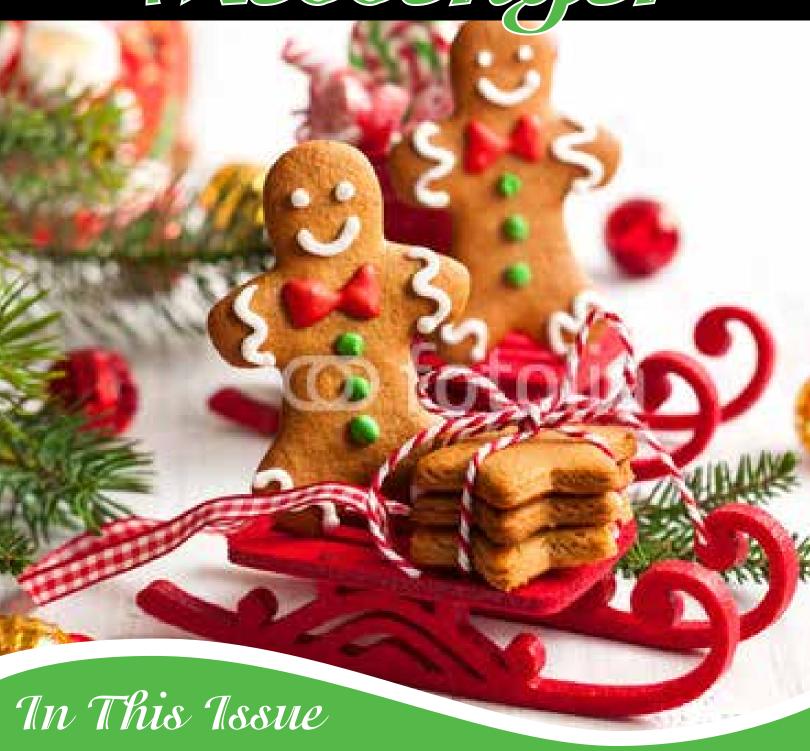
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MIRA LAGOS

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Who to Follow on Twitter

@MiraLagosHOA Association Information and Neighborly News

> @GrandPrairiePD Grand Prairie Police Department



@gp_tx City of Grand Prairie, Texas

@GrandFunGP City Parks, Arts and Recreation Department

@mansfieldisd Mansfield Independent School District

@Gpscanner Grand Prairie Scanner, local Police, Fire, EMS

@DFWscanner DFW Scanner, area Fire, Police, EMS

Who's your favorite? Tweet to @MiraLagosHOA with



hashtag #MLMessenger! Find us online at: www.facebook.com/MiraLagosHOA www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA





Reach Your Neighbors! Advertise in this Magazine!



Contact Community News Connection for more information:

972-396-8855

info@communitynewsconnection.com



MIRA LAGOS Association Contact Information www.miralagoshoa.com www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos

On-Site Management Stacy McGrath, General Manager manager@miralagoshoa.com

Matt Urbaniak, Assistant Manager Matt.Urbaniak@fsresidential.com

817-473-6787 (office) 817-473-4978 (fax)

South Pool Office "Veranda" 3025 S. Camino Lagos Grand Prairie, TX 75054

Office Hours Tuesday-Saturday 8:30 am-4:30 pm Closed Sunday and Monday FirstService Residential Customer Service (877) 378-2388

Mail Payments to: Mira Lagos Homeowners Association Inc. c/o FirstService Residential PO Box 678065 Dallas, TX 75267-8065

Committee Chairs Chair Meetings: Bi-monthly

Communications

Pramod Desai communications@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: monthly

Landscape

Josh Gleaton landscape@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: 1st Thursday monthly

Pool

Mike Joffrion pool@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: 3rd Tuesday (Apr.-Sept.)

Safety

J. Hughes, Chairman Robert McLain, Co-Chairman safety@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: 1st Tuesday monthly

Social

Deirdre Garrett social@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: 2nd Wednesday monthly

Welcome

Elissa Sherlock welcome@miralagoshoa.com Meetings: monthly/electronically

> New Members welcome on all committees!

