

# Garfield's Gazette

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

Spring 2025  
10th edition



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

### President's Message

The cycle of cat homelessness won't be broken by passion alone. If that were the case, Garfield's Rescue would have already broken that cycle "paws" down! We need infrastructure, clarity of mission and collaboration with a cross-sector of the communities in which we serve. One reflects upon their accomplishments at different stages and milestones in their lives...of gratitude for the many helping hands and generosity given through difficult and rewarding times. You, our donors and volunteers, have shared in our lifesaving mission, giving the gift of life with your generosity. You provided a 2nd chance at life for thousands of homeless, injured and starving cats and kittens. We celebrate you in your generosity as we celebrate our 5-year anniversary in eliminating the suffering of over 2,043 cats and kittens of every size, age and color, placing more than 1,972 in loving homes. Congratulations to 7-month-old Teddy, Garfield's milestone 2000th rescue, who, with his sister Tina, thrived in Garfield's



spay/neuter/vaccinate foster to adopt lifesaving program. We are grateful to you and the many volunteers in our 100 % volunteer workforce who gave their time and love to

provide a safe haven for Teddy and Tina, and thousands of other cats suffering from neglect and unknown cruelty.

How did Garfield's story of homeless cat rescue begin? Forced from our foster home during the 2020 Pandemic, Garfield's volunteers and founders had to act quickly to find a home for 54 cats and kittens in our care. A generous volunteer offered her spacious garage for housing, and condos and cats were moved in. Garfield's was thus founded in March 2020 to serve the communities of Virginia's Northern Neck with their increasing homeless, often sick and

starving, but highly adoptable, cat population. We were quite bold to start our Rescue in the middle of a Pandemic, but one can't always choose their battles. Our battle was not only lifesaving but life changing for the 1000s of cats whose lives we were destined to save. Little did we know that 5 years later we would have saved the lives of over 2,043 cats, preventing the unwanted births of thousands more through our robust spay/neuter/vaccination mission.

These are not just numbers, however, as every one represents a pink wiggly nose and a soft purr. Rescue work is inspiring, but witnessing the daily trauma of neglect, cruelty and abandonment is emotional. We strive for soft purrs and full bellies; sufficient funding to provide lifesaving spay/neuter surgeries to reverse their exhausting, endless cycle of reproduction; vaccinations to treat and prevent life threatening disease; and urgent medical care due to injuries from unknown cruelties. As a private home-based rescue, Garfield's receives no funding from local or state municipalities. Our sole source of income is from donations, fundraising and chances of awards from the competitive Grant world.

How can you help support Garfield's lifesaving mission? Come laugh with us, cry with us, make a difference with us as you enrich your life in our exciting, rewarding world of volunteer opportunities.

In Gratitude,  
Karen S. Peterson, President

### SPAY AND NEUTER



How can you save 100  
kittens? Fix 1 cat.

Fact: 2 cats + 7 years = 420,000 cats

## Kitten Season Is Here

Kitten season is upon us! While this may sound like truly the best season of all, "kitten season" refers to a springtime boom in stray kitten births. Tiny kittens are undeniably precious, vulnerable, but time-consuming for rescuers to care for if the kittens lose their mother.



Newborn kittens, weighing a few ounces with eyes closed, need their mother for protection, nourishment and nurturing. After giving birth, momma must leave the kittens to find food for herself so that she can give the kittens nourishing milk. There are times when something tragic happens to momma and she does not return, leaving the kittens vulnerable. A kind rescuer may find them, or they may starve to death. This is one of the many reasons that homeless female cats need to be spayed to stop the endless birthing cycle.

Kitten season places enormous stress on the operations of animal rescuers and shelters. Taking care of orphaned newborn kittens is a labor-intensive task. These fragile kittens are susceptible to



illness and require frequent bottle-feeding and attention. Rescue volunteers struggle to provide this level of care.

Kitten season brings other challenges for rescue groups. Large amounts of supplies are needed to care for the kittens, with or without their mothers. Items like heating pads, kitten food, litter, formula, bottles and medical supplies are required in large quantities. Maintaining these supplies requires increased funding for the daily operation of the organization.

Kitten season has consequences for adult cats as it makes it more of a challenge for adult cats to find homes. They can't compete with the cuteness of all the precious kittens!

