



September 2021

# LIFE AT McDOWELL MOUNTAIN

A Social Publication For The Residents  
Of McDowell Mountain Ranch



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**AREA DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER** Cary Frumes  
602-291-3637  
**PHOTOGRAPHERS** cary.frumes@n2pub.com  
**CREATIVE TEAM** Bradford Jones  
Robert Keegan  
Kevin Crosse  
N2 Publishing Design Team

**CONTRIBUTORS AT LARGE**

The residents of McDowell Mountain Ranch  
We are always looking for residents to follow up on leads, find great stories and send us ideas. Let's celebrate the great things happening in our community! No contribution is too small. Please email [cary.frumes@n2pub.com](mailto:cary.frumes@n2pub.com) with your pictures, suggestions, or requests.

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# CONTRIBUTORS OF



## Life at McDowell Mountain



**Kenai Frumes,**  
Associate Editor



**Asonta Benetti,**  
Content Director



**Kathryn Brass-Piper,**  
Ad Manager



**Stephanie Tassone**  
Cover and  
Family Spotlight  
Photographer



**Josie Pakula**  
Resident  
Contributor



**June Kleier,**  
Travel Writer



**Kevin Crosse,**  
Photographer,  
Home of the  
Month



**Lisa Owens,**  
Health & Fitness  
Contributor



**Ian Ricci,**  
Resident  
Contributor



**Shawn Shackelton,**  
Resident  
Contributor



**Robert Keegan,**  
Event  
Photographer



**Susan Ginsberg,**  
Resident  
Contributor



**Sammy,**  
Precious Pets  
Editor



## Just Because you Live in a Nice Neighborhood Doesn't Mean You Should Spend More to Have Your Air Conditioning Serviced

While it seems like a no-brainer that air conditioning providers have set pricing, the reality is that most incentivize their technicians to “pad” the bill. And when they come into a nice neighborhood like McDowell Mountain Ranch, you can bet that’s happening.

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“Your compressor is already running at max amperage, once it’s hot out it will fail. So, you need a new unit.”

“Your unit uses the older version of freon. New units use the newer version, which is less expensive. You should just get a new unit.”

“Your unit is 12 years old. Most units in Arizona last about 12 years. If you wait until it breaks later this Summer prices will be higher and it might take awhile to install. I recommend getting a new unit now.”

