

Sandbox Gazette

QUARTERLY

OCTOBER 2026

ISSUE 4



The final edition of the sandbox Gazette for 2026 has arrived. In this edition, we will present the calendar of events, supply featured cats, tell you a heartwarming story, request crafts and bake goods for the holiday events, propose the cats' Christmas Wish List, repeat the dangers of the holiday season, give a tally of the three-dollar fund, provide the final proceeds from the lasagna dinner and auction, explain our absence from the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival, update you about the mum sale, make you aware of the holiday greenery and plant sale and the holiday pie sales for Thanksgiving and Christmas (order forms included in this newsletter), alert you to the holiday bazaars, inform you about the Giving Tuesday Campaign, offer suggestions for other ways to donate to The Tenth Life, show the monthly supply donations, remind you on past, current, and future fund raisers, and suggest reminders.

Calendar of Events

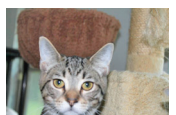
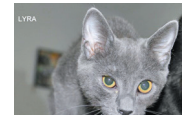
Please see the calendar for important dates.

\$3.00 Campaign	Now
Mum Pickup	September 26 th
Thanksgiving Pie Orders Due	November 7 th
Greenery/Plant Orders Due	November 14 th
Thanksgiving Pie Pickup	November 21 st
Greenery/Plant Pickup	November 28 th
First Holiday Bazaar	November 28 th
Christmas Pie Orders Due	December 5 th
Christmas Bake Sale	December 19 th
Christmas Pie Pickup	December 19 th
Second Holiday Bazaar	December 19 th

Feature Cats

From the last newsletter, only Aurora has been adopted and is super happy. Teddy and Joey have not been adopted and are still waiting for loving homes.

The new feature cats are Luigi, Kelli, and Lyra and Cosmo. Luigi is a handsome gray and white, short hair, neutered male. He is about six years old. Luigi is a large cat who loves everyone. He was an owned cat who belonged to an elderly lady who could no longer properly care for him. Even though it was terribly hard for her to bring him to The Tenth Life, she wanted what was best for him. He is certainly the light of his room. When visitors come into his room, he immediately asks for attention. He will stand on top of the cat tree and demand attention. If the visitors dare to come close to him, he will turn upside down and make sure they see him and pet him. If they decide he has had enough attention, he will reach out to them and tap their arms to come back and finish the job. Luigi has never met a stranger and gets along great with the other cats in his room. He is a true joy to encounter. He would love to have another great home like he had before.



Kelli is a beautiful tortie, short hair kitty. She is about four years old and a very different tortie. She is a brown and orange tortie, but very light colors with tiger stripes. We have never seen a tortie with her markings. She loves to greet people and sit on laps for special attention. She does well with other cats, but could be an only cat. She was found in an abandoned garage with kittens. Kelli was a great mother but was more than ready to be done with her kittens when they were old enough to be adopted. She is a quiet cat but demands attention.

Lyra and Cosmo are litter mates and are about six months old. They are sister and brother and are both tigers. Lyra is a sweet little girl who loves to be picked up and Cosmo is into everything. In addition, he loves toes.

All of these are spayed/neutered and tested for viruses. In addition they are fully vaccinated, tested for parasites, and microchipped. Everything has been done for these cats and any others at The Tenth Life. Please call to visit them.

Heart Warming Story

Our heart warming story for this newsletter is about Rex. He is a two-year old tiger boy who was living outside in a Dayton neighborhood for over a year. He was already neutered and was front declawed, living outside with no protection. We were contacted about him but had no room to get him into our facility. The woman who called about him, kept feeding him and trying to give him some shelter but had no ability make him her inside cat as she already had a cat who did not want a friend. We were contacted by a woman who had adopted a declawed cat from The Tenth Life over a year ago. She thought it was time for her cat to have a friend. We contacted the lady who had been trying to care for Rex outside and worked him into our program. We were not sure of his health or his personality, although she had said he was friendly. We arranged to have him come into The Tenth Life and began checking his health and determined that he was healthy enough to be adopted once he was updated on vaccines and treated with Revolution and Profender for fleas and parasites. When his new "Mom" came to visit him, he was super friendly and loving. She decided he would be a nice companion for her girl kitty. After he arrived at home, his new sister was not impressed with him, of course. Over time, they have become friends and are now peacefully coexisting. It is very sad that he had to survive on the streets for over a year without his front claws and without a loving home. He is now very happy. We are so glad that he found his home filled with love and attention.

