



# Animal Chatter

Washington Area Humane Society **FALL 2007**

1527 Rt. 136 | Eighty Four, PA 15330 | 724-222-PETS | washingtonpashelter.org

**A No Kill Shelter Giving Pets A New Leash On Life Funded By Your Contributions**

## ★ Wish List ★

- **Dry Cat & Dog Food**
- **Frontline Plus**
- **Dry Kitten Food**
- Clay Cat Litter
- Bleach (*we use a lot*)
- Laundry Detergent
- Paper Towels
- Baby Food (*meat only*)
- Small Envelopes
- Postage Stamps
- 39 Gal. Garbage Bags
- HP15, 17, 78 cartridges

WANT TO HELP?

## Ask Your Vet



We always need various medications for cats and dogs who have chronic problems like diabetes or are ill. It is a necessary expense. Prescription medications, heartguard frontline and other meds beyond their expiration date still have significant efficacy for treating animals for a length of time. Please ask your vet to donate expired medications to our shelter. Ask to speak to our vet techs if you have a question about what the shelter needs the most.

## HOGS Fur DOGS Event a Big Success

by Pam Oliveri

Members of the Washington Harley Owners Group (H.O.G.) met at Steel City Harley-Davidson/Honda on Route 19S for the 5th Annual HOGS Fur Dogs ... & Cats Poker Run. Their mission: to raise money for the Washington Area Humane Society. Organizer Rick George has been an advocate for the shelter for many years and worked hard to make the event the big success that it turned out to be.

Registration began at 9 am where 135 riders were joined by WAHS volunteers and dogs from the shelter. BIG dogs were specifically requested to be at the event. Two of the volunteers, Candice and Chase Bentz, made root beer floats for everyone in honor of "Root Beer," a brindle mixed breed dog who has been a long time resident of the shelter.

Even "Peanuts," a Boston terrier, donned her leathers and goggles for the 85 mile ride.

Around 11am the dogs and volunteers lined the driveway to say "Thank you" as the riders revved their engines and departed under bright sunshine and blue skies. It was a



beautiful day for a ride along the scenic country roads of Washington county.

Later in the afternoon, all the motorcycles finished their trip at Jay's Sports Bar in Southpointe for refreshments and a fantastic Chinese auction arranged by Jackie Inks. WAHS volunteers took the dogs back to shelter and returned to Jay's to collect individual dona-



tions and to man a table of WAHS fundraising merchandise. A great time was had by all and more than \$2,000 was raised.

From all of us at WAHS, all of the wet noses and whiskers, a hearty THANK YOU for your hard work and generous donation to our shelter.



**101 Years of Wags & Whiskers**

**Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** • Arts and Crafts • Music  
**Washington Fairgrounds** • Food / Beverages • Demonstrations  
**Hours: 10 am to 6 pm** • Local Celebrities • Chinese Auction  
 • Specialty Vendors • Pet Friendly

## The Perils and Poisons to Pets by Jamie Ivanac

I've had pets my whole life. Growing up, my mom always told us never to give chocolate to the dogs – it's bad for them. She also warned us about the dangers of antifreeze and rat poisoning. I also knew that poinsettias can be dangerous to cats.

A few months ago, I was reading an article in a local newspaper that said grapes – grapes! – are harmful to dogs. And then it hit me. As much as I love animals, I really don't know much about the dangers that may be just lying around my house or in my garage.

I took my dog to the vet that weekend and picked up a pamphlet from the ASPCA – *101 Things You Didn't Know Could Harm Your Pet*. What's listed below is just a sampling of household items that are dangerous for your pets. For a comprehensive list, please ask your veterinarian or visit [aspc.org](http://aspc.org).

