



# The HOME FRONT

FEBRUARY 2020

Official Publication of the Cardiff Ranch HOA

VOL 5, ISSUE 2

## ***LETTER FROM THE BOARD***

Dear Neighbors,  
2020 is starting out great!

We are happy to see the autumn pruning is paying off, and our trees look better and better. Please be aware that we have a couple of trees that were evaluated this autumn as 'probably not making it'; most of them incurred this deterioration from the flooding during Harvey. If you see a tree in distress and/or have questions, please e-mail the question with a picture of the tree to [procardi@ciramail.com](mailto:procardi@ciramail.com).

Please take notice of the community calendar! Our event committee had some fun evenings with the Kids Bazaar and the Bingo night.

We continue to make progress, working with community members to clear up violations. As of the writing of this letter, in January we had 12 corrected, 7 new, and 14 outstanding. Please remember that some violations do incur fines. These fines are only assessed if the violation is not corrected in accordance with the notification; the community is here to support you if you need help understanding the violation, so please reach out if you have any questions! Residents can report violations or concerns by using our community portal from Real Manage or emailing [procardi@ciramail.com](mailto:procardi@ciramail.com) with pictures and a description of the concern.

Sincerely,  
Your Resident Board Members



## ***Round Tables & Board Meetings***

### **Round Table (Saturday) & Board Meetings (Thursday)**

**February 8th 9:30am - Round Table**

**March 14th 9:30am - Round Table**

**March 19th 7pm - Board Meeting**

**April 11th 9:30am - Round Table**

**May 9th 9:30am - Round Table**

**May 21st 7pm - Board Meeting**

**June 13th 9:30am - Round Table**

**July 11th 9:30am - Round Table**

**July 16th 7pm - Board Meeting**

**August 8th 9:30am - Round Table**

**September 12th 9:30am - Round Table**

**September 17th 7pm - Board Meeting**

**October 10th 9:30am - Round Table**

**November 14th 9:30am - Round Table**

**November 19th 7pm - Board Meeting**

**December 12th 9:30am - Round Table**

# 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
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](mailto: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

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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@ciramail.com](mailto:procardi@ciramail.com) for more information.

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

## 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 [cardiff ranchnews@gmail.com](mailto:cardiff ranchnews@gmail.com).

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

# The Power of Volunteerism

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

I often say that I'm working harder now as a volunteer president of a board of directors than I ever did as a paid employee. The hours are long, the work can be frustrating, and worrying about keeping our doors open is very stressful. But all it takes is for me to hold a tiny, helpless little opossum in my hand or witness the release of an animal back to the wild and I know why I do it. A sense of calm and purpose takes over and I feel great about what I'm doing.

People volunteer for a number of reasons. Some are retired and are looking for something meaningful to do. Some are students wanting to learn more about their chosen field of study. Some feel it's a way to pay it forward and some don't have a choice. They have to complete court-ordered community service.

I think we would all agree that helping others makes a person feel good but did you know that studies show there are health benefits from volunteering? According to Rodlescia Sneed, a public health research associate at Michigan State University who has studied the impacts of volunteering, "In my own work I've shown it's linked to improvements in factors like depressive symptoms, purpose in life, and feelings of optimism." It's also been shown to lower blood pressure and reduces the feelings of depression.

Here's a list of all the benefits of volunteering according to Non-Profit Hub:

- Boosts self-esteem
- Expands your connections - some people are just born with the "gift of gab" and have no trouble talking to others. For those that tend to be shy, it's the perfect opportunity to make new friends with people who share the same interests.
- Makes you feel good
- Contributes to a longer life - volunteers encounter greater longevity and less frequency of heart disease. It can also slow the progress of Alzheimer's and other memory loss diseases.

- Gives purpose – as we age, we sometimes feel isolated but no matter who we are or what our age is, volunteering can give our lives new meaning.

- Combats stress – studies actually show the more you volunteer, the happier you become. Your body releases dopamine in the brain when you help others. This has a positive effect on how you feel.