Request for Craft Items and Bake Goods for Bazaars

With two bazaars quickly approaching, we are in desperate need of craft items. All types of craft items are appreciated, but of course, cat oriented ones are the best sellers. Catnip toys are the favorites. We need a nice variety for our shoppers, and we can only do this with your help. If you enjoy doing crafts, there is no better place to display them than at our bazaars. Please help us and bring your crafts items to The Tenth Life before November 28th. The cats appreciate your help.

Also, we are planning our annual Christmas bake sale on December 19th. This is a favorite of our supporters. To

make this a success, we need a huge selection and variety of sweet treats. With your help we can offer a huge variety of homemade baked goods to our customers. Cakes, candies, breads, pies, etc. are the needs. They do not need to be bagged. Our customers simply make their selections and make a donation based on their belief of a fair price. Our customers are very generous and always pay a very appropriate price. Donated items can be brought to The Tenth Life from 3:00-6:00 pm on Friday December 18th or after 9:00am on December 19th. The sale will be from 10:00am-5:00pm. If you love to bake, this is a great opportunity to use your favorite recipes to help the cats.

Cats' Christmas Wish List

The cats asked me to include their Christmas wish list in this newsletter. They have four items on their wish list. They are more volunteers, donations to the general fund, donations to the emergency fund, and canned food. All of these help the cats directly and provide more happiness for them while at The Tenth Life.

Volunteers are what make The Tenth Life possible. Without volunteers, none of the accomplishments of the organization would have occurred and none of the cats would have had a chance for a loving, safe environment until they were adopted. At The Tenth Life they enjoy a home-like environment with lots of love. Volunteers provide all the non-medical support for the cats. They clean their rooms, provide fresh food and water and most importantly provide love and attention. Most volunteers work about two hours per week. Of course, some work longer if they have the time. The best part of volunteering is the purring and rubbing from the cats. They are so grateful for the clean rooms and the extra attention they receive. Not only their life will be enriched, but yours will be also. Please consider helping.

Donations to the general fund are the backbone of the organization. These funds are used for all operating expenses of the organization. They pay the doctor's salary, utility bills, medical expenses, maintenance costs, etc. Without these funds, we could not operate and save the lives of unwanted, homeless cats. With all of the rising costs, donations of these funds are particularly important.

Operating costs can easily exceed twenty thousand dollars per month. It takes many fund raisers to maintain the needed level of funding. Please donate to this fund.

We really appreciate your donations to the emergency fund which is used for needed treatment for cats whose owners cannot afford the necessary care. We receive so many calls from people whose cats are ill, and they do not have sufficient funds to provide proper medical care. We try to only help the most needy, but there are so many sad stories. Donations to this fund allow us to help a few of these cases.

The last request is for donations of canned food. Not all of the cats receive canned food, but some require it for health reasons. We generally use Friskies Pate or Fancy Feast. These seem to be the favorites of the cats. Any flavors are fine with them. They can be ordered from Amazon or Chewy and be sent to The Tenth Life. Thank you from the cats.

Please remember all financial donations are tax deductible. We will gladly provide acknowledgement letters for your records. All donations go directly to the care and maintenance of the cats and their environment.

Holiday Dangers

The holidays are time for fun and happiness, however; there are many dangers associated with the holidays that people do not consider. They are ribbon, tree decorations, tree greenery, poinsettias, etc. Please visit the chart in this newsletter to see these dangers and substitutions for them.

Three-Dollar Fund Status

The current status of the three-dollar fund is twenty-five thousand three hundred dollars. We are still receiving and accepting donations to this fund. If you have not donated, please consider doing so. It is never too late. This fund serves to supplement the operating fund and cover essential needs of the organization and, of course, the cats. This is such an easy way to help the cats without being a financial burden. We keep the donation amount so small so that

everyone can afford to do their part. We could raise the requested amount per person, but with all other expenses climbing so quickly for people, we are trying to do our part and keep the donation from being a financial burden. Please send your donation today if you have not already contributed to this fund raiser.

