



Messenger

2015

Happy
New Year!

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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



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

Rebecca Newton
communications@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: 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

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



As a nonprofit hunger relief organization, we distribute donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of more than 340 Food Assistance Partners in 13 counties. Every day, we support the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships.



North Texas Food Bank
4500 S. Cockrell Hill Road
Dallas, TX 75236-2028
214.330.1396
ntfb.org

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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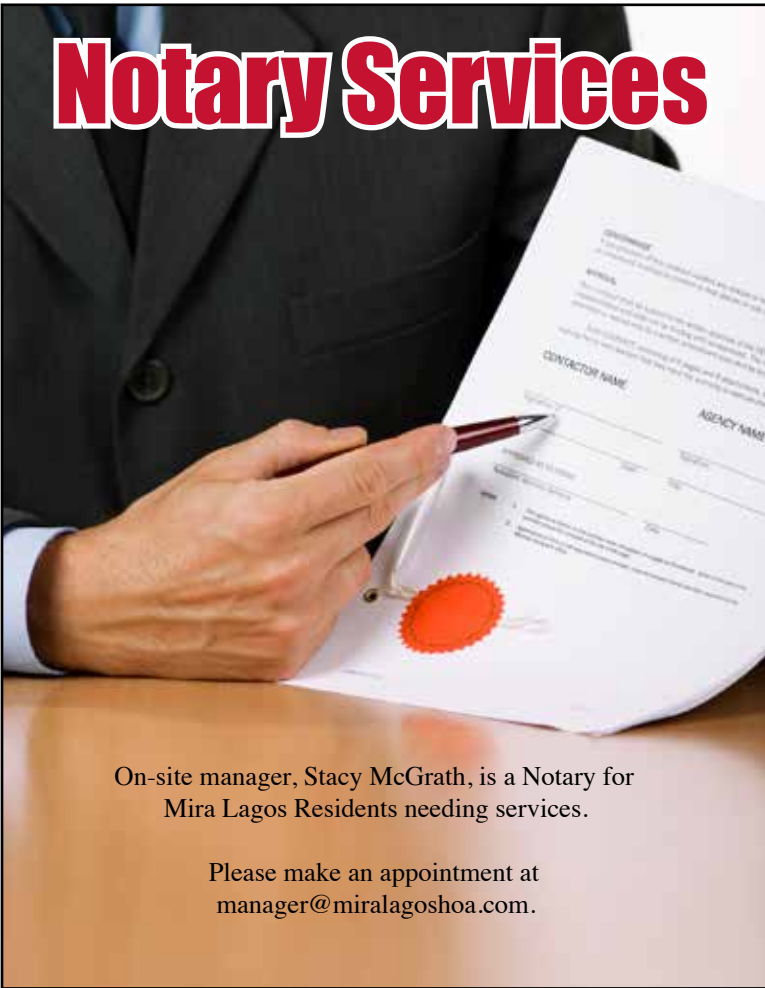
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Notary Services



On-site manager, Stacy McGrath, is a Notary for Mira Lagos Residents needing services.

Please make an appointment at manager@miralagoshoa.com.



"We are not wrong, we are not wrong in what we are doing. If we are wrong, the Supreme Court of this nation is wrong. If we are wrong, the Constitution of the United States is wrong. And if we are wrong, God Almighty is wrong. If we are wrong, Jesus of Nazareth was merely a utopian dreamer that never came down to Earth. If we are wrong, justice is a lie, love has no meaning. And we are determined here in Montgomery to work and fight until justice runs down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

Address at Holt Street Baptist Church,
Montgomery, Alabama, 1955

Brought to You By Your Neighbor &
Mira Lagos Expert



"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 3.7% to \$279,000
- ▲ The average list price increased by 0.9% to \$285,377
- ▲ The average price per sq. foot of all homes sold increased by 1.8% to \$90 per sq. foot
- ▲ The average days on market for homes for sale has increased by 37.8% to 51 days
- ▼ The percent of list price that homes are selling for is down 1.8% to 94.9% of the list price
- ▼ The number of months' supply of homes for sale is down by 22.2% to a 2.5 months' supply
- ▼ The number of homes for sale in the area has decreased by 21.6% to 58 homes
- ▼ The number of homes listed last month for sale decreased by 26.9% to 19 new listings
- ▼ The number of pending sales has decreased by 33.3% to just 12 homes
- ▲ The number of existing homes sold in the last month increased by 81.8% to 20 homes



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



What's Happening



Covenants Corner – Trash



Trash Can Violations. In the event an owner fails or refuses to comply with the Governing Documents, including the guidelines below, as to the trash receptacles on his Lot, after compliance with the provisions of Chapter 209 of the Texas Property Code, the Association may, in the Board's discretion, assess the owner a fine in the amount of \$50.00 for each trash can violation committed.

