



The HOME FRONT

OCTOBER 2019

Official Publication of the Cardiff Ranch HOA

VOL 4, ISSUE 10

Greetings Friends & Neighbors

October brings us into the beginning of holiday season, kicking off with Diwali and Halloween.

We also hope to see some cooler days, but not too cool! Remember, our pool is still open Saturdays and Sundays through October.

We are very excited about the latest news regarding the board. It's time for the HOA to vote on new and returning board members. As many of you know, our developer, Land Tejas has maintained a seat on the board until now. They will be relinquishing their seat during these upcoming board elections, meaning we will now have five resident board members!

Please support your community by coming to:

Our next Saturday round table, October 12 at 9:30 a.m. – Attend to give the board feedback or see how you can get involved in helping.

Our annual meeting on October 24. – Attend to vote on our new board members. (More information coming in the mail regarding this important meeting.)

We are a small community, which means we can make big changes through “small” projects. Charlene’s way has been added as a multi use greenspace, new benches have been installed at the playground, and we brought on a

new landscaper last month. We hope you see the difference!

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the different committees to help make these types of projects possible. If you don’t have the bandwidth to volunteer for a committee, you can still help by attending the meetings and voicing your opinions.

Of course, we can each help individually by keeping our own little piece of the community beautiful. Your efforts to help keep our neighborhood an attractive and great place to live also preserve and protect our property values and is greatly appreciated.

Please take a look at your own garden and see if it needs new color or mulch.

Finally, a friendly reminder, please be advised that the HOA will have an increased focus on compliance facilitated through consistent scheduled inspections and attention to violations.

Excessive garden weeds and general lawn care continue to be the leading violations.

Let’s all work together to maintain our property values and keep Cardiff Ranch a wonderful place to live!

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

CARDIFF RANCH

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Fort Bend MUD # 58 (Water)	713-405-1750

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PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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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

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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.

Save the Date!

Halloween October 26

Diwali November 2

Bazar Kids Crafts December 12

Christmas / T-PAK Party December 14

Round Tables

October 12, 9:30 a.m.

November 9, 9:30 a.m.

December 14, 9:30 a.m.

Board Meetings

October 24, time TBD

November 21, 7:00 p.m.



GO GREEN

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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 cardiff ranchnews@gmail.com.

Submit articles to: cardiff ranchnews@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.)

Parker Kist



I see Parker Kist almost every day. If it weren't for Parker, my son would stay in a cyber world, melting his brain with Minecraft and Fortnite. But every evening, like clockwork, Parker knocks on the door and asks my son to come outside and play. God bless him.

I had occasion to ask Parker a few questions about himself the other day and the answers deserve to be published.

Parker is a 7 year old with a plan. He wants to be an FBI agent. Not a fireman or doctor or professional gamer, but an FBI agent.

"Like Clarice Starling?" I asked. He gave me a confused look. Obviously, he's yet to see *Silence of the Lambs*. I'll have to speak to his parents about this.

"Why do you want to be an FBI agent?"

"Because there are a lot of bad guys that need to be caught. And I can catch them." How right he is.

He said this while astride his new bike.

"Are you going to catch them on that?"

"Probably not. But I bet I could catch them in your car," he said.