- Sets a good example – as parents, our greatest hope is that our children grow up to be caring, giving adults. What better way to make that happen than to set a good example?

- Teaches new skills – we see it all the time. Volunteers are afraid to pick up a bird, a squirrel or opossum. With encouragement and instruction, they gain confidence and learn not only to pick them up but to feed them. You can see the pride on their faces!

Don't let fear stop you from volunteering. It's very much like starting a new job and for those of you who work, you know how stressful that can be. Every non-profit knows how valuable volunteers are. Volunteers provide their time, energies and talents to help non-profits fulfill their missions. Most non-profits have limited budgets and volunteers are the reason many non-profits are able to operate and keep the bills paid.

The most important thing to remember is to do what interests you. Do you like working with senior citizens? The homeless? Dogs and cats? If you volunteer somewhere and find it's not for you, keep looking until you find your passion.

If caring for injured, orphaned or displaced wildlife is of interest to you, please contact us. Maybe you don't want to handle animals but would like to recruit fellow volunteers, work in fundraising or design brochures. We have many different areas where you can offer your time and talents. Give Berri a call at 713.468.8972.

Make a New Year's resolution to volunteer. You'll be pleasantly surprised how this will add to your life!







## Fruit Flies

Fruit flies can become a nuisance problem at any time of year. They can enter homes from ripe fruits or vegetables picked from the garden or purchased at the grocery store. Fruit fly adults may also fly into homes from outdoors.

Adult fruit flies are small (about 1/8 of an inch) and often have red eyes. The front portion of the body is tan while the back portion is dark brown to black. If given the opportunity, females can lay up to 500 eggs. Larvae are surface feeders on fermenting foods or other organic matter, which means that you can cut off the overripe parts of the fruit or vegetable and eat the rest.

To prevent bringing fruit flies into your home, do not purchase over ripened fruit and vegetables. Eat fresh produce in a timely manner and store items in the refrigerator or a paper bag that is clipped closed. All recyclables should be rinsed thoroughly before placing them into the recycling bin. Recycling and garbage bins should be cleaned on a regular basis with soapy water to eliminate any spilled material.

If your home already has fruit flies, locate all sources of infestation (where the larvae are living) and eliminate them. Insecticides only target adults and will not control the problem. While searching and eliminating breeding sources, a trap can be constructed to capture adult flies. Create a paper funnel by rolling paper and taping it closed. Place the funnel into a jar that has a small amount of apple cider vinegar in the bottom.

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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## Driveway Cleaning Tips

### Ammonia

Tired of those annoying discolorations on your concrete work? To get rid of them, scrub with 1 cup ammonia diluted in 1 gallon (3.7 liters) water. Hose it down well when you're done.

### Baking Soda

Salt and commercial ice-melt formulations can stain — or actually eat away — the concrete around your house. For an effective, but completely innocuous, way to melt the ice on your steps and walkways during those cold winter months, try sprinkling them with generous amounts of baking soda. Add some sand for improved traction.

### Kool-Aid

Nasty rust stains on your concrete? Mix unsweetened lemonade Kool-Aid with hot water. Scrub and the rust stain should come right out.

### Oven Cleaner

Get those unsightly grease, oil, and transmission fluid stains off your concrete driveway or garage floor. Spray them with oven cleaner. Let it settle for 5-10 minutes, then scrub with a stiff brush and rinse it off with your garden hose at its highest pressure. Severe stains may require a second application.

### Soda

Here's how to remove oil stains from concrete drive-ways and garage floors: Gather up a small bag of cat litter, a few cans of cola, a stiff bristle broom, bucket, laundry detergent, bleach, eye protection, and rubber gloves. Cover the stain with a thin layer of cat litter and brush it in. Sweep up the litter and pour cola to cover the area. Work the cola in with a bristle broom, and leave the cola for about twenty minutes. Mix 1/4 cup laundry detergent with 1/4 cup bleach in 1 gallon (3.7 liters) warm water and use it to mop up the mess.