Board of Directors

Dick LeBlanc, President Walter Damon, Vice President Ben Luedtke, Board Member Joshua Spare, Resident Member Jessica Cafferata, Resident Member board@miralagoshoa.com





Mira Lagos Messenger

Is the only authorized and official monthly publication for the residents of the Mira Lagos Community with news and calendar of community events endorsed by the Mira Lagos HOA & its members.

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The Best Gift You Can Give Your Child is the Gift of Time







The most precious gift you can give your children is the gift of your time. Think of ways you can build in more time to spend with your kids.

Here are some ideas:

• Schedule a regular family outing. One family goes to a movie on a Saturday afternoon, then stops for pizza on the way home. Another athletic family schedules something active every Sunday. One week, they go for a bike ride. The

next week may find everyone inline skating. What you do isn't important - but consistency is. Write down your family outing on the calendar and treat it as an important event.

• Find ways for one-on-one time with each child. It is important to have the whole family together. But, it's also important for each child to get some individual attention. One mom takes a different child with her as she runs errands. The reward, a stop for ice cream. Another busy dad gets up early on Saturday and makes breakfast for his son.

• Go to your child's activities. When you get a schedule of your child's athletic games or dance performances, write them on the calendar. You don't have to go to every game, but you should be there for most of them. Kids love looking in the stands or along the sidelines to see your face.



By now you should have received your billing statement. Assessments (HOA dues) need to be received by January 30th to avoid a late penalty. Any payments received after January 30th are considered late. Please mail your payment to the following address:

> Mira Lagos Homeowner's Association C/O First Service Residential PO BOX 678065 Dallas, TX 75267-8065

Your assessment should be sent directly to the address above to ensure timely processing.



MIRA LAGOS What's Happening MIRA LAGOS



The holidays are a time where we come together with our loved ones and spread holiday cheer. Let's spread some of those good tidings to our neighbors! Although "Elf-ed" is usually an anonymous gesture, it can also be used as a way to reach out and meet your neighbors. Community is defined as "a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals". Cultivating relationships with those who live among us sets us apart from other neighborhoods, and truly makes Mira Lagos the best community in which to live.

If you would like to participate, put together a simple basket of homemade or store bought goodies, (this can easily be accomplished for \$10.00 or less), attach a gift tag with your information, and place it on their front stoop. Be sure to leave a copy of the instructions and the sign for them to post so that everyone knows they have been "Elf-ed". Get the whole family involved!



A basket of muffins Packages of Reindeer Food Cookies

Homemade ornaments

A mug with packets of hot cocoa and marshmallows Endless ideas can be found on Pinterest!



MIRA LAGOS 2014 HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST



this December. Shine bright this winter during the annual Mira Lagos Holiday Lights Yard of the Month Contest!

Register to participate by providing your address to the **Landscape Committee** landscape@miralagoshoa.com before December 14, 2014

Judging begins December 15th through the 19th. Lights must be turned on by 6:00 p.m. daily. Each winner will receive a gift card.

Something is Hidden. Can you find it?

We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, this ornament.

Please email manager@miralagoshoa.com in the subject line put "I FOUND IT", a random drawing, WINS!

Provide page item is on, name, address and phone number in the email. Good Luck and have fun!

If you find it there is a \$25.00 random gift card waiting for you.



MIRA LAGOS What's Happening MIRA LAGOS



Upcoming Events

Prairie Lights Drive Through Holiday Light Park

Date: 12/1/2014 - 12/4/2014 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Cost: \$20 per carload Location: Lynn Creek Park 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway Grand Prairie, Texas

972-237-GLOW, www.prairielights.org



Date: 12/4/2014 6:00 PM Location: City Hall Plaza

317 College St. Grand Prairie, Texas

Have a very prairie Christmas downtown

with our annual tree lighting.