Lasagna Dinner and Auction

The annual lasagna dinner and auction was held on August 9th at the American Legion 598 in Kettering. It was another successful event, although it provided a little less income than the same event in 2025. There were about forty tables loaded with donated auction items. There were a few items that did not sell, but probably less than in previous years. The attendance was good, but a little less than last year, which was our best dinner and auction. The weather was cooperative and no rain. We raised over thirty-three thousand dollars for the care of the cats. Last year's profit was nearly thirty-five thousand dollars. With the economy being as it is, we feel very fortunate to have raised as much as we did. We are so appreciative to all the volunteers who worked so hard to solicit donations. Of course, we appreciate all the businesses and individuals that donated items for the auction and dinner. Further, the volunteers that prepared bid sheets and those who worked so hard to prepare the items for auction, helped setup, and worked the day of the auction are the best. Without all of this help from so many, the auction would not be possible. We appreciate American Legion 598 for allowing us to use their facility and Belmont Catering for providing the delicious lasagna. We plan to have another dinner and auction next year, so please start saving items for this fund raiser. See you there!!

Beavercreek Popcorn Festival

Unfortunately, we did not attend the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival even though we had registered to participate. When we arrived at our assigned time for setup, it was pouring rain which made setup impractical. We waited for over an hour, hoping that the rain would stop at least enough for us to setup our tent and merchandise without getting soaked or ruining the items

for sale. It continued to rain, and we asked about setting up at noon or on Sunday. The rules of the event say that you must be setup by nine o'clock to participate. Regretfully, we felt that setting up in the down-pour was not a good idea and decided to return to The Tenth Life and unload. We learned later that the opening of the Popcorn Festival; was delayed until noon. If we had gone ahead and setup in the rain, we would have had to set in the tent for about four hours and would have been wet for that entire time. We were sorry to disappoint our customers who come every year to buy our items, especially catnip toys. It was also disappointing to forgo the income from this event. We usually raise nearly twenty-five hundred dollars from these two days of selling. It was a difficult decision, but we felt that we had no other choice. We will register for next year and hope for better weather. We plan to see you there next year.

Mum Sale

The mum sale began on September 26th. We ordered three hundred and thirty mums and sold out. As always, they were provided by Furst and were huge and beautiful. For the price of ten dollars each, they were a true bargain. We saw mums smaller than these for twenty to thirty dollars each at retail stores. We thank our customers for purchasing from us. We will offer mums from Furst again next year.

Holiday Greenery and Plant Sale

We are again offering holiday wreaths, roping and plants for your holiday decorating needs. The order blank is included in this newsletter. Prices can be found on the order blank. As always, the plants and greenery are provided by Furst. All of these gorgeous plants and greenery have such a marvelous aroma and really set the mood for your holidays. The plants include cyclamen and Christmas cactus in three sizes of pots. Wreaths are a mix of long and short needle greenery with pine cones and a large red bow and are available in two sizes. The roping is cut to your desired length. Prices have increased slightly. Please send your orders, with payment, to The Tenth Life by November 14th.

Holiday Pies

For your holiday dinners and entertaining, we are again offering the delicious Mehaffies. pies. The order blank for the pies is included in this newsletter. Orders for Thanksgiving pies are due by November 7th, with payment, and will be available for pickup on November 21st. The Christmas orders are due by December 5th, with payment, and will be ready for pickup on December 19th. Pickup is from 10:00am-5:00pm on both days. Prices have remained the same. The price is twelve dollars per pie for the pies on the order blank or fourteen dollars for any other pies that they sell except cheese cakes. Ordering from The Tenth Life will save you many hours in the kitchen baking pies and save the cost of buying all of the ingredients. You can have a much better variety for your dinners with a great deal of less work. In addition you are helping the cats with your purchases. Please do not forget to send in your order blanks.

Holiday Bazaars

The holiday bazaars are scheduled for November 28th and December 19th. The hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm. We hope to have a nice selection of craft items for your shopping pleasure. We need our supporters help with this. Of course, we will have our famous handmade catnip toys in a huge variety of shapes, such as mice, balls, snakes, (small and large), door hangers, fish, turtles, etc. All are filled with homegrown catnip that truly excites the cats. In addition, we will have our apparel for The Tenth Life (short and long sleeve t-shirts, polo shirts and sweatshirts). Original design Christmas cards (no new one for this year) created by a volunteer will also be available. With donations, we hope to have a new selection of craft items that you will love.

