

Garfield's Gazette

Serving the Northern Neck
counties of Lancaster,
Northumberland, Richmond and
Westmoreland

Fall 2022
5th edition



Making a Difference on Virginia's Northern Neck - one cat at a time!

President's Message

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. was founded in March of 2020 due to the urgent need to eliminate the suffering of the large, growing population of homeless cats in Virginia's Northern Neck region through humane rescue, fostering and adoption programs. As president of GRI, I joined others in the local homeless cat rescue community to discuss the challenge of identifying the number of homeless cats in our NN region, and to develop a humane solution to eliminate their suffering. There had never been an attempt to calculate that figure, so we came up with the number of 1000 as that seemed like a lot of cats!

Now that Garfield's has rescued more than 1000 homeless cats since the spring of 2020, we know that the number of homeless cats on the Northern Neck is well over 1000! We receive calls almost daily of cats in need.

We also know that with your help we will continue to reduce those numbers. "Help" is the keyword here. We need more volunteers, more donations and community resources to continue to eliminate the suffering of homeless cats on the Northern Neck.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

In Appreciation,
Ann Bedford, President
Garfield's Rescue Inc.



Garfield's Reaches a Milestone of 1000 Rescued Cats

A thousand of anything is a lot, let alone a thousand homeless cats! Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI) is proud to introduce their 1000th rescued feline, Holly.

Holly is a senior gal that showed up as a stray at a Lancaster County residence. Obviously, a pet at one time, she apparently had spent time fending for herself for quite a while. Holly came to GRI dirty, skinny and hungry. After going through the



intake process of vaccinations, flea treatment and deworming, she enjoyed food and a safe and quite rest. Shortly after intake, she was examined by a local vet. It was determined that she was at least 15 years old and in the early stages of renal failure. Holly is on a prescribed diet and is living out her final days in the comfort of one of GRI's foster homes.

Mike, the Match Maker

Snickers, a beautiful calico cat, was the sole companion of a senior Northern Neck resident who suddenly passed away. Since Snickers was not comfortable around small children, the family could not keep her. The family considered euthanasia, but one son would not agree to euthanasia because his mother loved Snickers so much as she was a member of the family and provided love and comfort.



Snickers was rehomed to Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI), one of the larger Northern Neck homeless cat rescue organizations. Snickers went into a deep depression having lost all that was familiar with her. She did not like being with other cats, she spent her time hiding, and did not eat. Her foster mom tried hard to comfort Snickers, but she would hiss and strike out. Her foster mom kept working with Snickers and in 3 months with patience, Snickers started to turn around. Snickers became attached to her foster dad!

Eventually Snickers became a member of the foster family! She learned to tolerate other cats. She was her foster dad's constant companion overseeing his work at the computer and even became his 'sous chef'! Snickers' foster mom reported that she once heard a conversation going on in the other room and thought "dad" was on the phone. Nope, he was conversing with Snickers! Snickers foster parents had almost decided that Snickers was going to become another one of their several 'foster fail' cats.

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. featured Snickers on CBS Richmond affiliate WTVR, Channel 6's Paws for Pets, hosted by



Mike Goldberg, on the morning weekend news program. Mike's segment features adoptable pets

from local rescues. Snickers was featured Saturday morning August 27 and by noon, her foster mom received a call from a lady who had viewed the Paws for Pets episode featuring Snickers. After talking with her, Snicker's foster mom knew that this was the home for Snickers.

Snickers and her new mom met, and a love affair began!



Snickers' new mom sent a video of Snickers walking out of her carrier upon arrival home. Snickers was so calm as she knew she was home.

The nurturing role of a foster parent to help an abandoned, surrendered felines adjust, is critical in preparing the cat for adoption into a loving “forever home.” Finding homes for surrendered pets is a humane way to reduce the numbers of suffering, homeless felines on Virginia’s Northern Neck. GRI’s 100% volunteer work force provides Northern Neck communities with education on the importance of spaying/neutering their pets to reverse the endless cycle of reproduction. Fosters work hard to help the cats adjust to new surroundings and to become flexible in a variety of surroundings.

Our thanks to Chesapeake Style Magazine who is publishing this article. See more stories about GRI in their free monthly publication.



Remember GRI on Cyber Monday & Giving Tuesday

Cyber Monday is a marketing term referring to the first Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday in the United States.



