

Dog shelter to open in mid-March

The Pickaway County Commissioners took a walking tour of the new county dog shelter Monday, heaping praise on county residents for making the project a reality.

"This is light years away from what we used to have out here," said Glenn Reeser. "This should serve the citizens of the county for many decades to come."

According to Jay Wippel, there will be a reception for the donors later this month. "We're planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony and official opening to the public sometime in mid-March," he said.

The new shelter will house 46 individual dog kennels with the majority used for adoptable dogs and the rest for those in quarantine status, according to Tammy Fee, county dog warden. The facility will be "dog-friendly", she said, and features a medical room, as well as rooms for bathing and grooming, laundry, offices and storage space.

The new shelter, located behind the old one on Ringgold Southern Road, was constructed entirely by donations without any public funds being used, according to Ula Jean Metzler, commissioner.

"I think it speaks volumes about the citizens of this city and county," Metzler said. "People have donated everything from significant amounts of money to dog food to make this happen. It's a real tribute to the community."

Reeser and Metzler toured the facility with fellow commissioner Jay Wippel and Ryan Scribner, county administrator, while workers put finishing touches on the building.

The tour completed a day of business for the commissioners in which they met with Melissa Betz, county auditor; Nate Green, economic development director

from Pickaway Progress Partnership; and Lt. John Monce, Pickaway County Sheriff's department.

Betz noted the general fund ended slightly down for the month of January, but she said there was no cause for concern.

"Typically, January is a slow month to take in receipts," Betz said. "Also, we had three payrolls to make because of the way the calendar fell, and we had financial obligations to Human Services and Children's Services that we paid in full rather than pay them in installments."

Green spoke about the possibility of creating a Pickaway County Revolving Loan Fund, which could financially assist small businesses in the community.

"The program works with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and would make available low-interest loans to businesses to assist with projects, such as purchasing a building, renovating an existing building, or perhaps purchasing a piece of machinery," Green said. "We would finance perhaps 50 percent of a given project while the business would secure the remaining portion from other sources."