

# Sandbox Gazette

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2025

ISSUE 2



Welcome to the Sandbox Gazette. In this edition, we will show the calendar of events, update you about previous feature cats and introduce new ones, present a heartwarming story, notify you about bird flu in cats, offer a gift certificate, provide the tally of the 2024 Combined Federal Campaign and United Way, kick-off the three dollar campaign, repeat a request for volunteer help, announce the Easter pie and bake sales, repeat information about the annual plant sale, remind you about the lasagna dinner and auction, inform you about the Yellow Springs Street Fair, list the monthly supply donations, tell you about past, current and future fund raisers, and give some reminders,

## Calendar of Events

The calendar shows the upcoming events for The Tenth Life. Please mark your calendar.

\$3.00 Campaign Began	April 1 <sup>st</sup>
Easter Pie & Bake Sale	April 19 <sup>th</sup>
Flower & Plant Pickup Begins	May 6 <sup>th</sup>
Lasagna Dinner and Auction	August 10 <sup>th</sup>
Beavercreek Popcorn Festival	September 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>

## Feature Cats

From the previous newsletter, both have been adopted. Popeye was adopted by a volunteer and is loving his new home with a resident cat. They are buddies. Cutie was adopted with two other kittens and is happy to be the best friend of the couple’s daughter.

The feature cats for this newsletter are special needs cats, although they don’t know that they are any different from other cats. Their names are Oreo, Micah and Spike. Oreo is a three-year old blind girl who is black with a small amount of white. She is the first to great visitors to



her room. She is fairly small and gets along with her roommates, unless they get in her face and she tells them to back off. Since she cannot see them, it surprises her. On her first day in her room, she was already on top of the cat tree, looking very proud of herself. She loves attention and constantly gives you rubs. She is so sweet.

Micah is all black and only has one eye that has vision. He is about three years old and came to The Tenth Life as a small kitten with badly infected eyes. With several different types of medication applied three times per day, his one eye was saved, but the other one was too badly damaged to save it. He is a round boy who loves everyone. He is also a greeter to every visitor to his room. He has been close to being adopted but always loses. With his being black and only having one eye, he has two strikes against him. He works twice as hard to be a great cat and find a home.

Spike is our third special needs cat. The reason he is special needs is because he is thirteen years old and recently lost his home when his “Mom” died. He is a long-hair tabby cat with huge feet. Spike is very friendly and gets along with everyone. He lived with another cat. He does not have any health issues, just his age. He needs a loving home to live out his remaining years.

All the cats, are spayed/neutered, tested for diseases, vaccinated, and treated for parasites. Please call to visit.

## Heartwarming Story

This heartwarming story is about two cats who came to The Tenth Life separately, but found a loving home

together in Indiana. Their names are Bashful and Nemo. Bashful is a large, twelve year old boy and Nemo is seven years old with a crimped ear. Bashful was with a gentleman and two other cats. Unfortunately, the gentleman died and the cats had nowhere to go. All three came to The Tenth Life. Poor Bashful was so traumatized, he lived in the closet in his room for weeks. We left the door open so he could come out to eat and use the litter box. Volunteers worked with him to encourage him to come out and meet people. Eventually, he was out all the time and greeting visitors. Of course, his age was against his being adopted. He was featured on our Facebook page and interest was fantastic.

Nemo was also left homeless when his “Mom” could no longer care for him. His “Mom” had arranged with The Tenth Life about twenty years ago that when she could no longer care for her cats, they would come to The Tenth Life for placement. Nemo came with three other cats and was very happy in his room. He adjusted to life here fairly quickly, but because he was a little older, he was not chosen. He also had a crimped ear which is a turnoff for some adopters. He would climb in people’s laps but was not chosen.