Giving Tuesday

December 1st is Giving Tuesday. This is a world wide event for contributors to give back to charities that help the communities. For this special day, we have a supporter who has again offered to match donations up to three thousand dollars. This is the third year she has made this

offer. If you would like to do a matching gift, please let us know. If you would like to donate to The Tenth Life for Giving Tuesday, you can send a check to our post office box or make a donation on our website through **Just Giving**. We will count it as a Giving Tuesday donation as long as you tell us. If you want to donate but cannot have the donation to us on December 1st, just, please mark your donation as Giving Tuesday. Last year, our wonderful supporters donated twenty-five thousand dollars to The Tenth Life. Please help us on Giving Tuesday.

Other Ways to Donate

We know that many people prefer to make annual donations during the holidays. There are so many ways for you to donate any time and have a tax deduction. We provide acknowledgement letters for all donations.

The first way anyone can donate is a direct donation by check or cash to our post office box. You can also establish an automatic donation from your checking account if you do on-line banking. You simply register the address information for The Tenth Life located on the back of this newsletter, and the bank will send a check from your checking account. The check can be sent as often as you designate or even on a one-time basis.

The second is through our website. Donations can be made through **Just Giving** by credit card. There is a button on the home page that says donate. It will take you to the page where donations can be made. It gives you the opportunity of giving a one-time donation or a recurring donation which is charged to your credit card. The donation can be any amount.

The Tenth Life is a Thrivent Choice organization. Thrivent Choice is a member-advised program that allows eligible members to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes part of its charitable outreach funds each year. When eligible Thrivent Financial members direct Choice Dollars to a charitable organization, Thrivent forwards these dollars to that charity. If you are a member, please consider The Tenth Life for donations or contact Thrivent for more information.

Memorial donations can be made when a friend, a relative or a pet passes away. It is a thoughtful way to memorialize the person or pet. This is being done more and more, rather than sending flowers. Unfortunately, the flowers do not last, but a donation to The Tenth Life will make a huge difference in the lives of the cats living here. The family will be notified of your memorial donation (not the amount), and you will receive a letter for tax purposes.

Many companies encourage their employees to donate to charities. In an effort to further this policy, many of the companies will match your donations to the charities. Some even double or triple your donation amount. This is a wonderful way to help The Tenth Life and make your donations even larger without any further outlay of your funds. It is a good idea to check with your employer to see if they offer a program. If they do, they usually have a form that the charity needs to complete and return to the company. You can send the form with your donation, and we will finish the process. These corporate donations really help with the funding. Many of you make holiday donations, and this makes your donation even larger.

As we mentioned in prior newsletters, if you have reached the age where you must take a qualified distribution from an IRA, you can have this distribution check made payable to The Tenth Life. You will not be taxed on this amount as you would if the distribution were made payable to you. This is a win-win situation for you in that you do not pay taxes on the donation and the cats receive the funding.

Monthly Supply Donations

The following supplies are used daily and are much needed. Any can be donated in any month. They will be greatly appreciated and save the cats funds for other important needs. They can be brought to The Tenth Life during our hours of operation. If needed, we can arrange for pickup.

October	Wipes (Clorox, Lysol, Sam’s, etc.)
November	Bleach
December	Postage Stamps

Past Fund Raisers

Since the last newsletter in July, we have had three fund raisers already discussed. They were the lasagna dinner and auction, the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival, and the mum sale.

Current Fund Raisers

Our penny fund is still going although pennies are no longer being produced. Please save pennies or any other change for the cats. There is no need to wrap.

Please continue shopping at Dorothy Lane Markets and Kroger. If you have registered with these stores as a supporter of The Tenth Life, your purchases will contribute to the amount that these stores donate to The Tenth Life. If you have not registered as a supporter of the cats, but do shop at either of these stores, please consider registering as a supporter. It is easy to register and is a big help to our funding. Please remember to re-register at Dorothy Lane Markets as they require an annual registration.

We have a nice selection of short (\$20.00) and long-sleeve (\$25.00) t-shirts, polo shirts (\$25.00) and sweatshirts (\$50.00). Currently, sizes are S/M/L/XL. Of course we do not have every size in every color. They all have The Tenth Life logo embroidered on the front.

