

## DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Welcome to the latest edition of the *Paw Print Post*. Inside you will find stories and updates from the Humane Society of Harford County from the last 12 months. Thank you for supporting the animals!



Mary A. Leavens  
Executive Director

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## HAVE BEAGLE, WILL TRAVEL

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

How far would you go to get your beloved dog back if he disappeared? Would you drive an hour? Across state lines? How about 3 states away? One family in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee discovered just how far their beagle, Charlie, went when he disappeared from their home last summer.

It was an ordinary day at HSHC when a husband and wife (let's call them Family X) came to the shelter to surrender a beagle they had found as a stray, wandering the

streets of Harford County. Our staff named this little guy Garfunkel and put him up for adoption after his stray hold was up. Garfunkel was at the shelter a week or two before we got quite a surprise!

A neighbor of Family X came to the shelter as a Good Samaritan and told us that the story we were given by Family X was not true. This individual felt it was his duty to tell us the truth, and the real story would take us – and Garfunkel – on quite an interesting jour-

ney!

The truth was, Family X was vacationing in Tennessee and were (see *Garfunkel*, p. 11)



*Garfunkel, the day he came into the shelter.*

## OUR NEW WEBSITE

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

Have you taken a look at the Humane Society of Harford County's web site recently? Our web site address is still the same at

[www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org), but the whole look and feel of the site is greatly improved. After nearly a year of planning, writing and rewriting text, and

design work, we launched our newly designed web site on December 22, 2010.

The new site has been designed to be highly functional and interactive with simple navigation allowing users to quickly find the information they are looking for. A large **DONATE NOW** button is at the very top of the home page and that has proven to be a great improvement (see *New Website*, p. 6)



## NEW SHELTER BECOMING A REALITY

By David Fang, President, HSHC Board of Directors

You have probably been hearing the whisperings and the rumors for years, but in 2011 the rumors will start to become a reality! Work will soon begin on a design for a new shelter facility here at HSHC. The Harford County Executive and Harford County Council have agreed to provide funding for the design of our new shelter, and it is expected that funding for the construction will be forthcoming in the near future.

According to County

Executive David Craig, "The Humane Society of Harford County is a critical partner in helping the county manage our stray and abandoned pet population. It seems only right that Harford County has a proper home from which to serve abused, stray and abandoned pets. As a civilized society, we have a moral contract and an obligation to provide humane care for these animals. A new shelter will help the Humane Society better achieve that goal."

The new building will be built on our site and will be utilizing some of the latest techniques in modern shelter design. We are very excited about this development and will be posting updates on our new website as they become available.

Look on Facebook for future announcements about how things are shaping up, improvements planned for the building and Rebel's Dog Park, and naming opportunities for contributions to the new facility. 🐾



## BECOME A FAN!

The Humane Society of Harford County is on Facebook! Facebook is an online social networking site used by millions worldwide to keep in touch and learn what's new. Now you can be a fan of HSHC online and keep up with our activities, receive special announcements, and get event updates through your Facebook page. To link to HSHC's page from your Facebook page, just search "Humane Society of Harford County" and click on "Become a Fan". Or go directly to [www.facebook.com/humanesocietyharfordcounty](http://www.facebook.com/humanesocietyharfordcounty).

## DOZENS COMPETE TO MAKE THEIR PET A PIN-UP

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

What do a dog in a tutu, a goat who can ride a horse, and a cat in a Christmas tree have in common? Sound like a silly joke? Not exactly. These were all photo entries we received for our first ever "Make Your Pet a Pin-Up" 2011 Calendar Contest!

This past summer the Humane Society of Harford County held a contest to find a cover model for its 2011 pet calendar. The pet that

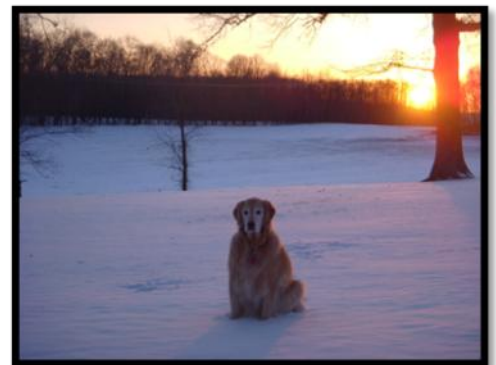
received the most votes in this contest became our calendar cover star. The animals who received the twelve next highest votes each became monthly calendar pet stars. We received over 80 adorable entries and friends and family were encouraged to keep submitting votes to keep their favorites on top. This fundraising initiative raised more than \$8,000 – and was FUN!

We wish to thank

everyone that contributed a pet photo and everyone who voted. The real winners, of course, are the animals in our care. Contest proceeds will allow the Humane Society of Harford County to provide medical care, shelter, food and love to the animals.

The winners of our 2011 "Make Your Pet a Pin-Up" Calendar Contest are:

🐾 Cover Pet: Molson, submitted by Scott & Becky Robinson



*The winner of our contest, Molson, graces the cover of the 2011 calendar.*

- 🐾 January: Sassy, submitted by Thelma Trimble
- 🐾 February: Sparkle & Trinity, submitted by Tom & Carrie Kusza
- 🐾 March: Daisy, submitted by Katie McCarthy (see Calendars, p. 4)

## LOVE IS BLIND: THE MAGIC OF TABBY

By David Truitt, HSHC Adoptions Department

In October of 2003, I had just started my work in the HSHC Adoptions Department. It seems like such a long time ago. In the seven years that have passed, approximately 35,000 animals have passed through the doors of our shelter. Most of them, I do not remember. They become a blur. The images of the various dogs and cats, rabbits, etc. merge and become nearly indistinguishable from one another. Such is life in a high volume shelter.

But occasionally there are animals who stand out – animals who touch you so deeply that you could never possibly forget them or their stories. Tabby was one such animal.

Tabby was one of the

many stray dogs who arrived at HSHC in October of 2003. She was an ancient cocker spaniel, 14 years old by our estimates. What's more, she was both blind and deaf. Tabby's chances at adoption seemed remote at best. After all, we don't often get prospective adopters who come in asking, "Can you show me all of your really old

**"Tabby began to somehow telegraph Gary's seizures before they occurred"**

dogs who are also blind and deaf?".

We had all resigned ourselves to the notion that Tabby would live out the rest of her life at the shelter's Administrative Building. She would

be safe there. And during the day at least, there were plenty of people around to fuss over her and treat her like a little queen. Not a bad life for an elderly dog...but it wasn't a real home either.

One day a woman named Loretta Meszaros came to the shelter. Her son, Gary, had seen Tabby's picture and profile on the HSHC website. The Meszaros family was interested in meeting her! It was the only inquiry we ever received about Tabby. What could a young child possibly see in a 14-year-old dog who was both blind and deaf? Most young boys would want a puppy, a dog who could grow with him and run through grassy fields on summer



days. Tabby would never be able to do that. But, as they say: "...love is blind." After meeting her, the Meszaros family, and in particular, Gary, decided she was the right dog for their home. They adopted Tabby!

If Tabby's story had simply ended with her successful adoption, it would still be something very special indeed. But it was what happened after her adoption that some might label as "magical" or perhaps even miraculous.

Gary suffered from (see *Tabby*, p. 15)

## Thank you local Girl Scout troops!



*Girl Scout Troop #313 donates handmade blankets.*



*Brownie Troop #585 made a children's activity cart for our lobby with books and games.*



## Calendars (continued from p. 2)

- & Jason Davis
- ♣ April: Troy, submitted by Margo DeVoe
  - ♣ May: Phoebe, submitted by Erin Jacobson
  - ♣ June: Eli, submitted by Erin Jacobson
  - ♣ July: Linus, submitted by Erin Jacobson
  - ♣ August: Rex, submitted by The Hubbard Family
  - ♣ September: Tony & Flip-Flop submitted by April Fritz
  - ♣ October: Riley, submitted by Melissa & Phillip Harmon
  - ♣ November: Harley & Molson, submitted by Scott & Becky Robinson
  - ♣ December: Bella, submitted by Gary & Michelle DiGiovanni
- 2011 calendars are still for sale! They are now \$10 each and make excellent gifts for the pet lovers in your life. Look for the contest for our 2012 pet calendar that will begin in late summer. Get all those silly/cute/hilarious pet photos ready! ♣

## THE STORY OF BAXTER

*The following was written by Maya Feick, a 7-year-old who volunteers with her father, David*

When we went to the Humane Society, it was hard to choose an animal. Finally we chose the perfect dog, his name was **BAXTER**! He was absolutely the perfect dog there! I told dad and he said, "sure, you can get him" he said excitedly. Once we bought him, we took him home! Baxter's first day home wasn't too good. He was SICK. A month later, he was feeling better. He got a chance to play in the snow for once. Baxter has been great to our family and others too. Baxter is everything to my life! I love Baxter more than anything on this planet and other ones too.



Dr. Claire McNeelky



Dr. Robert Silcox



Dr. Joseph Mullen



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## ADOPTION EVENTS UNITE PETS WITH FOREVER FAMILIES

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

Why put off until tomorrow what you can do today" is our motto when it comes to adoption. If a family is planning to adopt their new family member, no time is better than now. That's why we stay busy most weekends taking the animals to fairs, festivals, open houses and businesses where they will be seen by lots of people in hopes of finding the right home for them.

Our volunteers are heavily involved with transporting the animals to and from the events,

talking to visitors and handing out literature, educating the public, taking donations, selling HSHC merchandise and finding forever homes for the animals.

Thank you to all the businesses and organizations that invited HSHC to set up a table and bring a few adoptable animals to showcase in 2010:

- 🐾 Anita Leight Estuary Center
- 🐾 The Arena Club
- 🐾 Bark for Life Run
- 🐾 The Barn Crab House
- 🐾 Baron's K-9 Country Store
- 🐾 Bel Air Athletic Club
- 🐾 Bel Air Christmas Parade
- 🐾 Bel Air Farmer's Market
- 🐾 Darlington Apple Festival
- 🐾 Gold's Gym

- of Bel Air
- 🐾 Havre de Grace Decoy Festival
- 🐾 Hellbound Customs Car Show at Ripken Stadium
- 🐾 Hickory Pet Supply
- 🐾 Ironbirds Game at Ripken Stadium
- 🐾 Kroh's Nursery
- 🐾 Macy's of White Marsh
- 🐾 The Mill of Bel Air
- 🐾 Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club at PetSmart Abingdon
- 🐾 PetCo Bel Air
- 🐾 PetSmart Bel Air
- 🐾 PetSmart Dundalk
- 🐾 PetSmart White Marsh
- 🐾 TD Bank
- 🐾 Weis Abingdon
- 🐾 Weis Bel Air
- 🐾 White Marsh Mall

Watch our calendar of events at [www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org) for upcoming off-sites in 2011! 🐾



## New Website *(continued from p. 1)*

based on the number of donations we have received since the web site went live. We desperately need the financial support of the community and this improvement makes it easier. We have received more online donations since December 22 than we received in the whole year prior. Unfortunately, the *DONATE NOW* area was not easily visible on the previous site and therefore was not used very much.

If you are looking for a new pet, the center of the home page allows you to choose dog, cat,

small animal or barnyard animal. When you click on the type of animal you are interested in, our whole inventory of that type of animal comes up. When you select a specific animal, it gives you detailed information on the animal including date of intake, name, age, color, breed, gender and the adoption fee along with a narrative description. We decided to provide as much information about the animal to potential adopters as we could in hopes of increasing our adoptions.

The home page is

filled with just about everything an interested user needs. There are links to news and events, our newsletter, wish list, and applications for volunteers, pet adoptions and foster care. Lost and found information is also easily accessible from the home page.

Perhaps one of the greatest features of our new site is the ability for our staff to easily update information. Previously, our staff did not have the ability to update, so the information quickly became outdated and irrelevant. Now, look forward to a current,

fresh web site. The improvements and content on our web site are just too numerous to mention. Please take a moment and visit our site at [www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org).

The web site design was provided by Sequel Design Associates, Inc. located in Forest Hill. The team at Sequel was extremely professional and incredibly helpful and patient. It was a pleasure to work with such a great organization and we couldn't be more pleased with our new web site. 🐾

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: Gump Receives Special Award

The Humane Society of Harford County's Roxanne Gump received an Award of Merit for Community Service from the Harford County Commission on Disabilities at their Annual Awards Luncheon on October 21st at the Maryland Golf & Country Club.

Gump, who is HSHC's Adoptions Administrative Assistant, was nominated by the Abilities Network for her work coaching a volunteer

with special needs. While this volunteer was going through a difficult time in her life, Gump was able to see her through the challenges and make a positive impact on her attitude.

The luncheon's main purpose is to "celebrate the accomplishments and achievements of people with disabilities who overcome obsta-

cles in their pursuit of excellence," according to Committee Co-Chair Niki Biggs. "Their accomplishments are especially significant as we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the

Americans with Disabilities Act this year," she added.

"The Commission also uses the event to recognize contributions made by employers, families, friends and organizations to change attitudes about employees with disabilities in the workforce," Biggs said. This year's theme, announced by the U.S. Department of Labor, is "Talent had no boundaries: workforce diversity includes workers with disabilities."

Congratulations, Roxanne!





## THE MARYLAND FOOD BANK PROVIDES FOR PETS TOO

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

**D**o you ever wonder what happens to pets whose owners have fallen on hard times? What about senior citizens on fixed incomes who sometimes have to choose between affording medication or providing their faithful companion with a meal? The Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC) is proud to offer a year-round Emergency Pet Food Pantry, stocked in large part by donations from our friend and partner, the Maryland Food Bank.

Before HSHC partnered with the Maryland Food Bank, numerous families were forced to make the difficult decision to surrender their

beloved pets to the shelter because they could no longer afford their food. Now, we can help them with a few bags of food so the pet can stay in its home. Every family is so thankful for whatever we can give them.

Every 7 to 14 days George "Butch" Langenfelder, the Maryland Food Bank's Food Sourcing Manager, delivers a pick-up truck-load of donations to HSHC. Langenfelder estimates that he delivers between 15,000 and 18,000 pounds of food each year to the shelter.

"The shelter also uses a lot of the donations," said Blaine Lang, Shelter Manager for HSHC. "Dog treats are distrib-

uted to our volunteers who use them to train the sheltered dogs and the majority of the kitty litter we receive is used right here at the shelter."

Because HSHC is part of Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.'s Shelter Nutrition Partnership Program, the shelter animals are fed a standardized, exclusive diet of Hill's Science Diet pet foods. Through this program, Hill's supplies HSHC with unlimited amounts of its Hill's Science Diet pet foods and only charges



*The Maryland Food Bank's George "Butch" Langenfelder delivers supplies to stock HSHC's food pantry.*

HSHC for shipping costs.

Precisely balanced nutrition can make a dramatic difference for cats and dogs waiting to be adopted. Because the animals receive one brand of food, not only do they receive superior (see *Food Bank*, p. 12)



*Heather Blackwell's students at Meadowvale Elementary held a donation drive in December.*

[www.festivalvet.com](http://www.festivalvet.com)

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## BOW WOW BOOGIE 2010: A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

Our annual Bow Wow Boogie Bull and Oyster Roast was held at the Richlin Ballroom on Friday, May 7, 2010. More than 400 party-goers attended the sold-out event. The evening was filled with exceptional food, lucky Big 6 wheel play, exciting live and silent auctions with more than 100 items to bid on, a raffle for a gigantic basket of cheer and lots of fun and dancing. Net proceeds from the event totaled \$27,500 – all to directly support the care of the homeless and neglected animals of Harford County.

Thank you to our generous sponsors of the event: Animal Emergency Hospital – *You're My Hero Event Sponsor*; Churchville, Greenbrier

and Swan Creek Veterinary Clinics, Freedom Federal Credit Union, Harford County Government, Harford Emergency & Referral Veterinary Services and Hickory Veterinary Hospital – *Guardian Sponsors*; Baron's K-9 Country Store, Festival Veterinary Clinic and Charles R. Wellington, PA – *Best Friend Sponsors*; APG Federal Credit Union, Comprehensive Nursing Services, Slavia Federal Savings Bank, Ed and Lucie Snodgrass and Weyrich, Cronin and Sorra – *Companion Sponsors*; Klein's ShopRite – *Buddy Sponsor*; and WXCX 103.7 FM – *Media Sponsor*.

Thanks also go out to the hundreds of businesses and individuals that donated items and

services for our live and silent auctions and raffle.

Be sure to **SAVE THE DATE** for this year's Bow Wow Boogie that will be held on **Friday, May 6**. Reserve your tickets now by calling 410-836-1090 x101. We would like to make this year's Silent and Live Auction the best yet so please donate items, gift cards, stays at your vacation home, bottles of wine, movie passes, theater tickets, pet items, etc. to us to help us achieve our goal of raising \$30,000 at the event. 🐾



### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



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# Bow Wow Boogie

**Friday, May 6, 2011**

**7:30-11:30pm**

**Richlin Ballroom**

**1700 Van Bibber Road, Edgewood, MD**

**Featuring...**

- ♦ **"Bull & oyster roast" buffet and dessert bar**
- ♦ **Draft beer, wine & sodas included**
- ♦ **Big 6 Wheel, Raffles**
- ♦ **Live & Silent Auctions**
- ♦ **DJ and Dancing**

**For tickets and sponsorship information:**

**CALL Mary Leavens at 410-836-1090, x101 or**

**EMAIL [mleavens@harfordshelter.org](mailto:mleavens@harfordshelter.org)**

**TICKETS are \$45 per person or \$400 for a table of 10**

**Must be over 21 to attend**

**[www.harfordshelter.org/bowwowboogie](http://www.harfordshelter.org/bowwowboogie)**

**Proceeds benefit the homeless and abused animals of Harford County**



**Please return with payment to HSHC, Bow Wow Boogie, 2208 Connolly Rd, Fallston, MD 21047**

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

***I would like to purchase:*** \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$45 each    OR    \_\_\_\_\_ Table(s) of 10 @ \$400 each

Payment Method: ☐ Check (Payable to HSHC)    ☐ Credit Card (MasterCard or Visa)

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Mary Leavens

**410-836-1090, ext.101 or [mleavens@harfordshelter.org](mailto:mleavens@harfordshelter.org) or visit our website at [www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org)**

## EAGLE SCOUTS IMPROVE DOG AGILITY YARD

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach



*Above: Garrett Anthony built a new toy box for the dogs. Below: Andrew Gard with a new seesaw.*



The weekend of October 9 and 10, 2010 brought two candidates working on earning their Eagle Scout rank to the Humane Society of Harford County to complete two different projects. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America and it is held for life. Requirements to earn it include earning at least 21 merit badges and planning, developing and giving leadership to a service project in their community.

Both young men chose to complete their service projects for the shelter and focused their efforts on improving our dog agility yard. Our agility yard is used extensively by our volunteers to play with, exercise and train the shelter dogs. It is also used by

our staff to facilitate “meet and greets” between shelter dogs and their potential adoptive families. Needless to say, the yard gets plenty of use each day!

On both Friday and Saturday, using money he earned collecting and recycling aluminum cans, 16-year-old Garrett Anthony began his project. He brought a crew of about 25 friends and family members to dig a drainage ditch from the middle of the yard down to a lower corner and out beyond the fence. The ditch was lined with pipe and gravel and then covered again with dirt and sod that was generously donated by Aldino Sod Farm. A drain was installed at the opening and now when it rains, we no longer have standing water and mud for the dogs to get into!

His crew also reinforced the fence between the agility yard and Rebel's Dog Park and they built a beautiful patio with brick pavers so the entrance to the park is no longer muddy. Later that week, Garrett delivered a brand new box for dog toys that he designed and built himself.

On Sunday, 17-year-old Andrew Gard brought a crew of his friends and family, and from noon until 3:30pm they installed gorgeous new agility equipment that he designed and built himself. Everything was planted firmly in the ground and fresh mulch was spread around each station. He brought two split-log benches that were donated to him that he placed on opposite sides of the yard. His crew even installed a (see *Eagle Scouts*, p. 12)



*Above and right: Garrett Anthony's crew dug a drainage ditch and built a new patio entrance*

## Garfunkel *(continued from p. 1)*

hiking in the mountains when they found Garfunkel. They didn't want him to stay in the mountains by himself, so they located a park ranger. He told them to leave the dog with him, but they decided to keep Garfunkel and brought him home to Maryland. A few weeks after being in Maryland, Garfunkel was having issues with Family X's other dog, so they brought him to HSHC and turned him in as a stray – from Harford County, or so they said.

Upon hearing Good Samaritan's story, HSHC Adoptions Counselor Rachel Jackson contacted the local animal shelter in Pigeon Forge, TN and discovered that a dog matching Garfunkel's description had been reported lost. Shelter Operations Manager Blaine Lang contacted this family (let's call them

Charlie's Family) and sent them Garfunkel's photo. Charlie's Family was able to confirm, without a doubt, that this was their beloved dog, Charlie.

The wheels were put in motion and our staff began contacting dozens of organizations in hopes of finding someone who could take Charlie home. Finally, Blaine found a group called *Last Chance Highway* whom he'd seen on television's *Animal Plant*. Founded by Shelly Bookwalter of Olive Branch, MS, a loyal band of volunteers helps to gather dogs from crowded shelters and tries to match them with new owners. Eager to help, they agreed to transport Charlie directly to Pigeon Forge, but they would need Blaine to get him to Hagerstown, MD. So Blaine and Charlie made the hour and a



*The Humane Society of Harford County staff say goodbye to Charlie as he leaves to go home to Tennessee.*

half drive west and Charlie was left in the angel arms of a volunteer named Rob Perron. Charlie and Perron spent the night in a pet-friendly hotel and in the morning started the journey south.

After nine hours and over 538 miles, Charlie was pulling into Pigeon Forge and a hero's welcome. Perron told us that it was the best reun-

ion they had ever seen. "Their two children were very happy to see him again," he said. People were lined up along the street cheering, smiling and waving signs that read "Welcome Home Charlie". Charlie's Family was overwhelmed with relief, as were we. Congratulations to HSHC staff members on a job well done (see *Garfunkel*, p. 22)



*l. to r.: Taryn, Rich & Carol from CSC visited last Spring with donated supplies from our wish list.*



*HSHC's Erin Long (left) with employees from TIC Gums who donated supplies from our wish list this Fall.*



## Food Bank *(continued from p. 7)*

nutrition, but it also helps prevent intestinal problems and upset stomachs that occur from being fed many different donated brands.

The Maryland Food Bank is a clearing house for large amounts of donated product gathered from the food industry and distributed to soup kitchens, food pan-

tries and emergency shelters. In FY10 the Maryland Food Bank distributed 18.6 million pounds of food to a statewide network of partners, including HSHC.

HSHC's food pantry is fully stocked with dog and cat food to be distributed to families in need of support. Families may take up to three

bags of food each month. Food Pantry clients are asked to come to the Adoptions Office and ask for assistance with obtaining needed pet food. If you would like to contribute to the food pantry, we accept donations including unopened bags and cans of dog and cat food, treats, cat litter, toys, and towels. 🐾

## Eagle Scouts *(continued from p. 10)*

weed blocking mat around the perimeter of the yard and spread mulch to keep the area looking pristine. Andrew held a car wash to fund his project.

We are extremely proud of both young men. It took both of them many months of meetings, planning, and fundraising to get to this point. Now both need to write final reports and go before review boards before finally earning the prestigious Eagle rank in 2011. It was a pleasure working with both of these guys, and we wish them much success in their future endeavors! 🐾



*l. to r.: Tom Fowler, Life Scout troop 238, Patio Team Leader; **Garrett Anthony**, Life Scout troop 313, Project Manager; Dan Otradovec, Fence Team Leader; Kyle Berger, Trench Team Leader and Assistant Project Manager.*



*Left and above: Andrew Gard's crew helped install new agility equipment.*

*Right: **Andrew Gard** inside a tunnel.*



## FLOWER POWER: LILLY'S STORY

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach



*Kelsey's first day at the shelter.*



She was probably burned by scalding hot water," one of our shelter techs said. The words horrified me. About 50% of the hair on top of her head was gone, there were small, droplet-sized patches of hair missing on her ears, and a long hairless line extended down her back where the hot water must have landed. As I peered into the kennel in our tech department and looked deep into her sad, brown eyes, I knew I needed to help this dog. As a shelter employee, you try not to get too emotionally attached to the animals, but every once in a while, one

comes along that touches your heart so deeply, so completely, so *unconditionally*, that you can't resist the tug. That's how I met Kelsey.

She was picked up as a stray in Joppatowne and brought in by one of Harford County's Animal Control officers. She only weighed about 12 lbs. when she got to the shelter, which for a Bassett Hound/Beagle mix is pretty thin! I thought about her all night and the next day I brought her a piece of cheese, which she devoured with a few quick tail wags, and the day after that she got some chicken nuggets from my lunch.

By day three, I decided to take her out for a walk. I opened the cage door and gingerly lifted her out, and she nestled into my arms like a baby, clinging to me. We took a walk out in the field, and although cautious, she enjoyed every smell along the way. I couldn't help but love her spirit that was left untouched by whomever (or whatever) had hurt her.

By the weekend, the shelter was having one of its yard sales, and I decided that with the crowds coming, it would be a perfect time to give Kelsey some attention, and hopefully find her a (see *Lilly*, p. 21)

## CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY 2010

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

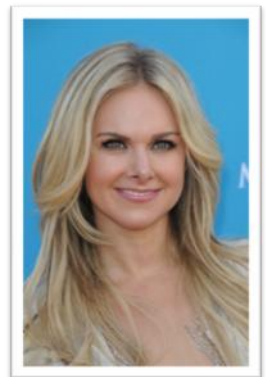
WXCX 103.7 FM, located in Havre de Grace, MD and Cowtown Cowboy Outfitters, Woodstown, NJ sponsored a benefit concert for the Humane Society of Harford County on December 18, 2010. The concert was held at the Minker Banquet Hall in Perryville and featured Laura Bell Bundy. Ms. Bundy is an actress and singer who has performed in a number of Broadway roles, both starring and supporting,

as well as in television and film. Her best known Broadway roles are the original Amber Von Tussle in *Hairspray* and the original Elle Woods in the musical version of *Legally Blonde*. She signed to Mercury Records Nashville and released her first country music single, "Giddy On Up", in early 2010. The album's second single, "Drop On By", was released to country radio on August 9, 2010.

The sold-out crowd of 200 people enjoyed wonderful hors d'oeuvres, a scrumptious buffet dinner and delectable desserts, all donated by MacGregor's Restaurant. Ms. Bundy's concert featured a combination of her own songs and a variety of holiday classics. Mid way through her concert, Ms. Bundy stopped to talk to the audience about the importance of spaying and neutering our pets and adopting an animal

from a shelter. She is an avid animal lover and strong supporter of the efforts of the Humane Society.

Ms. Bundy graciously donated a pair of her tap shoes for a raffle. The crowd at the event was extremely supportive of the Humane Society of Harford County and we sold (see *Bundy*, p. 18)


















*Nashville Recording Artist Laura Bell Bundy*



*Uniting Pets and People Since 1947*

2208 Connolly Road  
Fallston, MD 21047  
www.harfordshelter.org  
410-836-1090  
Fax: 410-877-3788

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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  -  Charles R. Wellington, Esquire

### MISSION

The Humane Society of Harford County promotes the humane treatment of homeless, stray and abandoned animals by providing shelter care, adoptions, and community education.

### VISION

Our vision is to end pet overpopulation and to advocate and educate for the humane treatment of animals.

### VALUES

- We value every animal entrusted to our care.
- We value our employees, who give so much in caring for our animals.
- We value our volunteers and supporters, who generously contribute their time, talents and resources to support our mission.
- We value our role in the community, working to improve the way animals are treated.

### Animal Visitation and Adoption Hours

Monday – Friday	11 AM - 6 PM
Saturday	10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	12 PM - 4 PM

### Administrative Office Hours

Monday – Friday	9 AM – 5 PM
-----------------	-------------

### Telephone Contacts

<b>Main number</b>	<b>410-836-1090</b>
Ext. 102	General Information
Ext. 104	Volunteer Coordinator
Ext. 105	Lost and Found & Foster Care
Ext. 106	Marketing & Community Outreach
Ext. 109 & 107	Client Services
Ext. 111	Office Manager & Human Resources
Ext. 113	Shelter Manager

### Adoption Fees Include...\*

Puppies	8 weeks – up to 1 year	\$250
Dogs	1 year – 5 years	\$160
Dogs	6 years and older	\$ 95

Cats and Kittens	8 weeks – 6 years	\$ 95
Cats	7 years and older	\$ 75

Rabbits		\$ 50
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\*Please inquire about the adoption fees for all other animals



## Tabby (continued from p. 3)

seizures. As Gary and Tabby bonded, they became inseparable: a boy and his dog. They did everything together. They became so "in tune" with one another that Tabby began to somehow telegraph Gary's seizures before they occurred, giving his family warning that one was about to strike. What's more, Gary seemed to be having fewer and fewer seizures since Tabby's arrival.

How could it be? How could a 14 year old dog - blind and deaf - detect a young boy's seizures before they happened? There are some things that happen in this

world that defy all logic and understanding. Sometimes, the best we can do is to accept the miraculous for the gift that it is rather than try to explain it. If you try to explain it, you lose the Beauty and Wonder of it all.

So I don't know how Tabby did what she did. But I do believe that Tabby herself was a gift from Above, and that those of us who knew her and the Meszaros family bore witness to a real miracle, the kind that has its roots in love. Everything that is truly magical and miraculous is rooted in love. The Meszaros' saw some-

thing special in Tabby-- something that the rest of the world, in its foolish rush to reject anything imperfect, had missed. Tabby rewarded their wisdom many times over.

Tabby crossed the Rainbow Bridge several years ago. But her family remembers her often, and always with love. And in my mind's eye, I can still see her: an old, feeble cocker spaniel. The one who was blind and deaf. The one someone had discarded. The one nobody else wanted. The one who, through the power of love, changed a young man's life. May her leg-

acy be that she will continue to change lives every time someone new learns of her story.

### *Postscript:*

Tabby's boy is today a grown man. Loretta reports that Gary is healthy and seizure free, and has been for several years now. She attributes much of Gary's recovery to "the magic of Tabby."

She hopes that Tabby's story will encourage others to adopt senior pets. So do we! If you have room in your heart and home for an older pet, please visit us in person at the shelter or online at: [www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org).



## NEW DOG INTRODUCTIONS

By Aja Harris, Mutt Magic Training



Selecting an appropriate new dog to bring home, as well as selecting new playmates for dogs in your household, always requires introducing the dogs. There are a few points to remember to ensure that all new greetings are as successful as they can be. A few general rules to keep in mind are: 1. Male-Female pairs tend to do better long term; 2. Adult dogs that get along initially will typically continue to do so; and 3. Walking the dogs

together *before* greeting can greatly improve chances for appropriate greetings, especially with dogs that are selective.

Male-Female pairs are best because there will be less competition between the dogs. In a pack, there is always an alpha male and an alpha female. (Of course, in your pack at home, *you* should be the dominant leader, although that's another topic altogether!) Keeping opposite sex pairings can reduce dominance scuffles,

which can be intense. In multi-dog households or playgroups, it's best to determine who the top dogs are, and keep a watchful eye to be sure that other dogs do not challenge this role.

Contrary to the popular myth, adult dogs are better new additions! Getting a puppy to have it "grow up" with the other dog or with the family greatly increases the risk that the puppy will challenge an adult dog as he/she matures. (see *Introductions*, p. 19)

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

Donations lovingly made for the animals in memory of loved ones

### Mary Louise Adams

... Marie-Christine Wilson

### Teresa Adams Hamilton

... Patricia & Robert Allen  
... William Christoforo  
... Sally Edler  
... Sean & Patricia Fitzgerald  
... Dennis & Holly Kravec  
... James & Sheila Maranto  
... Helen Moll  
... Mark and Sandy Nelson  
... Marie Shanahan

### Jan Andrathy

... Della Barnhill  
... A. Colleen Barry  
... Arthur & Winona Leaker

### Rosemary Page-Askew

... Josephine Nicholson

### Gertrude (Trudy) Bavister

... Joseph Betz

### Beaglie

... James Mossa  
... Martin & Yones Mossa

### Bill Berkowitz

... Hap & Jan Roth

### Ryan Coleman

... Susan Doyle

### Bill Crawford

... Marcy Von Goerres

### James Dellinger

... Shirley Dellinger

### Bernie Fitzgerald

... Wanda Brewster

### Vicki Kemp-Couto

... Janice Besse

... Nancy Carvalho

... Ronald & Carol Souza

### Samantha (Sam) Gump

... Roxanne Gump

### Jennifer Gump-Cobert

... Roxanne Gump

### Fred Gump

... Roxanne Gump

### Magdalena Hickman

... Edwin & Roslyn Stockham

### Margaret Annabelle Jackson

... Tammie & George Parker

### Elmer Kurrle

... George & Rose Schott, Sr.

### Lee R. De Board

... Marilyn De Board

### Daniel De Vries

... Frank & Karen Baldwin  
... Ethel & Mark Comegys  
... Carol De Vries  
... Fallston High School  
... Mary Beth Flowers  
... Lynn & Dick Havel  
... Richard & Caroline Knapp  
... Gilbert & Elizabeth Reisler, Jr.  
... Jeanne Yeend

### Nancy Dietrich

... Kristin Bachran  
... Building Contractors of Maryland  
... Georgia Chilcoat  
... Michael Donofrio  
... Carolyn & Clay Evans  
... Donald & Barbara Kerner  
... Pamela Lapides

... Ellen & William Litsinger, Jr.  
... Jim & Joan Luerssen  
... Donald & Carol MacIntyre  
... Wende & Donald Mack  
... Sally Miller  
... Stuart & Lenore Millison  
... Patricia Posedenti  
... The Red Devils, Inc.  
... Margaret Schafer  
... Mary Schueler  
... Katherine Sciumeca  
... George & Eleanor Tucker  
... William & Lee Widhelm  
... Howard Wiedey, Jr.  
... Jim Williams



### Wayne Fuller

... Barbara Calligan  
... Larry & Patricia Denard  
... Residents of Hickory Overlook Active Adult Community Association, Inc.  
... Evelyn & Joseph Miller  
... William & Phyllis Ningard  
... Mary Alice Webster

### Ginger

... Melissa Harrah

### Louis Grue

... Baltimore County Public Schools Benefits Office  
... Dennis & Tracey Carroll  
... Gina & Kevin Chambers  
... F. C. Clifford, Inc.  
... Gloria Day

... Richard Herbig  
... Gary & Lou Ann Jasper  
... Ralph & Judy Kramer, Jr.  
... Andrea Poteat  
... Robert & Cheryl Rowland  
... Paul & Caro Russell  
... Susan & John Thomas  
... Donna & Joseph Tribull, Jr.

### Charles T. Herring

... Baltimore County Fraternal Order of Police – Lodge #4  
... Phil & Gwen Huskey, Jr.  
... Gail Marshall  
... Regina Seaner  
... Towson University Police Dept. FOP, Lodge #82

### John W. Jones, Jr.

... Pat Crouse  
... Helen Deets  
... Michelle Raffield  
... William & Dorothy Raffield

### Aleks Kreszewski

... John & Marilyn Cole

### Thelma Kulp

... Walter Greth  
... LaRay Johnson  
... Ernest & Lorraine Smith

### David Lanier

... William & Janet Brock

### Mary R. Lowe

... William and Diane Scott

### Andrea Markiewicz

... Carol & William Hamel

(see Memorials, p. 17)

## Memorials *(continued from p. 16)*

### **Carron Mary McDonough**

... Lola Brant  
... The Bregel Family  
... Harford County Council  
and Council Staff  
... John Gregory  
... Wilson & Nancy Jones  
... Alex McComas  
... Timothy & Lisa Murdock  
... Kurt & Lori Olszewski  
... John & Beatrice Pugh  
... Rich Schurman  
... Michael & Diane Sullivan  
... Joan Worrall  
... John Worthington, IV

### **Patty McMillan**

... B.D. Watts-Cook

### **Morris Meow**

... Susan Maule

### **Joyce Joan McNeilly**

... Marilyn DeBoard  
... Harford County Division  
of Emergency Operations  
... George & Frances Hop-  
kins  
... Eugene Streett

### **Dorsey Miller**

... Jerry & Sandra Burcham  
... Robin & Kevin Burcham  
... Peter Dwyer  
... Shirley & Donald Mac-  
Lean  
... Ronald & Veronica Tefft  
... Peggy Woody

### **Anna Nido**

... Michele Cox

### **Isabel Frances Fox Nimmo**

... Richard & Catherine Bill-  
ings, Jr.

... Bobbie Kucharek  
... E & D Stafford  
... Edward Yoder

### **Michael O'Brien**

... Lillian Therese Costello  
... Vince & Susan Pellegrini

### **Lowell Rausch**

... Rice Consulting

### **Catherine Reina**

... Harford County Umpires  
Association

### **Julia and John Rostkowski**

... Thomas & Janice Lynch

### **Dawn T. Smith**

... Laurel Bush Family Den-  
tistry

### **Marion Smith**

... Evelyn Ryan  
... Kathleen & Michael Sil-  
von, Jr.

### **Squiddy**

... Dr. Thomas Lomax

### **Theresa Stilling**

... Carol & Alan Bateman  
... Kent & Eula Ferrell, III  
... Bob & Debbie Letcshin, Jr.

### **Daniel Torsch**

... Charlene Hellman

### **Donald Trout**

... Frances & Francis Bon-  
kowski  
... Robert & Jeri Bozman  
... William & Maryann  
Brieger  
... Sarah Brown

... George & Ann Clark  
... Andrew & Kathleen Co-  
lyer  
... Danielle & Brian Duff  
... Ed & Nancy Foltz  
... James & Nancy Foulk  
... Fred & Sharon Gaultney  
... Perry & Carolyn Hargis, Jr.  
... Laurence & Charlotte  
Harris  
... James & Audrey Hawks  
... William & Emily Inskeep  
... George & Helene Klair  
... Miriam Lindenmuth  
... Susan & Marvin Maule  
... William & Carol McIntyre  
... John Mentzer  
... Joseph & Diana Miller  
... Wayne & Donna Noble  
... Dorothy Pettingill  
... Point Breeze Credit Union  
... J. Michael & Elizabeth  
Pratt  
... John Pritts  
... William & Janet Ramsey  
... Edmund & Elizabeth Scar-  
borough, Jr.  
... Jane & Mark Schlehr

... John & Virginia Senes  
... Eileen Smith  
... Laura Touhey  
... Michael & Mary Transpar-  
enti  
... Patricia & David Wallace  
... Elizabeth Wildason

### **Frank True**

... Deborah Steen

### **Lucille West**

... Janet Adkins  
... Charles & Judith Daniel  
... Diana Hager

### **Doris Wickless**

... Amy Siedlecki

### **Patricia Wilson McMillan**

... Perena Cianelli-Fair

### **Laura Woodward**

... Mr. & Mrs. David Bal-  
linger





## Bundy (continued from p. 13)

more than \$500 in raffle tickets. Ms Bundy autographed the tap shoes for the lucky winner.

All of the proceeds from the ticket sales for this event came directly to the Humane Society of Harford County. In addition, Ms. Bundy donated proceeds from

sales of CDs and t-shirts at the end of the concert.

Thanks go out to WXCY, Cowtown Cowboy Outfitters, and MacGregor's Restaurant for this incredible event which brought more than \$5,000 to the shelter to help the homeless

and abused animals in our care. WXCY continues to be a strong supporter of HSHC with their Pet Page on their website that advertises our Pets of the Week and their continued radio public services announcements about our animals and our fundraising events. 🐾



Bob Bloom, WXCY General Manager; Claudia Holman, APG Federal Credit Union and HSHC Board Member; Laura Bell Bundy; and Mary Leavens, HSHC Executive Director.

## FACILITIES MAGIC

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

Although our facilities at the Humane Society are old and, in most cases, beginning to fall apart, we strive to keep our grounds and buildings clean and well maintained. We receive comments almost daily acknowledging that our facilities are clean, maintained and in good working order. Visitors have actually stopped by the administration building

to say "We just wanted to tell you that your grounds are absolutely beautiful and so inviting – what a great improvement!" Wow – that is just what we hoped to accomplish – to provide an atmosphere that is inviting to the community in hopes of getting more animals adopted.

Rebel's Dog Park, our community dog park, was filled with old tree

stumps with lots of poison ivy mixed in. We had the stumps ground down, poison ivy and weeds removed and grass planted in the area. What a huge improvement not only in the look of the park but for the safety of the dogs and their families that frequent the park.

Our fence lines that run parallel to Connolly Road have been cleared. Vines, weeds and trees were intertwined in the fencing and not only was that an eye sore, but the weight of the brush was beginning to pull down parts of the fence.

A large brush pile that had been building up for many years back by the Tech Department was removed. What a (see Facilities, p. 23)



Volunteer Sue Roberts keeps our gardens gorgeous and growing during the spring and summer months.



The addition of some fencing and mulch in the driveway area has helped clean up a mud problem and beautified the area.



Hanging baskets of flowers and seasonal decorations help to make an inviting atmosphere for visitors.

## Introductions *(continued from p. 15)*

If you select a new addition to your household as an adult and your current dog is receptive from the initial greeting, chances are that the roles will not be challenged in the future because both dogs are mentally mature. Mental maturity in most dogs happens between the ages of 2-4 years, which often depends on the breed and the individual dog.

Now . . . you think you have found the perfect match. It's time to introduce the dogs! Start on neutral territory, and do not allow

the dogs to greet right away. Take the dogs on a long walk side-by-side to start. The longer the walk the better, as greetings will be less intense if the dogs have burned some energy. As you're walking, take turns having one dog walk in front and the other behind. This will give both you and the dogs the opportunity to watch behaviors. Plus, it will give the dogs an opportunity to pick up on the other dog's scent.

Once the walk is over, as the handler, you must make the decision if it's the right

time to let the dogs greet. Happy, but relaxed posture is key. Do not allow the dogs to greet head-on; this can present a challenge to some dogs. Head-to-tail, or a side-ways greeting is better, as this allows the dogs to learn each other's scent. With loose leashes, allow the dogs to approach naturally; you should notice one or both dogs veering slightly to one side, with bodies curved. If the dogs are pulling toward each other with tight leashes, more walking may be needed.

Some dogs are able to meet with new dogs quickly and easily, while other dogs may need more time to get used to a new household or playgroup addition. This depends greatly on the individual dog, with breed and gender playing a role in this as well. Always know your dog and his/her reactions, anticipate responses, and watch behaviors for the best new introductions.

Have safe introductions, and enjoy your new addition!

## Mutt Magic Training Services



**Does your dog need help with manners and obedience?**



HSHC partners with Mutt Magic Training Services to provide basic, intermediate and advanced training services. Eight week classes are held at the Humane Society. A portion of the fee for these classes is donated back to the shelter. Dogs adopted from the shelter receive a discounted rate. Mutt Magic can help you through your obedience issues and help solve problems!

### **ABOUT THE TRAINER - Aja Harris**

has a background in working canines and successfully competed

on a national level with her own dogs. She is

certified through Animal Behavior College and is a Canine Good Citizen Evaluator. Aja volunteers on the board of directors for a national working dog organization and also volunteers services to local shelters and rescues. She enjoys working with dogs of all breeds and sizes and seeing owners develop lasting relationships with their dogs!

**For more information or to enroll, email [aja@muttmagic.com](mailto:aja@muttmagic.com) or call 410-889-9352.**



## THE ANIMALS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Your support literally helps us to keep our doors open. The HSHC takes in approximately 4,500 animals from the Harford County community each year. Consider for a moment what would happen if we weren't here to offer the animals a safe place to wait to find their forever homes.

Your donation will help us to house, feed, vaccinate, groom and love the homeless and neglected animals of Harford County. Please take the time to contribute to the well-being of the animals.

**YES—I want to contribute to the well-being of the animals.**

**DONOR INFORMATION** (Your name will be listed on donor recognition materials as it appears below.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**GIFT INFORMATION**

Gift Amount: ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adopt-a-Kennel: ☐ \$500 Individual Sponsorship ☐ \$1,000 Corporate Sponsorship

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

☐ Check enclosed payable to The Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC)

☐ Credit card (check one): ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY MAIL OR FAX TO:**

HSHC, 2208 Connolly Road, Fallston, MD 21047

Fax Number: 410-877-3788

Thank you for your support! HSHC, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Your gift is tax deductible as specified by IRS guidelines. Please ask your company if HSHC qualifies for a matching gift. For more information, please contact Mary Leavens at 410-836-1090 ext. 101 or by e-mail at [mleavens@harfordshelter.org](mailto:mleavens@harfordshelter.org) or visit us on the web at [www.harfordshelter.org](http://www.harfordshelter.org).



## Lilly (continued from p. 13)

warm, loving home. As I walked her outside onto the parking lot, I was met by one person after another who asked what had happened to her. I realized then that although I had grown accustomed to seeing Kelsey's burns, to other people Kelsey didn't look very attractive. She had a lot of scabs and her hair was still falling off in



*Kelsey, now Lilly, on adoption day*

places. Our staff debated over whether her hair would ever come back.

By mid-morning my in-laws and my 11-year-old step-daughter, Tamsyn, arrived at the yard sale. My father-in-law sat down on a bench nearby and I went over to say hello. Tamsyn saw us first and ran to greet us. As soon as she saw Kelsey and I explained what had happened to her, tears filled her eyes and began spilling onto her cheeks. Seeing the victim of animal cruelty is hard enough for our adult staff members to cope with. I can only imagine how Tamsyn felt. Tamsyn took the leash and led Kelsey over to my father-in-law. Despite his protests that he didn't want another dog

and didn't even want to look at her for fear of falling in love, the next thing I know, Kelsey had jumped into his lap and the two of them sat there cuddling and sharing a moment together.

What happened next? You guessed it – adoption, of course! Kelsey (now Lilly) became instant friends with their 3-year-old Bassett Hound and has become a much-loved member of the family. Lilly only has eyes for Tamsyn and follows her around the house like the faithful companion she is. This fall, Tamsyn and Lilly trained together to compete in the Humane Society's "Musical Tails" contest at the Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Similar to musical chairs, when the music stops, the last



*Tamsyn and Lilly after winning Musical Tails*

dog to sit and stay is out. One by one, Tamsyn and Lilly's competitors were eliminated and wouldn't you know it, they won!

I'm proud that Tamsyn has always known that she should never judge someone by their physical appearance. Although Lilly's hair grew back in just a few weeks, Tamsyn said it wouldn't have mattered if her hair never grew back. Maybe we should all take a cue from an 11-year-old girl and her dog! 🐾

## WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, a troubled woman from the Fallston area jumped over the barbed wire fence in her bare feet and broke into the shelter buildings. A small-statured woman, just 5 feet tall and 115 pounds, she broke a number of doors off their frames and entered into the dog ken-

nels first freeing more than 40 dogs and then went into the cat house freeing more than 30 cats and kittens.

Three contracted employees of T&E Lawn Service were grinding stumps out of the Rebel's Community Dog Park at approximately 7:30 PM and spotted a large number of dogs

running loose around the property. The shelter was closed and no one else was supposed to be there. Looking down toward the shelter buildings, they saw a woman pull out a window-mounted air conditioner, throw it to the ground and climb in through the open win-



*Mary Leavens, HSHC Executive Director, presenting a certificate of recognition to Blaine Lang, Shelter Operations Manager for his leadership role in getting the animals back to their safe environment.*

## Break-In (continued from p. 21)



*HSHC employees recognized for their dedication and their part in getting all the animals back into the kennels safely. From l. to r.: Rachel Jackson, Helena Woznicki, Meghan Leavitt, Ashley Clauer, Nate Bachman and Lauri Hurst.*



dow. She began throwing cats and kittens from the window.

The men ran down to the shelter and told the woman to sit on the bench while they called the police. When police arrived, the woman admitted that she broke into the buildings and that she was there to free the animals.

She was arrested on the scene and is currently undergoing mental health treatment.

Mary Leavens, HSHC Executive Director, was one of the first to arrive on the scene. Ms. Leavens states, "When I opened the gate to the shelter it was a sight I

will never forget. Just imagine – one hundred and one Dalmatians plus cats running everywhere. Dogs were running all over the property and the cats and kittens were darting from here to there and even up into trees trying to stay away from the dogs. It was so upsetting. We pride ourselves in keeping the animals in our care safe and healthy and here they were, each and every one of them, in an extremely dangerous situation."

Blaine Lang, Shelter Operations Manager, began to catch the dogs and put them back into their kennels. He placed a call to HSHC staff members to come out and help. Within minutes, staff members

were running up Connolly Road, since the police had closed the road, all of them concerned about the animals running free on the property and eager to do their part. The staff continued to gather dogs and cats until all were safely back in their places. All animals were found unharmed. The last cat was retrieved, about twenty feet up in a tree, around midnight.

This was such a volatile situation. The process of pairing dogs together in a kennel is a careful process that usually takes some time and mixing in a large number of cats and kittens with the dogs just doesn't happen. Here they were all loose together. It could have truly been a (see *Break-In*, p. 24)

## Garfunkel (continued from p. 11)

in reuniting Charlie with his family.

In 2010 Charlie was one of over 460 lost animals that our staff reunited with their families through our Lost and Found program. Charlie's story may have been the most extreme, but it the reason why we microchip each and every animal adopted

from the shelter. Collars can fall or snap off and over 90% of the animals brought to us have no type of identification on them. Microchipping involves implanting a tiny chip under the pet's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. Microchips can be used on dogs, cats, ferrets, birds and other compan-

ion pets. The chip is about the size of a grain of rice and causes very little, if any, pain to the animal when implanted. When a pet is found, any agency with a scanner, including many animal care and control agencies, veterinary clinics, and animal shelters, can quickly identify a code that links the animal to

its owner through a national database.

Get your pet a collar, an ID tag, and license and make an appointment with your veterinarian to get your pet microchipped today. Keep your wonderful companion pet safe, protected and with you for a lifetime. 🐾

## Facilities *(continued from p. 18)*

big job this was – but it has made such an improvement to the area.

Dave Dixon of Dixie Construction donated 44 tons of asphalt millings to the Humane Society that were spread by T & E Lawn Service in the driveway next to the cat building and back to the Tech area. The delivery of the product was donated by Maryland Paving. This improvement has greatly helped to reduce the amount of dirt and mud that is tracked into the buildings and improved the overall parking area for customers, volunteers and staff.

New barriers were

installed in the upper and lower kennel runs of the shelter. Old barriers had been in place for a number of years and were destroyed and unsafe. The new barriers have made the environment for the dogs much safer.

The Humane Society of Harford County is now the proud owner of a new, much-needed 2011 Ford van that is used to transport animals for medical reasons and to off-site adoption locations. This is the first new van we have ever had. It replaced an 11-year-old van with more than 200,000 miles on it. The old van was in-

spected and needed more than \$6,000 of repairs, not to mention the severe electrical problems that caused an interior fire last year.

As you can see, we have made a number of improvements to the shelter over the past year. However, we can only paint and patch so much and we are eagerly awaiting the building of our new shelter. If you ever have spare time and would like to help with the maintenance of our shelter, please contact Blaine Lang at 410-836-1090 x113. There are always leaves to be raked, walls to be patched and all kinds of things to be fixed. Facilities work at the shelter is never done! 🐾



*Blaine Lang, Shelter Operations Manager, and Gary Leavens, Volunteer, cut down dead tree branches that were hanging dangerously over the driveway entrance and into the parking lot.*

*Old Barriers (below) and newly installed kennel barriers (below, left).*



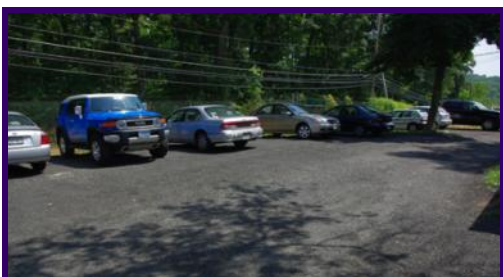
*T & E Lawn Service spread asphalt millings in the driveway.*



*Two wishing wells were donated by Boy Scout Andrew Gard and are being used to cover unsightly well caps.*



*Our new 2011 Ford van!*



*Our new parking lot—what a difference!*



## Break-In *(continued from p. 22)*

disaster.

Media coverage including a detailed article in *The Aegis* and a live interview on WMAR TV 2 made the public aware of the crazy incident that had occurred. Since the shelter really had no security system, a cry out for assistance was made. Vision Home Security called and expressed their interest in helping us. They donated and installed a wireless security system, 'the best of the best', that includes monitoring for fire, intrusion and carbon monoxide. What an incredible way to help

the animals – by keeping them more protected than ever before. It's true – every cloud does have a silver lining. Thank you so much to Vision Security for stepping up to the plate and helping us out!

A couple of weeks following the incident, the executive director held a ceremony at the shelter to recognize and thank both the contractors and the staff that helped to save the animals that evening. All were awarded a Certificate of Recognition which included pictures of the more than 70 animals that were in the

shelter that evening. These folks truly saved the lives of the animals!

Altogether, this situation turned out so much better than it could have. Thanks to the contractors' keen attention to detail, the quick response of the Harford County Sheriff's office, the leadership of shelter management, the dedication of shelter staff members, and the



*T&E Lawn Service contractors saved the day by detaining the woman who broke into the shelter until police arrived. Pictured are Tyler Leavens, Earl McNatt and Wayne Biedenkapp.*

generosity of Vision Home Security this story has a happy ending. Thank goodness for that!



## CARNIVAL OF DOGS AT TD BANK

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

On July 24, 2010, the Humane Society of Harford County partnered with TD Bank's Bel Air branch for a Carnival of Dogs on the bank's parking lot facing Route 1. The weather was hot, but the music was cool, and a few of HSHC's adoptable dogs were present to meet and greet the public. Representatives from Baron's K-9 Country Store, See Spot Run and 4 Paws Spa joined us as vendors. A face painter entertained the children with her bright and colorful de-

signs. A hot dog vendor fed the crowd and kept us cool with ice cream sandwiches and ice cold bottled water.

Visitors were encouraged to use TD Bank's free Penny Arcade to automatically count their spare change and donate it to the Humane Society. Visitors were also encouraged to join TD Bank's Affinity Membership Program. Both of these programs are operating on an on-going basis and you can contribute at any time. Simply open an account

and TD Bank will make an annual contribution to the Humane Society based on the balance in your account. Checking, Savings, Money Market, CD and Retirement accounts are all included in the Program. Your account balance is not affected in any way, is only used to determine the level of contribution, and is kept confidential. If you are already a TD Bank customer, visit any TD Bank location and ask to have your balances affiliated with HSHC! As a bonus, TD Bank is pet-

friendly and encourages customers to bring their four-legged friends inside the lobby while pet parents do their banking. 🐾



*From l. to r.: David Fang, HSHC's Board President; Mary Leavens, HSHC's Executive Director; and Frank Ernest, TD Bank's Assistant Vice President*

## A EULOGY TO MY BUDDY

By Ron Landbeck, HSHC Adopter

**M**y Buddy was my best friend. He wouldn't hurt a flea and was somewhere between shy and cowardly. That didn't bother me none. You see my Buddy was a forty pound hound and somebody else's reject. Maybe that's why we hit it off so well; you see my "ex" rejected me, too.

But let's go back to the beginning. Back in June of 1994 we lived in Aberdeen, Maryland. My current (and by far bestest wife!) and I had had two dogs and both had been called to doggie heaven within four weeks of each other. The truth be known, the first one died of natural causes and the second died of a broken heart. It was really sad. After fifteen months without K-9 company, and with the human kids (ugh!) out on their own (Yeaaaaah!) we decided that our life needed a couple of dogs, so off to the local county animal shelter we went.

As we had our hearts torn apart looking at all the animals, knowing that most would not find homes and would have to be "put down", we found our new loves. Joyce chose a female border collie mix. She was high energy, high maintenance, and a high time lover. We found out later that she was also a chewer, as in furniture, pillows, blankets, you get the picture. But it all worked out.

Buddy, my sweet, sweet Buddy, had been horribly abused by some beastly idiot who thought he could make a hunting dog out of a pooch that just wanted to be loved. So he beat him, starved him, cut off his tail with a butcher knife, and when all this didn't make him mean and want to hunt other animals, he beat him some more and kicked him down the

steps into his earthen basement to starve to death. This vile individual had a wife and a week after the dog was kicked into the basement to wallow in his own feces and urine (*see Buddy, p. 32*)



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## A PARTNERSHIP WITH ALDINO ENTERTAINMENT

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

The Humane Society of Harford County partnered with Aldino Entertainment this Fall to assist with ticket taking for their four different haunted attractions at Legends of the Fog. The Humane Society recruited ten or more volunteers for each night the attraction was open – a total of 16 nights – starting on September 25 through November 6. Our job was to ensure each patron had the proper ticket for each attraction since there are a number of options available when purchasing tickets.

Legend's of the Fog is in its fourth year of operation and has grown to attract 16,000 visitors in 2010. The venue is lo-



cated at 500 Carsins Run Road in Aberdeen near the Aldino airport, and a short distance from Ripken Stadium.

Legends of the Fog is an ag-tourism based haunted attraction fea-

turing two haunted houses, a corn maze, and a haunted hayride through the woods at Aldino Sod Farms. The

event is open for 16 nights spanning from late September through early November. Patrons navigate through four unique haunted events complemented by hot food for sale, a

warm bonfire, and live music. The first haunt, Sinister Circus, is a tent covered haunted house which twists and turns through special effects, dense fog, and clown themed characters. The haunted hayride is a thirty-minute, action packed, zombie themed journey through the woods at the farm. Finally, the hayride drops you off at Carsins Manor, an outdoor haunted house and corn maze. The total haunts take approximately 65-75 minutes to navigate; however, the experience (see *Legends*, p. 31)

## ANNUAL DOGTOBERFEST RAISES \$2,370

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated...I hold that, the more helpless a creature, the more entitled it is to protection by [people] from the cruelty of [human kind]”—Mahatma Gandhi

In October I received a call from Ellen Rosenberg, a long-time volunteer, who told me she had some money to donate. When she told me how much it was, I

recall asking her how in the world she raised that much money! The following is from Ellen, and it describes how and why she did it, in her own words:

“It all started after I volunteered three years ago at HSHC and saw the sad faces on the dogs in your kennels. My friend, Kim Peters, and I decided we had to help them. We thought and thought and came up with the idea of a benefit party. We love having

parties and this would do a good deed at the same time. You know how you have a party and everyone says, “What can I bring?” Well, we thought that rather than get stuck with 30 different types of deviled eggs, we’d ask our friends to make a donation to HSHC. In return, we supplied all the food and beverages. The idea went over great! We have some really great friends and everyone wants a



Ellen Rosenberg (left) with Mary Leavens, HSHC Executive Director

chance to help out homeless animals. So we made a theme around Oktoberfest and called it “Dogtoberfest”.

For the past three (see *Dogtoberfest*, p. 30)



## Wish List for Our Homeless Friends



### FOR THE DOGS

- 🐾 Rawhides/pig ears/bones
- 🐾 Kongs and Nylabones
- 🐾 Sweaters/coats
- 🐾 Exercise pens
- 🐾 Collars and leashes
- 🐾 Choker collars
- 🐾 Grooming equipment
- 🐾 Towels, sheets, quilts, blankets, comforters
- 🐾 Poop pick-up bags
- 🐾 Bandanas
- 🐾 Kuranda beds  
([www.kuranda.com](http://www.kuranda.com))
- 🐾 Pooper scoopers



### FOR THE SMALL ANIMALS

- 🐾 Rabbit/guinea pig pellets (prefer Purina)
- 🐾 Timothy and alfalfa hay
- 🐾 Wood stove pellets
- 🐾 Ferret Hammocks
- 🐾 Yesterday's News rabbit litter



### WE COULD USE

- 🐾 Standing heater
- 🐾 Window A/C unit
- 🐾 Washing machine/dryer
- 🐾 Air purifiers
- 🐾 Vacuum cleaners
- 🐾 Floor fans



### FOR THE CATS

- 🐾 Kitty litter
- 🐾 Toys
- 🐾 Treats
- 🐾 Canned kitten food
- 🐾 Scratching posts
- 🐾 Heating pads
- 🐾 Cat beds
- 🐾 Cardboard cat carriers
- 🐾 KMR powdered milk replacer
- 🐾 Nursing bottles for kittens
- 🐾 Small blankets & towels
- 🐾 Tuna fish
- 🐾 Cardboard box flats used for litter boxes

### WE ALWAYS NEED

- 🐾 White copier paper
- 🐾 Q-tips & cotton balls
- 🐾 Latex gloves
- 🐾 Pens and highlighters
- 🐾 Trash bags
- 🐾 Paper towels
- 🐾 Laundry detergent
- 🐾 Dawn dish detergent
- 🐾 Toilet paper
- 🐾 Brooms & dust pans
- 🐾 Hand sanitizer
- 🐾 Clipboards
- 🐾 Colored copier paper
- 🐾 Laminate pouches
- 🐾 Building supplies - wood, tools, caulk, paint, hardware, etc.
- 🐾 Colorful thin markers
- 🐾 Shelving units
- 🐾 Phone message books
- 🐾 Lawn tools: rakes, weed whackers, shovels, etc.
- 🐾 3-ring binders
- 🐾 Dryer sheets
- 🐾 Lanyards
- 🐾 1st-class stamps
- 🐾 #10 white envelopes
- 🐾 Clorox bleach & wipes
- 🐾 Gift cards to Staples, Walmart, PetCo, PetSmart, Target, etc.
- 🐾 Lysol floor cleaner
- 🐾 Manila folders 1/3 cut
- 🐾 Colored pocket folders
- 🐾 Rubbing alcohol
- 🐾 Peroxide
- 🐾 Neosporin
- 🐾 Gauze
- 🐾 Disposable gowns
- 🐾 Unopened medications
- 🐾 5x7 picture frames
- 🐾 First aid kits
- 🐾 Stethoscopes
- 🐾 Band Aids

## HUMANE SOCIETY STAFF: DEDICATED, COMPASSIONATE & SKILLED

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

There are currently 19 full-time and 3 part-time staff members at the Humane Society of Harford County. Each staff member is dedicated to doing their best to serve the animals in our care. The staff is organized into four departments – Adoptions, Animal Care, Tech and Administration.

The Adoptions department, headed by Ashley Clauer, is responsible for greeting visitors, lost and found services, assisting potential adopters and volunteers, processing adoptions, foster care coordination, intake of stray animals from the community as well as assisting owners that are surrendering their animals. Members of the adoptions staff include: Roxanne Gump, Rachel Jackson, Meghan Leavitt, David Truitt and Helena Woznicki.

The Animal Care department, headed by Stephanie Rice (dogs) and Ken Conant (cats) is responsible for the daily care, cleaning and feeding of the animals as well as observation of the general health of the animals. Members of the animal care department include: Jessica Brass, Michael Hutchison, Gayle Lewis and Shane Mueller.

The Tech department, managed by Laurie Hurst, is responsible for intake of stray animals brought in through Animal Control and the community, intake and exit examinations, treatment of injuries and health concerns, administering vaccinations and performing euthanasia procedures. Members of the Tech department include: Erika Bonhoff, Kita O'Neal, and Kayla Smith.

The Administration department includes Kim Aumiller, Office Manager, Blaine Lang, Shelter Operations Manager, Mary Leavens, Executive Director, Erin Long, Di-

rector of Marketing & Community Outreach, Hope Smedley, Volunteer Coordinator, and Vicki Rose, Administrative Assistant.

It takes a very special person to be a staff member at the Humane Society. Staff members are knowledgeable, compassionate, caring and ready to deal with a number of volatile situations each day including animal ownership and adoption, owner requested euthanasia, and public safety. Some days are tougher than others, but it is the goal of the staff to provide good customer service. It is the highlight of the day

each time we are able to successfully pair a family and a pet together in a forever home. It's what our jobs are all about and what makes what we do so rewarding!

Our staff takes great pride in the fact that we adopted out more than 1,500 animals in 2010 and reunited more than 460 lost animals with their owners.

Thank you to all the staff members for doing such a great job with our animals and our customers alike. Next time you stop by feel free to offer a word of thanks and encouragement to our staff. 🐾

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- \* **Ear Cleaning**



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\*Pet must be current on vaccines required by Festival Veterinary Clinic

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## AN APPLE ONE DAY KEPT THE FEAR OF CANCER AT BAY

By Judy Stiles, HSHC Volunteer

It was a typical Saturday morning for me, walking through the kennels looking for a dirty dog. I had seen Apple on the website and she looked quite the mess, so as I passed by each cold nose and expectant face, I looked for a German Shepherd sort of dog with a dark coat. I found her standing quietly in her kennel, and she looked worse than I had thought from the photo. Just my gal!

I am Judy Stiles, and I have been volunteering at the shelter for 2 years now, and I groom the dogs. I look



for the grungy dogs, the ones that smell bad, and if I can find one with mats, that is just my type! I clean them up, make them cute enough to be considered, and clean enough to go home. I find this to be very rewarding volunteer work.

Now that I had a closer look at Apple I could see that the front

of her was dark with a hint of striping, with soft upright ears, a kind expression and claw like long nails. Her

back and rear legs were quite bald. Her tail looked more like some-

thing a possum would have, except that Apple's tail was wagging with a friendly greeting.

I walked her with me to the grooming area in the cellar of the 100 year old house that was the original part of the shelter. She was happy to stand on the grooming table for a brushing and nail trim, sneaking a kiss now and then. I gently helped her into the tub, and soaped up the furry parts, and softly sponged the bare skin on the rest of her. After a quick blow dry, her chest and shoulders sported a beautiful black and silver brindle stripe of soft fluffy fur. The rest of her was clean, but bare. I figured she would be at



*Apple, before her makeover.*

the shelter for a few weeks while her fur grew back in.

On our way back to the kennel I noticed a family walking to their car and called out a friendly greet-  
(see *Grooming*, p. 33)



## TREASURES ABUNDANT AT YARD SALES

By Erin Long, Director of Marketing & Community Outreach

"One man's trash is another man's treasure" was a phrase I heard several times this summer as the Humane Society once again held three yard sales to benefit the shelter's operations. On May 21 & 22, July 30 & 31, and once more on September 3 & 4, the crowds came to pick through both trash and treasures on the grounds of the shelter.

There were definitely a lot of treasures to be had because by the end of the three weekends, the shelter pocketed over \$11,000!

All of the items for sale were donated by staff, volunteers, and other shelter supporters. They brought gently-used pet bowls, bedding, toys, and other pet supplies; housewares; holiday decorations; books;

DVDs and CDs; children's games and toys; appliances; furniture; electronic equipment; tools; jewelry; and so much more. There was literally something for everyone! Our volunteers whipped up batches of cookies, brownies, cupcakes and other sweet treats and we held a bake sale to feed all the hungry shoppers.  
(see *Yard Sales*, p. 34)



## BOWL-A-RAMA SUCCESS HELPS TO STRIKE OUT PET HOMELESSNESS

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

The annual HSHC Bowl-a-Rama was held on March 27, 2010 at Forest Hill Lanes. More than 160 bowlers participated in the event. Once again we completely sold out and a great time was had by all with 3 hours of bowling, great raffles and prizes and wonderful camaraderie.

The key to the success of the event was bowlers soliciting donations from

friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to support the efforts of the bowlers. Prizes were awarded to the top three fundraisers: Barks and Blooms \$1,675, Fallston High School \$1663 and Festival Veterinary Clinic \$1,201. A net total of \$12,300 was raised in support of the care of the animals at the shelter.

Generous sponsors of the event included Har-

ford Emergency & Referral Veterinary Services, Animal Emergency Hospital and APG Federal Credit Union. Thank you to all bowlers, community supporters and generous donors for making this event a great success! 🐾



*Barks and Blooms – TOP FUNDRAISERS!*



*Allison Mueller from Harford Emergency & Referral Veterinary Services (Event Sponsor) and HSHC Executive Director Mary Leavens.*

*Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!  
Taylor Rybak, Ashley Leavens  
and Alyssa Kelmer.*



## Dogtoberfest (continued from p. 26)

years we have held the benefit at our home and have raised more money for HSHC each year. Each year, the event gets bigger and bigger and the checks get larger and larger (probably due to the OPEN BAR J). This year we raised \$2,370 for HSHC. The fact that it's a tax deductible donation for them also helps. So they get to party and do a great charitable honor all in one day. They know they are making a differ-

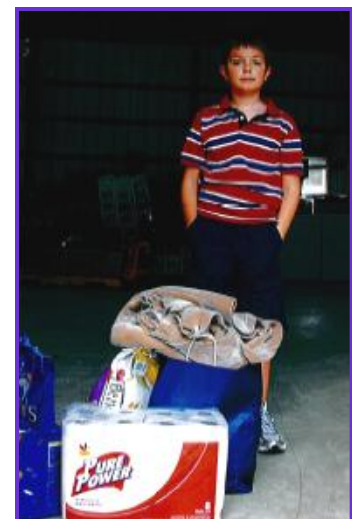
ence in the lives of many animals with every contribution.

I hope this story will encourage others to do the same in their homes. It's great watching everyone enjoy a great time and smile, but what's most important is getting the animals at HSHC to smile too! It is so important to make a positive difference in life. You all do a great job at HSHC and if they could talk, the animals would thank you for

trying to make a difference too!"

Thank you, Kim and Ellen, as well as your party guests, for your generosity and compassion. I wish we had room in this space to personally thank each and every donor, for you are the protectors of Harford County's animals and the reason the Humane Society of Harford County is here to continue to help them.

🐾



*Liam Helms, a sixth grader at Bel Air Middle School collected donations for the shelter at his birthday party.*

## Legends of the Fog *(continued from p. 26)*

can take an entire night.

Legends of the Fog and the Humane Society of Harford County (HSHC) have been in partnership since the beginning of the 2009 planning season. Patrick Barberry, Vice President of Aldino Entertainment, states, "Since we started Legends of the Fog in 2007, we have always kept a focus on supporting our community. Legends of the Fog would not be a successful event without the support of its local community, and the HSHC and its volunteer staff have been an instrumental part of this business. We are proud of the success of Legends of the Fog in 2010, and we are very

proud to be able to make a significant contribution to the HSHC for the efforts provided by its staff and volunteers."

The partnership with Aldino Entertainment was a great way for volunteers to help support the mission of the Humane Society. We had 145 individuals volunteer to make this event a huge success. This was the perfect example of many people giving a little bit of their time to make a grand success for the whole team. Aldino Entertainment generously donated \$7,285 to the Humane Society of Harford County in recognition of the volunteer support we provided. Way

to go team!!! Thanks so much to Aldino Entertainment for this incredible opportunity. We look forward

to the 2011 season which kicks off on September 30, 2011! 🐾



*Aldino Entertainment presenting a \$7,285 donation to the Humane Society of Harford County. Aldino Entertainment representatives, Charlene Barberry, Patrick Barberry, Mary Leavens, HSHC Executive Director and Mike Barberry.*

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## Buddy *(continued from p. 25)*

while being starved, when her “loving” hubby was passed out drunk on the sofa, she mustered up the courage to get the dog out of the basement and take him to the animal shelter and tell the staff the whole terrible story. My prayers are with her for only God knows what he may have done to her because of this dog.

After the normal thirty day limit, the staff felt so sorry for him that they could not put him down. At fifty-two days I found him. Thank God the manager took it upon herself to tell me this story. This was a Friday afternoon and she said she would have to put him down on Monday. It seemed so horribly unfair to me that a dog had to suffer so much at human hands and then, because of all he had been through, be killed by us, too.

So I entered his cage and he urinated right where he was lying. He didn't flinch. He didn't move. He just urinated. The manager explained that this was his reaction to any males who got near him. Now, I may not be the brightest light bulb on the Christmas tree, but I am the male of the species, and if I did pick this dog he would be solely my re-

sponsibility and the Lord knew I certainly did not want some stupid dog peeing on me every time I got near him or picked him up so, of course, I said I wanted him. He deserved a chance and I just knew we, he and I, would make a good team.

The folks at the shelter put our two picks into a cage together to make sure they got along well and they did. The female Border collie was the boss – like mother, like daughter! They were spayed and neutered and we took them to their new home. We decided to name them names that we would really call them.

We named the Border collie “Baby”, my new buddy we named “Buddy”.

On his first day at his new digs he proved that he too was not the brightest light bulb on the Christmas tree when he chased after another dog that was standing by our fence in our back yard. Now that in and of itself is certainly not stupid, but the fourteen foot leap off of the deck

and picnic table was! But then again, he learned!

There is an extremely long story that follows on how I taught Buddy to trust me, but I'll try for the short version. Whenever I got near him, he peed. No matter where he peed, I would love on him and talk really softly to him and yes, I would always but always clean up after him. Gradually he would let me touch him, not scratch him, just touch a foot or his nose, he really seemed to like



that. Every now and again I would pick him up and he would pee all down the front of me. Now, friends, I want to be absolutely assured that I never raised my voice, I never hit him, and never punished him in any way. I figured the other bastard, OH!, excuse me, I mean “master” had done enough of that. Buddy deserved some love and I was going to do my best to give it to him.

On Monday nights, in season, I would always watch Monday Night Football. I wanted Buddy to get up on my chest and watch football

with me but he had other plans, like peeing on the carpet every time I tried to pick him up. So I stopped picking him up and started just calling him and he'd run away. At least he wasn't peeing on the carpet! I thought that was progress. As time went by, Buddy would lay closer and closer to me on Monday nights until he was right under my hand and he let me scratch him, without him peeing. Now folks, that was real progress.

Then one Monday night the theme music for Monday Night Football came on and I was in the kitchen, doing my husbandly chores, when Joyce screamed for me to come here right away. I just knew from the sound of her voice that something terrible had happened. As I rounded the corner I saw Buddy sitting erectly by my couch with his stubby little tail going a mile a minute. As I walked to the couch, he watched me and as I began to sit down, he leaped onto my chest knocking me flat onto the couch. He pushed with all his strength to get his nose and forehead up under my chin. We watched football together for four hours without him getting down, without him peeing, without me (see *Buddy*, p. 35)



## Grooming *(continued from p. 29)*

ing. They saw Apple, and came walking over to meet her, chatting to each other that they had missed her while walking through the kennel looking for their new dog. I whispered to Apple, now is your chance!, and she started her tail into a nice slow wag, and looked at the family with love in her eyes. They took turns patting the front furry half, as I told them what a nice girl she was, well mannered,

gentle and kind. I also mentioned that we thought she had a flea allergy causing the baldness, but she would need to be seen by a vet for a full diagnosis, and cautioned that treatment could be costly depending on what they found.

This is when the mom bent down to Apple's level, held her face gently in both of her hands, gazed into her soft brown eyes and said, 'Oh, Apple, I know what it is

like to go bald and have to grow your hair back.' I took a closer look at this kind woman, and saw that under her hat she had short hair. Very short. She continued talking to Apple 'You see, I am a breast cancer survivor, just coming off of chemo, and I am growing my hair back too!'

I could only stand and silently watch this beautiful bond start to develop. I felt quite privileged to help her

with the adoption procedures, watch her and the family take Apple for a walk around the grounds to get to know each other, and imagine how this woman and her dog would grow their hair back together while they shared life's challenges and joys.

Apple got a home that Saturday, and a woman coming through cancer treatments got a new best friend. 🐾

## BEL AIR CHRISTMAS PARADE

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

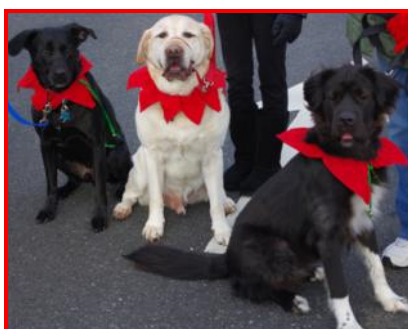
The Humane Society of Harford County participated in the Bel Air Christmas Parade on December 5. The weather that day was true to form for a holiday parade, complete with blustery winds, cold temperatures and even some snow flurries to set the mood.

Our Humane Society banner, adorned in holiday garland and bells,

led the way. A troop of nearly 50 walkers, some with their own dogs and some walking shelter dogs, paraded down Main Street, some stopping along the way to perform tricks. The dogs were wearing red Christmas collars and the walkers were wearing matching elf hats or their own Santa hats.

The dogs and their walkers alike all had a

great time walking down Main Street. The parade on-lookers really enjoyed the parade of canines. We earned an Honorable Mention in the parade and received a trophy for our efforts. What a great show of support for our shelter and a wonderful way to demonstrate that we are an important part of the Harford County community! 🐾



## LOCAL VETERINARIANS LEND A HAND TO HELP THE SHELTER ANIMALS

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

One of the biggest needs at the Humane Society of Harford County is veterinary care for our animals. Local veterinarians volunteer their time 3-4 times per week to administer rabies vaccines, examine animals and diagnose health related issues. Dr. Amy Hubbard, of Jarrettsville Veterinary Clinic, establishes the schedule for the veterinarians who volunteer their time at the shelter throughout the year.

Thank you to the following veterinarians who share their time, talent and treasure with the Humane Society of Harford County on behalf of the animals in our

care:

- 🐾 Dr. Tiekert, Aberdeen Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Pate, Dr. O'Connell, Dr. Baron, Bel Air Veterinary Hospital
- 🐾 Dr. McLaughlin, Banfield – The Pet Hospital
- 🐾 Dr. Bodycott, Churchville Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Lomax, Festival Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Doherty, Fork Veterinary Hospital



- 🐾 Dr. Hoopes, Greenbrier Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Baker, Harford Emergency & Referral Veterinary Services
- 🐾 Dr. Silcox & Dr. McNesby, Hickory Veterinary Hospital
- 🐾 Dr. Hubbard, Jarrettsville Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Gounaris, Pleasantville Animal Hospital
- 🐾 Dr. Svoboda, Rockspring Veterinary Clinic
- 🐾 Dr. Holloway and Dr. Rowland, Swan Creek Veterinary Clinic

Thanks go out to all of the local veterinarians



that are so supportive of the Humane Society of Harford County. These generous vets donated more nearly 200 hours of support to our animals throughout the year. In addition, many veterinarians generously discount procedures for animals that come to us with a health issue and/or injury. We need you so much and very much appreciate all the support you continue to give to our animals. You help us to help the animals - **thank you for all you do!** 🐾

## Yard Sales *(continued from p. 29)*

It's hard to imagine all the hard work that goes into preparing for these sales. It involves cleaning, sorting and pricing all the donations in the weeks leading up to each sale. It also involves setting up rows of tables and shelves and making signs.

This year's sales were once again organized and spearheaded by volunteer Lois Townsend who put in countless hours supervising other volunteers and getting

us ready. Lois has decided to step down and hopes that someone will be able to take over for her this coming year. We hope a group of individuals will step up to take over this important fundraising event. Unfortunately, without volunteer support, we will have to discontinue the yard sales. If you would be interested in organizing this year's sales, please contact Erin Long at 410-836-1090, x106 or [erin@harfordshelter.org](mailto:erin@harfordshelter.org).





Students from Harford Day School held an art sale and raised \$500 for the shelter at the school's annual Arts Festival on November 6, 2010. This year's show is November 4th and 5th.

Entries from last year's art contest "The Town Goes to the Dogs & Cats" line the shelves at The Art Rooms Professional Art Supplies of Havre de Grace. Over \$200 was donated to the shelter from this fundraiser.



## Buddy (continued from p. 25)

getting up to pee. Oh well!, I'll take the good with the somewhat uncomfortable. He never peed when a man got near him again. It was eighteen months of very patient love that overcame the absolutely beastly treatment from his first master. Eighteen months of cleaning up pee. Eighteen months of being peed on. You know what? Every minute of it was worth it, every second.

Buddy has now been my best friend for over fourteen years. We have watched each other grow older and loved each other every day of our friendship. I have enjoyed his many welcomes from six week trips or our two or three hours outings, as his tail wiggled and his tongue licked. I can find no words to describe the warmth that flows between us when he climbs into my lap and we look into each others' eyes. Buddy figured

that if I were in my Lazy Boy, he was supposed to be in my lap. Many of my naps were rudely interrupted by him jumping into my lap and sticking his cold nose into my neck. But never, no not once did he ever receive a harsh word from me about that. I loved it! I have loved the untold hours of cuddling and snoring together, hundreds of times when he would just walk by and stop for a while and stand there and look at me as if I were someone important, someone special. Little did he know that he was the important one, the special one.