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family spotlight

# MEET THE Viceraras



Sicily, Steve, Cherie  
and Cedric

FROM THE PHILIPPINES TO PHOENIX

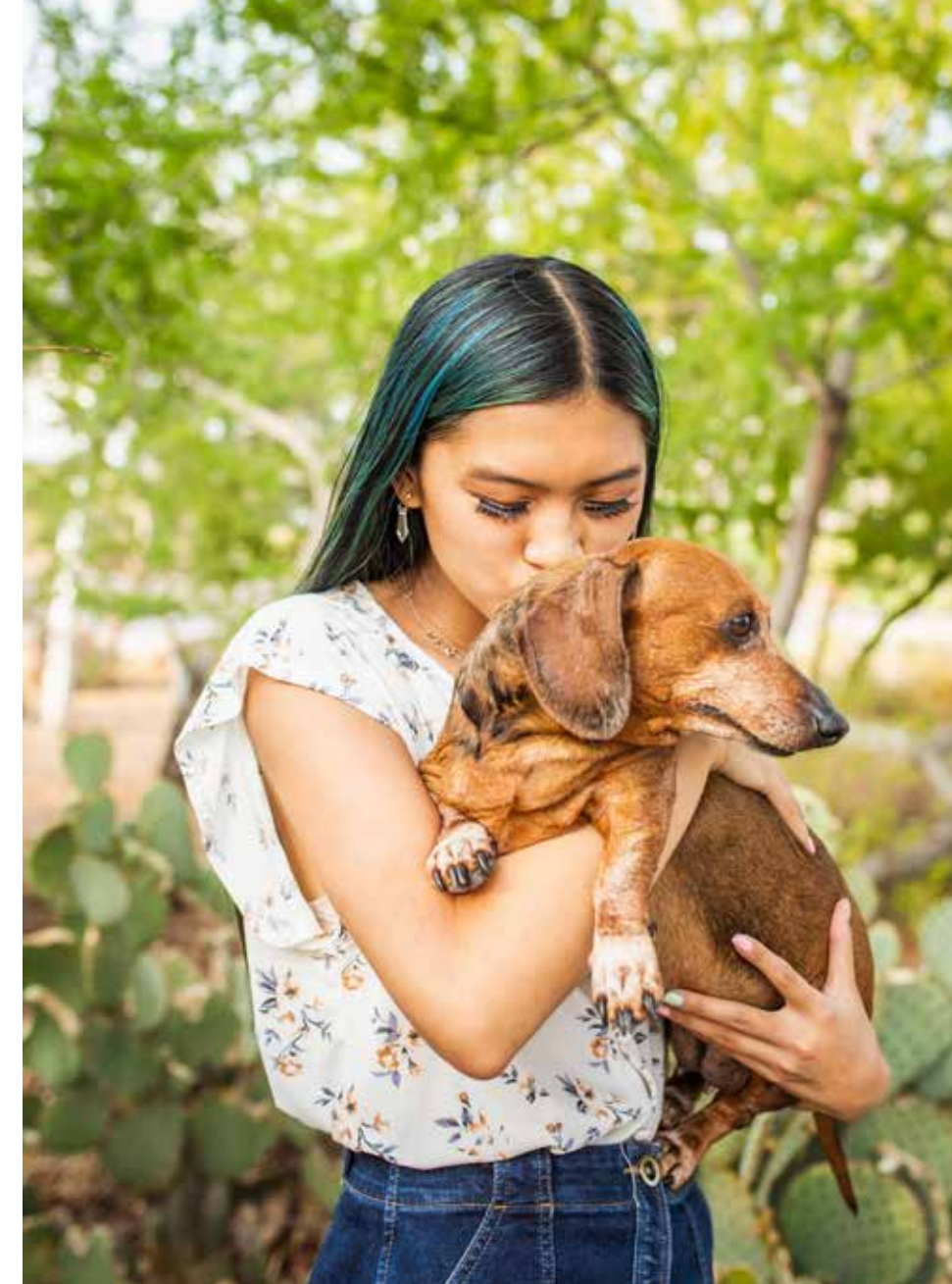
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# S

Steve and Cherie Vicera of Panorama Point have called McDowell Mountain Ranch home for 15 years. “It’s the sense of community we really love,” they say. “Our home is a place of refuge, not just for us but for others. It’s a no judgment zone. You will be welcomed and well-fed.” MMR provides a great outlet for their family hiking adventures when the weather is good, Steve’s fondness for biking, or Cherie’s passion for chasing sunsets.

Steve and Cherie’s story started on the other side of the world in the Philippines. They were both born there but Cherie’s family moved to the Chicago suburbs when she was a child. After graduating college at the University of California Berkeley, Cherie moved back to the Philippines to work as a missionary, where she and Steve met on a blind date. After ten years in the missionary field, Cherie was ready to return to the U.S. and the Viceraras moved to the Valley, raising their children Cedric (22) and Sicily (17).

...



**Stacie McDaniel,**  
Agent/Owner  
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Cherie having fun with Molly



Both Steve and Cherie became busy small business owners back in the States. “Our family believes in hard work. We know perseverance is an integral part of our well-being.” Steve opened up Sommet Fitness, a therapeutic Pilates studio that focuses on relieving client back pain without surgery or medication. Steve also works on relieving pain and building strength in all areas of the body. Cherie also focused on creating her own business, Simply Cherie Travels. “As a travel coach, I help clients reflect, refresh, and reset through transformative travels. I curate travel ideas and plans for clients who want and need a reset from the demands of daily life,” she explains. Their children have also embraced their parents go-getter attitude. Cedric is a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania working towards a Masters in Computer and Information Technology. He is also

a teaching assistant for the program and an intern for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Department of Biostatistics. “Cedric is laid back and funny, but he also has a knack for Japanese and is fascinated by all things Japan,” his parents say. His sister Sicily is a senior at Basis Scottsdale who is learning jiu-jitsu and loves to spend her time with friends cooking, baking, or shopping at Daiso Japan.