When his new “Mom and Dad” came to The Tenth Life to adopt, they looked at Bashful and immediately decided to adopt him. They then looked for another older cat to be with Bashful. They looked at about three others but decided on Nemo because he was so friendly and loving. They have sent pictures several times and the last showed the two cats on a chair together. They are adjusting to their new home and to each other. We are so grateful that they have found a loving home with their new “Mom and Dad”.

### **Bird Flu in Cats**

There have been several articles lately about bird flu being found in cats. The reports are saying most of the cats were infected by eating raw meat or drinking raw milk which were purchased by their owners thinking that these products were healthier for their cats. Bird flu has been found in some of the brands of these products necessitating recalls of these foods. Since 2022, one

hundred and twenty-six cats have been infected. Per the article, the numbers have been increasing in past months. Outdoor cats are particularly at risk as they can pick up the disease directly from dead birds. Bird flu in cats can cause neurological symptom, such as seizures, blindness, difficulty breathing, and discharge from the eyes and nose. Some cats circle or have a head tilt. Others show fever, lethargy and not eating. Researches are not sure if cats can pass the disease to other cats. They do not believe that it could pass to humans. Cats are blamed for so many things and now with this information being publicized, poor cats will have an even harder time finding homes and being loved. Bird flu is just another reason for people to keep their cats indoors rather than roaming outside and possibly being exposed to bird flu. Please be careful of what you feed your cats for their safety. For more information, go to [nbcnews.com](http://nbcnews.com).

### **Gift Certificate**

PetSuites of America in Dayton donated a one hundred dollar gift certificate to our auction; however, it expires on August 18, 2025, only eight days after our auction. If anyone is interested, this is a spectacular offer. If you are planning a trip and need boarding for a pet, this is a great way to save money on the fee. We would love to sell this certificate and raise funds for the cats. If you are interested, please contact The Tenth Life.

### **Combined Federal Campaign and United Way Tally**

Donations from these two campaigns have not started yet, but will in the next couple of months. From the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) we were designated to receive eighteen thousand dollars and from United Way we are receiving nearly two thousand dollars. The cats truly appreciate your donations through these campaigns. Please remember The Tenth Life

### **Three-Dollar Campaign**

The three-dollar campaign began on April 1<sup>st</sup>. For this campaign, we ask everyone on our mailing list to

donate three dollars. This has been a very successful campaign in the all the past years. Last year we received thirty-five thousand dollars from this campaign. We keep the amount at three dollars so everyone can donate without having an impact on their financial status. Many people donate more than three dollars. We appreciate any amount as it all adds to the total. Please send your donation in now so that you do not forget. It will truly help the cats. We are waiting on your donation. You can send your donation to the address on the last page of this newsletter or can give on our website through Just Giving at [thetenthlife.org](http://thetenthlife.org). Thank you for your support.

### **Request for Volunteers**

We are again asking for volunteers. Although we have a huge team of volunteer help, we are still a few volunteers short of our total needs. If you have been thinking of offering your help, it would be a great time to follow through on your plan. As always we need more volunteers to provide the cats' non-medical care needs. This includes cleaning their rooms and of course, providing love and attention to the cats. Everyday, litter boxes are scooped, food and water bowls are cleaned and filled, laundry changed as needed, floors swept and mopped, and cats petted. It is work, but so rewarding. The cats greet you and offer to help with the work (not always in the way that we need). Most volunteers work one day per week but a few come every other week. It all helps with the workload. Most volunteers work for approximately two hours but some stay longer if their schedule allows. Their work is so appreciated. More volunteers would make life easier and better for the existing volunteers and for the cats. The more volunteers, the more time the volunteers can spend holding and working with the cats. If you would like to enrich your life, please call our phone number, and we will answer any questions you may have. Please consider helping with the cats' care.

### **Easter Pie Sale**

The pies will be available on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am-5:00pm for pickup. We will have extras of

most flavors. The regular pies are eleven dollars each and the special pies which are any others that they sell are twelve dollars each. There was a price increase to us, and we had to increase our price. The pies are from Mehaffies Pie Peddler and are always delicious. Save yourself time and effort. You can buy pies from our sale, have a better variety for your guests, and help the cats. See you at the sale.