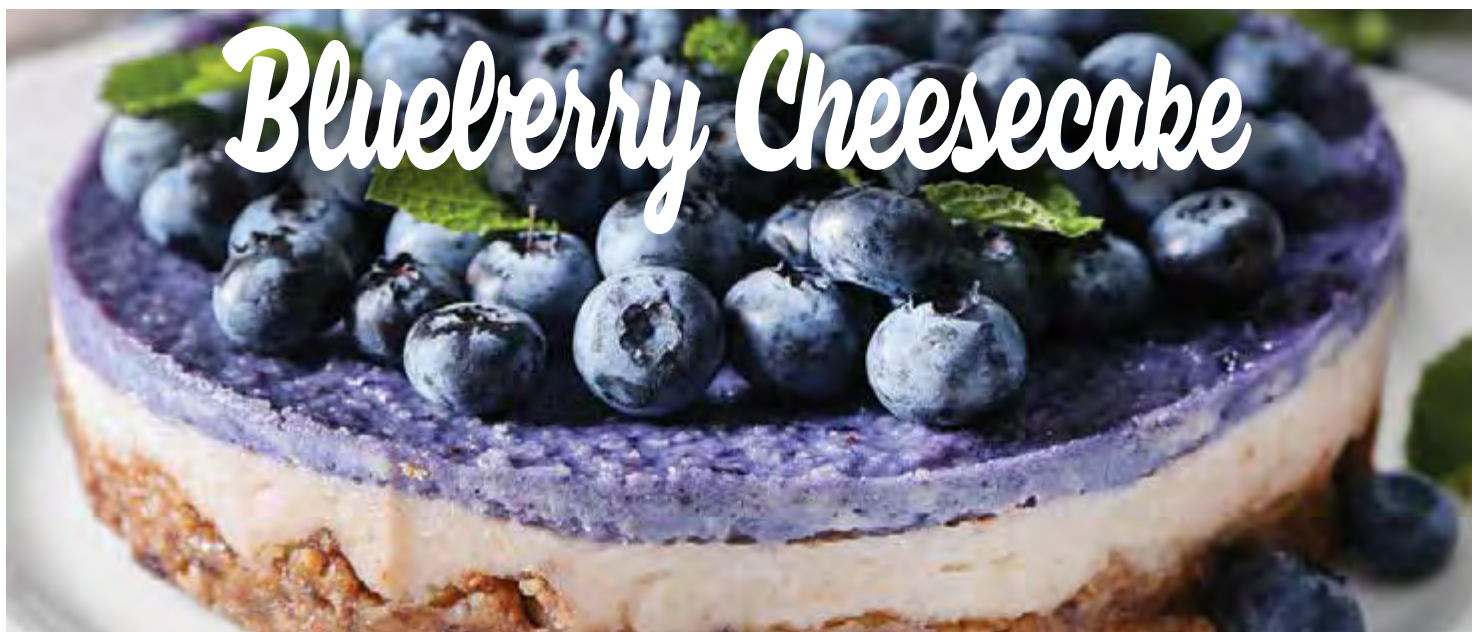
"Ahh, yes you could, Parker. Because it has 500 horsepower and most criminals have much slower cars, although they probably smell better than this one." He's a very astute little boy.

Parker lives with his mom and dad, Kathy and John, and his two sisters, one of whom has bright orange hair that can be seen from a mile away. Parker attends Davidson and says he likes school and his sisters, unlike so many other children I've posed those question to.

Parker spends much of his time outdoors, old fashioned style, playing with his friends, riding his bike and spreading his pleasant demeanor throughout the neighborhood. He's also extremely cute, with snow white hair and an infectious smile.

Parker loves birds. He often talks to mine when he's over and has two lovebirds of his own named Jackson and Sparkle. It's important that an FBI agent likes animals, in my opinion. I would be suspect of one who doesn't.

We would all be lucky to have Parker achieve his goals. Someone needs to catch the Hannibals of the world, and I'm quite sure he can do it.



I've made tons of cheesecakes in my day. This is the best one by far. It doesn't crack. It turns out incredibly creamy and refreshing. I get requests for it all the time from my coworkers. Be sure your oven is running temperature true. I use an oven thermometer. They're cheap and most ovens really aren't calibrated, truth be told. None that I've ever owned, anyway.

INGREDIENTS

FOR THE BLUEBERRY PUREE

2 cups blueberries
2 tbsp. granulated sugar
2 tsp. lemon juice

FOR THE CRUST

9 graham crackers, finely crushed
(about 1 1/4 cups)
6 tbsp. melted butter
1/4 cup granulated sugar

FOR THE CHEESECAKE

4 (8-oz.) blocks cream cheese, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1/4 cup sour cream
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1 cup blueberry puree

