
Sandbox Gazette

QUARTERLY

APRIL 2024

ISSUE 2



Spring is almost here, and it is time for another Sandbox Gazette. In this edition we will display the calendar of events, apprise you of the status of the previous feature cats and offer new ones, tell you a heartwarming story, suggest a new section for the newsletter, request volunteer help and newsletter delivery change to e-mail, repeat about spaying and neutering, kick-off the Three Dollar Donation Fund, offer cages and carriers for sale, provide the tally of the Combined Federal Campaign and United Way, remind you about the annual spring flower and plant sale, announce our participation in festivals, update you about the 2024 lasagna dinner and auction, give the monthly supply donation list, inform you about the past, current, and future fund raisers, and show reminders.

Calendar of Events

Here is the calendar of events for The Tenth Life for the next several months.

\$3.00 Campaign Begins	April 1 st
Flower & Plant Pickup Begins	May 7 th and 8 th
Yellow Springs Street Fair	June 8 th
Lasagna Dinner and Auction	August 18 th
Beavercreek Popcorn Festival	September 7 th & 8 th
Mum Sale	September
Yellow Springs Street Fair	October 12 th

Feature Cats

Unfortunately, only Omar from the last newsletter has been adopted. He is loved by his new “parents,” but he wants to be the boss of his new “sister,” and she is not impressed. The four litter mates are still waiting for their adoptive homes. Please come to visit and fall in love.

The new feature cats are Remi, Gem, and Susie. Remi is a long-hair tiger cat who is not great with other cats except one. He came with his best friend, Indicia, who he loves, but no other cats meet with his approval. He is about a year old and loves laps for long, cozy naps. Remi is very handsome. His girlfriend is a short-hair tiger and white female who is about seven months old.



Gem is a short-hair calico who is about a year old. When she arrived she was unable to see because of a severe eye infection. We were afraid that she would be totally blind; however, with eye medication three times each day, one eye was healed, and she has full vision in it. The other eye had to be removed. Before she came to The Tenth Life she had been crossing a busy street. We are amazed she was not hit and killed. We are very grateful for her crossing success. She is now fully recovered and has become a gorgeous girl. One problem is she does not like other cats, is aggressive toward them and fights with them. She needs a loving home where she can be the queen and receive tons of love. She would be forever grateful.

Susie is a thirteen year old tabby kitty, who needs a great home for her remaining years. She had a home with an elderly lady, and they were constant companions. When the lady died, Susie had no place to go to live out her life, as no family member would take her. She came to The Tenth Life and has had a very rough time trying to adjust to all the changes in her life. She would not eat and was very depressed. She is finally accepting being petted by a few volunteers and has decided to eat better.

It is so hard for older cats to lose everything they have known for their entire life and now not have anything they know. We would be lost also. She desperately needs a nice quiet home to be able to be relaxed and happy.

All are spayed/neutered, blood tested for viruses, fully vaccinated and micro chipped. Please consider giving one of these or any of our other cats a loving, safe environment. Please call us for an appointment.

Heartwarming Story

Our heartwarming story for this newsletter is about Morris. He is an dark, orange tiger and is so sweet like most orange males. He arrived on the front porch of a family's home when it was extremely cold, and he was crying. They immediately took him to an emergency clinic for help where he was diagnosed with a "tail pull" injury. They were told the tail would need to be removed, and he might not be able to pass urine on his own or he could be euthanized. They had the tail removed, had him neutered and tested for viruses. Fortunately, he was negative for the viruses and recovered from the surgery. As they had been told as a possibility, he could not pass urine on his own. They asked to be shown how to evacuate his bladder for him, but were not very successful regardless of how hard they tried. They called The Tenth Life for advice and help. We were able to accept Morris. We began expressing his bladder two to three times a day. He was a true gentleman about this procedure and did not give us any problems. We reduced these expressings to once per day for a few weeks and have now totally discontinued them except for a weekly checking. For all that he has had to endure, he is an unbelievably loving cat. Morris is a large round boy and truly handsome. He loves to be petted and purrs constantly. No animal should have to endure the suffering too many of them, like Morris, encounter. He is a lucky cat to have found these caring people who did so much for him before he came to our facility. He is now a happy big fellow.

