



# *The* HOME FRONT

DECEMBER 2019

Official Publication of the Cardiff Ranch HOA

VOL 4, ISSUE 12

## Dear Neighbors,

Thank you for voting! The turnout for the elections was awesome.

The new board consists of the following members: Mrs. Bobbie-Jo Ray (1 year term), Mr. Richard Lyles (2 year term), Mr. Prasad Patibanda (2 year term), Mr. Kenny Welshons (3 year term) and Mrs. Inge Elmendorp-Huijts (3 year term).

Starting at the next annual board member elections, each position will be chosen for a two year term.

Please use the next opportunity to meet us for you complaints, wishes and dreams for Cardiff Ranch at the Round Table on Saturday December 14 at 9:30 am.

In the coming month, we are working on getting our clubhouse more up to date by updating the access and monitoring systems, replacing the treadmills in the gym, and working on the fingerprint access system.

For new neighbors, please e-mail [procardi@ciramail.com](mailto:procardi@ciramail.com) and ask for the fingerprinting access. Either our property manager of Real Management, Mrs. Randi Cahill, or one of your board members will help you to get in the system.

Please make certain to visit [RealManage.com](http://RealManage.com) and register for the resident portal. If you do not have your welcome letter from RealManage, you can email

[procardi@ciramail.com](mailto:procardi@ciramail.com) for the necessary registration information.

Please make sure to visit the Cardiff Ranch December events. Especially the Kids Bazaar is very special – don't forget to bring some cash. You never know what our kids will bring to the tables, and if you want some of those yummy cookies, you better visit the Christmas party! Let's see if Santa comes around this year again.

Don't forget to winterize your sprinkler system and take extra good care of your tropical plants during the freezing nights.

With that we'll see you in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2020!

*Sincerely,  
Your Resident  
Board Members*

# CARDIFF RANCH

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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  
Tays Junior High ..... 281-234-2400  
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@ciramail.com for more information.

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



*Bazar Kids Crafts*

*December 12*

*Christmas*

*December 14*

*Round Tables*

*December 14, 9:30 a.m.*

An advertisement for Wired Generators. At the top, it says "Happy Holidays from WIRED GENERATORS by WIRED ELECTRICAL SERVICES". Below this is the phone number "713-467-1125" and the website "www.wiredes.com". A list of services includes: Panel Upgrade / Replacement, Additional Plugs and Outlets, Smoke Detectors, Troubleshooting, and TV Mounting. A starburst graphic highlights a "5 Year Warranty\*" with "100% Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed". A box offers "\$20 OFF Your Next Service Call!" with the note "Not to be combined with any other discount or offer. Expires 1/1/20". The bottom half of the ad shows a black service van with "WIRED GENERATORS" and "713-467-1125" on the side, with a technician standing next to it. Logos for VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and BBB are visible at the bottom left, along with the Master #100394-TECL # 22809.



## *Limoncello Cake*

This is such a refreshing cake and really brings a bright finish to any dinner. It seems a bit tedious, but it's well worth all the effort!

### **Ingredients:**

#### **Sponge Cake:**

8 eggs, separated, room temperature  
1 cup granulated sugar, divided  
½ cup milk and melted butter, total (1/4 cup each)  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon lemon zest  
1½ cups all purpose flour  
2 teaspoons baking powder  
¼ teaspoon salt

#### **Limoncello Syrup:**

1/2 cup water  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
1/3 cup limoncello

#### **Frosting:**

2 (8 Oz) packages cream cheese (16 oz total), room temperature  
1 cup powdered sugar  
2 (8 Oz) packages mascarpone cheese (16 oz total), room temperature  
1/2 cup heavy cream, chilled  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 – 1 Tablespoon limoncello  
1/2 – 1 teaspoon, lemon zest  
1/2 cup lemon curd

#### **Sponge Cake:**

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line the bottom of 2 round (9 inch) cake pans with parchment paper.

Separate the eggs, putting the whites in one bowl and the

yolks in another.

Beat the whites using a whisk attachment on a standing mixer or a hand held mixer until foamy. Gradually pour in half of the sugar. Mix the whites on high speed until stiff peaks form. Set aside.

