

Property purchase is dream come true

“We are thrilled to have this building and land,” said Linda Burnett, executive director of the SPCA of Polk County. “We could not have purchased this property without the contributions of the many animals lovers through the years who earmarked portions of their donations to be used specifically toward the purchase of a permanent building.

Because the building is in poor condition, the price was low enough to allow the SPCA to even consider making an offer, said Director of Financial Operations Cathy O’Neil.

Carl Feren, local businessman and avid supporter of the SPCA, spearheaded the search for a suitable building. He explained that the purchase was made possible with the special help of First National Bank.

“We will need to make repairs to the plumbing, the electrical, the heating & cooling units,” Burnett continued, “as well as interior work. It will be too big a job for our small band of volunteers. We will need to find additional volunteers who recognize the need for an efficient shelter in Polk County to join us.”

The SPCA will also be looking to the community for support. They hope contractors and people with building experience, who love animals, will lend their expertise and perhaps even donate some of their leftover building materials. Teens, seniors or anyone who can paint a wall or hammer a nail will be most welcome.

The 7000 sq.ft. building has three separate spaces on the main



Cathy O’Neil, (from left), Phyllis Bridge, Carl Feren, Barbara Bauld and Linda Burnett hold the keys to the front door of the recently purchased building that will be the new home of the SPCA of Polk County. The property is on an acre of land located on Hwy 146 S within the city limits of Livingston.

floor. “Our plan,” said Director of Office Operations Barbara Bauld, “is to clean up and move into only one section on the main level and one section on the lower level to start. Later, as funds become available for additional repairs, we can make other sections operational.

The SPCA plans to use various rooms in the building for specialized activities. One section of the upper level will provide a larger office space and storage area than was available in the building they had rented.

“With this new facility, said Director of Animal Care Phyllis Bridge, “we will be able to make all the animals in our care much more comfortable. We hope to build

several inside dog enclosures and a puppy pen on the lower level. Moving the dogs inside will keep them warmer in the winter, cooler in the summer. We will also build some large fenced dog runs outside, behind

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Dog of the quarter named

A white, short-haired, all American dog with a distinctive black patch over his right eye and one black ear, was named, “Dog of the Quarter” by the volunteers of the SPCA.

“He reminds us of the famous 1930s dog in the old movie, *The Little Rascals*,” declared Barbara Bauld, director of office operations. “We

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call him Harvey.

“He and his litter mates were a bit of a surprise to us. A female stray was checked in late one afternoon. The next morning we discovered she had delivered eight healthy puppies. Now, only Harvey and his sister from that litter are still with us. We found homes for all the others, including his mom.

With his unusual markings, we were sure he would be the first of the litter to be picked. But, he is a bit shy and takes a while to warm up to new people. However, once he knows you, he is a darling and a

favorite among the volunteers who help us care for our dogs. He will make some lucky family a very loyal and loving pet.”

Persons wishing to adopt a pet can visit the SPCA from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday or Saturday. In addition to Harvey, there are several dogs, puppies, cats and kittens currently available for adoption at the SPCA.



Harvey

SPCA thanks supporters

The SPCA could not operate without the generous support of many people. Help comes in several different ways, some major gifts, others in smaller, but consistent contributions.

Dave and Marcia Graves are examples of loyal benefactors of the SPCA. In addition to the many checks they give, they also bring a large bag of food and a bag of kitty litter every week. They have been doing it for years.

PAWPRINTS

is a publication of the SPCA of Polk County. Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. Monthly meetings, which are open to the public, are held at 6 p.m. every first Thursday at the Trinity Masonic Lodge. Beginning this summer, meetings will be held at the new site at 802 S. Houston Ave. on Hwy 146 S. Call 936 967-2287 for more information.

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the building and away from traffic, where we can allow the dogs to get some healthy exercise.”

The SPCA also plans to create a cat room where compatible felines can be moved out of their cramped crates and allowed to play and eat together, much as they would in a private home.

A separate room, away from the office area, will be used as a ‘get acquainted room’ by families to meet and play with animals they hope to adopt.

A quarantine area for animals that are brought in sick has long been

needed. In the past volunteers had to be found to foster sick animals at their homes so viruses or skin conditions would not spread to the rest of the animals in the shelter. An isolated space for that will be one of their top priorities in the new building.

“As soon as possible we will create a space for a badly needed inside dog washing & grooming area” declared O’Neil. “There was little opportunity to groom dogs in our old, busy and cramped office. We think the dogs will be more adoptable if they are kept clean and well

groomed.”

“We are excited about our new building,” said Burnett, “but a bit frightened as well. We depend completely on the generosity of the citizens of Polk County to be able to continue our work. We thank those who have donated and volunteered in the past. We will need help from even more people in the coming months.”

Call 936 967-2287 if you would like to make a financial donation or volunteer your time to help turn this building into a productive animal shelter. The SPCA needs you.

The SPCA of Polk County
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TO: