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BECAUSE COMMUNITY MATTERS

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Gas, snacks & a clean dog

Newtown business offers facility to wash pooches

By Rob Dowdy

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For anyone who's ever needed to give their canine friend a bath, fill up their gas tank and get some snacks in a hurry, the WagOMat has them covered.

The WagOMat, which is the converted Shell gas station and convenience store located on Church Street next to WagsPark in Newtown, has all the features of a typical convenience store, with one glaring difference: The building holds four dog-washing bays directly behind the car wash.

Learn more

To find out more about WagOMat, visit www.wagomat.com. The convenience store, gas station and dog washing facility is located at 3804 Church St., next to WagsPark, in Newtown.

The bays operate similarly to manual car washes. There are various cycles – rinse, shampoo, conditioner, deodorizer – and the dogs occupy large, stationary tubs. And there's even a blow dryer.

Owners use a large hose to rinse and bathe their pets as the canines stand or sit in the tubs.

Owner Bob Slattery, who also



ROB DOWDY/STAFF

Lexi Mikonis washes "J.D." at the WagOMat, which is the former Shell gas station and convenience store located next to WagsPark on Church Street. WagOMat contains four dog washing stations that allow customers to wash their dogs in a stationary tub.

owns WagsPark, said he originally came up with the idea when he was considering a snack shop within the private dog park.

He later decided to buy the convenience store next to the park because "hounds and hot dogs don't go together."

After buying the shop and gas

station, Slattery installed four dog-washing bays and placed pet supplies within the store for shoppers.

"We couldn't find anyone out there who's doing anything like this," Slattery said.

Despite already reaching unexplored territories, Slattery said he's not done.

He said he's planning to expand the WagOMat Web site to allow customers to buy dog products online, as well as kiosks within the store to allow customers to browse products and place orders on the spot.

"It allows us to take this concept beyond the (local area)," he said.