### WD-40

Did a leaky oil pan leave a big ugly spot in the middle of your concrete driveway? To get rid of an unsightly oil spot, just spray it with a generous amount of WD-40 and then hose it down with water.



# Top 10 Travel Destinations to Start the New Decade

FAMILY FEATURES

For many, traveling offers an opportunity to disconnect from the everyday and experience new places and cultures. With the beginning of a new decade, it is the perfect time to start deciding your next travel adventures.

When booking your future destinations, consider these spots and tips recommended by travel expert and Bank of America ambassador, Lee Abbamonte, the youngest American to visit every country plus the North and South Poles.

England, Germany, Scotland, Azerbaijan and more.

While technically more than one place, these locations have one thing in common: Union of European Football Associations (UEFA) Euro 2020. The international soccer event marks the first time the games will be held across the continent in 12 host cities.

“The year is a big one for sports,” Abbamonte said. “From sporting events in Europe to Japan, it is a fun year for travel and to enjoy once-in-a-lifetime experiences.”

**Australia**

From its deserts to tropical beaches, Australia is a beautiful country to explore. While many people might be familiar with the Sydney Opera House and the unique wildlife, there are many hidden gems in Australia.

“I’ve been to Australia 10 times and I still can’t get enough,” Abbamonte said. “One of my favorite cities is Melbourne. While it’s one of the largest cities in Australia, the heart of the city is hidden and secretive. It comes to life when you visit the alleys, laneways and arcades. The vibrant city has so much to offer: cafes, a unique street culture and street art.”

**New Zealand**

If you are going to New Zealand for the first time, Abbamonte



recommends boogie boarding down the sand dunes, hiking up a volcano and visiting the Moeraki Boulders. However, if you are really interested in getting the blood pumping, take a leap from Nevis Bungy near Queenstown. It is among the highest bungy jumping experiences in the world, measuring 440 feet.

**Mexico**

“Mexico City has two of my favorite things – great food and sports,” Abbamonte said. “The street tacos are to die for, and I love going to soccer games at Estadio Azteca.”

In 2020, there will be many festivals to explore.

The city is a cultural hub with music, theater, dance and food events throughout the year. While experiencing the festivities, it is also an opportune time to take a step back and enjoy Chapultepec Park.

**Brazil**

One of Abbamonte’s favorite waterfalls is Iguazu Falls located on the border of Brazil and Argentina. While Iguazu Falls might be well known, the falls themselves are truly unique. The waterfall system consists of 275 falls that stretch over approximately 1.68 miles. The Devil’s Throat is the tallest fall with a drop of more than 262 feet.

*(Continued on Page 7)*



# CARDIFF RANCH

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## A Fun, Fruity, Refrigerated Treat

Save time on family desserts with make-ahead recipes like these Kristoff Ice Box Cupcakes. By using kid-friendly treats that add nutrition to appealing flavor, you can solve busy evenings



just by reaching into the fridge. This and other family-friendly recipes are part of Dole's healthy-living alliance with Disney's Frozen 2. For details, visit [dole.com/Disney](http://dole.com/Disney).

#Dole #DoleRecipes

### Kristoff Ice Box Cupcakes

Prep time: 20 minutes, plus chill time

Serves: 12

- 3 ripe DOLE® Bananas
- 1 container (8 ounces) fat-free whipped topping, thawed
- 7 low-fat honey graham crackers, coarsely crushed
- 1 pound Dole Strawberries, hulled and quartered

Line 12-cup muffin tin with cupcake liners. In large bowl, mash bananas; fold in whipped topping.

Fill muffin cups halfway with graham cracker pieces, banana mixture and strawberries; repeat layers with remaining ingredients.

Refrigerate cupcakes 4 hours; serve in cupcake liners.