Guidelines Regarding Trash Receptacles.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to supplement the provisions of the Governing Documents in the manner set forth below, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that trash receptacles must be put out for pick-up no earlier than 8:00 p.m. the night before trash pick-up, and returned for storage no later than 12:00 midnight the day of trash pick-up; and Maintained in clean, well-kept receptacles; Stored in the garage out of public view; or Stored in the back yard out of public view; or stored on the side of the home, screened from public view by shrubbery which blocks the view from the street, or other screening as approved in writing by the Architectural Control Committee

As you are aware the City of Grand Prairie does not have a way to pick up from trash cans at this time, these rules still apply to the trash bags that we are currently having to put out.

Please make sure to tie up the bags as the wind is hefty in Mira Lagos at times. No one likes picking up other people's trash in their yards. Mark your recycle bin to make it easier for identifying any missing or misplaced bins. Bins can be picked up from your nearest Fire Station on Lakeridge.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Letter from Birmingham Jail,
April 16, 1963**

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.



Ugliest Christmas Sweater Contest



The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will be announced in the February Newsletter!

Hope you had fun!

I Found It Winner



The I Found It Winner for December 2014 is Melissa Roenbeck!

Hope you had fun with this and be on the look-out for new fun ways to play and win while reading the newsletter each month!

Upcoming Events



Friday, Jan. 1-Saturday, January 3 Prairie Lights Drive Thru Holiday Light Park

6-10 p.m., Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway
\$30 per carload
972-237-GLOW or www.PrairieLights.org
Sunday, January 4: 6-9 p.m., Lynn Creek Park, 5700 Lake Ridge Parkway

Monday, January 5 Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting

7 p.m., City Hall – City Council Chambers,
317 W. College St.
972-237-8255

Tuesday, January 6 City Council Meeting

6:30 p.m., City Hall – City Council Chambers,
317 College St.
972-237-8035

Saturday, January 17 Spay Neuter Network Vaccination Clinic

10 a.m.- noon.
Prairie Paws Adoption Center Conference Room,
2222 W. Warrior Trail
972-237-8575

Saturday, January 17 Careflite Open House

Model railroad, aircraft and ambulances
11 a.m.- 3 p.m., Careflite – Grand Prairie Airport,
3110 S. Great Southwest Parkway

Monday, January 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day

City Admin. Offices closed
School holiday: GPISD, CHISD, MISD, MISD and AISD

Christmas Tree Recycling Drop Off

Date: 12/26/2014 - 1/12/2015
Location: Grand Prairie, Texas

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 Grand Prairie Rd., Grand Prairie, TX 75051
Parkhill Park parking lot,
5100 Block of Robinson Rd.,
Grand Prairie, TX 75052
Grand Prairie Landfill, 1102 MacArthur Blvd.,
Grand Prairie, TX 75050



Please remove all ornaments, stands and plastic bags. Artificial tree or trees sprayed with artificial snow cannot be accepted for recycling. Acceptable trees will be recycled into mulch. Free mulch is available at the landfill 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.

Are you currently receiving the monthly eNews blasts?

These emails are sent out mid-month to provide homeowners with important information on contact information for management, elected board, volunteer committee chairs and the onsite office. Also updates on future community events and city news and events. Please email the assistant manager at Matt.Urbaniak@fsresidential.com to be part of the community information system.



“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy. The true neighbor will risk his position, his prestige, and even his life for the welfare of others.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

From his 1963 book, *Strength to Love*

A Social Butterfly *Takes Flight*

By Rebecca Newton

When it comes to building bonds, strengthening relationships and bridging gaps, Deirdre Garrett has it down to a science. No stranger to entertaining and socializing, Dee took over as chair of the Mira Lagos Social Committee early last year, expanding on her hobby of event planning.

This busy government executive is accustomed to entertaining for the masses. She and her husband Ron, along with their two dogs, Ava and T-Bone, host up to twenty guests in their home during family dinners on Sundays. Dee has taken this experience to the next level, spearheading the Social Committee's many events.

