

TH
11/3/09

Addition of third employee allows shelter to expand operating hours

Kendall Owens
LH Staff Writer

The Forrest City Animal Shelter, starting Wednesday, will now offer extended hours to those seeking to adopt animals and those who may not be able to visit the shelter during regular business hours.

Forrest City Animal Control Director Roy Hamilton this morning said the new hours are 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, and 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. The shelter will be closed on Sundays and on holidays observed by city employees.

Hamilton said the addition of a third animal control employee was essential to increasing the

hours of operation to benefit the public. "We've added a third employee, which will really help out. It will allow us to extend our hours through the week. It will also help us in our attempts to make sure that an employee is here during our normal operating hours, but there will still be times when all three of us may be out on different calls," said Hamilton. "The new hours will make the building more accessible to the public because our old hours made it difficult for someone who works during the day to come out."

Discussion of the extended hours was one of several points made during an August meeting between members of the city council and members of the Humane Society.

Councilman Chris Oswalt said this morning the extended hours should have a positive impact overall.

"Extending the hours was one of the things that we all agreed on when we met with the Humane Society in that first meeting. This will allow Humane Society members access to the building later in the evening on those days when the shelter is open until 8, and will also allow them Saturday access, but for me, this wasn't just about the Humane Society," said Oswalt.

"We have a lot of city facilities that really aren't public-access friendly. City hall closes at 4:30, and the shelter was closing at 4. That means that if you have a dog and it was missing, you

See HOURS on Page 2

HOURS

(Continued from Page 1)
really didn't have an opportunity to go out to the shelter to check and see if they had caught it," said Oswalt. "Now, the new hours will give people three days a week when they can go out to the shelter after they get off work whether it's to search for their own pet or to adopt a pet."

The Forrest City City Council will meet in regular session at 6 this evening, and councilmen are expected to discuss an animal control ordinance presented last month by councilman Glenn Shepherd.