**Approximate nutritional information per serving (1 cupcake):** 78 calories; 3 calories from fat; 0 g fat; 0 g trans fat; 0 g polyunsaturated fat; 0 g monounsaturated fat; 0 mg cholesterol; 25 mg sodium; 164 mg potassium; 18 g carbohydrates; 2 g fiber; 8 g sugar; 1 g protein; vitamin A 0%; vitamin C 25%; calcium 2%; iron 2%; vitamin E 2%; thiamin 2%; vitamin B6 8%; phosphorus 2%; magnesium 4%; manganese 10%.

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## "Top 10 Travel Destinations..." (Continued from Page 5)

While traveling internationally can be fun and exhilarating, there are also places throughout the United States that offer memorable activities:

### **Scottsdale, Arizona**

If you enjoy being outdoors, Scottsdale is an ideal place to visit. There are many trails to explore in Camelback Mountain, Papago Park and Hole in the Rock. After hiking, follow Abbamonte's example and golf at The Short Course at Mountain Shadows.

"Scottsdale has some of the most beautiful sunsets in the States, and from The Short Course at Mountain Shadows, I get to enjoy the view while practicing my swing," he said.

### **Boston, Massachusetts**

"I love sports, so I visit Boston regularly for the professional games," Abbamonte said. "I'm also fortunate that Boston is a beautiful city I can enjoy along the way."

Boston is one of the oldest cities in the country. Founded in 1630, Boston is filled with history, museums and universities. If you are interested in a more unique attraction, check out the Warren Anatomical Museum, which is one of the last of its kind in the United States.

### **Portland, Oregon**

What makes Portland unique are the bizarre and wonderful things you can do when you visit. For example, you can try bone marrow ice cream, stop by Mill Ends Park (the world's smallest park) or attach your wish to The Wishing Tree.

"Portland is absolutely beautiful," Abbamonte said. "It has a bit of everything – restaurants, bars, parks – and I enjoy the people watching. Portland has some of the nicest people while maintaining an edgy vibe."

### **Tampa, Florida**

Tampa might be known for its spring break party scene, but it has so much more to offer. For example, the city's zoos and aquariums provide opportunities to interact directly with animals. Then you can take a break at Clearwater Beach, which is known for its soft, white sand and calm waters.

### **Santa Barbara, California**

"I go to Santa Barbara when I want to recharge," Abbamonte said. "I enjoy the food, walking around, talking to the locals and even watching a football game or two."

There are wine tours, zoos, beaches, museums and restaurants. While taking in the city, also make time to visit the hidden gems such as Knapp's Castle ruins.

*Find more solutions to make your travel goals attainable at [bankofamerica.com/Premium](http://bankofamerica.com/Premium). Content downloaded from [FamilyFeatures.com](http://FamilyFeatures.com).*

## Financial Tips to Help Boost Your 2020 Travel

When booking a trip, almost half (44%) of Americans don't use a rewards credit card that earns points or cash back, according to a Bank of America survey. No matter where you plan to travel, it is helpful to have a financial strategy in place to maximize rewards and help offset future travel costs.

-Use a credit card that allows you to earn and redeem points for travel such as the Bank of America® Premium Rewards Visa® credit card, which earns 2 points for every dollar spent on travel and dining purchases and 1.5 points for every dollar spent on all other purchases.

-Layer your rewards programs together to maximize points with each purchase. For example, when booking a flight and hotel

package, include your frequent flier number (layer No. 1) and hotel loyalty program details (layer No. 2). Pay with a rewards credit card (layer No. 3) that's eligible for bonus points with a banking rewards program (layer No. 4).

-A banking rewards program like Bank of America® Preferred Rewards lets you earn even more. Members receive a credit card rewards bonus of 25-75% on every purchase. For example, members in the Platinum Honors tier, the highest tier of the program, earn unlimited 3.5 points per dollar on travel and dining purchases with the Premium Rewards Visa® card and unlimited 2.62 points on all other purchases.







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