



The Madonio Family Animal Welfare Trust



Spring 2021

2020 In Review

What can we say about 2020? It started out to be a year of much hope and promise, but by the middle of March, everything changed. We had already begun planning for our 6th Annual Dog Days of Summer. We were in the middle of revamping our food for seniors' pets, Paws in Motion, with Family and Community Services. With the economy humming, we were looking forward to record breaking fund raising year. But Covid put an end to all those plans.

Our fund raising was reduced by 2/3 and our Paws in Motion plans had to be paused due to changes at Family & Community Services and other Covid related complications. Our investment portfolio thru the Portage Foundation went on an up and down roller coaster ride and ended up with negative growth. Despite all that, thanks to our many generous donors and supporters, we were still able to make a number of monetary donations totaling \$9,200. Among our beneficiaries this year were: Portage Animal Protective League, Portage County Dog Warden, Happy Trails Farm Animal Sanctuary, Rose's Rescue and our veterinary animal emergency fund.

So, although business as usual didn't occur in 2020, we carried on, and we are pleased to announce that

🐾 **Dog Days of Summer 2021 is on!** 🐾

Who Was That Masked Dog?

It was disappointing enough that we couldn't have Dog Days last year, but the idea that we also wouldn't be able to produce our popular souvenir t-shirt was just too much to bear! Longtime Dog Days volunteer and dog lover Tanya Salopek (pictured right with Erin's back) came up with the idea to produce a shirt that we could all safely wear in lockdown. And thus the masked Daisy Dog shirt was born! Another dog lover who has been with us since the very first Dog Days back in 2015, Beth Stoneking of Stone Hill Farm, produced the shirts for us at cost, which was then personally covered by Chas, so 100% of the proceeds went directly into the MFAWT fund. Because so many of our loyal followers loved the idea, we were able to raise at least a little bit of money.

We just can't thank everyone enough for the constant support!



WHAT GOES INTO PLANNING DOG DAYS?

Most people don't realize what goes into planning an outdoor event like Dog Days. When I tell people it takes as much as 6 months or longer to plan, they are shocked. So, let us take you thru the steps.

First, we need to get it on the City calendar and Hometown Bank's calendar, since we use not only a city street (which needs to be closed), but also the Hometown Plaza. Next, we need to submit the details and a sketch of the area to the city for approval. Once all the preliminaries are approved, it's time to start contacting the participants.

We send out notices to all of the vendors who have had booths with us in the past inviting them to reserve their space. We also line up our bands and select food vendors that we think would offer a good variety of food and beverages.

Meanwhile, there is a lot of paperwork to be done. Applications must be filed with the state for a one day liquor permit for the sale of beer. Arrangements have to be made with a beer distributor for the purchase and delivery of kegs. Woodsy's Music has to be booked for the intricate sound system that is used. A sign with all major sponsors' names and logos is ordered. Arrangements have to be finalized with the Parks & Rec Department for the delivery of picnic tables, and a sanitation company must be hired for Port-a-Pots as required by the Health Department.

It is important to make a schedule of all the events, such as the parade, the contests, the band schedule and announcements. We meet with Jeff Kurtz, our emcee, to go over the schedule for the announcements and any other last minute details. A street layout with booth assignments has to be drawn up and on Friday morning, before there is too much traffic, we (along with Mayor Jerry Fiala) have to measure off the booth space and with spray paint, mark and number them for the vendors to find their location.

Sponsors are solicited, and tee shirts are designed and ordered from Beth at Stone Hill Farm. Flyers are printed and distributed around town. Pat Reynolds starts working on the dog quilt for the annual raffle. Buddy Sessions Top Dog contestants are announced and voting begins.

The day before the event, we have to pick up special weather radios from the Kent Police Department so we can monitor the weather in case of severe storm warnings. The police also put notices on the parking meters that no parking is permitted on Saturday. Then we cross our fingers and hope that the weatherman is kind to us.

We start arriving around 8:00am to begin set up. Before we can open to the public on Saturday morning at 11:00, the Health Department has to inspect and give their okay. A maintenance man from the water department arrives to put a spigot on the fire hydrant at the corner of Main and North Water so we can have access to fresh water for all the bowls we put out for the dogs.

Our usual set up crew arrives early to deliver tables and get everything set up. The crew consists of many people, but every year we can count on Darrin & Michelle Hartman, Bob Mayfield, Mayor Jerry Fiala, Joe Latina and many others. Our photographers, Emilee Hartman and Nicole Cunningham are there in time to take pictures of the activity and the dogs as they arrive. Picnic tables are set up on the street.

