

Sandbox Gazette

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2026

ISSUE 2



Hello again. Another Sandbox Gazette has arrived. In this edition, we will show the calendar of events, inform you about the previous feature cats and introduce new ones, relay a heart warming story about a cat of The Tenth Life, tell you about a costly winter occurrence, introduce new craft items, alert you of the start of the three-dollar campaign, tell you about the proceeds from the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and United Way (UW) and a possible change, request donations of canned food, make a plea for volunteers, remind you about the flower and plant sale, repeat details of the 2026 lasagna dinner and auction, display the monthly supply donations list, enlighten you about the past, current and future fund raisers, and give reminders.

Calendar of Events

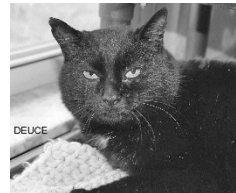
Here is the calendar of events for The Tenth Life for 2026. Please keep these handy to prevent forgetting.

\$3.00 Campaign Begins	April 1 st
Flower & Plant Pickup Begins	May 5 th
Accepting Auction Items	May 15 th
Lasagna Dinner and Auction	August 9 th
Beavercreek Popcorn Festival	September 12 th /13 th
Mum Orders Due	September 12 th
Mum Sale Pickup	September 26 th

Feature Cats

Unfortunately, only Ostia from the last newsletter has been adopted. She was adopted by a single lady as an only cat, and Ostia is super happy. The kittens, Peaches, Mango, and Topaz have not been adopted. They are so beautiful and so loving. They would be great additions to loving families. George and Paul from the December newsletter were adopted by a volunteer and are enjoying the great life and loving every minute of it.

The new feature cats are Deuce, Blanche, and John. Deuce is about two years old and is an all black, short hair. He loves everyone and gets along great with the other cats in his room. Deuce meets visitors to his room at the door and immediately requests attention. He usually gets lots of attention from the volunteers and visitors. He loves to sit on laps for even more petting, cuddling, kissing, and spoiling.



The second feature cat is Blanche. She is also about two years old and is a dark tiger without a tail. She was a stray in Medway with eleven other cats. The owner moved and put all of them outside to try to survive. A woman found out about them and started feeding them. Unfortunately, she could not afford the food and called The Tenth Life for help with the food supply. We were able to help and learned of the situation of these cats. She had taken two of the cats home with her, Blanche was one of them plus a Siamese mix. We were eventually able to take the two in for adoption. She said that she would get two more and take home until we had more availability. When more space became available, we called her to take in two more. Unfortunately, she said she could not continue feeding the cats in Medway because the bank had taken over the house and workers were there. We told her to bring the two she had taken home. For some silly reason, she had returned the two she had at her house to the place in Medway. How sad that none of the rest of them had a chance for happiness. Blanche loves attention and greets everyone who enters her room. She is so cute and lovable. She would love a home where she could be loved and spoiled.

John is a four-year old, gray and white short-hair, large cat who was adopted from The Tenth Life, but was returned after a couple of years. There was a female cat in

the household, who was not impressed with John. Of course, he wanted to be friends and play with her, but she played her diva card and hissed to discourage him. Unfortunately, the lady of the family adored the female cat and could not tolerate John bothering her kitty. Although the husband did not want to return John or Charlie as they called him, he was returned. He was very sad about returning a great cat as he called him. He told us how great Charlie was with their grand children and everyone who visited. John (Charlie) is great with the other cats in his room and loves all the visitors. He climbs in peoples' laps and purrs instantly. He would be a loving addition to anyone's home.

All of these cats, and all of The Tenth Life cats, are spayed/neutered, tested for viruses (FeLV and FIV), fully vaccinated, and micro chipped. If you would like to visit any of them, please call the number on the back of this newsletter for an appointment.

Heart Warming Story

The heart warming story for this newsletter is about Oreo. She came to The Tenth Life in September 2020 as a blind, six month old kitten. She had such a severe eye infection, that it caused blindness. Oreo had a difficult time adjusting to the other cats in her room because of her vision problem. At the time we had an adopter who specialized in blind cats. He adopted Oreo and worked with her to adjust to her new home and her feline house mates. Unfortunately last August, he had an unfortunate situation occur and had to place thirteen of his fourteen cats. All of them came to The Tenth Life for placement. We were extremely worried for Oreo with her being blind. When we moved her to her new room, we were very surprised how quickly she adapted. The first day, we found her on top of the six foot cat tree. None of us could believe how amazingly brave she was. She would greet every visitor to her room and demand attention.

A woman and her son who had adopted a shy cat (Boris) a year ago for her son's ninth birthday called to adopt another cat for her son's birthday this year. As soon as they arrived, she showed me a phone picture gallery full of pictures of Boris. When her son met Oreo, he really

liked her, but he wanted to meet more cats. With each room he met at least one more cat that he really liked, but always mentioned Oreo. When he had seen all the rooms he wanted to visit, he told his Mom that they should give Oreo a home. We returned to Oreo's room and she sealed the deal with him. She went home the next weekend, met the resident cat, and was hissed at by him. We have received three pictures of Oreo this week. She is sleeping with her new "Mom," which was Boris's favorite sleeping place. Oreo has even hissed at her new brother when she was on the second level of the cat tree. She is adjusting to her new environment and her new family. We are so grateful to a ten-year old boy who chose a blind cat as a friend for himself and his resident cat. Happy Life, Oreo!!