### Harmful Foods

- Avocados
- Chocolate
- Coffee
- Onions & onion powder
- Garlic
- Grapes
- Raisins
- Macadamia nuts
- Alcoholic beverages
- Moldy/spoiled foods
- Salt
- Fatty foods
- Gum, candies, or foods sweetened with xylitol
- Tea leaves
- Raw yeast dough

### 10 Most Common Poisonous Plants

- Marijuana
- Sago Palm
- Lilies
- Tulips/narcissus bulbs
- Azalea
- Rhododendron
- Oleander
- Castor Bean
- Cyclamen
- Kalanchoe
- Yew

### Household Items

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications (ibuprofen, aspirin, etc.)
- Acetaminophen
- Cold and flu medications
- Antidepressants
- Vitamins
- Home insect products
- Rat and mouse bait
- Bleach
- Diet pills
- Disinfectants
- Fabric softener
- Lead
- Lighter fluid
- Mothballs
- Anti-cancer drugs
- Solvents (paint thinners, etc.)
- Flea and tick products
- Drain cleaners
- Liquid potpourri
- Slug and snail bait
- Oven cleaner sprays
- Lime/scale remover
- Fly bait
- Detergents
- Tobacco products

### Outside Dangers

- Blue-green algae in ponds
- Antifreeze/coolant
- De-icing salts
- Compost (particularly if moldy)
- Gasoline
- Oil
- Pesticides
- Cocoa bean shell mulch fertilizer

If you think your pet has been exposed to a poisonous substance, contact your veterinarian immediately or call the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888.426.4435. If you witness your pet consuming material that you suspect might be toxic, do not hesitate to seek emergency assistance, even if you do not notice any adverse effects. Sometimes, even if poisoned, an animal may appear normal for several hours or for days after the incident.

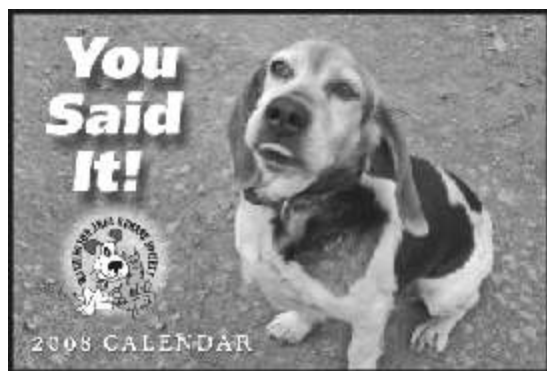
## Countdown to those Funny Calendars

The 2008 Washington Area Humane Society's "You Said It" Lottery Calendar will be available starting in September.

Each fun and funny photo featured is paired with the winning caption from a bevy of creative submissions entered online during our photo caption contest. These large, full-

color calendars showcase dogs and cats who have spent a portion of their lives at our shelter waiting for their "forever homes."

Orders will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. So don't wait too long to pick up your winning number. Call Barb at 724-229-0404. Total payouts \$15,000!





## Getting to Know You

*How to introduce a cat or dog to your pet family*

Many people love their canines and felines so much that they want to get their pet a playmate. This can be a smooth transition with just a little prep work to insure success. High energy, intelligent dogs are easily stimulated and do best in calm households. They thrive on obedience and agility work, but another compatible dog or cat may be what this dog needs, especially during isolated times of the day when the adults are at work and kids are at school. Cats on the other hand are comfortable when left alone and they rarely display separation anxiety or tear up homes like isolated dogs can.

Domestic animals need human attention and affection. The more time spent with them or even near them (when cooking or watching TV) will ease anxieties and create the necessary bonding. A dog banished to a dark, lonely garage or chained outside to stare at an empty yard is bound to be upset,

anxious, scared or lonely. Prolonged time alone will cause some pets to become depressed or barking nuisances.

Common sense will define some introductions. For instance, it would not be wise to bring in a Great Dane puppy and let him take over the house where a 15-year-old Chihuahua has ruled since she was a pup herself. Introductions of any kind should take place slowly and gently, not forced. It is not advisable to adopt pets around hectic holidays like Thanksgiving. Be fair to the animals and allow plenty of time for their needs.

One of the best ways to introduce a new dog to the resident canine is on neutral ground and in a controlled environment such as a pet store, in the park or during a walk. Arrange to have a friend leash walk the "new dog" while you casually walk yours. Allow the canines to introduce themselves, do a little sniffing to

determine the compatibility and let them play in an enclosed area to judge whether the two will make good companions in your home.

Many toys and larger breeds share homes in harmony, but if tensions develop (new baby in home), or health status (old age) within the "pack" changes, fights may occur. The smaller dog needs to be protected in the long run. A toy dog can easily be overcome by larger dogs.

