



The HOME FRONT

JUNE 2019

Official Publication of the Cardiff Ranch HOA

VOL 4, ISSUE 6

Letter from the Board

As we mentioned in last month's newsletter, we are excited to have recently hired RealManage as our new management company. We hope you have already noticed the many landscaping improvements, and we are working hard to address other concerns in the community.

The pool has been a hot topic in recent weeks. As many of you noticed, Katy Aquatics rented our pool facilities for much of May. On May 25, the pool opened for resident use. You can find the pool hours posted on our website at www.cardifffranchkaty.com.

Always remember this is your community and we want you to enjoy all the resources we have. Please know that you can rent the pool and the clubhouse for parties and events. Send an e-mail to procardi@ciramail.com for more information.

Check out the calendar in this issue for board meeting dates and for upcoming events, such as the kids' parade on the Fourth of July.

Every resident plays a vital part of taking care of our community by being the eyes and ears of

the neighborhood. If you see something or have a concern, please take pictures and e-mail them to procardi@ciramail.com. This is an easy way to help the community, and we will address all concerns and issues that are reported.

On another note, many households experienced problems paying the annual dues under the previous management company. If you were not able to pay, or if you are not sure you paid, please be sure you are in good standing with the HOA by signing up on the new resident portal. (See the New Resident Portal article in this newsletter for more details.) In the portal, you will be able to see your assessment information and receive information about events going on in the neighborhood.

Finally, we would like to thank Swim Houston for getting our pool ready for summer and our landscaping vendor Canon Companies for working so hard this spring on some renewed and improved landscaping.

Your resident board members,
Prasad, Kenny, Ross and Inge

CARDIFF RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Emergency	911
Fort Bend County Sheriff	281-342-6116
Poison Control	800-222-1222
RealManage Service Center	866-473-2573

UTILITIES

Best Trash.....	281-313-2378
En-Touch (Customer Service)	281-225-1000
Fort Bend MUD # 58 (Water)	713-405-1750

SCHOOLS

Katy ISD	281-396-6000
Davidson Elementary	281-234-2500
Wood Creek Junior High	281-234-0800
Obra D. Tompkins High School	281-234-1000

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

RealManage

16000 Barkers Point Lane, Suite 250 Houston, TX 77079
(866)473-2573 • procardi@ciramail.com

CARDIFF RANCH HOA

Board Members

Rachel Gwin	Land Tejas
Ross Kennedy	
Kenny Welshons	
Prasad Patibanda	
Inge Elmendorp-Huijts	

Resident Advisory Members

Ernesto Quintanilla
Abeer Abdelaal
Hunuma Gujjula
Gwen Farley

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

IMPORTANT INFO

To set up access for the pool and gym use please contact
(866)473-2573

The Clubhouse is available for rentals by association members. Please call (866)473-2573 or email procardi@ciramall.com for more information.

You can report violations or concerns by calling (866)473-2573 or emailing procardi@ciramall.com. Please include photos of the violation if possible. All violation reports remain confidential.

Cardiff Ranch Announcements



SAVE THE DATES!

Easter April 13th

Community Garage Sale April 27th

Cinco de Mayo May 5th

Pool Party and Opening May 25th

Parade and BBQ Contest July 4th

Back to School August 10th

Community Garage Sale September 14th

Halloween October 26th

Diwali November 2nd

Bazar Kids Crafts December 12th

Christmas/T-PAK Party December 14th

BOARD MEETINGS:

May 11, 9:30 a.m.

May 16, 7:00 p.m.

June 8, 9:30 a.m.

July 13, 9:30 a.m.

July 18, 7:00 p.m.

August 10, 9:30 a.m.

September 14, 9:30 a.m.

September 19, 7:00 p.m.

October 12, 9:30 a.m.

November 9, 9:30 a.m.

November 21, 7:00 p.m.

December 14, 9:30 a.m.

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New Resident Portal

The CiraNet Resident Portal with RealManage is now online, and available for homeowners to log-in and use! However, we only have about 190 registered users out of the 391 homes, so please take the time to register.

On the portal, can sign up for the resident email list to receive information about news and events, review the HOA governing documents, and check the status of your HOA account.

You can refer to the Welcome Letter RealManage mailed to you in March that included the specific account information necessary to register. If you need some assistance or lost the letter, feel free to contact our Resident Services Group at 1-866-473-2573 or via e-mail at service@realmanage.com.

Please note that the portal is still in a transition phase, so be sure to check in periodically, as we enter and upload all of the data and documents for your community.

Registering Your New Account:

To log onto the resident portal, please visit <https://www.realmanage.com>. Click on "Access Portals" on the upper right, and then "Resident/Owner Portal".

This will bring you to the Resident Portal Log In Screen; click on the "Login To Resident Portal" link.

