<sup>th</sup> at the Spoon River Outreach Center as a new version of Cat Tails at Yappy Hour. Clay Foley crosses the country helping out shelters and rescue with his comedy. He will provide some levity to our work to help needy animals find their forever homes. We will have hors d'oeuvres and wine/soft drinks available. We welcome Clay to our community and encourage you to spend the evening with us.

We hope you enjoy this edition of *Waggin' Tales* and look forward to seeing or hearing from you.

Bonnie Smith-Skripps, HSMC President



## Join us for **Comedy to the Rescue!**

**July 26, 2025**

**Spoon River Outreach Center**

**2500 E. Jackson St., Macomb**

**Brought to you by:**

**Arnold Brothers Heating and Cooling**

**Clugston Tibbitts Funeral Home**

**Community News Brief**

**Dawg Haus**

**Kunes Auto Group**

Clay Foley loves being a comedian. Whether he's poking fun at fellow vegans or blithely recounting his decades as an animal cruelty investigator, Clay's eyes say, "Can you believe we're doing this?" That gratitude -- alongside clever punch lines, inventive props, and a compelling stage presence -- has earned Clay a spot among the country's most interesting comics.

*Comedy to the Rescue* is the culmination of Clay's years working in both animal welfare and stand-up comedy. The tour spans the country raising money for all types of animal charities.

This year's fundraiser for the HSMC annual budget and our program initiatives replaces *Cat Tails at Yappy Hour*. Hors d'oeuvres be provided and a cash bar with beer, wine, and soft drinks will be available. This is a family-friendly comedy show. The social hour/supper will begin at 6:00 with the show starting at 7:00.



Clay Foley

## **TICKETS** go on sale July 1

\$35 each, or you can purchase a table of 8 for a discounted price of \$250.

Purchase tickets through our website at [HSMCIL.org](http://HSMCIL.org) or use QR code below.



### ***Skip – Home Alone After His Best Friend Passed Away***

Skip is a senior German shepherd who was found in his home in mid March about a week after his owner had passed away. Skip was pretty malnourished and weak, but was still very sweet, keeping his kennel clean, and enjoying his long walks with volunteers at the shelter. He soon put on some weight and got medicine to help with his arthritis. A kind man visited him at the shelter and immediately felt a bond with this mellow 12-year-old gentle dog. David hopes he has many years with Skip who has settled into his home and so enjoys his new family.



Skip and his new pals



### ***Sam and Dean – A Bonded Pair Abandoned at the Shelter***

Sam and Dean were left out in the drop-off kennels this spring. We had hardly ever seen such a scared couple of pups. They huddled together in the back of their kennel and took some time warming up to shelter staff and volunteers. They gradually learned to trust the volunteers and loved going out to the playpens together to hang out and get treats. Fortunately, after a few months, a family decided to adopt the pair. The family had come to the shelter with the intent of adopting one. They then realized that Sam and Dean were so bonded as brothers that they had to take them both home. These sweet boys got their happy forever home!



### **New Animal Shelter Campaign Benefits from WCIL Gives**

We thank everyone who gave to the New Animal Shelter Campaign during the WCIL Gives Campaign. We added \$550 to the building campaign account as a result of this 3 day giving event.



## Still Wishing, Waiting and Hoping

*Tears of a Clown — Cookie continues wishing and waiting and wondering why his new best friend doesn't appear.*

Cookie the Clown is a 3-year-old Husky mix with a fun-loving personality, a great smile, and piercing blue eyes. He's a pretty laid back boy who is great to walk on a leash, keeps his kennel very clean, and gets along with most other dogs. Cookie will sit for treats and rolls over on his back for belly scratches and ear rubs. He's hoping to find his forever home and new best friend very soon. He has been waiting for so long.



## Meet HSMC Board Member Loren Dimmitt



As a dedicated board member of the Humane Society, I bring a deep passion for rescuing dogs and advocating for animal welfare. Since moving to Macomb in 2010, I've embraced life on our family farm and built a local business with my husband. These roots have strengthened my commitment to the community and to providing safe, loving homes for animals in need.



## **\$10,000 Memorial Match for the New Shelter**



Gloria and Edwin with Bella,  
one of their foster dogs

Gloria (Caldwell) Vankan and her husband Edwin are matching funds up to \$10,000 for the new shelter building campaign in honor of her late parents, Helen and Ernest Caldwell. Ernest was a Macomb City firefighter for 28 years before retiring as captain in 1986. He passed away on Jan. 3, 2000 at the age of 75. According to Gloria, her mother, Helen, was a busy stay-at-home mom, expert upholsterer and well known for her incredible pies. She moved into Wesley Village when she was 90 and passed away Sept. 24, 2024 at the age of 95.

Gloria Caldwell-Vankan moved to Washington, D.C. shortly after she graduated from Macomb High School in 1967. She and Edwin have been volunteers for the Nelson County SPCA/Humane Society in Virginia since 2008. In 2019, the couple was honored with the annual Virginia State Federation of Humane Societies BRAVO AWARD for promoting animal welfare and being instrumental in making an impact within the animal welfare arena in the State of Virginia. The Vankans serve as adoption counselors (personally matching homeless dogs to forever homes) for the Nelson County SPCA and Hopeful Hounds of Nelson.

"We are excited to help make the dream of the Humane Society of McDonough County building a reality," the Vankans said. "My parents were good, hardworking people and I was lucky to have them as my parents. They were always kind, appreciative and generous, and they were never too busy to lend a helping hand and do what they could to better someone else's lives when they saw a need they could fulfill."

**Ernest and Helen Caldwell**







## 2025 Gimme Shelter/15th Annual Kris Moore Memorial Golf Outing



### Business Members

ABCDecluttering/Elisa Rasmussen  
 All Pets Veterinary Clinic  
 American Legion Post 6  
 Arnold Brothers  
 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

Sunday July 27, 2025,  
8:30 a.m. at Gold Hills Course, Macomb

Kris Moore was a volunteer at the McDonough County Animal Shelter, and took the weekly shelter photos for the community-area adoption posters. He passed away in 2008. His family and friends started this tournament to benefit the Humane Society of McDonough County. Entry fee is \$55.00 per person, plus 20 lbs. of kitty litter per team. Scramble format, hole prizes, raffle, and many, many prizes. Grilled lunch included. Prizes for the ladies as well as the mutts.

RSVP to Lee Trotter at 309-371-9295, or leetrotter@mtcnow.net or Danny Torrance at Gold Hills (309) 837-2930! Let Lee know who's all on your team so he can get the count correct. Don't have a foursome? We can put you strays on a team if you wish. We look forward to seeing you! Please pass this along to your golfing buddies.

The Moore Family and Lee Trotter



### HSMC Board of Directors

President	Bonnie Smith-Skripps	Director	Ann Stites
Vice President	Dana Moon	Director	Sharon Lindahl
Secretary	Amy Betz	Director	Brian Waller
Treasurer	Terri Hare	Director	Brandi Baker
Membership	Candice Biswell	Director	Savannah Ballard
Director	Dave Monninger	Director	Loren Dimmitt
Director	Patti Douglas	Director	Lars Gossel
Director	Jen Tibbitts		

## The HSMC Assists the Shelter with Equipment

This spring, the HSMC purchased an EZ Nabber Cat Catcher to help animal control officers humanely secure cats who have escaped and are scared.



We also purchased a number of Adopt Me halters. The shelter dogs can now do some self-advertising of their adoption availability!



### 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

Staff person (full time): open

Annetta Ogle (part time)

Staff Person (part time): open



See page 2 for more information

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