### **Easter Bake Sale**

We are planning on having our Easter bake sale the same day, April 19<sup>th</sup>, as the pie sale from 10:00am-5:00pm. We are asking our supporters to again bake for this sale, since our baker in Tennessee will not be able to bake because of health problems. If you enjoy baking and have some time, please bake for this sale and help the cats. The baked goods can be brought to The Tenth Life on Friday night from 3:00-6:00pm or Saturday morning from 9:00-10:00am. We always have a wonderful selection of baked goods thanks to our supporters. Hope to see you at the sale.

### **Annual Plant Sale**

The plant sale is progressing nicely. We have over twenty-seven thousand dollars of orders so far. This is a little behind last years sales. We will still take orders and fill them from our extras or increase our order to Furst. **It is never too late to place an order.** We would love to surpass last years order total of thirty thousand dollars. Of course, we will have two to three thousand dollars of extras, but preordering is still the best to assure we have everything that you want. The plants will again be provided by Furst Florist and Garden Center. They have always supplied the plants for the sale and are always the best plants available. Last year we sold over thirty-eight thousand dollars of plants. They were so beautiful, and the cost was competitive with other nurseries. They are not big box store plants, but rather are the highest quality, healthiest plants you can find. Please be sure to plan to buy your plants from The Tenth Life and tell everyone you know about the sale. Although the last sale was fantastic, we would love to do even better this year.

We will have the same great selection as in past years. There will be annual bedding plants of many varieties and colors, hanging baskets, flowering pots, patio pots, perennials, herbs, and vegetables.

The new pickup plan that we instituted two years ago helped with the traffic congestion that we sometimes experience. **If your last name begins with A to J, please come on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. For last names K to Z please plan to come on Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup> between 4:00pm and 7:00pm.** We hope this plan will continue to help with the congestion and make life easier for everyone. **If neither of these days work for your schedule, you can come any of the following evenings during those hours or on the weekend.** The hours will be the same for each week night after that. The hours on Saturday will be 10:00am – 5:00pm and on Sunday from 10:00 – 5:00pm. Please only come during these hours so that we may assist you with your order. Many orders may look alike but may not be yours, and you could wreak havoc with our order system. We will be expecting your order. For those looking for extra plants, please remember that if you cannot find the plants that you want, let us know and we will gladly procure more plants from Furst. We want to sell as many plants as possible to help the cats and meet our customers' needs and desires. See you there.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the plant sale, we can always use more help. The plants are delivered on May 5<sup>th</sup>. After the plants have all arrived, we inventory the delivery and then start filling nearly two hundred orders. We can use help with these activities. By the end of Monday, all orders are accumulated and marked. On Tuesday morning, we begin checking the orders to make sure they were filled properly. As we all tire out during the day, it is easy to make mistakes when filling the orders. We correct any errors found to satisfy our customers desires. Beginning at 4:00pm on Tuesday, our customers begin picking up their orders. We need help with getting peoples' orders identified and carried to their cars and helping those who want to purchase plants from the extras. Please call to offer your assistance with this beautiful array of plants and satisfied customers.

## **Lasagna Dinner and Auction**

As we told you in the last newsletter, we have already scheduled the 2025 lasagna dinner and auction for August 10<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 598 on Kentshire Drive in Kettering. It was a fantastic venue for our event, and the American Legion staff is so helpful and cooperative. We scheduled it immediately after the event to be able to be certain to have our preferred date. It will include the delicious lasagna (meat and veggie) dinner, provided by Belmont Catering, including salad, bread sticks, dessert, and coffee or tea. Soft drinks and bottled water are extra. We will not begin serving the lasagna dinner until 2:00pm. We will serve the dinner until the end of the event. Normally, we order enough lasagna to have some left over for our customers to purchase to take home. We sell the leftover lasagna for five dollars per large piece.