How we enjoyed our long walks together in our younger years. Poor Buddy never learned how to play as a puppy but he always was willing to try, so we did. We

sure looked stupid but we were having fun and that was all that counted. We can never forget the dreaded baths. I looked forward to them, he dreaded them. I never could figure out why. Once he was in the shower with me, he always settled down and really seemed to relax. And after the shower, how he loved the drying off part. Lots and lots of rubbing. Yes, those were the good old times, Buddy.

Yes, I know he is just a dog. Yes, I know he is not a human being. Actually he's much nicer than that! And yes, of course I know he is not my child. He's much less trouble than they ever were and cost a heck of a lot less too! Our children and grandchildren demand so much from us and that's ok. But Buddy just wanted me to scratch his head and his ears,

his chest and his tummy. The grandchildren want to go Disney World. Buddy wants to go out and do his business. With your children, you live through their problems with them: finances and divorces, sicknesses and injuries, jobs and job loses. With Buddy, his biggest demands are that he be fed, watered, walked, oh and of course, get his poop picked up. We certainly wouldn't want to forget that, would we? Maybe we should have skipped the kids and stayed with the dogs. NO! NO! Then there wouldn't be any grandchildren.

I loved my Bud and he loved me. That's the bottom line. That's all that really counts, after all that is all that really matters, isn't it?! There nothing else left to say.

In loving memory to my Bud.

Dad 🐾





## FRITO LAY MAKES GREAT IMPROVEMENTS AT SHELTER

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

A group of nearly 50 Frito Lay employees and family members came to the Humane Society of Harford County on September 18, 2010 and left an impact that will be seen for years to come. This was their second annual Frito Lay Day at the shelter.

In late summer, a team of Frito Lay employees met with the HSHC's Executive Director and Shelter Operations manager to inquire about what items were needed at the shelter and what work needed to be done. They took lots of notes and measurements and the day before the scheduled work party, a huge Home Depot flatbed truck arrived with all kinds of supplies on it.

Frito Lay staff members sorted the items

into work piles so that when everyone arrived they knew exactly what they were here to do and all of their supplies were in one area. And so the work began—painting, mulching, digging, repairing, installing,



power washing—and all of it was done with a smile. The whole gang truly seemed to be having fun – working hard, but knowing they were making a great impact.

They also purchased two dozen new Kuranda dog beds, nearly two dozen cat beds, two heavy duty hoses for the kennel area, pooper

scoopers, replaced two worn doors, one on the lower kennel and one on the small critter cottage with new steel doors, a new window, two dog potty stations, litter and animal bedding, milk supplements and bottles for feeding kittens, animal food and treats, dog and cat toys and enough supplies to completely replace the fighting barriers between the lower kennels. They also built and installed a much-needed clothes line for our laundry area.

The work that was done by Frito Lay employees and their families would have probably taken our staff years to complete (even if we had the funding to do all of this), since we operate with just enough staff to get the job done. What a great difference

this work has made to the safety and security of our facilities as well as the overall appearance of our property. Thank you Frito Lay – you are a great community supporter and you have made a huge difference to the Humane Society of Harford County. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!** 🐾



*Frito Lay staff members and their families working at HSHC.*

## ADOPT-A-KENNEL PROGRAM

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

The Adopt-a-Kennel program has been going strong for a couple of years. To date we have received 14 corporate sponsors and 50 individual sponsors. This program was initiated in the spring of 2008 and was designed to generate funds to upgrade and maintain the aged kennels in the shelter.

Corporate sponsorships are \$1,000 and

individual sponsorships are \$500. The funds generated as a result of this program help to maintain the paint, windows, automatic water bowls and more in the kennels. The renovation of the kennels has given our shelter dogs a cleaner, safer, healthier environment in which to live until their adoptive families arrive. Sponsors are recognized with an

engraved plaque affixed to the exterior of the kennel. What a great way to pay tribute to a loved one or a special pet.

Sponsorships are still available and much needed. Please contact Mary Leavens at 410-836-1090 x101 or [mleavens@harfordshelter.org](mailto:mleavens@harfordshelter.org) for more information. 🐾



*Adopt-a-Kennel sponsor recognition plaques*

## SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PET

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

The single most important thing we can do to save animals from the suffering and death that pet overpopulation causes is to spay and neuter them. Millions of cats and dogs of all ages and breeds are euthanized annually or suffer as strays. Many are the result of unwanted, unplanned litters that could have been prevented by spaying or neutering. Just one unaltered female dog and her offspring can produce 67,000 puppies in only six years. In seven years, one female cat and her offspring can produce an incredible 420,000 kittens.

It has been proven that sterilized animals

live longer, healthier lives. Spaying females eliminates the stress and discomfort that they experience during period of estrus, eliminates the risk of uterine cancer and greatly reduces the risk of mammary cancer. Neutering makes males far less likely to roam or fight, prevents testicular cancer, and reduces the risk of prostate cancer. The one-time cost of spaying or neutering an animal is considerably less than the expenses involved in gathering up strays, sheltering abandoned animals, finding foster or forever homes, and euthanizing those where homes cannot be found.

All of us are affected

by animal overpopulation. Animal shelters do their very best to place animals in loving, forever homes, but the number of homeless animals unfortunately far exceeds the number of willing adopters. Approximately 3.7 million animals are euthanized at animal shelters across the country each year due to the fact that there are not enough willing, responsible adopters. Human health is threatened by the danger of transmittable diseases, animal bites and attacks. It is only when each and every one of us assumes the responsibility for pet overpopulation that we will see a decrease in the

problem. Having your pet spayed or neutered ensures that you will not be adding to this huge crisis. Won't you do your part today??

If you have a pet that was not adopted from the Humane Society of Harford County that needs to be spayed or neutered, please contact us so that we can provide you with information on a number of low cost (for qualifying individuals) spay/neuter options in the area. Please call 410-836-1090 x109 for more information.

All animals that are adopted from the Humane Society of Harford County are required to (*see Spay/Neuter, p. 38*)

## Spay/Neuter *(continued from p. 37)*

be spayed or neutered within 60 days of adoption. Adopters provide a \$50 deposit at the time of adoption. They are given a HASP (Harford Animal Sterilization Program) certificate to take to a participating veterinarian to have their new pet spayed or neutered. Once they provide proof that the animal has undergone the procedure, their \$50 deposit is refunded.

There are a number of veterinarians in the area that supported the HASP initiative in 2010. They provided low cost spay and neuter procedures for more than 1,350 animals that were adopted through the Humane Society of Harford County. Thank you to the following veterinary practices:

- ♣ Abbey Animal Hospital
- ♣ Aberdeen Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Animal Care Center
- ♣ Animal Hospital of Havre de Grace
- ♣ Animal Medical Center of Bel Air
- ♣ Banfield – The Pet Hospital
- ♣ Bel Air Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Beltway Animal Hospital
- ♣ Cambria Veterinary Center
- ♣ Carney Animal Hospital
- ♣ Cat & Dog Hospital of Columbia
- ♣ Cat Sense Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Celebrie Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Chadwell Animal Hospital
- ♣ Churchville Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Creswell Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Dundalk Animal Hospital
- ♣ Eastern Animal Hospital
- ♣ Edgewood Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Falls Road Animal Hospital
- ♣ Fallston Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Festival Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Forest Hill Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Fork Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Fountain Green Veterinary Center
- ♣ Fullerton Animal Hospital
- ♣ Greenbrier Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Hickory Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Homeward Bound Mobile Veterinary Services
- ♣ Jacksonville Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Jarrettsville Veterinary Center
- ♣ Lewis Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Madonna Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Midshore Veterinary Services
- ♣ Newark Animal Hospital
- ♣ North East Animal Hospital
- ♣ Northwind Animal Hospital
- ♣ Parkville Animal Hospital
- ♣ Pitman Animal Hospital
- ♣ Pleasantville Animal Hospital
- ♣ Pulaski Highway Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Rockspring Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Schulmeyer Animal Hospital
- ♣ Shawsville Veterinary Hospital
- ♣ Swan Creek Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ Timonium Animal Hospital
- ♣ Town & Country Veterinary Clinic
- ♣ White Marsh Animal Hospital

Thanks go out to all of these clinics and hospitals for supporting the HASP spay and neuter initiative for shelter animals. We appreciate all you do for us.

If you are adopting a pet from HSHC, please be sure to contact one of these veterinarian practices to set up your post adoption exam. Please support the veterinarians that are so supportive of our shelter and the homeless and neglected animals of Harford County. ♣

## WALK & WAG-A-THON AND PET FAIR: A TAIL-WAGGING SUCCESS!

By Mary Leavens, Executive Director

The Humane Society of Harford County held their annual Walk & Wag-a-Thon and Pet Fair on Saturday, October 30 at the Harford County Equestrian Center. The net amount raised at this event was more than \$17,000 which will support the homeless, neglected and abandoned

animals of Harford County.

The day began at 9 AM with the Pet Fair at which more than 40 vendors displayed their wares and services. Registration also began at 9AM and free bandanas and HSHC chip clips were provided to the first 200 registrants.

Event t-shirts were also given out to all participants who raised \$100 or more.

Pet contests held during the day included:

- ♣ Best Costume
- ♣ Best Kisser (at right)
- ♣ Best Trick
- ♣ Biggest/Smallest Dog

*(see Walk & Wag, p. 39)*





## Walk & Wag *(continued from p. 38)*

Human/Canine Look-a-Like

Musical Tails

Exhibition topics included obedience and Ask the Trainer (presented by Aja Harris, Mutt Magic), Disaster Preparedness for Animals (presented by Rick Lewis, D.V.M. of Academy Animal Hospital), and a demonstration by the K-9 unit of the Harford County Sheriff's Office.

A ribbon cutting by County Executive David Craig, HSHC Board President David Fang, Top Dog event sponsor Dr. Gretchen Ruby/Animal Emergency Hospital, HSHC Executive Director Mary Leavens and HSHC Shelter Operations Manager Blaine Lang. Nearly 500 pet owners and animal

lovers gathered to walk their dogs, enjoy exciting canine exhibitions, explore more than forty community and pet-related vendors, enjoy delicious food, participate in exciting pet contests and raffles and have an overall fun-filled day for families and their canines.

The leisurely one-mile walk around the grounds of the Equestrian Center suited all levels of walkers. The route was enhanced with signage telling the story of the Humane Society of Harford County in order to increase community awareness of the 63-year-old organization. In advance of the walk, participants were asked to collect pledges from friends,

co-workers and neighbors. Through the HSHC website, participants could set-up their own personalized fundraising page. As a result, donations poured in from Harford County and across the nation.

Many community members that did not have a dog to walk took advantage of the "Not an Owner? – We Have Loaners" program whereby the Humane Society provided dogs to walk. Each dog proudly wore an "Adopt Me" bandana at the event. As a result, a number of dogs were adopted after the event.

Thanks go out to our very generous sponsors of this event: Animal Emergency Hospital as the "Top Dog" event sponsor; Hickory Vet-

erinary Hospital as the "Leader of the Pack" sponsor; Animal Medical Center, Churchville, Greenbrier and Swan Creek Veterinary Clinics, Comprehensive Nursing Services, Inc., Festival Veterinary Clinic and the Harford Veterinary Medical Association as "Tail Waggin' Sponsors" and APG Federal Credit Union, Freedom Federal Credit Union, Sunshine Designs, Ed and Lucie Snodgrass, Main Street Cigar, Klein's ShopRite, Baron's K-9 Country Store and WXCX 103.7 FM as "Dog's Best Friend" sponsors.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this event and helped to make it such a great success! Next year we plan to make it even bigger and better! 🐾



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