972-237-8100, www.grandfungp.com



Holiday Market at Market Square

Date: 12/6/2014 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Market Square

120 W. Main St.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Grand Prairie Farmers Market, featuring fresh produce weekly, invites all to the Grand Opening of Holiday Market Saturday, December 6, at Market Square, 120 W. Main St. Stop by for fabulous gifts and seasonal treats. Holiday Market will continue the following Saturday, December 13 and end Saturday, December 20. Grand Prairie Farmers Market, 120 W. Main St., is open from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays. The market will close Saturday, December 20, for the 2014, winter season. www.gptx. org/farmersmarket

Traders Village: Santa Photos \$5

Date: 12/6/2014 Cost: \$3 per vehicle Location: Traders Village 2602 Mayfield Road Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Santa is at Traders Village Grand Prairie weekends from November 29th through December 21st. Kids of all ages can have their photo taken with Santa for just \$5. All proceeds benefit the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Come out and enjoy the holidays, shop among the hundreds of vendors, eat, and kids can play in the Rumpus Room under the Red Expo.



Grand Prairie's Santa Cop collects new, unwrapped toys, gifts and non-perishable foods for Grand Prairie families in need before the Christmas holiday season. Especially in need are gifts for teenagers.

Families needing assistance are nominated by Grand Prairie police officers, firefighters, city employees or Grand Prairie ISD counselors. Santa Cop does not accept families who are signed up for other similar programs. For volunteer information or to make a cash donation call 972-237-8882.

Santa Cop gift needs include:

Hair dryers, curling irons, flat irons, makeup and jewelry for girls ages 12 to 16.

Wallets, hand-held games, Mp3 and CD players and other gifts for boys ages 12-16. (Please no clothing donations)

Imagine yourself as you once were.... a child, it's Christmas morning, you awake and run to the Christmas tree, but you discover that Santa hasn't come to your house this year while other children are enjoying gifts their parents were able to provide for them. What happened to Santa? This is the emotion that many children in Grand Prairie feel on Christmas morning. With the help of the citizens of Grand Prairie, we can make a difference. It's simple: We ask that you open your hearts to these children and make a modest donation of either a new unwrapped toy or a cash donation. These gifts that you give go a long way by providing toys and other necessary items to the underprivileged children in Grand Prairie. Join us in this worthy cause.

Santa Spot needs include:

Non-perishable food items

All donations are tax deductible as Santa Cop is an IRS registered charitable organization.

Santa Cop c\o Grand Prairie Police Department 1525 Arkansas Lane Grand Prairie, Texas 75052 972-237-8882

Report City Issues in a Snap

Residents can now report issues such as street light outages and code violations using their smartphones. The Snap and Send Grand Prairie, TX App is now available on the Apple App store and can be downloaded FREE.



Fall Festival - October 18th

Bounce-houses, Pumpkins, and Stagecoaches Oh My! We hope you had a chance to visit the first annual Mira Lagos Fall Festival sponsored by Allen & Allen Realty Group. This year's festival was highlighted by Miss Purdy's Old Time Photo Booth! Her western themed stagecoach and costumes were outstanding and got everyone in the mood for dressing up for Halloween! Kids of all ages enjoyed a cupcake walk and getting their faces painted. Families also enjoyed decorating pumpkins to take home and even hopped aboard a hayride. Vendors from our neighborhood shared their businesses, crafts and talents with us and we can't wait to make this a yearly event! The Chick-Fil-A Cow even made an appearance! A special thanks to all members of the Social Committee, volunteers, and any others who helped to make this such a wonderful event.



































Mira Lagos Junior Social Committee

The purpose of the Mira Lagos Junior Social Committee is to promote a neighborhood that is teen friendly and purposeful. Teens and pre-teens may join the Mira Lagos Junior Social Committee from the ages of 10 years to 18 years.

What would you like to participate in your community? This community seeks to promote healthy, productive, safe events for our youth. Get involved! State your ideas! Make a positive difference! Enjoy your community! It's up to you! Let's engage our youth in purposeful activities in the neighborhood and establish them as positive extensions of the community.

The initial meeting is scheduled for January 24th, 2015 from 1pm-3pm at 6925 Nava. Come ready to brainstorm ideas. Young people are a vital and necessary part of our community.