It's a 24-hour online shopping event that was originally created by businesses to encourage people to do their shopping online

and is now often regarded as an extension of the Black Friday sales. This year Cyber Monday is November 28th.

Cyber Monday is a great time to purchase items from our Wish Lists at Chewy.com and Amazon.com. Visit our website's DONATE page for direct links.

Giving Tuesday is celebrated on the Tuesday following the well-known shopping days of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year it will be celebrated on **November 29th**. **#GIVINGTUESDAY** Every year people take the time to kick off the holiday season by giving back to their community. Whether it is donating money to a charitable cause or volunteering, Giving Tuesday is a day when people everywhere come together to do something to support the causes and communities that mean so much to us all. Your gift of giving means so much to the homeless cats in our care.



GRI Has a Record Adoption Month

Clear The Shelters is an annual, nationwide pet adoption and shelter donation campaign that is spearheaded by NBCUniversal Local, a division of NBCUniversal. Each year, NBCUniversal Local's NBC- and Telemundo-owned stations, plus



affiliated stations, partner with animal shelters and rescues in their communities to host Clear the Shelters events. The event took place this summer during the month of August.

GRI partnered with Kitty Kingdom Cat Café (KKCC) in Chesapeake, VA to participate in the event. Hampton Roads media helped to spread the word. On August 19th, 97.3 The Eagle visited KKCC and aired a story on GRI and KKCC's partnership. GRI foster kitten "Chesapeake" was featured.



GRI President, Ann Bedford and foster kitty, Laila, made their TV debut August 26th on Wavy TV 10's The Hampton Roads Show, #CleartheShelters2022 special. Saturday, August 27th, KKCC held a Dogz n Catz special.



Potential adopters enjoyed free hot dogs while visiting with the cats and kittens. Thanks to KKCC, 97.3 The Eagle and Wavy TV 10, Garfield's Rescue had a record number of their cats and kittens find their furever homes during the month-long event and we're looking forward to participating again next year.

Cups & Claws Cat Café and GRI Become Partners

In August, a new cat café opened in Newport News, VA, known as Cups & Claws Cat Cafe. Located off of Warwick Blvd, CCC fosters cats for several rescue groups. Fortunately, GRI is one of those

groups. On August 11th, ten of GRI fosters made the trip to Cups & Claws as the next leg of their journey to find furever homes. All ten were quickly adopted!



Without partnering with entities like Cups & Claws, GRI would not be able to rescue the number of cats and kittens that they do. There just are not enough homes on the Northern Neck for these felines; however, the more populated areas, like Hampton Roads, is full of people looking to adopt and give a foster kitty a new life.

Thank you CCC and we look forward to your continuing excellent care and attention that you give to our furbabies.



Cookie and Tookie Too

(Written by J Austen, owner of Cookie & Tookie Too)

Adopting non-social community cats ranks as one the best decisions I've made. My husband and I struggled with a long-time rodent problem in our barn and were desperate for a solution that was safe for wildlife and more humane for the rodents. Finally agreeing on adopting some barn cats, I contacted Garfield's Rescue. I wanted cats that had some "street smarts" to avoid predators and were good hunters. So, we decided on a pair of non-social community cats.

Enter Cami and Monkey, now Cookie and Tookie Too. To prepare for them we built a temporary enclosure in



the barn to help acclimate them to their new home. Once freed, they settled in very quickly and are not only a welcome presence, they are keeping the barn and hay sheds rodent free. While they won't allow being touched, they always greet us with meows and purrs. Cookie will rub against my legs while Tookie Too does a "drive by" rub. They eat together, one calling the other at meal time. These two even hang out with me when I wait for the farrier or vet. They coexist beautifully with the horses and tolerate the dog.



The lesson we've learned is that non-social community cats will appreciate their new humans and home as long as they have a comfortable and safe place to stay and, of course, food and water. And they most definitely will work to keep pests at bay. We've come to love these two and we think the feeling might be mutual.