In the other bowl with the yolks, add the remaining sugar and use the same whisk attachment to beat the yolks until they are pale and fluffy.

Combine the milk, melted butter, vanilla extract and lemon zest in a bowl or cup. Set aside.

Using a rubber spatula, fold the egg whites into the egg yolks, being careful not to deflate the batter as much as possible.

Sift the flour, baking powder, and salt over the folded eggs and gently fold in the batter.

When there are still some remaining streaks of flour, pour in the milk and butter mixture into the batter by the side of the bowl.

Continue gently folding until evenly distributed.

Divide the batter in half, pouring into the prepared cake pans.

Bake in the preheated oven until they are golden and a toothpick inserted into the center of the cake comes out clean, 20-25 minutes.

Cool on a wire rack

Meanwhile, prepare the limoncello syrup and the frosting.

**Limoncello Syrup:**

Make a simple sugar by heating the sugar and water in a small pot until sugar dissolves and add the limoncello. Set aside to cool. Limoncello is an Italian liquor made from the zest of lemons, sugar, water, and, of course, alcohol. The flavor is very delicate and mild.

*(Continued on Page 4)*



# CARDIFF RANCH

## "Limoncello Cake..." *Continued from Page 3)*

In a standing mixer with a paddle attachment or using a hand mixer, mix the cream cheese and powdered sugar until evenly mixed, smooth and fluffy. Add the lemon zest, vanilla extract and limoncello.

Add the mascarpone cheese. You can just fold in the mascarpone cheese with a rubber spatula, since it's soft enough or mix with the mixer just until combined, about 30 seconds.

In a separate bowl, whip the heavy cream until fluffy and stiff peaks form. You can do this by hand using a whisk or use a hand held mixer or a standing mixer.

Using a rubber spatula, fold in the whipped cream into the frosting until evenly mixed.

Assembling the Cake:

Cut each cake in half horizontally.

Using a serrated knife, make a small cut all around the outside of the cake. This will keep your knife on the same level as you are cutting across. Continue cutting deeper into the cake until you have cut all the way through.

Using a pastry brush, brush the top and bottom of each layer with the limoncello syrup.

Put a dollop of frosting in the center of the cake plate, which will help to hold the cake in place. Place the first cake layer in the center of the cake plate and generously spread the cake layer with frosting, all the way to the edges.

Place the second cake layer on top of the frosted cake layer. Spread the lemon curd evenly over the surface of the cake, all the way to the edges. You can use more or less lemon curd, depending on how sweet and "lemony" you want the cake to be.

Place the third cake layer on top of the lemon curd layer and generously spread the cake layer with frosting, all the way to the edges.

Top with the last layer and this time frost the sides and the top of the cake.

Decorate with remaining frosting however you like.

The cake should be chilled in the refrigerator for at least 2-4 hours before serving, or overnight. The cake can be made 2 days in advance, completely assembled and stored in the refrigerator, covered.

## Excluding Pests



When the weather turns towards autumn and leads into winter, many pests start looking for a cozy place which can often lead them inside your home. By performing a thorough inspection, you can locate areas where these pests may enter and stop them before they become a problem.

Inside the home, look around doors and windows and if you see light around them it's a sign there isn't a good seal and weather stripping should be replaced. Inspect the attic for holes or entry points for small mammals such as rats, mice, and squirrels. Attic vents should be covered with stainless steel screening to block animals from entering. Outside, inspect the perimeter of the home for cracks and crevices in the foundation that should be sealed. Locate pipe and wire penetrations that enter the structure and seal areas that allow pests to enter.

Ideas on how to exclude pests from your home:

- Trim back or prune any trees and shrubs that touch or overhang the home
- Seal pipe & wire penetrations with copper mesh, sealant, or expanding foam
- Replace weather stripping around doors and windows if there is not a good seal
- Repair or replace window screens with holes
- For homes with brick or stone facades, stuff weep holes with copper mesh
- Clean debris from gutters to reduce harborage areas for pests
- Inspect all furniture, boxes, and bags for pests before carrying them into the home
- Inspect all plants for insect pests before bringing them into the home
- Do not store firewood inside the home, against outside walls, or near doors
- Use sheet metal, hardware cloth, or steel wool to seal any areas where animals have chewed to enter the home\*\*

\*\*make sure animal is not in the home or you'll seal it inside!

