

# THE CONNECTION

January 17, 2020 - Issue 35

## **BREAK BETTER** *By Business Services Manager, Stacy Wojcikiewicz*

An upgrade you can really enjoy is coming very soon to a break room near you! As part of this fiscal year's capital expense plan (the big projects), we have met with teams from each shelter and asked them what they would like most from a new break area. With that input, we've designed and planned some great new spaces for each shelter that we hope will go a long way towards making you "break a little better."



Detroit, Westland, Rochester, and Howell will be acquiring items such as new upgraded cabinets; new sinks and faucets; quartz countertops; new appliances such as dishwashers, garbage disposals, fridges and microwaves; and furniture upgrades. New paint schemes, some better lighting, and a few surprises here and there will help to finish/round it all off.

We partnered with IKEA (of all places!) for our cabinetry and layout design due to their reputation for having highly ergonomic kitchens that are easy to replace or upgrade as time goes on. IKEA was very excited to work with us as they love and support our mission and were very gracious in giving us some project discounts. Appliances will vary between each location, but some locations will be getting commercial-style appliances that will hold up better under the heavy use we put them through (and more room for team lunch leftovers).

Detroit is first up, and construction was due to start on January 11. It's expected that the work will take at least two to three weeks, and the Hofley Education Center will serve as a temporary break room in the interim. Howell is up next the following week (January 20) and is expected to take about a week. Westland and Rochester upgrades will begin in March and will be conducted in two phases — further work is planned to expand those spaces so as to increase the size of the break rooms in 2021.

Additionally, for expectant or new mothers at Westland, a comfortable and secure new lactation room is being installed between the men's and women's restrooms, just opposite the boot lockers. Expect that room to be ready soon and the same to follow at the other locations before the spring.

Thanks for being patient and adapting to the construction disruption while we upgrade the spaces. We hope you all enjoy the new break rooms!

## CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY *By Field Investigator, Myron Golden*

*The tale below may seem like an ordinary day on the job, but it is stories like Myron's that remind us that this is what we are meant to do. If you have a story you'd like to share, please send it to [theconnection@michiganhumane.org](mailto:theconnection@michiganhumane.org).*



On November 1, 2019, at approximately 2:30 p.m., myself and Investigator Chris Ouwerkerk responded to a call concerning three emaciated dogs chained up outside without food, water or shelter. Upon arrival, we tried to make contact with the dog owners, but there was no answer at the door. We then went into the backyard to check the conditions of the dogs. We saw three underweight Mastiff-type dogs with improper shelter. Chris and I, with the help of Investigator Mcleod and Investigator Schertel, removed all three of the dogs and left a notice for the owner to call.

After getting in contact with the owners, I educated them on proper shelter and insulation and how to feed the dogs. We talked about how outside dogs need more calories in the winter than in the summer because they burn them faster. Also, they told me their story. They told me their situation and current financial constraints. I could tell that they really loved the dogs from the passion they showed in talking about them, and from all of the pictures they showed me before hard times hit.

So, instead of removing the dogs from their home with a family that would love them, my manager and I decided it would be better if we could help by getting the dogs home. Through education and assisting in resources while the family were getting back on their feet, we were able to help bring a family back together. Now man and beast are happy, healthy and together again.

## VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

*By VP, Organizational Development, Andrea Buchanan*

We're excited to announce that the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation will be partnering with MHS to provide a scholarship for the Veterinary Technology program for 2020–2022 at Macomb Community College. The Berman family have always been interested in the welfare of all who live in the city of Detroit, and, with this program, which is dedicated to the late Madeleine Harris Berman, they hope to improve the lives of Detroiters interested in animal care, as well as the lives they will nurture and save. Per the Berman Foundation's requirements, eligible candidates must live or work in the city of Detroit.

In order to be considered for the scholarship, all candidates must complete the following by February 1:

- Scholarship application returned to Andrea Buchanan ([abuchanan@michiganhumane.org](mailto:abuchanan@michiganhumane.org) - please reach out to Andrea for the application, if interested),
- HESI Exam,
- Application to Macomb Community College's Veterinary Technology Program,

MHS will reimburse all candidates for their testing and application fees, regardless of whether they are ultimately selected to receive the scholarship. After the application deadline, we will select two candidates to receive this scholarship. While we realize that this full-time program would impact your regularly scheduled working hours, MHS is committed to providing you with flexible working hours throughout our facility locations (including evenings and weekends) to limit any potential financial hardship while you are enrolled in the program.

We realize there are a limited number of veterinary technology programs remaining in Michigan, and are so thankful to the Mandell and Madeleine Berman Foundation for providing this wonderful opportunity. Please reach out to Andrea Buchanan with any questions on this program. We look forward to receiving your applications!

## TRIVIA

**Q. What is the state animal of Michigan? How many other states have that same animal as their state animal?**

Send your answers to [theconnection@michiganhumane.org](mailto:theconnection@michiganhumane.org), and the first person to answer correctly will receive a free Michigan Humane item!

*Congrats to Janelis Lopez on winning last week's trivia question!*

## ANNUAL 2020 EVENT DATES

### Day of Giving Telethon

• When: Thursday, February 13

### The Purrfect Bow Wow Brunch

• When: Sunday, April 26  
• Where: TCF Center - Detroit, MI

### Mutt March

• When: Sunday, July 26  
• Where: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House - Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

### Fur Ball

• When: Saturday, September 12  
• Where: 59 West - Highland, MI

## JOB BOARD

Know someone who would be a great fit for the Michigan Humane team? Check out our job openings at [michiganhumane.org/careers](https://michiganhumane.org/careers)

**Animal Behavioral Health Supervisor**  
**Animal Care and Enrichment Tech**  
**Call Center Representative**  
**Clinic Medicine Assistant Manager**  
**Clinic Receptionist**

**Clinic Veterinarian**  
**Clinic Veterinary Tech**  
**Custodian**  
**Customer Service Assistant Manager**  
**Customer Service Representative**

**Human Resources Coordinator**  
**Licensed Veterinary Tech**  
**Shelter Medicine Assistant Manager**  
**Shelter Veterinary Tech**  
**Volunteer Programs Coordinator**

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