



Enjoy cupcakes and ice cream at two parties this weekend

Humane Society celebrates 60 years, ice cream social marks 59

The Hinsdale Humane Society is celebrating its 60th anniversary celebration Saturday and inviting residents to come to the party.

"We are very excited," Executive Director Lori Halligan said. "We are praying for good weather. It will have something for everyone."

The celebration is from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, on the grounds of the shelter at 22 N. Elm St. Pets on leashes are invited to accompany their owners.

The party includes free hot dogs, drinks, birthday cupcakes, face painting, shelter tours and more. A special prize will be presented to the winner of the doggy cupcake-eating contest. New bricks in the Carla E. Fisher Memorial Garden will be blessed.

Special adoption fees of just \$60 for puppies, dogs and kittens will be in effect this weekend, starting Friday, Aug. 23, and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 25.

The humane society traces its origins back to six women who found GREEN UNDER THE TREE the conditions of the village pound in the early 1950s less than satisfactory.

"It was basically just a shack," Halligan said. "It didn't have heat. It had one light bulb and a cold water spigot. At that time, when the police would find a dog running at large, they would pick it up and put it in this little shed or shack."

The women also were concerned about protecting residents from the diseases stray dogs might transmit.

"That summer there was a rabies scare in DuPage County, and we have to remember, at that time, animals just ran at large. Dogs lived in dog houses," Halligan said. "They just wandered around town, and so dog bites were very prevalent."

The women raised money to clean and improve the pound.

"They took over the building and took it upon themselves to upgrade it," she said.

With all that women have achieved in the past six decades, it is easy to overlook the significance of their accomplishment, Halligan believes.

"Now we would consider them being very revolutionary and very entrepreneurial for the time," she said.

Of course the humane society's mission has grown beyond housing stray dogs and cats and finding homes for them. The society's menu of programs and services includes pet therapy, obedience classes, commu-



Hinsdale Humane Society volunteers enjoy some time with the felines while cleaning cages in this 1973 photo, which ran in *The Doings*. The society has invited everyone to a party Saturday to celebrate its 60-year history in this community. (photo courtesy of Hinsdale Humane Society)

nity outreach and a summer camp.

Halligan, the organization's executive director since April 2006, said she continues to be amazed at the relationships people in town have with the humane society, during a pet's life and even after the pet is gone.

"People in the community feel so connected to the humane society. I didn't really realize when I started there what an integral part of the community it is," she said.

The celebration will continue Saturday, Oct. 26, with a black-tie optional gala, *A Fetching Affair*, at Butterfield Country Club. Guests will enjoy cocktails, dinner, dancing, live entertainment and more. Tickets go on sale Sept. 1.

"People can't bring their pets to that one," Halligan said with a laugh. "We wanted to do two different events in celebration of our birthday."

She is looking forward to marking this special anniversary.

"We're so proud to be part of the fabric of the community and we're so proud of the fact that we've been here for 60 years," she said. "We look forward to a really long future with the citizens of the village and the surrounding area."

"It's really a privilege to be part of people's lives and knowing how much joy pets bring to families. It's just great to be a part of that."

Ice cream social turns 59

Another long-standing institution in town, the Hinsdale Hospital Medical Staff Auxiliary, also is inviting the community to a special event.

The auxiliary, now known as The Women's Auxiliary Board of Hinsdale Hospital, will host its 59th annual ice cream social from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at Burlington Park, 30 E. Chicago Ave.

"Originally the medical staff auxiliary were spouses of physicians and they were out there just building good relationships with the community and the hospital," said Dina Kritsas, auxiliary president. "They ran the social and their husbands would be the ones that would be scooping out the ice cream."

The ice cream part of the ice cream social hasn't changed, but the afternoon now includes live entertainment, games, a cake walk, and a jump and bounce. At the TY Teddy Bear clinic, the first 500 children will take home a TY beanie baby with any pretend bumps or bruises cured. The Hinsdale Fire and Police departments also will be on hand.

And now the auxiliary's Junior Board runs the event.

"It's a fundraiser but it's also a friend-raiser," Kritsas said. "It's the

Historical highlights

- 1953 — six women take up the cause of homeless animals in town in an effort that evolves into the Hinsdale Humane Society

- 1959 — the building on the present site is dedicated Sept. 17. The new shelter, which cost \$25,000, has 11 kennels, a small room for dogs and cats and a reception area. It was the first humane society in DuPage County.

- 1974 — an expansion project doubles the size of the shelter

- 1982 — the society begins its pet therapy program with Pet-a-Pet, which brings therapy dogs into nursing homes

- 1983 — a kitchen and medical treatment room are added to the shelter. The expansion and remodeling project helps celebrate the shelter's 30th birthday

- the estate of Charles Hillinger provides a major update to the shelter
- 2005 — the society expands its pet therapy program with Reading Education Assistance Dogs

- 2012 — the society adopts more than 800 animals to loving families

perfect relationship, and I think the community really enjoys it."

That point was driven home last year when torrential rains forced the event's cancellation. Janet Klotz, event coordinator, was one of the folks who stayed behind to break the bad news.

"I couldn't believe how many people driving by honked and said how sorry they were it was canceled. I also couldn't believe how many parents had to drive their kids to the park so that the kids could see it really was canceled," Klotz said.

"We hadn't realized how much people really did look forward to it," Kritsas added. "It's definitely an event for the community and we can't stress that enough."

Admission is free. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, and some activities have a fee. Proceeds benefit the proposed cancer and outpatient center for patients of Adventist's Hinsdale and La Grange hospitals.

— by Pamela Lannom