Adults, this is also a forum for you. What helpful information, skills, crafts, or talents would you like to share with our young adults? Building our community starts with our children.

We are also looking for adults to get involved and volunteer. Parental consent form required. Please RSVP at email Juniorsocial@miralagoshoa.com.

Example of activities include:

- Building model plane, boat
- Candle making
- 3. Afghan making
- 4. Gardening
- 5. Business expo Business plan
- 6. Fishing
- 7. Hiking
- 8. Biking
- Building play-
- 10. Volleyball
- 11. Pool night
- 12. Sewing class / Fashion show
- 13. Dance contest /

- Talent show
- 14. Cooking contest 15. TV show with
- young adult issues 16. Radio show
- with issues
- 17. Make fans
- 18. Create jewelry
- 19. Ceramics/ Pottery
- 20. Pillows
- 21. Bears
- 22. Painting
- 23. Homemade ice cream
- 24. Graphic design

- 25. Art and musicfestival
- 26. Photography lessons
 - 27. Snow cone stand
 - 28. Occasions cards
 - 29. Resume building
 - 30. Local college tour
 - 31. Business tours
 - 32. Fitness and health
 - 33. Donations
 - 34. Reading to Seniors



Covenant Corner: **Holiday Decorations**

4.25 Other (f)- All exterior holiday decorations should be removed within 30 days after the holiday to which they relate.

Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest



We are asking for you to send in a photo of yourself in your best of the worst Ugliest Christmas Sweater for 2014.

Please email manager@miralagoshoa.com in the subject line put "Ugliest Sweater", and the committee chairs will judge, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced in the January Newsletter!

Good Luck and have fun!

Vacation Watch Service

"Vacation Watch" is a service provided to the residents of Grand Prairie, TX, while they are out of town. The beat officers or Citizens On Patrol will check the residence as often as possible. To request this service, please fill out a request at least one day prior to your departure at



http://www.gptx.org/index.aspx?recordid=67&page=19 Before you leave use this checklist to secure your home.

- Make sure your home looks lived in, not empty.
- Stop mail and cancel all deliveries or ask a friend to make daily collections.
- Leave shades and blinds in normal positions.
- Put an automatic timer on several lights and a radio.
- Have a neighbor keep your property maintained.
- Leave a key with a trusted neighbor.
- Tell a neighbor that you trust your departure and return dates.
- Supply an itinerary with phone numbers where you can be reached in an emergency.
- Lock all windows and doors including the garage doors before you
- Don't advertise your plans to strangers.

Boy Scouts Flag Placement Service

Dear Friends,

As Boy Scouts of Troop 2014 sponsored by the East Broad Street Outreach Center, Mansfield, we enjoy bringing a patriotic spirit to your neighborhood by offering to place an American Flag in your front yard on five specific days of remembrance as listed below:



Days of Remembrance

February 16, 2015 President's Day May 27, 2015 Memorial Day June 14, 2015 Flag Day July 4, 2015 Independence Day November 11, 2015 Veteran's Day

Checks in the amount of \$35.00 should be made payable to Troop 2014. Please mail the check to Mr. Mark E. James our Committee Chair at:

Mark E. James 920 Leadville Drive Arlington, TX 76001-8541

Your contribution helps fund the following activities this year:

- Attend a week long summer camp filled with lots of outdoor activities and skills
- Advancement awards and other recognitions for the boys
- Camping equipment such as cook kits, chuck boxes, cooking utensils, tents, axes, saws, etc.
- Support Troop Service Projects with in our community of Mansfield

Your support will help scouts to become civic-minded and industrious citizens as they progress through our Boy Scout program, on their way to become an Eagle Scout. The young men and leaders or Troop 2014 thank-you for your support in our yearly activities.

Sincerely, Mark E. James Committee Chair Troop 2014 817-797-9146



We have a page check it out!