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at:

[www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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## 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](mailto:cardifffranchnews@gmail.com).

Submit articles to: [cardifffranchnews@gmail.com](mailto: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.)

## Protect the World's Children this Holiday Season

The holidays signal a time for family gatherings, traditions and the spirit of giving. Make this holiday season even more meaningful by giving gifts that help children in need around the globe.



According to UNICEF, around 15,000 children die every day from preventable diseases. In over 190

countries, the organization's staffers are in the field working through war zones, natural disasters and disease outbreaks, doing whatever it takes to save children's lives. This holiday season, you can join the charge by choosing gifts that give back.

With Inspired Gifts, you can provide supplies in the name of a loved one that get delivered directly to children who need it most. Just \$19 can provide polio vaccines to protect 100 children from the deadly disease. Additional life-saving and life-changing options including food packets, educational materials and menstrual hygiene kits can be found at [unicefusa.org/HolidayInspired](http://unicefusa.org/HolidayInspired).

If you are looking for stocking stuffers and unique finds, UNICEF Market has a vast collection of handcrafted items made by artisans from around the world. From blankets woven in India to recycled glass pitchers crafted in Mexico and more, these gifts help support the artisans and their families, keep traditional skills alive and give back to essential programs for children. Start checking off your wish lists at [unicefusa.org/HolidayMarket](http://unicefusa.org/HolidayMarket).

As part of Louis Vuitton's #MakeAPromise pledge, a specially designed product line of Silver Lockits is available, helping to protect children who have been exposed to diseases, natural disasters and other conflicts that threaten their safety and well-being. \$100-\$250 of each purchase go to programs that help children most in need. Find out more at [louisvuitton.com/lvforunicef](http://louisvuitton.com/lvforunicef).

This year, Garnier USA will donate \$1 to UNICEF USA for every Whole Blends Holiday Kit sold through Dec. 31 with a minimum donation of \$300,000. Each kit purchased helps educate a child for up to one week, as it costs around 15 cents to help educate one child per day. Learn more at [garnierusa.com/unicef](http://garnierusa.com/unicef).

Vitamin A is important for strengthening the immune system and preventing childhood blindness. Through Dec. 31, L'OCCITANE will donate \$3.95 for each Solidarity Soap purchased to support UNICEF's Vitamin A supplementation programs around the world. Available in stores or at [loccitane.com/en-us/solidaritysoap](http://loccitane.com/en-us/solidaritysoap).

A holiday favorite since 1950, UNICEF Greeting Cards can be purchased at IKEA, select Hallmark Gold Crown® stores and online at [hallmark.com](http://hallmark.com) and [unicefusa.org/HolidayCards2019](http://unicefusa.org/HolidayCards2019). One hundred percent of the purchase price of each pack from IKEA will go to support the world's most vulnerable children.

UNICEF does not endorse any brand, company, product, or service.

\*No part of the purchase price is tax deductible. Content downloaded from [FamilyFeatures.com](http://FamilyFeatures.com).

# CARDIFF RANCH

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After Your Pet

## 5 Tips to Ward Off Cold Weather

Colder weather brings plenty of changes, especially in the ways you take care of your home and self. Especially when the temperature drops, extreme winter conditions can play havoc not only with your skin and health, but also your family's comfort.

Take steps to protect your family and household as the weather starts to cool this season with these practical tips:

*Take steps to help prevent the flu.* As temperatures drop, the chances of getting sick rise. That's partly because certain germs and viruses thrive in colder temperatures, and because the cold puts extra strain on your immune system. When it is cold outside, people are also more likely to spend time indoors (and in closer quarters) where germs are more easily spread. Do your part to help prevent the flu by washing your hands often and covering your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze. Also be sure to stay home if you're sick and avoid exposing others to your illness.

*Prepare your wardrobe.* Colder weather outside means more skin sensitivities and dryness. Long pants and sleeves don't just add warmth; they also protect your skin from harsh outdoor elements. When you haul your winter wardrobe out of storage, start the season on a comfy note by washing everything with an option like 'all Free Clear Liquid Detergent or Mighty Pacs. It's the No. 1 laundry detergent brand recommended by dermatologists, allergists and pediatricians for sensitive skin due to its hypoallergenic formula.