Introducing a dog to a cat should be done carefully because dogs may view the feline as "prey" if the cat decides to run. Dogs typically give chase to animals that run. Even a medium sized dog can fracture the skull of a cat or shake them to death. If you are not sure if your new dog will accept the cat in your home, first try to acclimate the dog to odors of the cat. Brush the cat and let the dog sniff the brush. Use cat bedding or the cat's collar for the initial introduction.

The dog will most likely be interested in the new smells, and in a few days you can bring in the cat in an enclosed carrier and let the dog investigate. If the dog shows intense anxiety, drools and pants, lunges, barks aggressively or seems highly agitated they will likely not be good candidates in the same room together. It is

safer to err on the side of caution and keep the cat in a different room of your house.

If the dog seems comfortable with the cat inside the carrier, the next step is to place the dog on a leash and let the cat out of the carrier to judge how the dog reacts. Make sure that the cat has a safe perch to flee from the dog if necessary. Dogs like to play and even if the two are good companions, the cat may need time out from the dog and a special place that the dog cannot reach is usually sufficient for this purpose. Carpeted cat posts, cardboard boxes with rugs or pillows inside, wall mounted shelves and even bookcases are cozy places for cats to cuddle up.

When introducing a second cat to a household, it is best to keep the newcomer behind a closed door in a second bedroom or den for at least a week. Family members should spend time in that room playing and bonding with the newcomer. *The time spent in preparation will have long term results, so don't discount its benefits.*

Before introducing the cats to one another, introduce their play things—brushes or scratch poles. Rotate toys and bedding between them. Place some of the

*Continued on page 8*



# Making Time (and Space) For A Big Girl

by Linda Campbell

A guiding hand IS at work. And, sometimes the speed is astonishing. One Friday morning while I was at the shelter, members of this nice family came into WAHS, in tears. They said that their father, a disabled Veteran, and the sole provider had lost his job. They consequently lost their home and had to move immediately. All they could find was one room in a building in Uniontown. They were demoralized that they could not take their dog Jackie with them who had lived with them her entire life of 4 years. Though housebroken and completely socialized, the enormous Newfoundland mix was not allowed in the new accommodations. To comfort the wife, I showed her the play pens, pool, walking trail, and assured her that this was a no-kill shelter where Jackie would be cared for until adopted.

But, you have to know how fabulous Jackie was! Sweet, calm, trained, healthy, loving, liked all animals and people, oh... and yes, she was HUGE. Which is why I was worried. Experienced volunteers know that it usually takes black dogs longer to be adopted. It also takes big dogs longer to be adopted. So, there it was: right off the bat, two strikes against Jackie, a model girl. So anxious to get her to a



deserving home, I imposed upon friends and family with photos of Jackie and implored them to "Please, please help, by forwarding the information about Jackie along. I promised her family I would call them when she was adopted."

Early Monday morning, before the shelter opened, I took Jackie for a long stroll. It was already over 70 degrees with predictions for above 90, which seemed like a mandate to fill up the pool and let her cool off. What a sight! Jackie occupied the whole pool. You would have laughed to see this immense lovable girl sink herself into the water until only the tips of her nose, tongue and ears peeked out. Even her cheeks were submerged.

That same afternoon Hope would arrive. A woman who had lost her 15 year-old lab mix more than a year ago, had decided that it was time to look for a little dog to adopt. "No more big dogs", she admonished her family. She saw Jackie

first, but determined to stick to her decision, she moved on to find "A Little Dog." Yet, the chemistry just was not right. As she was leaving, passing by that end kennel one last time, she said the eye contact with Jackie was amazing. So, she took Jackie for a walk, and in her words, "fell in love." Her family discussed it and the next day Jackie was adopted.

Now their nine-year-old has a constant companion. The foster kitten got "a

nanny" who seeks help when the kitten cries. If encouraged to, "Go find Mom!" Jackie runs and finds her wherever she is. They have a big yard, and Dad works across the street. So Jackie is rarely alone. And, here's a sign that all is going to be "good stuff" – Jackie's original Mom and her new Mom, both of them have the same name ... Joyce. Funny, how things work out. Despite all of our machinations – just at the right time.