Holidays provide a time for all of us to reflect and to share with family and friends our cherished memories and the possibilities for those yet to be created. As we close out one year and prepare for the new, this holiday season, the Mira Lagos HOA Social Committee extends a warm and cozy invitation to all our neighbors to attend the Winter Wonderland: Traditions around the World Holiday Celebration on Saturday, December 6, 2014 from 6pm-9pm. Location to be determined.

Our residents will enjoy a traditional holiday feast (turkey/ham, mashed potatoes/gravy....you get the idea) as our way to say "thank you" for being a fabulous community! Oh, of course, Santa Claus is scheduled to stop by to share some holiday magic and visit with children!

Neighbors are asked to bring a special dessert or share a traditional recipe. We are also looking for ornaments or traditional attire that might "tell a story" of a custom or practice in your family and we would love to display holiday pictures of times past.

Let's celebrate the Holiday's with each other! See you on Saturday, December 6, 2014!

ML Social Committee



Recipe of the Month

Saltine Cracker English Toffee



Ingredients:

- 40 salted saltine crackers
- 1 cup (2 sticks) butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 cups milk chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped nuts (I used peanuts, you can use whatever kind you like)

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
- Line a large jelly roll pan (mine was 15×10) with aluminum foil and spray with non-stick cooking spray.
- Lay the saltine crackers evenly on the pan (I put mine really close together so that they were touching).
- In a saucepan, melt the butter and brown sugar over medium heat. Bring it to a boil and let it boil for three minutes without stirring. After three minutes, pour the hot brown sugar mixture evenly over the saltine crackers.
- Bake in the preheated oven for 5-7 minutes. Remove the pan from the oven and sprinkle the chocolate chips across the toffee. Let them melt for a couple of minutes and then use a spatula to spread the melted chocolate evenly across the toffee (like frosting).
- Sprinkle chopped nuts on top of the melted chocolate. Let the toffee and chocolate cool completely (I put mine in the fridge to help it set up quickly). Break the toffee into bite-size pieces. To store, keep in an air-tight container for 1-2 weeks or in the freezer for a couple of months.

Christmas Tree Recycling Drop Off

Recycling drop off locations for your tree (Friday, Dec. 26, 2014-Monday, Jan. 12, 2015) will be at:

Charley Taylor Recreation Center parking lot 601 E. Grand Prairie Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75051

Parkhill Park parking lot 5100 Block of S. Robinson Road Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Grand Prairie Landfill 1102 MacArthur Blvd. Grand Prairie, TX 75050



Please remove all ornaments, stands and plastic bags. Artificial trees or trees sprayed with artificial snow cannot be accepted for recycling. Acceptable trees will be recycled into mulch. Free mulch is available to all Grand Prairie residents. Trees may also be left at curbside on your normal garbage collection day.

However, these trees will not be recycled into mulch and will be collected as garbage. For more information, please call 972-237-8061.



more GIVING BACK happens here

Who to Call



Non-emergency Police(972)-237-8700
Fire Department(972)-237-8300
Animal Services
Loose animals, barking dogs (972)-237-8575
City Code Enforcement
storing vehicles, unkempt yards(972)-237-8049
or (972)-237-8296
Oncor - Street lights out(888)-313-4747
https://www.oncorstreetlight.com
Grand Prairie Peninsula PID(972)-237-809
Garbage and Recycling(972)-237-815
Water Department(972)-237-8200

Neighborhood Watch Programs



Neighbors Watching Out For Their Neighbors

It is certainly no surprise that many cities are encouraging, and even coordinating

Neighborhood Watch Programs.

They really work!

The reason they work is simple: One of the best ways to deter crime and vandalism in a community is to create a network of neighbors looking out for each other.

Not only do police and sheriff's departments encourage

Neighborhood Watch Programs, they sponsor educational programs to help participants learn more about fighting crime in their community.

Taking part in a Neighborhood Watch program is simple. The only thing you need is the participation of yourself and your neighbors. If you would like to participate in a Neighborhood Watch Program for our community, please email safety@miralagoshoa.com.