*Dress in layers from head to toe.* Bundle up with winter accessories to match the daily weather forecast. For chillier mornings and

nights, cover exposed areas such as your head with a hat, neck with a scarf and hands with gloves. To accommodate warmer weather during the day, layer flexible clothing options to accommodate temperature shifts.

Stay active. Physical activity naturally warms your body in the short term. In fact, shivering is your body's natural physical response to generate body heat when you're cold. Aside from the immediate benefits, keeping active during the colder months can help in other ways, too. A healthy cardiovascular system keeps your blood flow steady and strong, and a good circulatory system plays an important role in keeping your body, and especially your extremities, warm when temperatures take a dip.

*Nourish your body and skin.* Preventing painful dry cracks and itchy, scaly skin is a job that requires attention inside and out. Externally, moisturize shortly after showering to trap in the water lingering on your skin, use extra lotion throughout the day on areas prone to drying and reapply lotion after washing hands. Remember to protect sensitive spots like your lips that can easily chap and crack. You can also prevent dry skin by ensuring you're drinking plenty of water and eating a healthy diet with plenty of essential vitamins and healthy fats.

For more ideas to prepare for changing weather, visit all-laundry.com.

Content courtesy of 'all. Photos courtesy of Getty Images. Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com





Photo courtesy of Getty Images

No matter who you're buying for this year, putting some extra thought into the personality and hobbies of your recipient can help brighten the holiday season. Whether your list is on the shorter side or long and complex, these gift ideas – ranging from a thoughtful card to a flavorful meal or a pretty piece of jewelry to tools for the outdoors or classroom – have you covered.

Check those names off your shopping list with even more gift ideas at [eLivingtoday.com](http://eLivingtoday.com). Content downloaded from [FamilyFeatures.com](http://FamilyFeatures.com)

## Holiday Gifting Made Easy

Gift ideas for **everyone** on your list



### A Gift Full of Flavor

If you're looking for a gift for your food-loving family and friends this holiday season, this is the perfect package. With a sampling of Omaha Steaks favorites – including top sirloins, pork chops, gourmet burgers and filet mignons – the Tasteful Gift combo is guaranteed to please nearly any foodie on your list. Add in potatoes au gratin, caramel apple tartlets and an exclusive seasoning packet and you have a gourmet gift for the holiday season. Find more gift ideas at [omahasteaks.com](http://omahasteaks.com).



### A Sharp Gift Idea

Any knife is only as good as the sharpness of its blade. This holiday season, get the outdoorsman or chef in your life a helpful tool like the Wicked Edge Go knife sharpener. Made from high-quality, aircraft-grade aluminum and stainless steel and easy to use for both new and veteran knife sharpeners, it offers guided angle control while sharpening a variety of knives, giving the user choice and control over angle and edge geometry. Find more at [wickededgeusa.com](http://wickededgeusa.com).



### Share Holiday Joy

Show friends and family how much they mean to you this holiday season with a Hallmark holiday card. Whether you want to share excitement with



those who go all out this time of year or just let someone know he or she is loved, sending a card is a perfect way to show your care. With a variety of cards to choose from, you can find one for everybody on your list. Discover all the ways you can make the holidays brighter at [Hallmark.com/Cards](http://Hallmark.com/Cards).

Weight Diamond Tennis Bracelets from Helzberg Diamonds. Available in Rose Gold, White Gold and Yellow Gold, these stylish bracelets feature round brilliant-cut diamonds to help make your special someone feel like an MVP. Plus, for a limited time, you can save \$1,000 through Dec. 29. Find more holiday gift ideas at [Helzberg.com/Holiday-Gift-Guide](http://Helzberg.com/Holiday-Gift-Guide).

### Get Her a Gift that Wows

This holiday season, give her a gift that wows with these sparkling 3-Carat Total



### A Splash of Scholarly Style

Make math and science a bit more stylish for your student when he or she heads back to school from the holidays. Available in 10 bold colors, the TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator is super-slim, durable and can last up to one month on one charge. With a multitude of functions, students can use it from middle school math and science all the way through high school and into college – plus, it's accepted on college entrance exams. Find more at [education.ti.com/84CE](http://education.ti.com/84CE).



