



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Students, community groups help build kennel to help Lower Paxton police house found dogs while owners located

Township also announces expansion of Happy Tails Dog Park and other renovations to Kohl Memorial Park

Click here to download expansion plans
for Happy Tails Dog Park:
<https://bit.ly/HappyTailsPlans>

Lower Paxton Township, PA (May 16, 2024)– With the help of Dauphin County Technical School students and the Kiwanis Club of the Linglestown Area, Lower Paxton police have a new kennel to house found dogs until their owners are found.

Additionally, Township officials announced plans to expand Lower Paxton's Happy Tails Dog Park and renovate basketball, tennis and handball courts at the adjacent Kohl Memorial Park.

The new three-bay kennel, also built with volunteer labor from the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Local 5, will allow police who find dogs to keep them in the Township longer before turning them over to the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area.

"Almost every week, our officers find lost dogs, and this kennel gives us a safe, secure place to keep them while we try to locate the owners," said Township Supervisors Chairman Robin Lindsey. "We could not have done this without the support of the Kiwanis and all the volunteers who helped build the kennel and contributed funds for the materials."

Donors who made the kennel possible include Home Depot and Faulkner Subaru, which each gave \$1,000, and more than 20 individuals who donated between \$25 and \$250.

"If I were a lost dog, I would want to be lost in Lower Paxton Township," said William Minsker, president of the Kiwanis when the project started. "The Kiwanis always work with and help young people, and when a police officer told us of the need, we thought it would be a great project that could involve the [Dauphin County] vo-tech students."

Regarding the Happy Tails Dog Park expansion, Lindsey said plans call for adding 1.6 acres, which will include water fountains, a shaded pavilion area and new play areas for the pups.

Additionally, the Township plans to renovate Kohl Park's two tennis courts, two handball courts and its basketball court this fall. The work is part of the ongoing \$5 million renovation of parks throughout the Township.

Lindsey said the Township hopes to expand the dog park next spring, and, as was done with the initial park that opened in 2010, resident donations are being requested.

"The community's generosity helped us fund Happy Tails, and we hope to again raise funds to assist us with the expansion," she said. "From the start, this has been a group effort."

Lindsey thanked the Dauphin County Commissioners, who gave the Township a \$108,000 grant from the casino revenue-sharing program. Lane Ryan Auctions also gave \$5,000 and the Township has \$10,000 left from the resident committee that initially raised funds for Happy Tails.

Those interested in donating to expand the Happy Tails Dog Park are asked to send contributions to Lower Paxton Township Parks & Recreation, 425 Prince Street, Lower Paxton, PA 17109, and indicate the donation is for the dog park on the check.

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Lower Paxton Township is the largest municipality in Dauphin County and the 15th largest in Pennsylvania, covering a 28-square-mile area. To learn more, visit www.lowerpaxton-pa.gov and follow Lower Paxton on Facebook @LowerPaxtonTwp, Twitter @LowerPaxtonTwp & Instagram @lowerpaxtontownship



From left: Alan Gallagher, Kiwanis; Lower Paxton Police Cpl. Melinda Welcomer; William Minsker, Kiwanis; Lower Paxton Township Supervisors Chairman Robin Lindsey; Dauphin County Technical School teachers Bob Brightbill (building construction) and Marc Ohlwiler (welding).