There are lots of ways that you can help. Whether it's time, money, or donations of supplies, everyone can provide some relief during kitten season. GRI has a



Wishlist at Chewy.com and at Amazon.com. Simply scan our QR codes to have supplies shipped directly to us.



Amazon Wishlist



Chewy Wishlist

Monetary donations can be made via Venmo or PayPal. Again, simply scan the codes below. You can also visit our Donate page on our website.



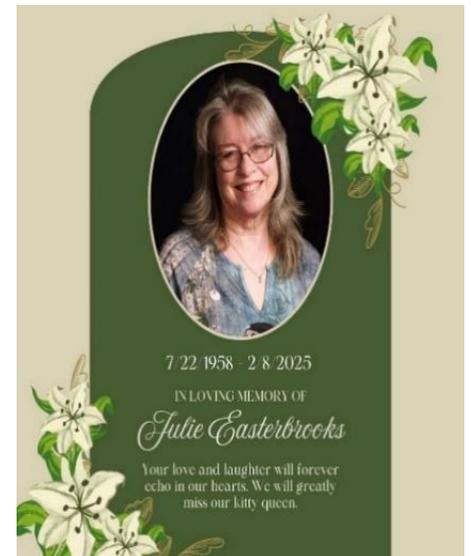
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## Tribute to Julie

Garfield's Rescue, Inc. (GRI) and rescue cats lost a great friend this winter. Julie was the heart and soul behind GRI's partnership with Kitty Kingdom Cat Café, located in Chesapeake, VA. While KKCC mourns her loss, they are committed to carrying forward the legacy she built.



KKCC will continue to operate in her honor, upholding the values and principles she instilled in every aspect of the business. They are dedicated to ensuring that Julie's hard work and vision continue to thrive as they move forward, guided by her memory and the foundation that she laid.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Wine & Whiskers

Back by popular demand, Garfield's will hold their 4th annual Wine & Whiskers Fundraising event on September 4, 2025, at the Trinity Episcopal Church Pavilion in Lancaster. The evening will include music by Paragon DJs, specially curated wines, and hors d'oeuvres catered by D. Goodman Catering. Stay tuned for more details!



### GRI "pays it forward"

This spring GRI donated 8 pounds of aluminum pop tops to the Ronald McDonald's House Charity (RMHC). It takes 1,267 pop tops to make 1 pound! GRI's donation was from 10,136 cans of cat food opened to feed rescued felines while they receive spay/neuter services; vaccinations; routine and/or critical medical care for injuries/sickness as they wait for their adoption day.



The pop tops are recycled to receive monies to help RMHC fund their Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House provides food and other essential services to families of critically ill children while they receive treatment. Pictured are GRI President, Karen Peterson, and Karetha Smith, Kilmarnock McDonald's manager.



### Sad Endings Bring New Beginnings

This is a story that happens more than we like to think about. Alina's mother had an eleven-year-old senior cat, Skimp, that she adored and was her best friend. Skimp and her mom talked to each other and spent much time together as Skimp loved to lay on her mom's lap.

Alina's mother passed away and the family could not take in a cat. Skimp had been alone in the home since December with adult children coming a couple of times a week to feed Skimp.

Alina's father had predeceased her mother, and while going through his paperwork, they discovered a reference to Garfield's Rescue Inc. (GRI). Alina stated that finding the GRI contact information was meant to be. Alina contacted GRI to inquire about rehoming Skimp and of course GRI accepted Skimp into their foster program. Alina said, "GRI is a wonderful organization that has stepped up and has been extremely helpful to me in seeing Skimp gets taken care of."

Skimp is an eleven-year-old beautiful ginger cat, healthy, easy going, sweet girl that seeks human affection. Skimp lived in a quiet home environment. She gets along well with the other Garfield's foster cats and would like to have the run of the foster house to explore. Skimp is an inquisitive "escape artist" often following her foster house caregiver out the cat room door into the kitchen.



Skimp would love to have her own human again to love and have a whole big house to explore. If your home meets Skimp's desires, please contact GRI for adoption information.



**When in the Hampton Roads area, be sure to visit our partners, Kitty Kingdom Cat Café, 565 Cedar Road Suite 12, Chesapeake and Cups & Claws Cat Café, 10605 Jefferson Ave, Newport News! Tell them that Garfield's Rescue sent you!**



Wish they'd stay small forever?  
Well the next best thing would be to  
foster kittens until they're at an adoptable  
age, then get a new set of kittens.

## Love kittens?

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!**