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[Celia Manley Properties](http://CeliaManleyProperties.com)

buy. sell. live.



"Ah, September! You are a doorway to the season that awakens my soul."

~Peggy Toney Horton



September often marks a shift in neighborhood routines and energy. Traffic patterns adjust, parks and pools quiet down during the day, and daily schedules become more predictable. Even if you don't have children, these changes can affect the way your community feels and functions.

This time of year invites reflection. After the easygoing pace of summer, many people start considering their next steps. Questions arise: Does my current home still meet my needs? Would more space or a different neighborhood be better? Some begin quietly exploring options, preparing for a move before the year ends.

School districts can play an important role in these decisions. They influence home values, neighborhood stability, and the overall sense of community. Some buyers prioritize school quality when searching for a home, while others appreciate the connections that schools foster. Good schools often encourage long-term residency, which supports steady demand and helps maintain property values.

For homeowners settled in their homes, observing these seasonal shifts can deepen appreciation for the character and value of their neighborhood. When schools are in session, there is a renewed sense of activity and connection that might be less noticeable during summer months.

The start of the school year also signals a change in the real estate market's pace. Historically, buyer interest and activity pick up in the fall as routines stabilize. This period can be ideal for those considering selling or buying, with motivated buyers active and competition often less intense than in spring.

Whether you're thinking about making a move soon or simply keeping an eye on market trends, understanding how school seasons influence neighborhoods can provide a useful perspective. If you have questions about your home's value, neighborhood trends, or timing a move, I'm here to offer honest answers and support.

Please feel free to reach out anytime. I'm committed to helping you navigate your real estate goals with care and expertise.

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CREAMY WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 2 (15.5 ounce) cans Great Northern beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can chicken broth
- 2 (4 ounce) cans chopped green chiles
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream

Directions

1. Gather ingredients.
2. Heat olive oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Add chicken, onion, and garlic; cook and stir until chicken is no longer pink in the center and juices run clear, 10 to 15 minutes.
3. Stir in beans, chicken broth, green chiles, salt, cumin, oregano, black pepper, and cayenne pepper; bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until flavors have blended, about 30 minutes.
4. Remove chili from heat; stir in sour cream and whipping cream until incorporated.
5. Serve hot and enjoy!

All Recipes

DIY OR HIRE A PRO?



As a real estate professional, I often see how home projects shape not only comfort but also long-term property value. Deciding whether to take on a project yourself or hire a professional can make a real difference, whether you plan to stay in your home or think about selling in the future.

Simple updates, like painting, installing shelves, or replacing light fixtures, are often perfect for a hands-on approach. These tasks can be completed with basic tools and a little patience, and they freshen up a space without much investment. Many homeowners enjoy the satisfaction and savings that come with doing these smaller projects themselves.

On the other hand, projects involving electrical systems, plumbing behind walls, structural changes, or HVAC repairs should be left to licensed professionals. Mistakes in these areas can lead to safety hazards, code violations, or costly repairs down the road. A professional ensures that the work meets regulations, protects your investment, and avoids surprises during a future inspection or sale.

Some projects work best with a mix of both. For example, in a kitchen remodel, you might handle the painting or hardware updates, while bringing in a contractor for plumbing or electrical work. This approach balances cost savings with peace of mind.

No matter what type of project you take on, quality matters. Good workmanship supports your home's value and appeal, while poor-quality work can be a turn-off for future buyers. Even if you are not planning to sell soon, keeping your home in good shape protects your investment over time.

If you ever have questions about which projects make the biggest impact on resale, or if you need trusted local recommendations for contractors or tradespeople, I am always here to help. My goal is to be a resource for you, whether you are making changes now or just gathering ideas for the future.

Please feel free to reach out anytime. I am always glad to offer advice and connections to help you get the results you want for your home.

Multi-Trade Building Services



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