

Northwoods Humane Society – Deanna Persson, President

I am so grateful to live in the north woods of Wisconsin.

I tend to be a news junkie and I absorb, as many of you do, the pain of others. As I sat looking at the lake today, with Chip and Lola, appreciating the ripples of the lake, the alizarin crimson color blending with the blues, greys and accents of green, the cooling breeze and the smell of grass and pines, I could not help but think of those in Afghanistan and the suffering and trauma that is so vividly illustrated by the news. I asked myself why? Why is it so hard to live with those that believe differently than you do? Why does violence have to be the solution to problems. How blessed I am to be sitting with my dogs.

Sometimes it does not take much to put a dark spot in the day – simple things – can't find my keys, spilled the coffee, missed an appointment, crabby service person But it doesn't take much to put a happy spot in the day – a smile, a kind gesture, a good joke, receiving great service. The following is about happy spots.

The opportunity to work with those that are caring and giving is a gift and it makes life more joyful.

When people follow thru and do their 'job' with a smile, makes life more joyful. This past weekend the Northwoods Humane Society Thrift Shop had 5 dead trees removed from our parking lot. The broken branches have been trying to target our volunteers and visitors cars. The company that took the trees down was Oak Ridge Tree Solutions, owner by Ryan Coshow. Ryan was such a delight to work with. He returned my call the same day, he met me in two days of the call to see the trees, he was knowledgeable and gave me a list of responsibilities (tree climbing not included) and told me what they would do. He gave me a quote as to the cost. He scheduled the job within three weeks of viewing the trees. He showed up at the designated time on Saturday with his crew and the job was done in 5 hours.

The wood was stacked the debris went through the chipper and the lot blown clean.

My responsibilities included blocking off the parking lot and the parking spaces on Dakota. To accomplish this task I contacted Hayward Chief of Police Joel Clapero, who let me know that they would assist as needed. I spoke with John McCue, Hayward's Public Works Director and shared with him what our needs were and he said 'no problem' – he would have cones and sawhorses at the parking lot the day before. They were in the lot as promised. The other part of my job was to make sure the cones and sawhorses were in place. I had to work on Friday at Art Beat, when I left at 6:30 to put them out, they were already in place thanks to Dick Langton and Barbara Hoeft – NHS volunteers.

All went smoothly – no trauma, no drama, just everyone doing that they did with a smile making life a little brighter. Thank you to all.

As I wrote last week the NHS/OCSA Dog Walk and Ice Cream social is coming up on Sunday, September 12 at noon at the NHS Shelter. You can register on-line at the [Northwoods Humane Society](http://NorthwoodsHumaneSociety.com) website or at the NHS Thrift shop on 3rd Street in Hayward or at Art Beat on 2nd Street.

I also wrote about Art For Animals On-Line which will be starting on October 5 and ending October 10 at 6 p.m. This is hosted by Kubarek Auction House. All auction items will be photographed and numbered, but they may also be view at Art Beat of Hayward on 2nd Street from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6. Art Beat will be closing on September 4th after 20 great years. We will return in a different format – working artists' studios – in November. So, we will be working there during the day and individuals can drop items off for the Art For Animals or give me a call at home – 715-634-4543.

This article feels emotional to me – when I fight letting the negativity in – I look around me and embrace those that I work with, dear friends, people who work in our community, those that care about the well-being of others, the compassion and knowledgeable staff at the NHS shelter, my son and my husband who fills the house with love. Life is good in the north woods.