STREET PARKING COURTESY

The public streets in Mira Lagos fall under Grand Prairie's regulation so there are no laws forbidding street parking. However, there are some factors you might consider:

- Street parking creates risks for children at play.
- Minimizing street parking improves the neighborhood appearance and is most appreciated by others who live in the area.
 Street parking is a common concern expressed by residents.
- Street parking tends to reduce the desirability of the neighborhood for the new home buyers.
- Obviously there are times when your family or visitors must park on the street, but if so please park in the direction of traffic and not by a fire hydrant or near an intersection.
- Vehicles cannot be parked in the front, side or rear yard, unless on asphalt or concrete.
- No parking of oversized vehicles in residential neighborhoods.
- Vehicles are not allowed to stand or park unattended for a continuous period of 48 hours on a public street.
- Inoperable motor vehicles must not be in public view on private property. An inoperable vehicle is a vehicle that is not equipped with all parts, on flat tires, has expired registration, an invalid inspection certificate or is on jacks. Car covers, tarps, bamboo shades and other types of materials are not acceptable screening.

To report any of the above violations please contact the hoa, manager@miralagoshoa.com or the city code compliance department, scollins@gptx.org.



DECEMBER LANDSCAPING TIPS

The holidays are upon us and everyone is busy planning for Christmas with family and loved ones. But just in case you don't have enough to do, we thought we'd go ahead and

share some December Landscaping Tips for all our gardening enthusiasts!

- Plant bare root roses
- Be watchful with indoor plants that children, cats, and dogs don't nibble.
- Buy Christmas tree shaped rosemary and after the holidays plant it outside.
- Plant spring flowering bulbs like Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, and Crocuses
- In bare vegetable garden areas, plant Elbon cereal rye. Till under in the spring 6 weeks before planting.

DAR OF EVENTS – DECEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	Prairie Lights Drive Through Holiday Light Park (Now Through 31st.)	3	4	5	6 ML Holiday Party
7	GP Planning and Zoning	9 GP City Council	10	11	12	Santa Cop Toy Drive Event
14	15	16 Hanukkah begins	17	18	19	20
21	MISD Holiday	MISD Holiday	Christmas Eve MISD Holiday	Christmas MISD Holiday	MISD Holiday	27
28	MISD Holiday	30 MISD Holiday	New Year's Eve MISD Holiday	Calendar subject to change. Visit www.miralagoshoa.com and use your FirstService Residential login and password to access the FSR CONNECT association calendar for Mira Lagos HOA events, meetings, interest groups and amenity reservations. *City of Grand Prairie www.gptx.org, www.grandfungp.com. **Mansfield ISD www.mansfieldisd.org.		

Brought to You By Your Neighbor &









"Thanks so much for everything... Words cannot express how much we appreciate you and everything you've done for us... You are simply amazing!"

Joe & Zee Sellers

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS Christina Kang 817.739.7433

Mira Lagos Monthly Real Estate Tip

How big is your home? That sounds like a simple question, but often times the appraisal district has incorrect data, and the builders frequently include areas such as porches to inflate their estimates. To find out how big your home is, refer back to the appraisal report from when you purchased or refinanced your home. The square footage measured by the appraiser is the most accurate estimate you can get. In a world where square footage equals value, size matters!

Market Statistics: This Month vs. Same Month 1 Year Ago

- ▲ The median sales price increased by 6.5% to \$245,000
- ▲ The average list price increased by 15.1% to \$299,300
- ▲ The average price per sq. foot of all homes sold increased by 4.8% to \$90 per sq. foot
- ▲ The average days on market for homes for sale has increased by 27.8% to 54 days
- ▲ The percent of list price that homes are selling for is up 1.8% to 98.3% of the list price
- ▲ The number of months' supply of homes for sale is up by 10.0% to a 3.3 months' supply
- ▼ The number of homes for sale in the area has decreased by 19.7% to 57 homes
- The number of homes listed last month for sale remained unchanged at 30 new listings
- The number of pending sales has increased by 33.3% to just 28 homes
- ▼ The number of existing homes sold in the last month decreased by 20.8% to 19 homes



Realtor & State Ceretified Residential Real Estate Appraiser Cert. # TX-1336180-R