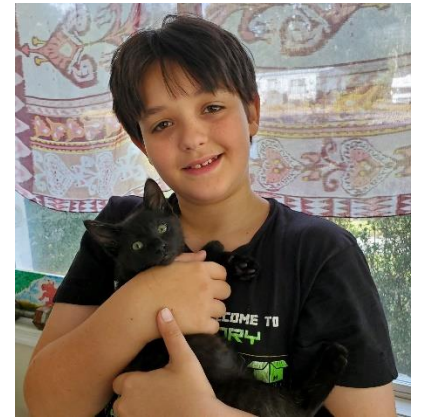
Billy, the Kitten Guy

Billy is an 11-year-old resident of Weems with a passion for kittens. He first learned about kitten rescue from a YouTube video by a kitten rescuer, The Kitten Lady. Her videos are informative and of course cute! When Billy found

out there was a local kitten rescue organization called Garfield's Rescue, Inc, he was thrilled.

Billy and his mom were spectators at the Kilmarnock Christmas Parade last December. When he spotted the GRI van and volunteers in the parade, he immediately wanted to donate. Having only a small amount of change on him, he ran out and placed it in the hands of one of the volunteers.

Billy has since rescued several kittens from the super colony that lives in his neighborhood. He is so happy to have been able to save several kittens from a life in the wild and given it a chance to be with a warm family that it deserves. One of the kittens he found and rescued, he kept for his own.



Billy has gone on to help with socializing other kittens in the care of GRI. He and his mom visit the foster house weekly for cleanup and socializing. It's truly a win-win-win situation! He gets the joy of playing with kittens while they become more accustomed to human touch and one step closer to that warm family home.



Girl Scouts & Kitties

What little girl doesn't love kittens? Newly formed Girl Scout Troop 5850's troop leader, Jennifer Collier, said "it was just divine intervention when we ran into Garfield's Rescue, Inc.'s (GRI)



volunteers at their homeless feline rescue booth at a local farm swap." Who would have imagined that this wonderful

collaboration between two service minded entities, a feline rescue, foster to adopt charity and a Girl Scout Troop, would have originated on a Sunday morning livestock swap event in the Kilmarnock Tractor Supply Company parking lot!

Every year the Girl Scouts have an opportunity to earn money thru the sale of Girl Scout Cookies. According to Collier, "This year the troop set up tables outside of Tri Star Supermarket in Kilmarnock and sold a record number of



cookies at their booth which left them with

money to spend. The girls decided to allocate about 1/3 (\$250) of their profit to purchase gifts for the cats and kittens being fostered by Garfield's. They had so much fun shopping at Tractor Supply for cat beds and cat wand toys. They cannot wait to be able to visit the new foster cottage in Weems to deliver the gifts. Thank you, Garfield's, for allowing our girls the opportunity to volunteer. They

are learning so much thru this experience."

Wine & Whiskers is a Huge Success

Despite earlier rain showers, on September 22, 2022, Garfield's Rescue, Inc. held its Wine & Whiskers Fundraiser



at the lovely Triple V Farms winery. The event was sponsored by Triple V Farms, who donated wine along with the venue; Car Wash Café who donated hors

d'oeuvres; George Christoforatos of Paragon DJs furnished the music; and Chesapeake Garden Club provided flower arrangements. A silent auction, which included 80 donated items from businesses and individuals from across the Northern Neck, helped to raise \$8,500 to benefit the 130 foster cats and kittens in GRI's care.

Garfield's Rescue receives no local or state funding and relies solely on its donors, fundraisers and grants to be able to save the large numbers of homeless community cats that it does. We thank all of those who donated, attended and supported our event; without you, we could not continue "Making a Difference on the Northern Neck, One Cat at a Time"!

Two ways to purchase Holiday gifts for our kitties!

Our Amazon.com Wishlist and/or our Chewy.com Wishlist



1. Visit smile.amazon.com
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Select Garfield's Rescue Inc. as your charity organization to receive donations.
4. Always start your shopping at [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). GRI will receive 0.5% of the price of your purchases.



Annual Membership Dues

Date: _____ Please Check: _____ New Member _____ Renewal

Annual membership is \$25.00 per person for one calendar year of January 1 through December 31

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ & Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email address: _____

Best way to reach you: ☐ Home ☐ Work ☐ Cell ☐ Email



Garfield's Rescue, Inc.
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Garfield's Rescue, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose vision is to "Eliminate suffering of community/homeless cats on the Northern Neck of Virginia" which includes Lancaster, Northumberland, Westmoreland and Richmond counties.



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON VIRGINIA'S NORTHERN NECK, ONE CAT AT A TIME!