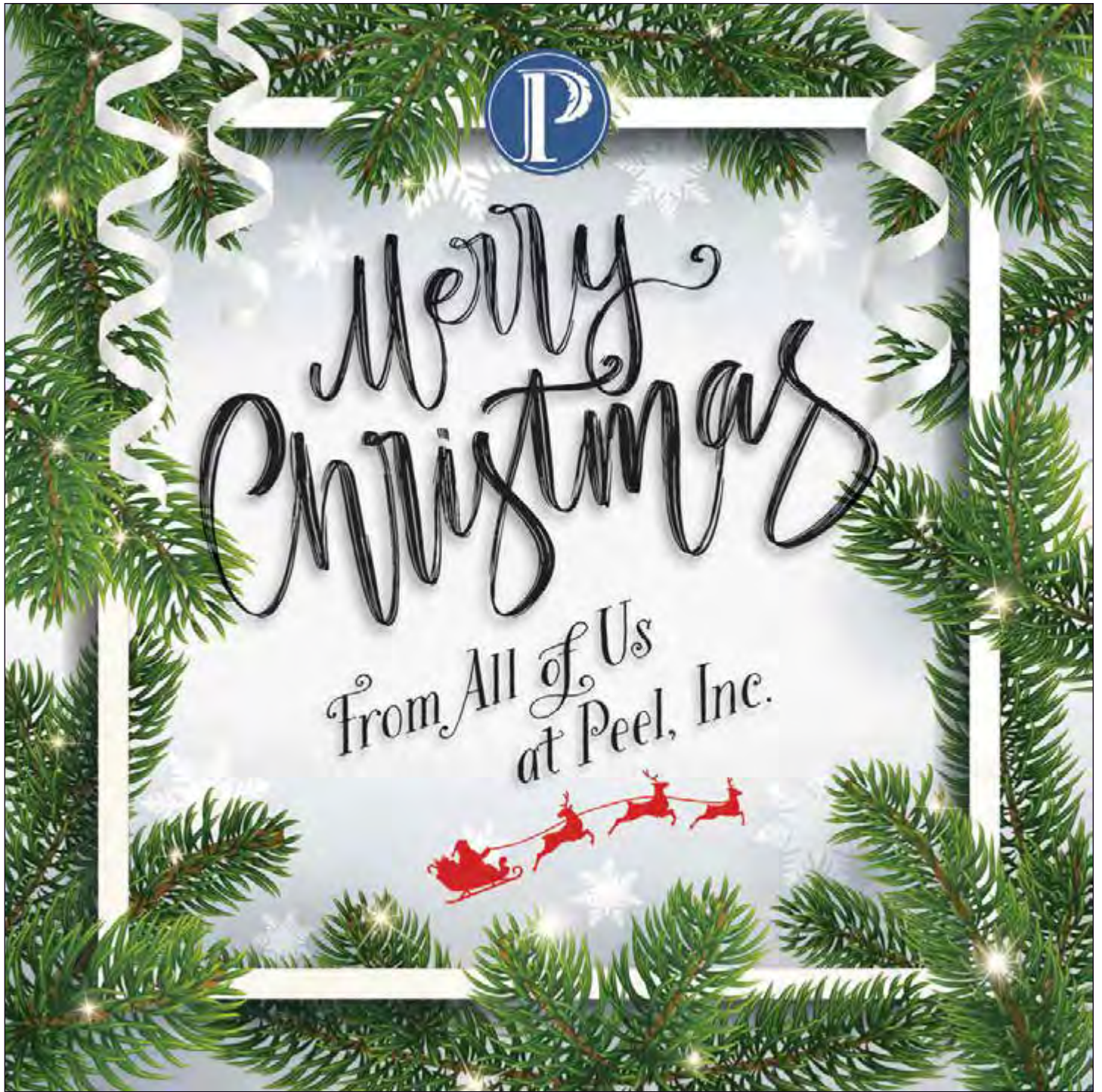


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