We have crocheted catnip mice, fish, turtles, octopi, snakes, kickers, small and large balls (\$5.00) 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 throws, (\$5.00) and bags of dried catnip (\$3.00). Cats that do not normally like catnip love these toys because of the freshness of the catnip that is locally grown. Commercially made toys have very little catnip aroma for the cats and do not excite the cats.

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.

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. All of these items are available at The Tenth Life or by mail with the **additional amount below for postage.**

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

Future Fund Raisers

All fund raisers for the remainder of the year have already been discussed in previous sections. They include Giving Tuesday, the Thanksgiving and Christmas pie sales, the greenery and plant sale, the holiday bazaars, and the Christmas bake sale. Please mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate to help the cats enjoy a happy life while living at The Tenth Life.

Reminders

We appreciate your saving ink cartridges, pennies, and aluminum for the cats. We redeem the ink cartridges for rewards to purchase office supplies at Staples. The pennies and other coins can be wrapped or not. The aluminum can be any type of aluminum from drink cans to siding or spouting. Any of these can be brought to The Tenth Life during our hours of operation. The ink cartridges can be sent to the post office box.

Hours of Operation:

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

Website:
thetenthlife.org

Phone Number:

(937) 376-5550

Address:

The Tenth Life
P.O. Box 178
Alpha, Ohio 45385

CHRISTMAS GREENERY

- Mixed Western wreaths are a short and long needle fir. Measurement is outside diameter. They are great for inside or outside use, decorated with a red bow and pine cones. 27" wreath stands for graves available.
- White pine roping with be cut to desired length, in one foot increments.



ITEM	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
22" Mixed Western Wreath	\$32.00		
30" Mixed Western Wreath	\$40.00		
White Pine Roping, cut to length	\$.80/foot		
Cyclamen — 4.5" pot	\$9.00		
Christmas Cactus — 4.5" pot	\$9.00		
Cyclamen — 6" pot	\$15.00		
Christmas Cactus — 6" pot	\$15.00		
Cyclamen — 8" hanging basket	\$22.00		
Christmas Cactus — 8" hanging basket	\$22.00		
Wreath stand — 27"	\$5.00		
		GRAND TOTAL	
Name		Telephone #	

Orders WITH PAYMENT must be received by The Tenth Life by Saturday, November 14, 2026.

Available for pickup at The Tenth Life on Saturday, November 28, 2026.

HOLIDAY DANGERS CHECKLIST

DANGERS

PINE NEEDLES

GARLAND

ICICLES

GLASS ORNAMENTS

RIBBON ON PACKAGES

POINSETTIAS

ALTERNATIVES

(1) SWITCH TO ARTIFICIAL TREE
(2) LIVE TREE – SPRINKLE PEPPER, LEMON JUICE OR TABASCO SAUCE ON END OF LIMBS TO PREVENT CAT FROM EATING

ORNAMENTAL ROPING

BOWS OR OTHER DECORATIONS

WOODEN, FABRIC OR PLASTIC ORNAMENTS

(1) USE STICKERS OR STICK-ON RIBBON
(2) IF USE RIBBON – SPRINKLE PEPPER ON PACKAGES OR PUT MOTHBALLS UNDER A FEW PACKAGES TO KEEP CAT AWAY FROM RIBBON

(1) DO NOT BUY
(2) USE SILK PLANTS
(3) HAVE ONLY AS A HANGING PLANT
(4) PUT IN ROOM THAT CAT IS NOT ALLOWED IN

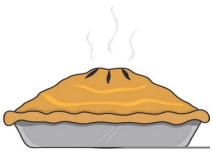


Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Dayton, OH
Permit #66

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Tenth Life Pie Sale



TYPE OF PIE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST
Apple	\$12.00		
Cherry	\$12.00		
Peach	\$12.00		
Dutch Apple	\$12.00		
Pecan	\$12.00		
Blueberry	\$12.00		
Coconut Cream	\$12.00		
Chocolate Cream	\$12.00		
Lemon Meringue	\$12.00		
Pumpkin	\$12.00		
Specialty _____	\$14.00		
TOTALS			

Name _____	Telephone # _____
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Orders WITH PAYMENT must be received by The Tenth Life by November 7, 2026 for Thanksgiving.
Pick up on November 21, 2026.

Orders WITH PAYMENT must be received by The Tenth Life by December 5, 2026 for Christmas.
Pick up on December 19, 2026.