

Lake City

HUMANE SOCIETY

By Jeweliana Register

Unveils Future Plans & Honors the Past at "A Kawz for Pawz"

Founded in 1964, the Lake City Humane Society was formed by a group of animal advocates to address animal welfare issues in the community. Over the years, the organization has grown to support over 5,000 animals each year. As the organization continues to expand, the Lake City Humane Society is currently developing plans to build a custom headquarters for the staff and animals, enabling them to provide more services to the community in this crucial area. The building plans were unveiled at the 2019 Kawz for Pawz event in April, an event that was met with amazing community support with over 500 attendees.

A Kawz for Pawz was held at the newly renovated and revealed Truck Stop 75, located on the Ellisville exit just off the interstate. The venue was packed full with local business representatives and animal lovers alike, bidding on animals needing a forever home and celebrating the exciting plans for the new building. Every detail of the event meant so much to the Humane Society team, everything from the meaning behind the building name unveiling to the location of the special event.



Owners Willie Hoffer and Alex Isametdinov outside of Truck Stop 75.

"This event not only represented a member in our community who has contributed so much more than we could ever say, but we also had a tremendous gift from the gentleman at the Truck Stop 75," Laura Hunter, Lake City Humane Society board member, says. "They allowed us to use their venue and they provided their employees to prepare and serve the food... And the menu was to die for!"

A Kawz for Pawz raised over \$27,000 for the Lake City Humane Society!



Lake City Humane Society's future animal wellness center is named in honor of James Montgomery, educator, long-time member of the LCHS advisory board, and benefactor.

Though the venue was not officially open yet, the co-owners of the 60-acre Truck Stop 75 generously donated their services for the event. The completely state-of-the-art truck stop features all the conveniences you would expect, with quite a few upgrades such as the hair salon, sauna, shower quarters, laundry rooms, fine dining restaurant, lounge and quick service food station in their 40,000-square-foot building.



Are you interested in supporting the Lake City Humane Society?



The nonprofit organization greatly appreciates the community's support in all of their endeavors. Whether you are looking to volunteer or donate, check out their official Facebook page @LakeCityHumaneSociety, or visit their website at lakecityhumane.org. The center always accepts donations for a variety of pet foods and care items, and the staff updates the center's Amazon wish list regularly.



A Kawz for Pawz

"I'd say it was a successful event," Willie Hoffer, co-owner of Truck Stop 75, expresses. "The people in this community are unlike anywhere else. I would not trade Lake City for anything."

In response to owners Willie and Alex Isametdinov's kindness, Keith Williams, Lake City Humane Society board member, expresses, "It's like nothing we have ever seen before. We could not have done this without their help."



Willie Hoffer, co-owner of Truck Stop 75, venue for Kawz for Pawz, with Lake City Humane Society Board Member Laura Hunter.

The entire Kawz for Pawz event was centered around the reveal of the Lake City Humane Society's newest venture: a beautiful new home for their services. Architect plans were revealed for the James Montgomery Animal Wellness Center, a centrally located building that



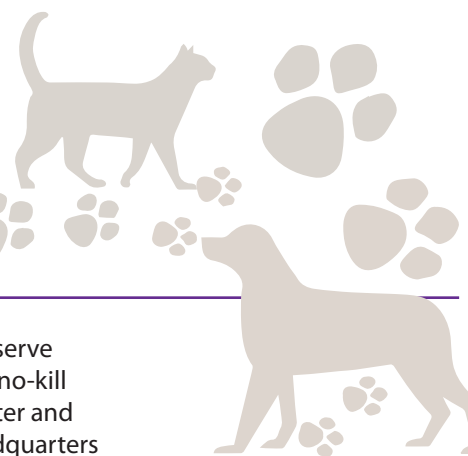
Dr. Celia Martin, winner of the local Dancing with the Stars competition at the 2019 Policeman's Ball, chose Lake City Humane Society as her charity of choice to receive the \$1000 prize.

will serve as a no-kill shelter and headquarters for the organization. The decision to name the building after Mr. James Montgomery was a moving moment, and the unveiling of the name was no different.

A pillar in the community, James Montgomery can be described as a generous, selfless man with a heart for others. Whether he was teaching students at the local high schools or college, or officiating one of hundreds of wedding ceremonies over the years, Mr. Montgomery's kindness has shone in all he has done. Serving on the advisory board at the Lake City Humane Society for many years, he always went above and beyond to meet the needs of the animals in Columbia County.

"During our board meetings, he would hear of something we needed, whether that was a computer stand or whatever it was, and that next week, he would actually come with a check to pay for whatever the shelter needed that week," Laura expresses. "That is the kind of person he is. We always felt his presence at the Humane Society."

Between the dedication of the building in James Montgomery's honor and the celebration of the impact Lake City Humane Society has had on the community, A Kawz for Pawz was a wonderful time of honoring the past and dreaming for the future.



Dr. Celia Martin's Contribution for Cats and Canines

It's no secret this local orthodontist is an animal lover—artistic renditions of her very own fur babies can be seen adorning the walls of her new office space.

For the past four years, Dr. Celia Martin has made it her mission to support the local Humane Society in many ways, whether donating pet food or spreading the word about the organization. During the year of 2018 alone, Dr. Martin donated over 59,000 pounds of dog and cat food, along with kitty litter and other supplies. She has also assisted the center in spaying and neutering over 20 feral cats in the area, realizing that simply feeding them is not enough.



Dr. Celia Martin's charity of choice, the Lake City Humane Society, received \$1000 from the Lake City Police Department as her prize for winning the local Dancing with the Stars competition at the 2019 Policeman's Ball.

With her commitment to seeing the lives of animals improved, Dr. Martin chose to enter the Dancing with the Local Stars dance-off held at the 2019 Policeman's Charity Ball. Dr. Martin and her dancing partner, Billy, swept the judges off their feet and won \$1,000 for their charity of choice: the Lake City Humane Society! The organization thanks Dr. Martin for her generous support and heart for animals!