There will be a huge selection of silent auction items. The times will remain the same 2:00–6:00pm with the preview beginning at 1:00pm. The admission fee will again be fifteen dollars which includes the meal and your ability to bid on auction items. It will be a fun-filled afternoon with a delicious meal and a wide variety of merchandise for your bidding pleasure. Hope to see you there. **Payment is cash or check, no credit cards.**

There will again be The Tenth Life table filled with cat merchandise including a wide variety of catnip toys, cards, The Tenth Life apparel, etc. Please plan to shop for yourself and your cats.

Again this year, we will have tables of delicious homemade baked goods. There is always a huge selection with a great variety of baked goods to tempt your taste buds. You will make your selections and make a donation based on your judgment of a fair price. You are always very generous with payments for the cats.

Jewelry has always been a great seller at our auctions, and we would appreciate donations of jewelry items again this year. Last year we had six tables of jewelry items and much of it sold at a nice profit for the cats.



We would again like to offer a nice variety of quality purses for our shoppers' delight. Of course, only gently used or new purses are desired. Designer purses would be great but most people like to keep those.

We are again asking our supporters for donations of items for the auction. All types of items are needed. We are not looking for yard sale items, but instead new or gently-used merchandise or vintage items. Of course, cat-oriented items are great sellers, but we have all types of merchandise for our auction. We love having a huge selection and many varieties of items to offer our customers at the auction. We usually have fifty-five to sixty-five tables of auction items with many items per table. The auction is very popular and is our largest fund raiser. We can accept donations at any time during our hours of operation. If you cannot transport the items, call us, and we can make arrangements for pickup. All donated items are tax deductible, and we are happy to provide a letter to you for your donation.

We will also be looking for sources for donations for soft drinks and the salad bar. We have been very fortunate to receive donations from restaurants and supporters for many of these needs in the past. We will be asking again.

We promise you will have a wonderful time shopping for great value items and enjoying a delicious lasagna dinner with all the trimmings. See you there.

We need many volunteers to solicit auction items from retailers, work on Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> to set up for the auction, and work the day of the auction (August 10<sup>th</sup>) as servers, table monitors, cleaners of dinner tables and cleanup and pack-up help at the end of the event. Please contact us if you can offer your assistance in any of these ways.

### **Yellow Springs Street Fair**

After much thought, we have decided to forego participating in the Yellow Springs Street Fair. Getting in and out to setup our space has always been difficult, but with the changes they implemented last October, this

task became even more difficult. We were always able to park in the Speedway lot to unload. We stayed there, with the approval of the manager, until the volunteers arrived to man the booth. Last year, Speedway's lot was completely blocked off and everyone had to sit in line until the previous participant set-up their booth. This totally complicated the process and convinced us that we would no longer be a participant. This was always a profitable event for The Tenth Life; however, the aggravation became too much to tolerate. We will still be at Beaver Creek Popcorn Festival in September where access is very workable. See you there!

### **Monthly Supply Donations**

The list of supply donations by month are provided below. Your donations of these supplies save us time and money that can be used for more important duties. The items can be brought to The Tenth Life during our hours of operation shown at the end of this newsletter or we can arrange for pickup.

April	Brooms
May	Paper Towels
June	Bleach
July	Pine Cleaner
August	Friskies, Iams, Fancy Feast Canned Food
September	Paper Towels
October	Wipes (Clorox, Lysol, Sam's, etc.)
November	Bleach
December	Postage Stamps

### **Past Fund Raisers**

Since the last newsletter in January, we have not had any fund raisers. However, several are on the horizon.

### **Current Fund Raisers**

The current fund raisers are ongoing throughout the year to fund the needs of the cats. Any assistance that you can provide will be a great help.

We are always appreciative of donations of craft items to have in our gift area. All types of craft items are accepted. They do not have to be cat oriented, but of course, cat items are great sellers.