Since moving to Mira Lagos in 2008, after a search of more than six months, Dee, a native of New York City says, "this feels like home." Dee absolutely loves the community and states

she has never lived anywhere like Mira Lagos. She credits the diverse neighborhood, helpful neighbors and the abundance of activities.

Taking great pleasure in seeing neighbors meeting, talking and having fun, Dee wants to expand the committee by adding more events. With the first ever BBQ cook-off, first ever fall festival/vendor fair, record turnout at the Luau and fantastic holiday party, she says interest is growing within the community and "community feedback is extremely positive."

Dee, who is nearing retirement, would like to involve more neighbors, recruit more volunteers, and help launch a successful Junior Social Committee, expanding the existing committee's reach. "Currently there are about a half dozen regular volunteers, who are the core of what we are able to accomplish", says Dee.

This outstanding leader believes the Social Committee is the heartbeat of the community,



promoting unification and sustaining its vitality.

If you have any suggestions for specific events you would like to see take place, or to volunteer, please email Dee: social@miralagoshoa.com



Check out our updated website!
www.miralagoshoa.com



"When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Speech at the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963

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



Top 10 New Year's Resolutions...



If you're one of the millions of Americans who will make a promise to improve yourself this New Year, there's bad news: You're 92 percent likely to fail in sticking to your resolutions.

About 45 percent of Americans make resolutions. Ranking at the top is losing weight, and staying fit and healthy ranks No. 5.

"Of course, those statistics represent the average – you don't have to be average!" says Dr. Virender Sodhi, founder of the Ayurvedic and Naturopathic Medical Clinic, which provides complementary and alternative medicine. "There are plenty of things individuals can do to improve their odds of success if they resolve to become healthier and fitter."

Here's a tip for to beat the odds:
• Establish good habits. People make resolutions because they

know they're important, but they're hard. With each passing week, more people drop their promises for self-improvement. You'll want to set the right goals; if you want to lose 100 pounds, focus on the first 10, and then the next. Make sure to establish new and good habits – it takes about 28 days to stick. Once you train your mind with good habits, achieving your goals becomes much easier.

- Lose Weight
- Volunteer to Help Others
- Quit Smoking
- Get a Better Education
- Get a Better Job
- Save Money
- Get Fit
- Eat Healthy Food
- Manage Stress
- Manage Debt
- Take a Trip
- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle
- Drink Less Alcohol

<http://www.ardmoreite.com/article>

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. That is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech,
December 10, 1964**

We have a

Pinterest
page check it out!

City Garbage Collection Guidelines



The City of Grand Prairie provides garbage collection to each residence twice a week. Recycling collection is on one of your regular garbage days. Separate trucks pick up garbage and recycling. All garbage and recycling must be set out by 7 a.m. on your scheduled collection day but no earlier than 8 p.m. the night before your collection day.

Use any color plastic bag for garbage except blue or red; blue bags are used for recyclables only and will not be collected if they contain trash. Do not put garbage in trash cans or any container except plastic bags. Containers will be taken with garbage. For recycling collection either use an 18-gallon recycling bin or blue bags. For more information on trash or recycling collection call the Solid Waste Information Line at 972-237-8330.

Bulky Items

To schedule a free curbside pick-up of bulky waste items, call Grand Prairie Disposal at metro 817-261-8812. This is a free service and available weekly. Bulky items only include old or unwanted appliances and furniture such as washers, refrigerators, sofas and chairs. Carpet, fencing, and Building materials are not considered Bulky items. These items are construction and demolition wastes and can be taken to the landfill.

Brush and Yard Waste

For your tree limbs and brush to be picked up with your *regular garbage*, just bundle into 6-foot lengths no larger than 1 cubic yard and no heavier than 50 lbs, and place it next to your household garbage. Bagged leaves and shrubs will be collected with household garbage but not grass clippings. The City of Grand Prairie also operates a Large Brush Pickup Program year round on a rotation basis from north to south week by week and provides curbside pickup of brush that is not practical or eligible for collection by the city's weekly garbage collection. Residents receive one free brush pickup each month up to 5 cubic yards. Visit www.gptx.org/streets or call 972-237-8525 for more information.

Broken Glass and Needles

Nobody likes to get cut with broken glass or stuck with a needle and neither do our friendly garbage collectors and landfill employees. In order to prevent unpleasant accidents, please follow these easy steps before setting your garbage at the curb:

- Place any needles in an empty laundry detergent jug or other container before disposal.
- Please wrap any broken mirror glass in newspaper and tape before placing in a garbage bag or in a box marked "broken mirror."
- Please place any broken bottles or jars in a cardboard box clearly marked "broken glass."

"Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like any man, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people will get to the Promised Land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Speech at Bishop Charles Mason Temple in
Memphis, Tennessee, on April 3, 1968**



Party Crackers!

Party crackers! They are a festive addition to any gathering. And, they're a snap to make, most likely using items you have on hand in your home. These crackers are designed for kids: Sparkly, simple and easy for little hands to make. Ready, set, *CRACK*!

To get started you'll need: Colorful 8.5 x 11 paper -- try using your kids' random drawings and paintings; pipe cleaners (bonus move: go glittery); scissors; cardboard tubes (toilet paper or paper towel tubes) -- one for each cracker, plus one extra to help hold the shape when closing; glitter (of course); clear-drying glue (I like mod podge); a paintbrush; bling with a stem (optional); awesome stuff to put inside (see next slide).

For the party cracker inside surprise, there's a lot you could do choose. Why not make the contents something kids love that also has a shelf life? For our glittery theme we chose tiny journals, sparkly pens, beaded necklaces and plastic jewels.

If necessary, cut your cardboard tube to length -- be sure to measure the contents. Create your placeholders by cutting two small pieces (1 - 2 inches) from another tube. Set these aside (these are simply to hold shape). Lay your 8.5 x 11 paper face down, vertically, and paint glue on one side of the cardboard tube. Place on paper a few inches from the bottom and place the two (unglued) cut halves on ends of glued tube.

With your center cracker tube glued in place and your two unglued placeholders on each side, roll the tube into the paper to form a tightly wrapped unit. Paint (or have your little helper paint) glue on the edge of the paper. Roll tube into glue to seal.

Mix glitter with glue to create a thick sparkly soup. Paint the papered tube with glitter glue. Do not paint off or along the ends onto your placeholders (this will make it hard to remove the placeholders).

After the glue is totally dry, hold the tube in its center and then pinch between the tube and placeholder near the ends, all the way around. If the placeholder is sticky because of rogue glue, gently turn to unstick. No need to totally secure this end just yet. Just pinch enough to hold your goodies that will be placed in the other end.

If you have it, insert the stemmed bling in the crimped end. Hold the cracker tube upright and fill with the booty. All contents need to fit in the tube (not the placeholders that will be removed). Don't overstuff the cracker. A few things that can rattle and move create excitement and curiosity.

Once the cracker treasure is in place, insert the other stemmed bling and crimp remaining end. Gently remove both placeholders. Lastly, wrap the pipe cleaners around the crimped ends. Done! Other ideas: Use newsprint or a colorful magazine for the paper, stuff with a few clues that lead the kids on a scavenger hunt, or add sparkly garland to the pipe cleaners. Have fun with it!

Read more: http://www.ehow.com/slideshow_12326129_make-kids-party-crackers.html#slide=10

How New Year Resolutions Began

by John Wayne

Everyone knows that Year is really a duration of celebration, a period to become listed on with family and friends to express goodbye towards the problems of history and welcome the fortunes that the future holds. But ever wondered why January 1 marks the beginning of the year? Maybe you have thought about why we celebrate in the manner that we do?

New Year's Traditions and Superstitions

There are a variety of superstitious traditions that began a long time ago which have lost their meaning in current day. Typically these traditions were enacted to influence the luck you might have within the coming year. For instance, the New Year's Eve parties that people all know and love began due to the belief that what one did on the first day of the entire year may affect their luck. This is why parties go past midnight and into the New Year and in

addition it explains why they require lots of family and friends.

Once the clock strikes midnight it's common for all of us to kiss our loved ones and make plenty of noise to celebrate the beginning of a new year. Some of us simply do this without really considering it, there's a superstitious reason behind this. Traditionally, people kissed one another to make sure that the connection lasted throughout the year plus they made a large amount of noise because they believed it would scare the evil spirits away.

Good reputation for New Year's Day

The origins of recent Years celebrations date back 1000's of years. In around 2000BC the Babylonians celebrated the brand new year over an 11-day period. This period did not begin on January 1 once we would expect, it actually started using the first new moon following the first day of spring (also called the Vernal Equinox).

It was not until 153BC that January was declared as the start of the year by the Romans. The month was named after Janus the mythical god of beginnings. The twelve months became a lot more like that utilized in present day in

46BC when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar. After consultation by having an astronomer he matched the calendar year with the movement from the sun and marked January 1 as the start of New Year.

