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December 2020

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First, much thanks to John Vanvig, our Communications Director, and Alicia Stevens, our Volunteer Coordinator, who recently finished their terms on the Board of Directors. (John would have had this newsletter out much sooner.)

Happy New Year – Message from Our President

At last, 2020 is behind us, and who knows what 2021 will bring. In all of the turmoil of the last year, we have had one reassuring constant to look forward to, and that is our off-leash dog parks. It always makes me smile to see the beautiful dogs—large and small, young and old, fluffy and sleek—and their people having so much fun at the dog parks. No matter the weather, our off-leash parks are busy every day and all day. Our pups motivate us—their people, of all ages and abilities—to enjoy exercising outdoors, rain or shine. I am grateful to live in a county that appreciates the importance of off-leash dog parks and the positive impact they have on our communities here in Clark County.

New county contract

The Board has been working for a few months now on a new Clark County / DOGPAW Participation Agreement. The 5-year contract was finalized in December and should be receiving final approval by the County Council in January, 2021. Expect more details in our next newsletter.

New signs coming

At one of our dog parks yesterday I read a large sign attached to the fence that I have never noticed before. It had been there for years! We are constantly bombarded with information today; that can make signage in the parks "invisible" to many park goers. Also, a number of our large DOGPAW signs have become faded and unreadable.

Thank you to our last president, Eileen Cervantes, for getting the ball rolling this past year to have new signs designed to replace dilapidated ones.

The new signs have been printed! You will see these new signs in your parks, likely this month. Some of the signs will be swapped out each month to increase visibility. Other new signs will highlight and clarify dog park rules.

Scott Collard of J. S. Collard Designs – Mega thanks to Scott who donated his time and talent to design new signs for us and to arrange to have them printed. Scott works with many local businesses and you can see examples of his work at <https://jscollarddesign.com>.

Dakota Dog Park NOTES

Many have noticed that the water fountains at Dakota are running constantly. (I've also seen this at Hockinson Meadows Community Park near Kane.)


The county assured me this was done on purpose to keep the pipes from freezing. So all is well. Thank you for calling it to our attention.

On a sad note, we had a tragic loss at Dakota in December 2020. A precious chihuahua named Bandit passed away after an accidental encounter with another larger dog. All parties involved are understandably upset. Our hearts go out to everyone involved, especially Bandit's family. This happened near the west gate. I am in talks with the county to see if the small dog park can be configured for access without going through the main park. In the meantime, you can help by not lingering near the gates, even though that is where the water fountains are, and for monitoring your dogs when entering or leaving the park, especially when there is a mix of large and small dogs. Thank you.

WELCOME! -- The Poop Brothers

New sponsor

In addition to fundraising and memberships, a large part of our financial support comes from our sponsors. The Poop Brothers love dogs, and serve all of Clark County including Woodland, Yacolt, and Amboy. Their signs will soon be going up at Dakota and Ike. In the meantime, here's a preview:



The Poop Brothers
Making Your Yard A Cleaner Place

SERVICES AND PRICES
Pet waste removal
Weekly and one-time service
\$55 per month for 1 dog
\$10 increase per month per dog
\$15 monthly fee waived if waste is disposed
in your trash

Never step in your pet's poop again

1-360-513-3998
Thepoopbrothers.com

Please support our sponsors!

In need of...IDEAS...VOLUNTEERS...

DOGPAW would love to do some fun ***fundraisers*** this year! While some volunteers have awesomely stepped up to help out, we can always use more volunteers.

- Are you a creative type?
- Do you have lots of energy?
- Have some great ideas?
- Want to improve our dog parks?
- Want to have fun?

DOGPAW appreciates if you can help out in any way. Contact information for most everything is below.

Thank You

...to Darren (and Molly) at Kane for helping to keep poop bag dispensers full. Thank you!

...to Dan (and Duke) at Lucky for helping to carry many boxes of poop bags to the shed. They always show up at the right time!

...to Mitch (and Humphrey) at Ike, for carrying several 50-lb bags of concrete from the car into the shed. He made it look easy!

...to Corrine, who has come up with some great ideas for fundraisers for the fencing at Ike!

...to our volunteer Park Managers and everyone who picks up extra poop and stray litter at all the dog parks. You make our dog parks possible!

Reminders

- Please pick up and toss torn or deflated tennis balls, or broken Frisbees, rope toys, etc. Large puppies may chew and potentially swallow this debris, which can lead to VERY expensive veterinary treatments!
- Please pick up paper litter such as candy wrappers, tissues, etc. Our county contract makes it the park attendees' responsibility to keep the parks clean.
- If you have a suggestion or a reminder that you would like to see here, send me an email!

Contact Information

Contacts:

Sally Jenkins, President president@dogpawoffleashparks.org
Call/text **360-553-5344**

Volunteering: We can **ALWAYS** use your help!
<https://www.dogpawoffleashparks.org/volunteer-1>

Questions? ask@dogpawoffleashparks.org

DOGPAW OFF-LEASH DOG PARK LOCATIONS:

Dakota: 1515 N.E. 164th Ave. Vancouver, WA

Ike (Ross): 5167 N.E. 15th Ave. Vancouver, WA

Kane: 10910 N.E. 172nd Ave. Vancouver, WA

Lucky: 10100 N.E. 149th St. Brush Prairie, WA

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