Vendors and food trucks start arriving at 9:00, when the street is closed. Water bowls for the dogs are filled and distributed all along N. Water St. The sound system is given one final test. And finally, at 11:00 sharp, Dog Days of Summer officially begins! Hope you can join us – mark your calendars now.

The Madonio Family Animal Welfare Trust Presents **Dog Days of Summer 2021**

 **CONTESTS:**
*Best Dressed
Biggest & Smallest
Farthest Traveled*

 **Buddy Sessions
Top Dog Contest**
*Contact Us to Register a Dog
madoniofamily@gmail.com*

 **Eddy and Bill White's
Strut Your Mutt Dog Parade**

 **Roll Call**

 **North Water Brewing Co.**

 **Grazer's**

 **Live Music**

 **Veterinarian Booths**

 **Pet Product Vendors**

 **Pet Adoptions
APL and Rose's Rescue
County Dog Warden**

A Celebration of Man's & Woman's Best Friend

Saturday, Aug. 21

11 AM to 4 PM

Hometown Bank Plaza - Downtown Kent



Sponsored by
**The Madonio Family
Animal Welfare Trust**



The MFAWT is administered by The Portage Foundation, a 501c3 corporation

www.madonio-animal-trust.org

Proceeds benefit the MFAWT to help support the Portage Animal Protective League, Rose's Rescue, Happy Trails Farm Sanctuary, and Paws in Motion mobile pet meals program.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Despite a year with no fund raising events, we had a number of generous supporters that made monetary donations to the Trust. Here's a list of our generous benefactors:

Business Donors

AMETEK • Diamond Title • Evelyn Dickerson Hair Design • Twin Lakes Tavern •
Over Easy Morning Café • Capelli - Theresa Trivelli

Individual Donors

Gary Harris • Betty Bowers • Theresa Trivelli • Bob Smith & Jill Hazelton • John & Carolyn Gunyula • Debbie and Ramiro Alberran-Sotelo • Mike & Jane Hornyak • Mark & Linda Seeman • Ann Gargan • Herb Page & Paula Trekel • Brad & JoAnn Dickerson • Jerry & Sue Fiala • Ben & Candace Curtis • George & Jane Preston Rose • Terry & Cynthia Watt • Reed & Karen Beck • Dan & Joyce McCombs • Carley & Bill Kruse • Joe & Barb Marken • Marianne Martens & Carlos Ledet • Bill Graham

IN MEMORIAM

The following donations were given in memory of some special people and special animals:

Joe Shannon in memory of Carole Shannon
Matt & Jeanette Messino in memory of John Marefka
Frank & Janet Horvat in memory of Jake and Lulu
Robert & Gaynell Chiles in memory of Tom Hultman
Brad & JoAnn Dickerson in memory of Tom Hultman
Joe & Erin Latina in memory of Tom Hultman
Larry Miller in memory of Daisy Richards

Ron Burbick – The Burbick Foundation

Dog Days of Summer lost one of its biggest supporters when Ron Burbick passed away on September 6th, 2020. Ron provided the initial funding to kick off the first Dog Days in 2015 and was a major sponsor every year. He would be seen with his wife Joan and their dogs enjoying the festivities every year. We mourn the passing of our good friend.

How Can You Help?

If you are interested in making a donation, either towards the general fund or to be dedicated to a particular project, checks can be made payable to the *Portage Foundation*, indicating *Madonio Family Fund* in the memo line, and sent to:

The Portage Foundation/Madonio Family • 1204 Tallmadge Road • Kent, Ohio 44240

All money donated goes into the trust or to one of our charities.

All expenses, including this newsletter, are covered by the Madonio family.

**If you would like to volunteer at the next Dog Days of Summer, contact us at 330-673-4919 or madoniofamily@gmail.com
Check us out on the web at madonio-animal-trust.org and on facebook.com/madoniofamily**

JUST ANNOUNCED! - CANINE WILD HIKES CHALLENGE



Jerry Latina in his Wild Hikes Bandana

Looking for some outdoor fun with your dog? Did you know Portage County is home to a wonderful Park District including nine parks and trails ready to welcome you and your pet! With a mix of paved and natural trails, there is something for everyone. For those hearty hikers, challenge yourself to complete the 2021 Wild Hikes Challenge by the end of the year, where you log your walks and complete either 30 hikes or 30 miles to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Portage Park District. Complete the hikes and you are eligible for a hiking stick and medallion, and your pup can also earn a bandana! The Park District Foundation has also partnered with North Water Brewing to host a "Yappy Hour" the third Tuesday of each month this summer. Rumor has it there may also be a 2nd Perfect Pooch of Portage contest in 2022, so come out and join us to see what's up! For more info on the park locations and maps, the Wild Hikes Challenge, or Yappy Hour details, go to portageparkdistrict.org.

