

Humane society to lease office space at KLM

By Ken Knutson

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The Hinsdale Humane Society hopes moving its administrative offices out of its shelter facility will make conditions more workable for staff and volunteers and more inviting for visiting adopters.

Hinsdale trustees Tuesday night approved the humane society's lease of 1,472 square feet of office space in Katherine Legge Memorial Park.

Lori Halligan, executive director, said the humane society approached the village last fall about leasing the first floor of the building at 5905 S. County Line Road, which has been vacant since Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 moved its administration offices to Elm School several years ago.

She said the shelter facility at 22 N. Elm St. had become so cramped that staff members have resorted to using boxes of bleach as makeshift computer stands.

"We're just stacked to the gills, and there's things on top of bookcases, and just general untidiness," she said.

But the offices will house only two-legged inhabitants.

"We're leaving all the animals at the current location," she said.

Halligan said the organization initially explored rental space in downtown Hinsdale before identifying the KLM building as a feasible option.

"(Downtown is) not inexpensive, and parking can be an issue," she said.

Parking is plentiful in the KLM lot, and the \$10 per square-foot rate was more budget friendly. The humane society will pay \$1,227 a month.

Village officials reported that major safety issues on the second floor of the building preclude its use.

Halligan suggested that, since she is the organization's only full-time staff person, the first floor is sufficient and will free up the shelter for adopters and volunteers to interact more comfortably.

"We want it to be a more physically inviting space," she said.

The humane society is planning to take over the space July 1, and Halligan said all that's needed to get it move-in ready is some cleaning and painting.

"We don't have office furniture yet. We may be on folding chairs and card tables, but, you know, that will come," she said.

Halligan said she will have some office hours at the shelter and has calculated that it about takes eight minutes to drive between the two sites.

"Without speeding down County Line," she said with a laugh.

Staff meetings may need to be more frequent, Halligan noted, to ensure instructions are being delivered.

But that will be a minor adjustment in a move she expects to have major benefits.

"We're going to have to be very intentional about communication," Halligan said. "In general, it's going to be good for everyone."