New Year's Resolutions

The popular tradition of creating New Year's resolutions also offers origins in Ancient Babylon and Rome. The Babylonians would typically return farm equipment that they had borrowed in the past year, while in Caesar's time Janus had become the symbol for resolutions while he had two faces that may look to the past and into the future.

Today we make New Year's Resolution to try and improve some facet of our lives. Popular resolutions include quitting smoking, losing weight and getting out of debt. This sounds good but the sad fact is that many of us break them before the year is gone. In fact, a recent study found that 22% of people give up their resolutions within the first week. By the end of March, more than half of New Year's resolvers have fallen from the bandwagon. Hopefully, you will have more luck keeping your resolutions this year.

Happy New Year!

"When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds of despair, and when our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember that there is a creative force in this universe, working to pull down the gigantic mountains of evil, a power that is able to make a way out of no way and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends toward justice."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Address to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference on August 16, 1967

Register your Pets!

Mira Lagos Pet Registry

<http://sites.google.com/site/miralagospetregistry/>

Email: miralagospets@gmail.com

The Mira Lagos Pet Registry is resident operated for the benefit of you and your pets.



Recipe of the Month

Around these parts, meaning the Southern states of the United States, black-eyed peas have got to be eaten on New Year's Day to ensure prosperity and fortune.

BLACK-EYED PEAS WITH SALT PORK

Cook time 1 hour

Total time 1 hour

Serves: 6-8



Ingredients

- 1 lb frozen blackeyed peas
- 4 oz (1/4 lb) salt pork or bacon, diced
- 1-2 jalapenos, minced
- 1 small tomato, diced (about 1/2 c)

Instructions

Fry the salt pork or bacon in a pot for about 4 minutes until some of the fat is rendered and it's starting to crisp up. Add the peas and stir them around to coat in grease. Add the pepper and tomato. Add enough water to just cover the peas and put a lid on that pot. Bring to the boil, reduce heat, and simmer 45 minutes. Serve with hot sauce. They will be the best black-eyed peas you ever put in your mouth.

Mira Lagos Clubs and Camps



Looking to meet new people with your same interests and have fun doing it?

Look no further, Mira Lagos has many Activity Groups to choose from.

**Spanish Club- Contact Marlene Sanders,
Holmsie1@gmail.com**

**Lucky River Poker Club for ML Men
Contact Mike Watkins, Watkins9111@att.net**

**LCR for ML Ladies
Contact Elissa Sherlock, Esherlock@me.com**

**Bunco for ML Ladies
Contact Julie Jordon, jordanjules@gmail.com
Triathlon Camp/Group
Contact Richard Lewis, villarj4@att.net**

**Iron Fitness Group
Contact Ruben & Tanea Soto,
Rubentanea11@hotmail.com**

**Have an organized group not listed?
Please contact communications@miralagoshoa.com**

“We all have the drum major instinct. We all want to be important, to surpass others, to achieve distinction, to lead the parade. ... And the great issue of life is to harness the drum major instinct. It is a good instinct if you don't distort it and pervert it. Don't give it up. Keep feeling the need for being important. Keep feeling the need for being first. But I want you to be the first in love. I want you to be the first in moral excellence. I want you to be the first in generosity.”

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta
on February 2, 1968**

Wrapping Up the Holidays ...with ideas from Pinterest



Many of us in Mira Lagos have a wreath for every occasion, but lack a useful storage solution. Try hanging each wreath on its own hanger, and then bag and label. Place in a storage closet or on a rack in your garage.

Need a creative place to keep all those gift bags and tissues you received with your holiday gifts? A cart with see-through drawers takes the stress out of putting away the small things. It's also great for ornaments!



Say hello to de-cluttering! Save the unused rolls of paper for next year by keeping them all together with a plastic bag dispenser.



Stop getting snagged year after year with lights that are tangled together. Keep them neat by wrapping them around a clothes hanger and hang up in your holiday closet.



Wrap up your tree, with lights still intact, in a king size bed sheet. Tie off with knots and place on a storage shelf for safe keeping until next year.



Winter Pest Control Tips

Prevent unwanted guests for the holidays!



During winter, it is important to make sure your house is protected against pests and rodents. As the temperatures continue to drop, we aren't the only ones running into the warm indoors. The colder weather also tends to push mice and other rodents in doors. Rodents pose a serious health risk as they can transmit many different diseases. Here are a few things you can do to make sure you and your family are the only ones getting inside your home!