Even though they left missionary work, the Vicerias keep God and their Christian values central to their lives. “We’ve hosted Bible discussion groups for the Phoenix Church of Christ in our home since we moved here. We’re also Good Enough Parenting facilitators, provide pre-marital counseling, and teach one-on-one Bible study,” they explain. “We continue to instill in our children





Steve showing off at his Pilates Studio

to be responsible with their God-given talents and to strive for excellence. Since we are immigrants, we have emphasized not just being grateful for opportunities but to be ready for them as the next building blocks for their successes.”

In between running businesses, school, and Christian activities, the family makes an effort to stay connected together in their off-time. Fridays are ‘Feast Fridays’, where they order DoorDash and watch a movie (with their 12 year-old Dachshund Molly). They enjoy cultural food festivals and exploring restaurants of other cuisines. “We recently went to Moab, Utah, and did all the things first-time visitors do (and should). We went river rafting, rented a Jeep, mountain biked, and hiked to Delicate Arch in Arches

National Park. The highlight of our trip was chasing the sunset at Delicate Arch then staying for stargazing. It was beautiful and a great time to reset.”

Connecting as a family and being unified is key to the Viceras. “A tradition we have been doing since the kids were in grade school is our New Year’s reflections. We go out of town for a couple days, explore the area, and spend time sharing our victories and challenges from the past year as individuals and as a family. We are not perfect, but we are together in each other’s chapters.”

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By **Ian Ricci**  
Photography- **Antik Media**

For those of you I don't know, I am first and foremost a luxury real estate agent with REMAX Fine Properties assisting buyers and sellers. I also serve as project manager and designer on large renovations where the scope of work ranges from \$100,000 to more than \$500,000. In this case, I saw an opportunity for one of my clients to build a spec for resale from scratch. My role was comprised of securing the lot, designing the home's layout, hiring an architect and builder, selecting all the finishes, overseeing the construction, and then selling it for a record price. With Phoenix Construction Group as the GC/builder, we have renovated five other properties in The Retreat and knew the value a new home could bring. It took 12 months to build and already had it sold prior to its completion in June. I staged and showcased the finished product to the public the weekend prior to closing. We received rave reviews and so I've been asked to share some insight on what went into the process and design.

**EXTERIOR:** The 2/3-acre lot sits on a hillside, yet I was determined to build a single-story home with no steps while ensuring we captured the Camelback Mountain views and maintained backyard privacy. This required us to dig into the caliche rock on the northeast side of the property and use some of that dirt to increase the height on the southwest end to maintain the spectacular views. This design enabled us to place an extended paver driveway off Paradise Lane leading to the oversized four-car garage. We also added a lit travertine staircase to provide a formal entry from Penstamin Drive. In the backyard, we wanted multiple areas to entertain and relax so we went with a ledge-stone wrapped firepit off the owner's suite, a BBQ station with a DCS grill and griddle situated off the flex room and artificial turf which softens the space with greenery and offers the perfect place for kids and pets to play. The double-sided infinity edge pool and waterfall spa provided a unique but useful design. Both have luminous glass pebble and a custom deco tile. The landscape and all irrigation were completed ensuring we delivered a truly move in ready home.

**GARAGE:** So many homes have a tight garage, so another must have was a four-car garage, deep and wide. The doors were custom ordered with modern glass panels off center and then painted to match exterior accent color. For efficiency, we went with two tankless water heaters, full attic insulation, and an electric car outlet. There's also a dedicated workout space.

**FOYER:** A great first impression is key and that starts with the front door, a massive custom powder coated 8' x 8' steel pivot door along with 3 adjacent glass panels to match the look on the garage doors. The entire home has French Oak wood floors except the bathrooms, drop zone & laundry which are each unique. The lighting package mixes metals and operates on a Control 4 smart home system which also runs the TVs, music, HVAC, security system as well as front and garage doors.