Winter Occurrence

The Thursday before the heavy snow on Sunday in January, the furnace of the house died. The house is where we house the leukemia and feline AIDs positive cats. Of course, the repairman declared the furnace dead and in need of replacement. As with most furnace replacements and especially the commercial units that we have, the new one has to be ordered. It took nearly two weeks to get the new one ordered and delivered. In the that time we had the unbelievable snow fall on Sunday and then record cold temperatures. To keep the house comfortable for the cats, we purchased space heaters and kept them going twenty-four hours a day. Of course, the electric bill reflected the space heaters' usage. We were truly surprised at the ability of the space heaters to warm the rooms and keep the cats comfortable and safe. Before the installation of the new furnace, there was another snow that added to the previous accumulation. When the new furnace arrived from Texas, the repair people were concerned about how to get the new unit to the far side of the house through the deep snow. They improvised and used a four-wheeler and a cart to move the old unit out and the new unit into place. It required four men to balance the unit on the cart while the fifth man drove the four-wheeler. Once it was in the general location, we had to carefully slide it off the cart onto the pad without damaging the new unit. Then was the task of getting the old unit onto the cart, through the snow, back around the house to the truck to be loaded and hauled away. After a few hours of installation time, the furnace

was replaced and the house began to reheat. The cats were so happy with the new furnace and its heating capability.

New Craft Items

Through the generosity and creativity of volunteers, we have a huge, gorgeous assortment of pillows, coasters, and magnets. In this black and white newsletter, it is difficult to display the true beauty and quality craftsmanship that these items have. There are two types of pillows. One type is crafted of tapestry fabric with cats as the main design. They are ten-inch and twelve-inch pillows made by a volunteer and are gorgeous. The other pillows are beautiful pictures of cats and a few dogs with a cushion insert. They are also about twelve inches in width. The covers are zippered to allow removal for laundering. The pillows sell for twelve dollars.

The coasters and magnets are wood and have cat designs. They are produced by a volunteer and her husband. The craftsmanship is amazing. They are about four inches diameter and are square or round. There are several cat designs and the price is six dollars each.

Everyone, who has seen these items, has fallen in love with them and is amazed at the price. They would cost much more in a retail store. The pictures do not do them justice, but we hope are good enough to catch your interest. We will have these items at the Beaver Creek Popcorn Festival and at the auction. Of course, they are always available at The Tenth Life or by mail.

Three - Dollar Campaign

April 1st was the kickoff for the annual three-dollar campaign. We started this campaign several years ago as an alternative to the annual yard sale that became too labor intensive for the volunteers who worked it. We ask everyone on our mailing list to donate three dollars to help with the expenses of caring for the approximately four hundred cats that reside at The Tenth Life. If everyone donated three dollars, we would receive about ten thousand dollars. Fortunately, many donate more than three dollars, and the income from this campaign is usually

about thirty-five thousand dollars. This seems like a huge amount, and it is, but these cats keep spending money and needing more funds for food and litter. Please contribute to this campaign to keep the cats happy until they can find a home.

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and United Way (UW)

We have received notifications of the donations to The Tenth Life from these campaigns. The donations from CFC total eleven thousand six hundred dollars and from UW eight hundred dollars. We have already sent letters to all who asked for acknowledgement letters for their tax submissions.

We received information from CFC that the portal for all of their data has been closed. We know they did have their application period open, but we decided to not apply since the income from CFC last year was so small. Any donations from the 2024 and 2025 campaigns will still be distributed to The Tenth Life. We cannot tell from information available whether the campaign will be discontinued.

Request for Canned Food

Most of the cats at The Tenth Life are fed strictly dry food; however, some require canned food for special needs. Our supply of canned food is running short, and we need to replenish. The cats seem to prefer Friskies or Fancy Feast, but any brand will work. We use approximately thirty to forty cans per day which exhausts the supply very quickly. Some supporters donate canned food through Amazon or Chewy and have it delivered to us. As cats will do, some supporters bring in canned food that their cat will no longer eat. That is appreciated also. Donated food helps with our expenses, but of course, we purchase canned food also as needed. Your donated food can be brought to The Tenth Life during our hours of operation on the back of this newsletter. Of course, we could arrange to pick up the food from you, if needed. Any help is truly appreciated. The cats who get canned food appreciate your generosity.