During winter, it is important to make sure your house is protected against pests and rodents. As the temperatures continue to drop, we aren't the only ones running into the warm indoors. The colder weather also tends to push mice and other rodents in doors. Rodents pose a serious health risk as they can transmit many different diseases. Here are a few things you can do to make sure you and your family are the only ones getting inside your home!

Seal any cracks or openings around your home.

Mice and other small rodents are able to squeeze through small cracks and holes within your home. Make sure that you seal any visible openings along the exterior of your house. Often times the foundation settling may cause cracks or openings near windows or doors. Look around your house to ensure you have any openings sealed. You also want to look within the interior of your home. Look for any openings behind kitchen cabinets and appliances, around your baseboard, and in closets. Keep an eye out for any opening a rodent might use to access your house.

Store food in airtight containers.

The other major attraction to mice and other rodents is an available food supply. Make sure to clean up any food supply in your pantry. You do not want to leave open food containers in your pantry or even food in thin bags or containers – these will not stop a rodent! Store your food in airtight containers.

This is especially important for vacation homes. Make sure you clean out any items that might attract small rodents and store the remaining items in airtight containers. Open food items will attract rodents to visit your pantry while you are gone. This is not something you want to find upon returning to your home!

Oxford Glen



Officially open the second week in December, Oxford Glen, on the corner of Lake Ridge Parkway and N. Grand Peninsula Drive provides a variety of options for persons with Alzheimer's and dementia.

The staff at Oxford Glen provides three meals a day, weekly house-keeping, an on-site barber/hair stylist, scheduled transportation and assistance with personal care.

The facility offers four floor plans, and plenty of space on the grounds for visiting with family and friends. Call today to schedule a tour. (214) 504.2014.

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.

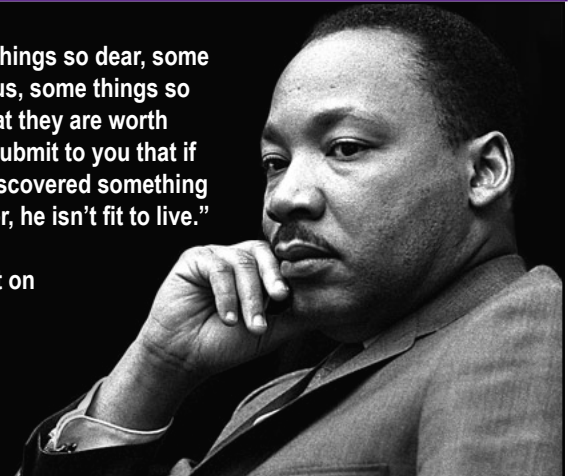
We are also looking for adults to get involved and volunteer. Parental consent form required. Please RSVP at email Juniorsocial@miralagoshoa.com.

Example of activities include:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Building model plane, boat | Talent show | 25. Art and music-festival |
| 2. Candle making | 14. Cooking contest | 26. Photography lessons |
| 3. Afghan making | 15. TV show with young adult issues | 27. Snow cone stand |
| 4. Gardening | 16. Radio show with issues | 28. Occasions cards |
| 5. Business expo – Business plan | 17. Make fans | 29. Resume building |
| 6. Fishing | 18. Create jewelry | 30. Local college tour |
| 7. Hiking | 19. Ceramics/Pottery | 31. Business tours |
| 8. Biking | 20. Pillows | 32. Fitness and health |
| 9. Building play-set | 21. Bears | 33. Donations |
| 10. Volleyball | 22. Painting | 34. Reading to Seniors |
| 11. Pool night | 23. Homemade ice cream | |
| 12. Sewing class / Fashion show | 24. Graphic design | |
| 13. Dance contest / | | |

“There are some things so dear, some things so precious, some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for. And I submit to you that if a man has not discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live.”

Speech in Detroit on June 23, 1963



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**“We’ve been in the mountain of war.
We’ve been in the mountain of violence.
We’ve been in the mountain of hatred
long enough. It is necessary to move
on now, but only by moving out of this
mountain can we move to the promised
land of justice and brotherhood and
the Kingdom of God. It all boils down
to the fact that we must never allow
ourselves to become satisfied with
unattained goals. We must always
maintain a kind of divine discontent.”**

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Sermon at Temple Israel of Hollywood
in June 1965**