**Part 2- THE INTERIOR- in our October Issue!**  
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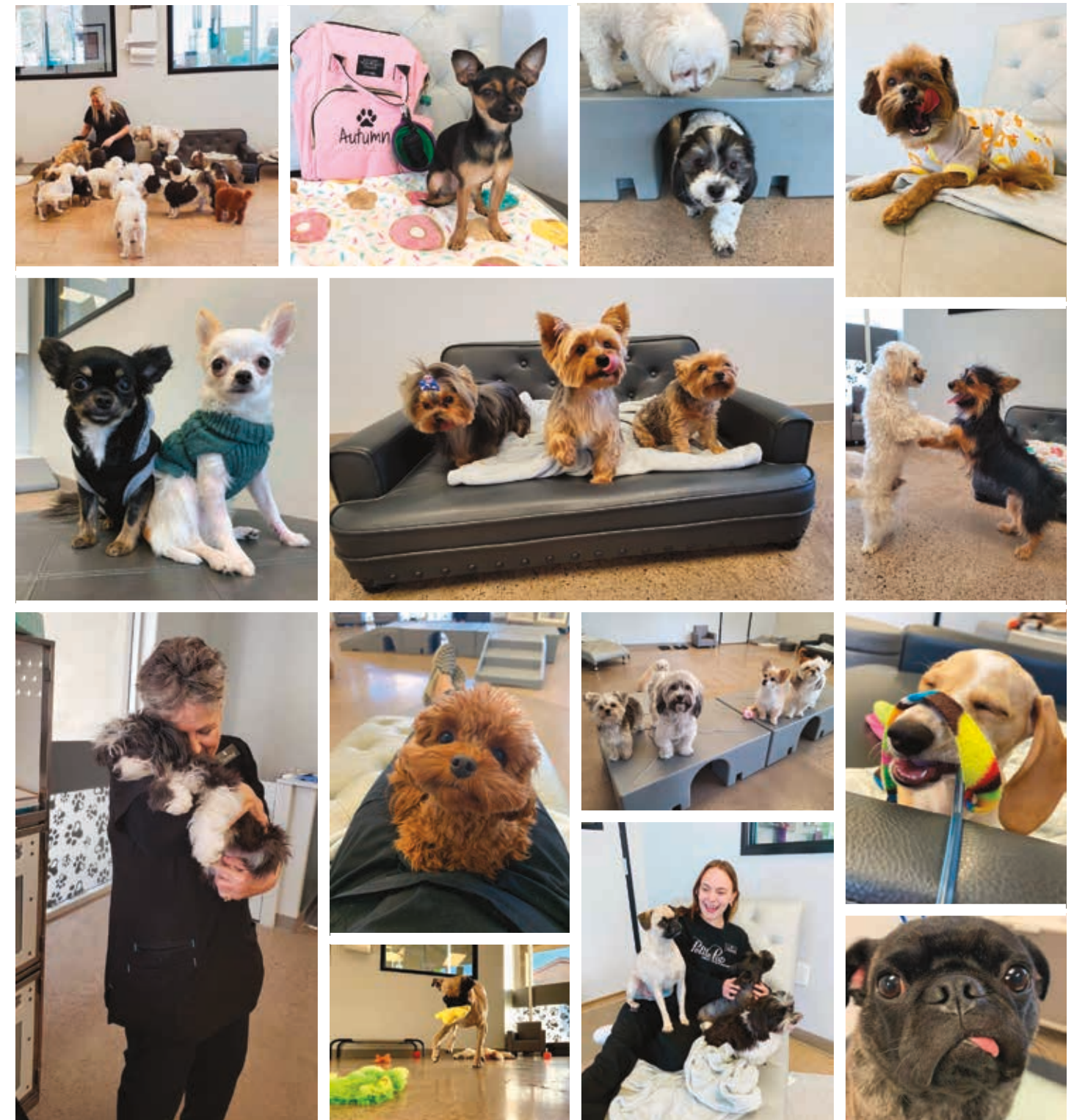
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# CASPER & CHIANTI COURTAD

**FAMILY MEMBER NAMES:** Scott, Brenda, Will, and Oliver Courtad

**PET'S NAME:** Casper and Chianti

**TYPE OF ANIMAL/BREED:** Bichon Frise and Shi-Poo

**MALE OR FEMALE:** Male and Female

**PET'S AGE:** 15 and 12

**WHERE/WHY DID YOUR OWNER PICK YOU? CASPER:** We are both hypo-allergenic dogs and do not shed which was important to our parents.