FOR TOPPING

Whipped cream
Blueberries

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 325°. In a small food processor, blend blueberries until no large chunks remain.
2. In a small saucepan over medium heat, add blueberry puree, sugar, and lemon juice. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and let simmer until slightly reduced, stirring occasionally, 10 minutes. Let cool to room temperature.
3. Make crust: In a large bowl, mix together graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and sugar, until mixture resembles wet sand. Press into bottom and up sides of an 8" or 9" springform pan.
4. Make cheesecake: In a large bowl using a hand mixer (or in the bowl of a stand mixer), beat cream cheese and sugar until no lumps remain. Add eggs, one at a time, then stir in vanilla and sour cream. Add flour and salt and beat until just combined. Fold in blueberry puree.
5. Pour mixture over crust. Wrap bottom of pan in aluminum foil and place in a large roasting pan. Pour in enough boiling water to come halfway up the baking pan.
6. Bake until center of cheesecake only slightly jiggles, about 1 hour 30 minutes. Turn off heat, prop open oven door, and let cheesecake cool in oven, 1 hour.
7. Remove foil and refrigerate cheesecake until completely chilled, at least 5 hours and up to overnight.
8. When ready to serve, top cheesecake with whipped cream and blueberries.

The Chicken Car

Since I was 12 years old, I've wanted a 1969 SS Camaro with a 427. Despite numerous attempts, my parents refused to allow me to have one, thereby dooming any potential street cred or ability to reach the upper echelons of high school society. I have been trying to make up for it ever since I reached adulthood and could make my own decisions.

At 20, I bought my first American muscle car and continued the trend until I became a mother. I've had a string of Corvettes and Camaros, all souped up and designed for the ultimate driving experience. Since that day 14 years ago when I sold my last Corvette upon learning that I was pregnant, I've suffered through imported boredom, soccer mom cars designed for convenience and safety, completely lacking in the thrill and neck-whipping torque or growling engines I so love.

So, two months ago, when I spied a used 4.6 litre Hemi, 500 horsepower Scatpak Challenger in concrete gray for sale, just a supercharger short of being a Hellcat with a much nicer price point, I snapped it up. I had no business doing so, as a mother with two young children, buying such a ridiculous piece of machinery, particularly since I did not run it by my husband. My conservative daughter was horrified when I pulled

in the driveway and accused me of both losing my mind and trying to embarrass her. It is impractical, guzzles gas, and only comfortably fits one driver and one passenger. But when I start it up, the house shaking guttural rumble makes me a different me. I become exciting and dangerous Tiffany, the mom with the hot rod, blowing by Hondas and Toyotas on my way to work, letting the world know I'm not to be trifled with for the one day a week I drive it.

One of those driving days last month, I picked up my daughter and went grocery shopping. When we got home, she and I unloaded the car. She made the last trip in with the groceries. That was on a Saturday. The following day when I went to grab the chicken for dinner that I'd purchased, it was nowhere to be found.

"I'm getting old," I said to myself. "I could swear I bought some chicken filets."

I hopped in my Passport and ran to the store to get the chicken I'd forgotten.

The following Friday, I decided to drive The Challenger, a day earlier than normal. I needed to flex a little.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Continued from Page 5)

As I opened the door to get in, I was greeted by the most awful smell known to man...rotting flesh. I looked around the outside of the car for a dead animal. Nothing. Then, to my anguish, I realized the smell was coming from inside my car.

"It can't be! How?" I silently exclaimed, as I looked into a spotless interior.

Nothing under the seats or on them, nothing on the floorboards. My synapses slowly began firing and I knew what happened. I popped the trunk and walked to the back of the car, holding my breath as I opened the decklid. Though it smelled as though there were 4 human corpses in the boot, it was only that missing chicken.

The chicken was under my daughter's Tae Kwon Do gear bag, where it had sat, moldering, for 7 days in the Texas heat. I removed the chicken, got in the car and drove to work. I gagged and cried the whole way there and called my daughter to accuse her of doing it on purpose. Fortunately, she did not answer. I was crazed with anger and nausea, my vision blurred from the tears and that putrefied smell. I was a disaster when I finally arrived at work.