## What Happened to Toby?

Little 8-month old Toby, now a whopping 60 lbs., is the wobbly German shepherd pup who touched the hearts of so many people due to a genetic defect affecting his hip sockets. The adorable dog who

arrived at WAHS at two months old was too young to be considered for surgery. He needed to grow and was awaiting surgical evaluation in his foster home for many months.

OSU where this type of hip surgery was pioneered recently evaluated Toby and unfortunately did not deem the dog a candidate for the double hip replacement that had been the magic bullet hoped for.



Toby will not be a candidate for hip replacement surgery because of the nature of his hip bone formation. His recent limp which indicated a worsening of his condition will hopefully diminish as his growth causes his bones to re-stabilize.

Toby will be treated with pain medications for his lifetime to ease any discomfort or pain; the types and dosages will be adjusted over time. Toby's blood will be monitored to make sure that the medications are not negatively impacting his other organs.

But right now, Toby's world is a happy one with a family who loves him and will make sure he is taken care of for life.

## Every Step is a Big Help

Derek Jobes (upper right) chose the Humane Society as his charitable project to earn Eagle Scout status. He planned, organized and built a staircase that bridged the gap between the asphalt driveway and the front door of the Falconi building where many shelter dogs are housed. Derek, along with several helpers completed the wide job in just a single weekend day with flawless results ... wide stairs, dual handrails and non-slip treads that improves the ease of access to the building

significantly for staff, volunteers and yes ...the dogs too. WAHS has been the grateful recipient of many a magnanimous eagle scout and Derek is no exception.



## Happier Dogs and Volunteers Thanks To New Kennels for Falconi Building

Thanks to board member Susan McIntyre and her husband Archie, four heavy-duty kennels (one of the rear kennels is visible in the photo above) now span two sides of the ever-improving Falconi Building. This facility behind the main shelter houses dogs who are not yet available for adoption due to illness, injury and sometimes litigation. Without these kennels, many trips, often treacherous in the winter to the upper play kennels with each dog had to be made to provide some exercise and to clean their kennels. Now they can feel the sun and run around just outside the door. The McIntyres dedicated the kennels to their recently departed cat, Whitey. A plaque will read *In memory of Whitey and all the pets that have touched our lives.*

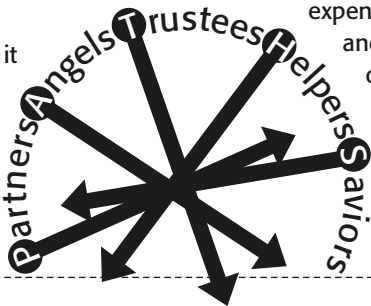
## Join P.A.T.H.S.—The Easiest Way to Help Our Budget

The P.A.T.H.S. program was developed as a way to maintain funding throughout the year.

We ask dedicated animal lovers to take it upon themselves to assure that the basic needs of the shelter (utilities, cleaning products, insurance, medicine, etc.) are able to be funded monthly, especially during slow periods when donation funds are scarce.

This kind of steady monthly income for routine expenses allows us to make necessary changes and badly needed repairs with money from our other fundraisers.

You can help just by putting your monthly pledge check of as little as \$5.00 in the pre-paid envelope we provide to you every month, and mailing it back to us.



I, \_\_\_\_\_, would like to pledge to send \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month to the Washington Area Humane Society's **P.A.T.H.s.** Program. My first envelope will be mailed to me the last week of the month in which I enroll. I will mail it back as soon as possible. If at any time, I would like to stop my tax deductible donation, I will contact the Washington Area Humane Society at 724-229-0404.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I will put a stamp on my return "Pledge" envelope to save the mailing cost.

# Sadly, Cruelty Exists the World Over

by Diane Bandy

While visiting Barbados., my husband and I were driving around the Island taking in many typical foreign sights, but one haunts me.

Several native Bajan (barbados) boys younger than age 11 were in their front yard right off the road in clear view. One boy held his pit mix dog between his legs and there was a small trap cage nearby.

We stopped the car and I got out with my camera in tow. I had a feeling that something wasn't right and I soon realized what was going on.

