

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

The Good The Bad and The Ugly! Most days have a lot of ‘The Good’! Thank goodness!

As I write this article I am reviewing the past week and the challenges that the Northwoods Humane Society faces and my own challenges. The good news is that they are all doable. Some of my personal challenges would be much easier if I was computer savvy. When I am faced with doing something simple (according to friends) like posting on Facebook or sending out a mass e-mail – I freeze! However I approach it turns into a bigger challenge and frustration. I thank all of my friends and family who help me limp through life with the issue.

I am grateful for my friends at Advance Printing who put together our newsletters and fliers. But the thing I am most grateful for is that I can talk to them on the phone or stop in and deal with them in person.

Time is so valuable – once it is gone it is gone! I ordered a neon open sign for my business. I received a notice from the seller that it was shipped and then one that said it was delivered. I did not receive. I could not pick up the phone and solve it. I had to go on-line. Forty five minutes later, I was told that UPS had to respond. Back on-line I had to fill in more information and do more hoops and there is still no resolution.....Yikes. I know on-line is supposed to make life easier – but don’t tell me I can do it on-line. It makes me hostile. Yes, I know that you can go on-line for the Northwoods Humane Society and fill get our various forms and fill them out and it does make it easier for our staff and volunteers.

Then, I get an e-mail from a friend and NHS volunteer that reads “I hope this isn’t too early to ask for a favor....” I replied no – and let them know where I would be during the day. The favor she was asking was that I buy a \$200 Apple Gift Card at any convenience store. She said her high school friend had died and she wanted to help the family with some expenses. The funeral was on Saturday and she was not able to attend and she was currently out of town. In my mind, I questioned why an Apple Card and asked her via e-mail. She said it can be used for many things other than Apple products and services. I asked her to give me a call and I left that message on her husband’s phone too. I wrote that off to the fact that they were seeing doctors that day. I let her know I got the card and she asked that I open the card and give her the code which she was sending to the family. I did that. She then said that it went through and thanked me. She said she would reimburse me when they got back. My response was that I was glad I could help. This past Thursday we were in a meeting together regarding the NHS Thrift Shop and neither of us mentioned the gift card. That evening I remembered and thought it was strange as this woman is on top of things. I gave her a call. She had been hacked and myself and other family members had been scammed. ***** That amount of money would have covered spay for a NHS animal. The good news was that I was able to call my credit card company and talk to a ‘real’ person. The bad news is that the money is gone and I can go on line a file an incident report. Not going to happen.

I received an e-mail from AMAZON about protecting my Amazon account. This was their advice which is good for many other possible scams:

1. **Never feel pressured to give information (such as your credit card number or account password) over the phone, especially if the call was unexpected.** Scammers may try to use calls, texts, and emails to impersonate Amazon customer service. If you're ever unsure, it's safest to end the call/chat and reach out directly to customer support through the Amazon app or website.
2. **Never pay over the phone.** Amazon will never ask you to provide payment information, including gift cards (or "verification cards", as some scammers call them) for products or services over the phone.
3. **Trust Amazon-owned channels.** Always go through the Amazon mobile app or website when seeking customer support or when looking to make changes to your account.
4. **Be wary of false urgency.** Scammers may try to create a sense of urgency to persuade you to do what they're asking. Be wary any time someone tries to convince you that you must act now.

Now the good news. For those of you that saw the black dog with the blue collar running near the shelter, the dog is now safe and secured. The dog had escaped from its owner's car. The puppy that was found and brought to the shelter has been reunited with its family thanks to cooperative efforts of the Sawyer County Sherriff's department and Mark Peterson at the NHS Shelter. The deputies also brought us Teddy Bear Hamsters that were left at the City Works office.

Lisa Lew and Angie Larson are gearing up for the Purple Cat Van Free Spay and Neuter Clinic to be held at the NHS Shelter on June 4. This clinic is for owned, feral and shelter cats. To register call the shelter at 715-634-5394.

This coming Friday, May 27, is Dining For Cats And Dogs at Lynn's Custom Meats and Catering on Highway 63 N. This event is being sponsored by Northwoods Insurance Services (formerly Armstrong Insurance) located in Winter and on Highway 27 South in Hayward. Dave and Carolyn Ascher will be there doing their grilling magic.