My boss, upon noticing the mascara streaming down my face and the small spot of vomit on my blouse I missed cleaning off, asked what was wrong. When I told him, the look on his face told me my fears were most likely legitimate. This was the death knell for my beloved car. It would never be the same again.

Having been in the car business for over 20 years, I'd experienced and heard many stories about what decomposition taking place in a vehicle can do. I once worked at a dealership that had three cars infested with crickets, not even meat. The cars were totaled by the insurance company because we could not get the odor out. And while that was a terrible odor, it was nothing compared to what had fouled my car.

I took it to my make ready department at work. "Can you get this smell out?" I asked the detail manager.

He stuck his head through the open window, immediately pulled it back out and said, "It's broken." You're going to have to recover the seats, replace the headliner and carpet and wait for it to fade from the plastic to fix it." And everyone else I spoke to agreed.

Thousands, it was going to cost me. I was distraught. It turns out that they were wrong.

I decided I was not going to spend a fortune or pull and recover the seats. The car needed to be kept stock, with no turned screws, mislaid aftermarket carpet or non-factory upholstery. It occurred to me that surely, I'm not the only one this has happened to, and my readers may appreciate knowing how to fix this stomach turning issue themselves.

A few searches on the internet later and I was at my car, gas mask on, arms filled with equipment.

I started by steam cleaning the seats, headliner and carpet with my Bissell steam cleaner. I wiped all the plastic surfaces

with Lysol. I put a fan on it to dry, then poured baking soda all over the interior and let the car sit with all the doors and windows closed. After three days, I put a bowl of vinegar in the car for another three days. I then vacuumed up all the baking soda, removed the vinegar and placed a chlorine bomb in the car. (Found on Amazon and effective at removing all types of odors). I then drove it to work and had the cabin filter changed.

There was still a hint of odor after all of this, but slight enough that I was able to drive without vomiting on my work clothes. I let the car air out with open windows for a week, day and night, then I repeated the process all over again, ending with a professional shampooing of the carpet and upholstery.

I spent about \$200.00. I continue to spray Febreze Fabric all over the interior whenever I drive it. Over a month's period of determined work, I'm glad to say that the odor is gone and I'm back to cool Tiffany, street cred galore, still an enigma to my daughter, 25 years old again.

While it's now known as, ironically, the chicken car, it's back to a pristine condition. The morals of this story: don't believe everything you're told, check your car for meat, stay young however you can, and just because it smells like a chicken, doesn't mean it is one.





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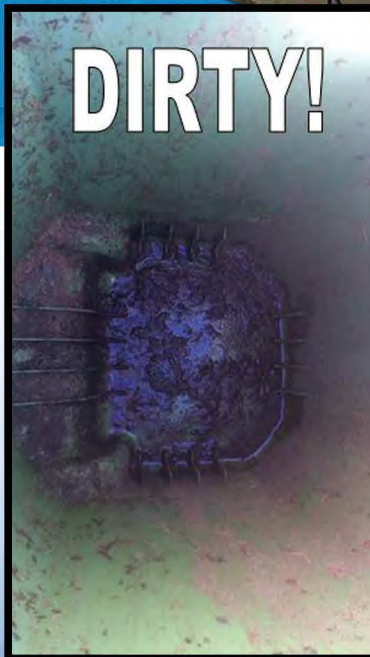
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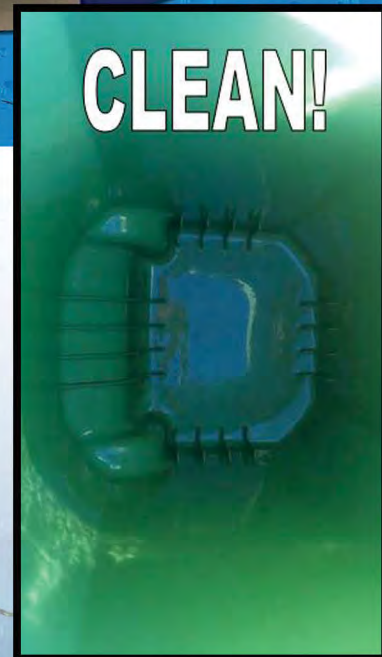


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