A small animal had been trapped and some of the boys were pushing him with a stick out of the cage, towards the dog. The little animal was very hesitant as the dog stared at him just a few feet away. The little guy finally escaped and the boys sicced the dog on him. He didn't seem to run fast as if he had given up.

Being in a foreign country with many people around, I chose not to get any closer, not knowing the dog's temperament, nor how he would act when he saw the animal escape. It all happened so fast. I knew that documentation was the only thing that I could do without risking my life.

The dog reluctantly grabbed what turned out to be a mongoose and didn't really know what to do. The boys said "GET 'UM"

over and over and the poor thing squealed in pain and fear. I was snapping photos as fast as I can (I alerted PETA when I returned home) and finally the dog began shaking the mongoose.



Once he died, the action slowed down. It appeared to me that the dog had no desire to participate. He did this to please the egging boys.

Several local women were walking by and one said to the boys "you found a mongoose, did ya?" in a casual way, smiling. Then I asked the boys why they did it, but I got no answer. Instead, one of the ladies said; "They do it to keep the dog smart."

I said to everyone that the animal suffered and squealed ... The lady said "No, it didn't suffer, it was quick." I asked her if they ate mongoose or if the dog ate it. She said no. The mongoose was just bait in a training event for

an unwilling canine.

I left before anybody felt threatened by my photography, but this mongoose lost his life for nothing but a one minute bullying game by young boys who thought that

was also a victim, prodded and encouraged to kill for the sake of killing.

My witness to this cruel act will haunt me, but I did not leave before giving the boys and the women something to think about. It was also educational for me.

The worst thing about traveling is seeing animals in peril, tortured and treated inhumanely. I have seen neglect all over the world, but nothing so openly pathetic, senseless, and graphic as this event.

It is crucial to reach all children and instill in them the value of life, not just for their own species. All the work in the world at our shelters just isn't enough unless every generation learns the message of compassion and respect for animals.

toughening up their dog was the cool thing to do.

After all is said and done, I realized that the dog

## Little Lacy is Safe at Last

Landing at the Humane Society may be the highlight of Lacy's short life. The 6-month old pup was beaten by her owner and a neighbor who witnessed it and called our Humane Officer may have saved her life. Suffering a broken leg, that required emergency surgery, x-rays also



revealed previous healed fractures. Though he escaped on his motorcycle when police showed up that day, Lacy's owner was located, arrested, charged and found

guilty of animal cruelty. He was sentenced to the maximum penalty of \$750.00 and 90 days in jail.

As the rambunctious pup convalesces, she is filled with all the affection and energy of any pup her age. She can't wait to be part of a normal family where she can get daily walks and give kisses without fear.





Imagine if every time you logged on to look up something, like why Labrador Retrievers love to chew, you earned money for charity. With each search launched at goodsearch.com, about a penny goes to the charity of your choice. Select the Washington Area Humane Society from the database. It's as simple as that. Tell all your friends, and tell your friends to tell their friends. If 1,000 people supporting the same charity search twice a day for a year, the charity earns \$7,300!

Make sure you choose the Washington Area Humane Society. Even better, add this site to your list of favorites and it will always be there when you are in search of something.

Here are a few of the success stories:

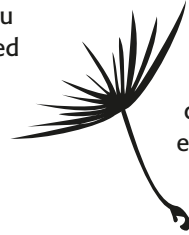
- The ASPCA has earned \$4,600
- The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has earned \$4,500
- The Elephant Sanctuary has earned \$4,200
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital has earned \$2,700
- Save Darfur Coalition has earned \$3,000
- The Veterans of Foreign Wars has earned \$1,500

## Donate Without Leaving Your Chair

The Washington Area Humane Society is a qualifying charity on igitve.com. As such it will receive percentages of all sales when purchased through the igitve.com website. So many of the biggest name retailers participate in this charitable venture that you hardly need to look elsewhere to buy what you were looking for – Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Home Depot,

Old Navy, Petco, Sharper Image, Target – The list is so long ... before you shop, check and see if your store is listed. Chances are what you would have purchased directly from the retailer's site can be purchased through igitve.com and the

shelter will receive a portion as a donation. For specific donation percentages, see the entire list of stores from A to Z And don't get out of the chair. Give the easy way, through igitve.com.



# igitve.com®

Change online shopping for good.