**CHIANTI:** I think really, they just fell in love with us because we are cute. They got me to keep Casper company but really I just always annoy him.

**IS THERE A STORY BEHIND YOUR NAME? CASPER:** No big story. I am white and my parents aren't very creative. **CHIANTI:** My dad was a wine maker in college and in Colorado, so he named me after one of his favorite wine regions at the time.

**ANYTHING SPECIAL OR UNUSUAL ABOUT YOU (TALENTS/QUIRKS)?**

**CASPER:** I got hit by a car when I was one and broke my tail so it doesn't flip up like it should. I don't play with toys as it is so puppy-ish and I'm a mature dog. **CHIANTI:** Hey! I still like playing with toys. You can throw me a squeaky toy any day.



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**WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT YOURSELF? WHAT ARE YOUR**

**SELLING POINTS? CASPER:** I'm old so after taking a nice walk on the paths through the neighborhood, I like to nap for the rest of the day. Kids love me because I just lay there while they pet me, pull out my hair, or pull my tail. Especially the tail since its paralyzed from the car accident. **CHIANTI:** Kids love me too, but I love them more. Especially if they let me lick them. At the dog park I'm more interested in the people than the other dogs. I try to see how many I can get to pet me. Its pretty easy because I'm so cute.

**ANY FUNNY STORIES YOU CAN RELAY? CASPER:** Once when I was little

my mom was creating a painting on the kitchen table. She left me alone for a short time and I jumped up on the table and made my own painting by getting into the yellow paint and walking on the canvas. Mom was not mad about the canvas but jumping down onto the dinning room chair was not her favorite. **CHIANTI:** I think that's about when they decided they needed me to keep you company.

**HOW SPOILED ARE YOU? CASPER:** I've had a pretty good life. Spent my childhood in a house with a big yard in Ohio. Lived my twenties in a city house close to all the action. Moved to the burbs in my thirties with a really big yard to play with the new little human in my family. Retired to Colorado where I learned to love hiking mountains and enjoyed the dry air where my arthritis doesn't hurt much. Finally, moved to Arizona to live out my retirement in the dry desert air. **CHIANTI:** I've lived most of those places too, but I'm the only one who gets to sleep in mommy and daddy's bed.

**ANY CURRENT HEALTH CONCERNS? CASPER:** I'm in pretty good shape for my age. Probably all those walks and hikes my dad insists on. However, I'm losing a lot of teeth, my hearing is going, I have cataracts, and the arthritis from my car accident flares up if it does get humid. **CHIANTI:** While I'm not as old, I don't have any of those problems yet.

**WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE KNOW ABOUT YOU AND HOW YOU HAVE**

**ENRICHED YOUR HOME/FAMILY? CASPER:** My mom cried the first night trying to figure out how to take me back and figuring out how old she would be when I died, but I grew on her. Now that she is getting close to that age, she can't imagine life without me. **CHIANTI:** I'm the cuddly one who taught my little humans to throw and chase. Though they have sometimes terrified me, I love to lick them clean, clean the floor for them, and calm them down when they're upset.



Chianti



Casper

# BAKWAN

“buck-one”

INDONESIAN STREET FOOD

By Amy Zausmer

**PREP TIME:** 20 minutes

**COOK TIME:** 35 minutes

**INGREDIENTS:**

- 3 cups all purpose flour
- 2 tbs corn starch
- 4 cups shredded cabbage
- 2 cups bean sprouts (optional)
- 1 cup Julian style cut carrot
- 1/4 red onion, chopped
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp chicken bouillon (optional)
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 1/2 cup water (room temperature)
- 1 cup vegetable/canola oil for frying

**SAUCE:**

- 1/2 cup sweet chili sauce (sold in regular supermarkets in the Asian section).
- 2 tsp chopped scallions for garnish
- Mix in a small bowl, put aside.



**DIRECTIONS:**

1. Mix all of the ingredients in a big bowl except the cooking oil and the water. Add the water slowly into the mix and fold together for a couple minutes with a wooden spoon. Then it is ready for frying.
2. Heat the vegetable/canola oil in a frying pan on medium high. Scoop a spoon full of the batter and drop into the hot oil and repeat a few times. Make sure that your Bakwan doesn't touch each other while they are cooking in oil, so it will be easier to flip over later.
3. Cook for 2 minutes or until golden brown then flip over for another 2 minutes. Place Bakwan on a plate with paper towel to absorb the oil, Bakwan is ready to serve with the sweet chili sauce. Selamat Makan/enjoy your meal!

**WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO SERVE THIS DISH (I.E. HOLIDAYS, ENTERTAINING GUESTS, ETC.)?**

This is an appetizer dish, so it's good to serve for gathering with family and friends or just enjoy yourself.

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/INFORMATION:**

When frying, be careful with the hot oil splashed.

**IS THERE A STORY BEHIND THIS DISH?**

This is my childhood street snacks in Indonesia and also most favorite appetizer every time I brought to any gathering parties here in Scottsdale or Aspen. Bakwan usually sold by the street hawkers in every town and city in Indonesia. It is delicious and very reasonable.

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# UNITED STATES MARSHALS POSSE MEMBER, DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

By Joseph Chaplick- MMR Resident

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND/NATURE OF THEIR BUSINESS OR CAUSE?  
**The United States Marshals Posse (USMP)** for the **District of Arizona** has been in existence for over 20 years. Members educate residents of Arizona about the U.S. Marshals Service through a variety of community outreach events, and public service projects. The U.S. Marshals posse also assists the U.S. Marshals Service in an all-volunteer support capacity on a wide range of projects as requested by the U.S. Marshal for Arizona.



HOW AND WHY DID YOU GET INVOLVED WITH THIS GROUP?

I was volunteering with the Maricopa County Sheriffs Office in the Advisory Posse. We fundraised for the families of fallen officers and handled the Memorial Fund. In 2016, Sheriff Joe Arpaio lost his re-election and the Posse organizations were discontinued by Sheriff Penzone. I then learned of the U.S. Marshals program and joined immediately.

YOUR KIDS ARE ALSO INVOLVED?

No, you have to be 21 years or older. However, they do attend some events to see me.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED?

I have been involved for 5 years.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR DUTIES?

- Publicize and promote goodwill on behalf of the U.S. Marshals Service
- Promote good fellowship among members through participation in civic events
- Promote good horsemanship among members, and the public

- Publicize activities of the U.S. Marshals Service, calling favorable attention to said service
- Keeping the U.S. Marshals old west history alive for future generations.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE OTHER RESIDENTS TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GROUP AND ITS IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY?

Each year the group, identified by their black leather vests, black western hats, and matching grey and black tack, participates in the Fiesta Bowl Parade, the Scottsdale Parada del Sol Parade, Wickenburg Gold Rush Days Parade, and the Prescott's Frontier Days Parade. In addition to parade appearances, the Posse supports numerous charitable initiatives such as Shop-with-a-Cop Christmas events helping local underprivileged children celebrate Christmas each year.

The United States Marshals Posse is a made up of men and women who are business and community leaders having a particular passion for taking on the responsibility of those who put their lives on the line for the rest of us on a daily basis through supporting, planning and the operational delivery for the annual Department of Justice Memorial

for fallen officers. U.S. Marshals have a wonderful "Old West" history.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR EXPERIENCES IN GIVING UP YOUR TIME FOR THIS CAUSE?

I have learned that many of our fellow citizens fully support the U.S. Marshals and all law enforcement. It is very rewarding seeing spectators at parades, the children at the events, and fellow members show their appreciation to the men and women that help protect all of us each day. We also hear updates from our U.S. Marshal of Arizona, David Gonzales on current situations in Arizona and our country.

ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW?

We are the oldest Federal Law Enforcement Agency. On September 24, 1789, President George Washington appointed the first 13 U.S. Marshals following the passage of the first Judiciary Act.

**In 1881**, U.S. Marshal Virgil Earp and his deputies, brothers Wyatt and Morgan Earp, and Doctor John H. Holliday, gunned down Frank and Tom McLaury, and Billy Clanton in a vacant lot just down the street from the O.K. Corral in Tombstone.

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# KERRY GRAHAM ON WHY I REFER MY GOLF STUDENTS AND FRIENDS TO

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By Kerry Graham

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# resident business guide

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Greg Halvorson  
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