Addition to the Newsletter

A volunteer has suggested a donation section in the newsletter. We receive many wonderful donations and always send an acknowledgement letter to the donor. It has been suggested that anyone interested could have their name printed in this new section (amount not shown) with a note of the reason for the donation, such as memorial for a person or a pet or in honor of a friend's service or friendship. We do receive donations with these kinds of remarks and could add them to this section. We would like your input about this idea. Of course, you would have to tell us with your donation if you would like to be included in this section if it appears to be favorable to our readers. You can call or send your comments to catmom475@aol.com.

Request for Volunteer Help

We are again asking for volunteer help. 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.

Request to Change Newsletter Delivery to E-Mail

With the increase in postage charges, we are again asking anyone who can and is willing to change, to receive their newsletter by e-mail rather than through postal delivery. We are not trying to eliminate the sending of newsletters to anyone who really wants it, but to be able to distribute the newsletter at a lower cost. We realize that some people do not have e-mail or do not like receiving the newsletter by e-mail, and that is fine. We will gladly continue sending it through the mail system. However, if receiving the newsletter by e-mail works for you, please send your email address to us or call us, and we will make the transition to e-mail. It saves us time and money to distribute the newsletter by e-mail. We currently have over five thousand on our newsletter distribution list and are still sending twenty-two hundred through the postal system at a cost of over three hundred dollars each mailing. With the cost of printing the newsletter, the total cost per newsletter is over one thousand dollars. If you are not interested in receiving the newsletter, please tell us that also, and we will remove your name from our distribution list. Thank you for your help. Correspondence for this request can be sent to catmom475@aol.com.

Need for Spaying and Neutering Cats

Unfortunately, kitten season is already in full swing. We are receiving so many calls about pregnant cats and cats with kittens. It is so important to spay and neuter the cats at an early age. A few females start going into heat at about four months. They are babies having babies. Please do everything you can to convince people to spay and neuter their cats in any way you can. This might include the gamut of telling them the advantages of having cats spayed or neutered to helping them by informing them of low-cost programs or even assisting with financial support. If you have questions about low-cost programs, you can contact The Tenth Life for more information. There are so many of these programs in this area. There is no excuse for not having cats spayed or neutered. We have just worked with a man who had five females and one male that were not spayed or neutered. The male impregnated his sisters, his mother, and his

grandmother. Thirteen kittens were born in a two week period and the fifth female was pregnant. This is exactly the reason that the over-population problem is so severe. This is just one example of what happens too often and makes the problem so exaggerated. We understand that the cost of spaying and neutering can be so expensive, but this geographical area is rich in low-cost programs. Too many people use the expense as an excuse and do not bother to investigate what programs are available to help. As always, the cats are the losers and so many are put to death for no reason. Please do all you can to help fight this injustice to the cats who are so dependent on us for their very existence.

Three Dollar Donation Fund

The 2024 Three Dollar Donation Fund began on April 1st. With this fund, we ask everyone on our mailing list to contribute three dollars to help with the funding of the cats' needs. This is an easy fund raiser for The Tenth Life administrators and hopefully for our supporters. It greatly helps with the cats' needs and hopefully does not negatively impact the financial situation for any supporter. We could ask for more, but we want everyone who wants to contribute to be able to do so. This is a fund that we developed when we discontinued the labor-intensive yard sale. As many who contribute, send more than three dollars, this fund usually raises over thirty thousand dollars for the cats. You can donate to this fund by sending a check to the post office box or going on our web site and contributing through Just Giving by using a credit card. Either way helps, and the cats receive one hundred percent of the donation. Please send your donation today so you do not forget. We all have so much on our minds that it is truly easy to forget this donation. We will be accepting donations to this fund raiser until much later in the year. Please annotate your donation that it is to be earmarked to this account.

Cages and Carriers Available

We have an excess of carriers and a few cages available for sale at reduced prices. They are all different sizes and styles. If interested, call for more information.