Please continue shopping at Dorothy Lane Markets and Kroger. Your purchases help to support the cats.

We have a nice selection of short (\$20.00) and long-sleeve (\$25.00) t-shirts, polo shirts (\$25.00), sweatshirts (\$40.00) and hoodies (\$45.00). The t-shirts, polo shirts, and sweatshirts are available in S/M/L/XL/XXL&XXXL in a variety of colors. Of course we do not have every size in every color.

Our selection of catnip toys is extensive. We have crocheted catnip mice, fish, turtles, octopi, chickens, eggs, gnomes, (\$5.00), snakes (\$6.00/\$8.00), small and large balls (\$3.00) and catnip door hangers (a crocheted ball on the end of a crocheted hanger) (\$6.00). There are also catnip mats (\$10.00), small fleece mats, perfect for cat naps, (\$7.00) and bags of dried catnip (\$3.00).

Pet Hair Magnets (\$15.00), and Furminators (\$35.00) are available for your pet needs. The Pet Hair Magnets are wonderful for removing pet hair, and the Furminators work wonders for grooming your pet and removing mats in the fur.

Our note cards are great for writing your friends or they make excellent gifts for your cat-loving friends. There are ten cards and envelopes for five dollars. The front of the card is a cat face and the inside is blank.

These items make excellent gifts for your cat friends and their people. All of these items are available at The Tenth Life or by mail with the **additional amount shown below for postage. As mailing costs keep increasing, we have had to increase our mailing fees.** We know that you will love any of these items.

T-shirts (Long or Short Sleeve)	\$5.00
Polos & Sweatshirts,	\$5.00
Catnip Toys & Note Cards,	\$4.00
Pet Hair Magnets, Furminators,	\$6.00

## Future Fund Raisers

Please remember to order your plants and flowers from our huge sale or come and purchase from our extras selection. It all starts on May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm at The Tenth Life. If you do not participate in this sale of gorgeous plants you will be disappointed. These plants definitely make you the envy of the neighborhood. Buy your flowers and plants and help the cats.

As previously mentioned, we will be at the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival. The dates are September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Please attend, have a great time, and do pet and gift shopping at our booth.

The biggest event for The Tenth Life is the dinner and auction on August 10<sup>th</sup> at American Legion Post 598 on Kentshire Road in Kettering. Please plan to attend and have a fun afternoon of eating and shopping.

## Reminders

We appreciate your saving ink cartridges, pennies, coupons, and aluminum for the cats. We redeem the ink cartridges for rewards to purchase office supplies. The pennies can be wrapped or not. Sending coupons for Fresh Step Litter, cat food, paper towels, toilet paper, wipes (Lysol or Clorox), and facial tissue save dollars when we shop for supplies. The aluminum can be any type of aluminum. Any of these can be brought to The Tenth Life during our hours of operation. The ink cartridges and coupons can be sent.

### Hours of Operation:

4:00-7:00pm Monday-Thursday  
3:00-6:00pm Friday  
10:00am-5:00pm on Saturday  
10:00am-5:00pm on Sunday

### Website:

[thetenthlife.org](http://thetenthlife.org)

### Phone Number:

(937) 376-5550

### Address

The Tenth Life  
P.O. Box 178  
Alpha, Ohio 45301





Now I have arrived at your home,  
everything is strange and I don't feel  
good.

Do not feel impatient if I don't sleep in  
my new basket. Yesterday, I slept in the  
dirt.

Do not be terrified if I gobble up my  
food. Yesterday, I had to do it to survive.

Do not get angry if I pee on your floor.  
Yesterday, it did not matter.

Do not be sad if I am afraid of your loving  
hand. Yesterday, I did not have one.

Have patience with me, it's your world  
but not yet mine.

If I trust you, I can give you the greatest  
gift I have to give.

My HEART.

All I need is a bit of time to adjust.



**T H E   T E N T H   L I F E**

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