Once you click on the "Log In" button, you will arrive at the log in screen. Enter your User Name and Password in the appropriate fields. On your first visit to the portal, click on the "Don't have an account" link below to create your new account:

The information you need to register can be found in the initial welcome letter you received from RealManage.

Portal Features

The portal puts a wealth of association and individual homeowner account information at your fingertips! Once you are logged in, you will be able to:

- View/Change Account Information
- View Account Statements and Payment History
- Make a One-Time Payment
- Setup Recurring Payments
- Look Up Board of Directors
- Find Community Information
- Join the Community Email List
- View Community Governing Documents
- Search the Resident Directory
- Check out the Community Calendar
- Report Violations

CiraMobile

You may also access the Resident Portal through CiraMobile, a feature rich app with much of the same functionality as our cloud-based application, but specifically designed to be easy to read and navigate from your mobile device. CiraMobile is currently available for free download in the Apple App Store. There is both an Apple iPad and Apple iPhone version.

Cardiff Kids Say the Funniest Things! *Featuring, Evelyn Odom*

Evelyn Odom's crisp, enthusiastic voice came over the phone. "Yes, ma'am. I'm Evelyn!" I was unaware that people still spoke Old English at all in this country, let alone a child. Throughout my questioning, she continued answering by punctuating each sentence with obsolete phrases like, "yes ma'am," and, "no, ma'am."

"Where did you learn that language?" I asked. "Do you watch Game of Thrones?"

"No," she said, "my parents taught me!" I was flabbergasted. My children had long ago convinced me that such ancient phrases were passe and in fact constituted a form of child abuse and oppression. Evelyn's liberal use of these antiquated phrases of politeness was refreshing, to say the least, particularly for one who's only 7 ½ years of age.

Her teachers at Davidson no doubt feel the same way, where her favorite classes are music and art. Though she is not always in agreement with her teachers on the finer theories of academic application, she keeps her thoughts to herself, another testament to the training she's received in ancient practices of deference to elders.

Her favorite color is black, a risky choice for her gender and age group, where princesses reign supreme. Though she likes pink, it's not as functional in art as black, a subject she takes quite seriously and plans on as a career.

She has only one sibling, a 12 year old brother. She was unable to name anything she found irritating about him, though she pointed out that she is sometimes irritating to him, playing music so loudly that he is able to hear it despite using his headphones. "But we get along very well!" she exclaimed, indicating once again that her parents have assuredly hired professional English nannies who smell like tea and Pinesol, versed in long forgotten methods of running harmonious households.

Evelyn enjoys the company of her family and considers the two family dogs as essential members, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility in their care. Her happy enthusiasm for life can be heard in every sentence, and it's surely my loss that I was unable to meet her in person. Evelyn Odom will no doubt accomplish her goals in life, with a sense of honor and artistry.

Call for Submissions!

We want your content! Do you have something fun to share? We want to hear it! This is YOUR newsletter.

Whether you want to submit just one article, a monthly column, or a quarterly editorial, we welcome your stories and community advice.

Here are some ideas, but don't feel limited to just these...

- 1) Gardening or lawn tips
- 2) Community resources for your ethnic or cultural group
- 3) Favorite recipes
- 4) Volunteering opportunities
- 5) A community crossword
- 6) Advice on just about anything: from pets to pools
- 7) Best places in Katy to bike or hike
- 8) Rainy day activities for your kids
- 9) Home maintenance dos and don'ts
- 10) Best of Nextdoor roundups on your favorite topics
- 11) News about a school event, tradition, or sports game
- 12) Recap of a community event

Here are a few items to please AVOID:

- 1) Anything with a business name or for a business purpose – sorry it's against our newsletter company's editorial guidelines.
- 2) Anything political or opinionated. Not the place for op-eds guys. Let's keep it fun and friendly!
- 3) Anything promoting a specific religion, belief, or cause (even if it's a really great one).

Want advice on what to write or if a topic is appropriate? Please email cardifffranchnews@gmail.com.

Submit articles to: cardifffranchnews@gmail.com.

Articles are due by the 1st of every month for the FOLLOWING month's newsletter. (E.g. articles submitted May 1, will go into the June newsletter.)

Easy Duck Confit



I'm lucky to have a Cordon Bleu chef for a stepmonster. I acquired her in my 20s, and though I really tried hard to dislike her, she turned out to be so awesome that I caved and let her in. She polished my rudimentary interest and skills in cooking, and she taught me that some fancy, traditional recipes can be tweaked for ease and time, yielding mouthwatering results. Perhaps even more importantly, she taught me these "cheats" are OK -- I would not be offending the food gods with my shortcuts.