Plea for Volunteers

As we have requested in the two previous newsletters, we need more volunteers to care for the cats. The work involves maintaining the cats' rooms. Litter boxes are scooped, food and water bowls are cleaned, and floors are mopped daily. The volunteers do this important work. Of course, the best part is being with the cats. They love the extra petting and extra laps for snuggling. The more volunteers we have, the more time for petting and loving. Volunteers come in the morning, afternoon, evening or weekends which ever works best for their schedule. Most come once per week, but a few are here every other week. The volunteers do not have medical responsibilities as those are handled by the doctor and her helper. Please consider helping. We understand that people think they will be tempted to take more cats home so they do not offer to help. We all adore the cats, but we know that they have a home until they can find a home of their own. Most volunteers have not adopted a cat from The Tenth Life. Please think about helping and call us. The cats would be so grateful.

Flower and Plant Sale

The flower and plant order has been placed and they all arrive on May 4th. If you would like to help with the unloading, inventorying, and sorting orders, please arrive at 9:00am and offer your help. By the end of Monday, we should have the nearly two hundred orders sorted and ready for checking. We all meet on Tuesday about 10:00am to begin checking the orders for accuracy. By the end of Monday, we are all so tired it is very easy to make mistakes. We want our customers' orders to be accurate and that is why we do at least a check and sometimes a double check. By 4:00pm, all the orders are ready for pick up. **If your last name begins with A to J, please come on Tuesday, May 5th between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. For last names K to Z please plan to come on Wednesday May 6th 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 and Sunday will be 10:30am – 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. 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 are available during the evening hours of pick up, 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 if you are able and would like to help in any of the ways mentioned for the sale

2026 Lasagna Dinner and Auction

We are working on the planning for the 2026 lasagna dinner and auction. The location will be the same as 2025. It is the American Legion Hall 598 at 5700 Kentshire Road in Kettering, approximately a block from the intersection of Whipp and Bigger Roads. This venue worked very well for us the last two years, and many of our supporters commented how much they liked the location and the layout. It seemed to work very well for the event. The date is August 9th. 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 include the delicious lasagna (meat or veggie) dinner, provided by Belmont Catering, including salad, bread sticks, dessert, and coffee or tea. 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. More information will follow in future newsletters.

We will begin accepting donations of new or gently-used items of all types for the auction on May 15th. They can be brought to The Tenth Life during the hours of operation on the back of the newsletter. Cat-oriented items are always the favorites, but all types of merchandise

sell. The Tenth Life is known for offering a gigantic variety of items for your bidding pleasure. We love having a huge selection of jewelry and purses as these are favorites of our customers. This is the favorite fund-raiser of our supporters.

We need many helpers with this event. We need help soliciting merchandise for the auction from local businesses. We can provide a solicitation letter to provide to businesses when you ask for a donation. We need volunteers to set up the tables and place auction items on the tables. In addition, we will need volunteers to work at the event to help with serving and monitoring the auction tables. Finally, workers are needed to pack unsold items, tear down tables, and clean the facility. Please consider helping and making the event a successful, profitable one for the cats and their needs and wants.

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.

April	Postage Stamps
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

The only fund raiser since the last newsletter was the Easter pie sale. As always, the pies were from Mehaffies

and were delicious. We thank them for making this sale possible. We sold eight-five pies at a profit of nearly three hundred dollars. Thanks to everyone who purchased pies and we hope that they were a delicious addition to their Easter dinner. We did not have a bake sale this year because of a lack of interest by our supporters. The next pie sales will be for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Current Fund Raisers

Our penny fund is still ongoing even though pennies are no longer being produced. Please save pennies or any change for the cats. There is no need to wrap the coins for us.

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 (\$45.00). 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, and tacos (\$5.00), 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 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.

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 without the unpleasant tugging.

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 for your note-writing pleasure.

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 below for postage**. We know that you and your cat will love all of them. We are sorry that postage has increased, but with the increased rates by the post office, we have no choice but to increase our rates.

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

We have already discussed the flower and plant sale and the auction and lasagna dinner. Please mark these important events on your calendar. You will not want to miss either of them.

The Beavercreek Popcorn Festival is scheduled for September 12th and 13th on Dayton Xenia Road in Beavercreek. We will be in space 176 on Dayton Xenia Road in front of McDonalds. The hours are 10:00am - 8:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am - 6:00pm on Sunday. We will have our usual assortment of cat-related items,

including toys, collectibles, cards, and supplies. There will be other items available as always. Please stop by our both, shop, and say hello. See you there.

The annual mum sale is in September. The mums will again be provided by Furst the Florist and Garden Center. They are always beautiful and a true bargain at the price we charge. The size of the mums is unbelievable at our price. Order blanks will be in the July newsletter and orders will be due with payment by September 12th. Pick up will begin September 26th and continue until all are sold. Extras will be available.

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 at Staples. The pennies and other coins 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 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 /coupons can be sent to the post office box.

Hours of Operation:

Phone Number:

4:00-7:00pm Monday-Thursday (937) 376-5550
3:00-6:00pm Friday
10:00am-5:00pm on Saturday
10:00-5:00pm on Sunday

Address

Website:
thetenthlife.org

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



THE TENTH LIFE

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