## La Boheme Owner Will Donate 15%

Lucy King is owner of La Boheme, a unique store located in Mt. Lebanon that has glass gifts (all periods), decorative glass, crystals, and jewelry.

Lucy has carried our gift wrap and will soon add a POCO bank in her store to collect money for WAHS. Lucy's husband John has been a dog walker for other local shelters for years.

La Boheme will donate 15% of all sales for the period of November 1st through November 17th, 2007 to WAHS (sale items not included). La Boheme is located at 668 Washington Road, Mt. Lebanon, 15228. Call 412-561-3717 or toll free at 1-877-892-8900 for store hours. Website: crystal-bohemian.com.

## Muchas Gracias for Mulch And those Helping Hands

Sometimes, help comes in large doses. Such was the case in July, when 31 teenagers descended on the Humane Society to do whatever the shelter staff needed to be done. Under the direction of Kerry Mindach, the Youth Minister of St Anne's and St Thomas More Churches and Mary Grace Bloom, the kennel manager at WAHS, these young helpers cut the grass, weeded the gardens, and spread mulch in all the exercise pens and trails at the shelter. Twenty-eight yards of mulch was donated for this project by Lynch Landscaping in Venetia. Just a week before, another truckload of mulch was generously donated by Steve Kashmer of Valley Electric.

In addition to all the hard work in the summer heat, every dog in the shelter was taken for a long walk. Many thanks to this group, who call themselves the "Summer Service Charge.". There are over 60 participants in the Summer Service Charge from these two churches in the South Hills Area. They spent time in Appalachia over the summer and have participated in over 20 local projects, which included helping the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank, World Vision, and Family House. We are very grateful that WAHS was chosen as one of their projects and the shelter looks a great deal better for their efforts.

(Continued from page 3)

new cat's bedding close to the resident cat's food dish. Whenever he eats, he will smell the newbie.

At first, only bring the cats together for a few minutes. Give them a reason to like each other by using some heavy artillery (bait) like salmon or tuna as rewards for them being in the presence of each other. Most animals are food driven.

Provide this special treat only when the cats are together. When they return to their separate corners, the special treat goes away. Be sure to provide lots of vertical space, so that they have room to get away from one another should they need to.

Animals who do not like each other will probably not ever like each other. A fleeing cat and a chasing dog may wreck your home and your sanity. Cats do very well in small rooms with windows, fresh litter, toys and background music, so don't make the mistake of thinking that your cat needs to freely roam the house in order to be happy. Cats (and dogs) need permanent homes most of all.

*Article by Diane Bandy*

## We Need You

It's true. WAHS has no paid person on staff who is responsible for fundraising, marketing, scheduling events or for all important public relations. The majority of those services are handled by a paucity of volunteers, who give what time they can to the shelter. The dogs are not even walked daily unless volunteer walkers show up and take them out. With increased demand on WAHS to attend events and visit schools and community centers, we need dedicated long-term volunteers. For most people, helping these animals is the most rewarding time ever spent. If you can help, please volunteer today.

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EIGHTY FOUR, PA  
PERMIT # 4

Washington Area Humane Society  
P.O. Box 66  
Eighty Four, PA 15330

## Cats Who Deserve Real Loving Homes



**Gabbie**

My owner said she could no longer afford to take care of me. My skin condition was treated, and my beautiful fur is growing back. I need one kind of food, unscented litter and flea medicine in the warm months. But that's just basic care. I try to touch anyone who walks by. I'm desperate for attention and love. Just look into my big sad green eyes.



**Simba**

In February a wonderful family adopted me. But my new Mom developed some health problems and could not care for me. She was devastated to return me to the Humane Society, but she knew I would get good care until I found a new home. I like children and get along with other pets. I am a very loving lap cat; well-behaved and very affectionate.



**JazzPurr**

I am a small Burmese mix, a little over 2 years old. I've been in a foster home for a year and would love to have a real home. I need to be the only pet 'cause I chase and pounce on cats and dogs. But I am very gentle with people. I love to play with toys and will keep your house bug-free. I live between my foster mom's basement and the local PETsMART.

## Phones to Funds



Donate old cell phones at WAHS; another way to raise funds for WAHS and recycle, too.