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

We have received notification from both campaigns of the donations to The Tenth Life from the campaigns last fall. Our supporters were very generous and donated fifteen thousand dollars through CFC and three thousand dollars through UW. We are so grateful for these financial donations that the cats will receive throughout the year. We will provide acknowledgement letters to those requesting them by the end of May. If you donated, requested a letter, and do not receive one, please contact your representative about the oversight. We have applied for the CFC drive for this fall and will receive notification in June if our application has been accepted. Please remember The Tenth Life for these campaigns.

Annual Flower and Plant Sale

The plant sale is progressing nicely. We have nearly twenty-nine 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 7th between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. For last names K to Z please plan to come on Wednesday May 8th 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 works 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 10:00am-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 6th. After the plants have all arrived, we inventory the delivery and then start filling over 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 needs. 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.

Yellow Springs Street Fair & Beavercreek Popcorn Festival

We will be participating in the Yellow Springs Street Fair on June 8th. We should be in front of the Speedway gas station. We will have our usual array of merchandise including catnip toys, apparel, cards, etc. Hope to see

you there. This is a really great festival and very profitable for the cats. It is a huge event and very popular.

We have already signed up for the Beavercreek Popcorn Festival on Dayton-Xenia Road on September 7th and 8th. The hours are 10:00am to 8:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am to 6:00pm on Sunday. We should have our same location – space 176 on Dayton Xenia Road in front of McDonalds. See you there. We will have all of your favorites including our huge selection of catnip toys, cat beds, cards, books and The Tenth Life apparel. Our 2024 original-design Christmas card will hopefully be available. See you there. We always enjoy meeting our new supporters and visiting with our old friends. We will have a great selection of items for you and your cat friends. We promise you will not be disappointed.

Lasagna Dinner and Auction

As we told you in the last newsletter, we have already scheduled the 2024 lasagna dinner and auction for August 18th at Bergamo Center. It has been such a fantastic venue for our event, and the Bergamo staff is so helpful and cooperative. We scheduled it immediately after the last event 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.

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. 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 pick-up. 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. Come and join us for your pleasure and the benefit of the cats.

We need many volunteers to solicit auction items from retailers, work on Saturday August 17th to set up for the auction, and work the day of the auction (August 18th) 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.

Monthly Supply Donation List

The supplies shown below are those that we use on a daily basis. 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. We do accept many other types of items.

April	Friskies, Iams, Fancy Feast Canned Food
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 January newsletter, the only fund raisers have been the Easter pie and bake sale. Both were very successful. We sold over one hundred pies and cheesecakes from Mehaffies Pie Peddler at a profit of nearly three hundred dollars. We thank them for the support of our fund raising efforts. As always, the pies and cheesecakes were delicious. On the same day, we had our Easter bake sale. As always, our supporters were extremely generous with their donations of baked goods. We had nearly thirty varieties of cookies, cupcakes, candies, etc. Nearly all of the baked goods sold at a

profit of one thousand and fifty dollars. The baked goods were so delicious, and the customers were very generous with their purchases. We thank everyone responsible for making these sales a success for the cats. The bakers are the best. Our next pie sales will be for Thanksgiving and Christmas, and the next bake sale will be for Christmas.

Current Fund Raisers

The current fund raisers are ongoing throughout the year to help 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 (\$35.00) and hoodies (\$40.00). 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, snakes (\$5.00), small and large balls (\$2.00) 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, (\$5.00) and bags of dried catnip (\$3.00).

Pet Hair Magnets (\$15.00), and Furminators (\$25.00) 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 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 and are sorry to have to do so.**

T-shirts (Long or Short Sleeve)	\$5.00
Polos & Sweatshirts	\$6.00
Catnip Toys & Note Cards,	\$4.00
Pet Hair Magnets, Furminators,	\$7.00

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 7th 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. Please buy your flowers and plants and allow us to help even more cats that are searching for a safe and happy life at The Tenth Life.

As previously mentioned, we will be participating in the June Yellow Springs Street Fair and the Beaver Creek Popcorn Festivals. The dates are June 8th and September 7th and 8th for the two festivals respectively. Please attend, have a great time, and shop at our booth.

The biggest event for The Tenth Life is the dinner and auction on August 18th at the Bergamo Center on Patterson Road. 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

Phone Number:

(937) 376-5550

Address:

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

Website:

thetenthlife.org



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