This duck confit is one such recipe. I use it in tacos, on pizza, in a salad and as a hash ingredient. It always impresses guests. Reserve the leftover fat to roast any vegetable. I freeze the fat in ice cube trays and pop one out when I need it. You don't already need duck fat to begin, as most recipes call for, but you'll end up with plenty. The crockpot cooking method is so simple a surly preteen child could do it with minimal complaints.

You will need:

Duck hindquarters, as few or many as will fit in a crockpot. (Katy Meat Masters and Asian grocers carry them.)

Whole peppercorns, 5-10

Salt

3-5 Bay leaves

2 sprigs of fresh thyme or rosemary.

Recipe:

Salt the hindquarters on all sides, cover and refrigerate overnight or for at least 6 hours.

When ready to cook, rinse, pat dry and put them in the crockpot with the peppercorns and herbs.

Cook on high for one hour, then reduce to low and cook for another 3-4 hours, until the fat has rendered and the meat easily pulls from the bone.

Pull the meat from the bones, separate any fatty stuff left and strain the liquid fat for preservation. (You can store the meat with a little fat in the fridge for a few days to really intensify the flavor.) I like to pan fry the confit a little before final use. This crisps it up and caramelizes the meat.

Please note, no neighborhood ducks have ever been harmed with the use of this recipe. This is not an invitation to do so now.

How to Welcome Bunnies... Without Destroying Your Garden!

I was in my garden two weeks ago planting some new, cool accent annuals. I dug a hole, turned around to grab one of my colorful new additions, and came face to face with a cottontail. He had just plucked a strand of freshly planted creeping jenny, just about a foot away from me. It was hanging out of his mouth. He froze when he noticed me looking at him. We stared at each other for a few moments, then, with impunity, he slurped up the strand like spaghetti and moved on to one of my rose bushes. I smiled and said, "Hello, Peter!" (Turns out it was a Petra, as she strategically built a nest under my prostrate rosemary and promptly put 5 adorable kits in it.)

You're thinking I'm crazy. I know. Most gardeners dread the sight of wild rabbits. They can destroy what's been so lovingly planted and cared for overnight. They are eating and breeding machines. But I fear them not. I know they are an essential part of the food chain. A coyote or hawk belly full on rabbit is less likely to make a snack of a pet chihuahua or cat. If the infrastructure collapses due to plague or a zombie apocalypse, having a few rabbits around can make the difference between life and death, provided you can skin and cook them properly. And they are just so darned cute.

I figured out how to both attract and nourish this abundant wildlife, all while keeping my garden lovely. You can, too.

I noticed they love knockout rose leaves and moss rose. They like creeping jenny. They pluck the flowers out of wandering jew but leave the rest of the plant alone. They eat some weeds, too. They do not eat juniper, rosemary or asparagus ferns.

So, I organized my garden by planting the things they don't eat with those they do, in a strategic pattern. The wandering jew looks perfectly fine without the small flowers, so they went up front, with some petunias and low ground covers like the juniper and moss rose. Moss rose regenerates quickly. Behind the small accent plants

in the foreground, I planted a row of asparagus fern. They are far more interesting than typical hedgerows, but serve a similar function, looking good all year.

Behind the asparagus ferns, I planted knockouts. I used to be a bit snotty about knockouts because they are literally everywhere and not considered "real" roses by rose aficionados, but I found a white variety that does very well and looks quite striking when they grow above the ferns. The rabbits strip these. Twice a year, they look terrible. But the ferns hide that from view. I cut them all down to about 5 inches in the fall and spring. They come right back up with new, nourishing leaves, and they keep the bunnies from feasting on the smaller annuals.

I also use a couple of tall pots as accent pieces planted with colorful bunny delicacies, but they can't reach them.

I'm fairly certain my large, prostrate rosemary is an ideal spot for a bunny nest. It's pungent, masking scent, and the baby bunnies can hop under its canopy unseen. It's also a very striking shrub. And who couldn't use a fresh picked stem of rosemary in a blueberry lemon margarita or two?

It took me a couple of years of trial and error, driving around and seeing what other adept gardeners had planted, and I'm still experimenting. But I only experiment with inexpensive annuals, as my foundation pieces are bunny proof. And my garden looks great. Best of all, I take my cup of coffee on the front porch every morning and enjoy a bit of hoppity wildlife.

While it's tempting to look up rabbit recipes when you discover the damage they've caused, there's no need to spray that stinky repellent everywhere, or intentionally hit the gas when you see a bunny crossing the road. Kill two birds with one stone. Plant a beautiful, inexpensive, regenerating bunny garden. The curb appeal alone is worth the effort.



CARDIFF RANCH

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Congratulations, Dante!

Dante Ventura, is graduating from Tompkins High School and has accepted a scholarship to attend the University of Texas at Dallas. He will be pursuing a degree in Computer Science and Entrepreneurship.



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