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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](http://www.facebook.com/MiraLagosHOA)

[www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA](http://www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA)



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



## Association Contact Information

[www.miralagoshoa.com](http://www.miralagoshoa.com)

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817-473-6787 (office)  
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 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:  
**Lockbox Address**  
 Mira Lagos Homeowner's Association  
 c/o FirstService Residential  
 P. O. Box 60200  
 Los Angeles, CA 90060-0200



*Relationships based on respect, trust and effective communication are the cornerstone of our success.*



**Committee Chairs**  
 Chair Meetings: Bi-monthly



**Communications**

Erik Shinkle  
[communications@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:communications@miralagoshoa.com)  
 Meetings: monthly

**Landscape**

Pam Downs  
[landscape@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:landscape@miralagoshoa.com)  
 Meetings: 1st Wednesday monthly

**Sports**

Erik Shinkle  
[sports@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:sports@miralagoshoa.com)  
 3rd Tuesday (Apr-Sept)

**Safety**

Robert McLain, Chairman  
[safety@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:safety@miralagoshoa.com)  
 Co-chair : Cheyanne McLain  
 Meetings:  
 1st Tuesday monthly

**Social**

OPEN POSITION  
[social@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:social@miralagoshoa.com)  
 Meetings: 2nd Wednesday monthly

**Welcome**

Susan Kennedy  
[welcome@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:welcome@miralagoshoa.com)  
 Meetings: monthly/electronically

**New Members welcome on all committees!**

**Board of Directors**

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 Eric Blackwell, Vice President  
 Robert McLain, Secretary  
 Deirdra Garret, Director  
 John Hughes, Director  
[board@miralagoshoa.com](mailto: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.

**PUBLISHED BY** Community News Connection, Inc.  
 206 W. McDermott Drive, Suite 120 • Allen, Texas 75013 • 972-396-8855  
[www.communitynewsconnection.com](http://www.communitynewsconnection.com)

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# STOP & SMELL THE ~~ROSES~~ *Texas Bluebonnets*

In 1901 Bluebonnets were adopted as the official State Flower of Texas. Dark blue, almost purple flowers with stark white centers arranged in dense clusters are found along Texas highways, roads, fields and pastures. These beautiful wildflowers bloom from March to May.

The Texas Hill Country is known for their abundance of bluebonnets. From Austin, on almost every highway leading out of town, the roads and highways are lined with miles of bluebonnets. The Texas Hill Country towns like Marble Falls, Burnet and Brenham are recognized as excellent places to view bluebonnets with many other fun sights to see along the way.

Closer to North Dallas is the town of Ennis, Texas which is home of the "Official Texas Bluebonnet Trail" since 1997, just 60 miles on Highway 75/45. April 1st through April 30th, the Ennis Garden Club sponsors 40 miles of mapped driving trails for viewing and photographing Texas bluebonnets. Many of these



trails are the oldest in the state and visitors from all around make their way to Ennis to see this gorgeous display of wildflowers. The Ennis Garden Club works in conjunction with the Ennis Visitors Bureau (open 7 days a week) for the latest status of blooming insuring visitors are well informed to the best trails. Ennis has also launched a free mobile app for iPhone

and Android called "Ennis Y'all". The app features the bluebonnet trail map using GPS locations as well as directory of restaurants, shops, events and more.

Before you set off on a bluebonnet trail this spring, be sure to search [www.wildflowerhaven.com](http://www.wildflowerhaven.com) for wildflower reports and sighting for the entire state of Texas.

Brought to You By Your Neighbor &  
*Mira Lagos Expert*



Get Ready to Cheer On  
America's Team!  
Century 21 Judge Fite Co.  
Is The Official Real Estate  
Company of the  
Dallas Cowboys!

**FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**  
Christina Kang 817.739.7433

## How To Select a Great Realtor

**DO NOT** blindly walk into or call a neighborhood firm and ask for an agent at random.

Ask friends and family for recommendations.

Pay attention to whether a potential agent is listening closely to what you say. Is he or she asking follow-up questions which prompt further explanation and help him or her understand exactly your needs and wants?

Give a potential agent the opportunity to educate you. A good agent should walk a customer through the buying or selling process before ever showing properties or discussing a specific transaction.

Have a good idea of what you expect from an agent and communicate those expectations. How often do you want to hear from your agent? Do you want to hold meetings at your house rather than the real estate office?

Evaluate the agent's firm and/or office. Look for a real estate organization whose agents can empower you with real estate expertise and resources and provide first-rate customer service.

**Broker & State Certified Residential Real Estate Appraiser (# TX-1336180-R)**

# Grand Prairie T E X A S

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Computer Class

Registration required, please email [koabode@gptx.org](mailto:koabode@gptx.org).

Mondays April 2 – May 7 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Location: Main Library

901 Conover Drive

Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

- April 2: Social Media: Instagram
- April 9: Social Media: Twitter
- April 16: Computer Basics
- April 23: Basics of Word
- April 30: Basics of Excel
- May 7: Basics of PowerPoint

Join us for computer class on Mondays at the Main Library. Classes begin promptly at 6 p.m. No personal laptops are allowed.

### Poetry In Motion with the Dallas Poets Community

Presented by AARP Volunteers

Date: 04/04/2018 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Location: Main Library

901 Conover Drive

Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

For all ages. Celebrate National Poetry Month with the Dallas Poets Community. In this family-friendly program, you'll hear a variety of fun poems and have the chance to create and perform one of your own.

### Free Tax Help

Presented by AARP Volunteers

Date: 04/11/2018 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Veterans Park Event Center

925 Conover Dr.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Introduction: Volunteers from AARP hold free tax help at the Veterans Park Event center, next door to the Main Library. Free tax help is provided by AARP volunteers (American Association of Retired Persons). Tax help is each Monday and Wednesday from 11 am to approximately 3 pm (depending on demand) at the Veterans Park Event Center, located at 925 Conover Dr., next door to the Main Library. No appointment necessary; you will be seen in the order in which you arrive. Doors open at approximately 10 am. Tax help will begin Monday, February 5 and continue through Monday, April 16. Please bring a copy of last years tax return, as well as any 1099 and W-2 forms.

### Teen Driver Workshop

For teens in grades 9-12.

Date: 04/21/2018 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Betty Warmack Library

760 Bardin Rd.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

This presentation is for new and soon to be drivers. Learn important car skills including how to change a tire and how to jump start a car.

# ARBOR DAY

## FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Arbor Day is a special day that is set aside throughout the world to raise awareness of trees and the important role that they play in our environment. The day is celebrated on different dates around the world, depending on local seasons and temperature. This is because one of the features of Arbor Day is the planting of trees which is best done at certain times of the year. In much of the United States, Arbor Day is celebrated on the fourth Friday of April. This may vary in some states, depending on local conditions.



## APRIL 2018

### Holiday & Observances

- April 1st ..... Easter
- April 7th ..... World Health Day
- April 17th ..... Tax Day
- April 22nd ..... Earth Day
- April 26th ..... Take your child to Work Day
- April 27th ..... Arbor Day

## NOTARY SERVICES

The On-site Manager, Stacy McGrath, and Assistant Manager, Matt Urbaniak are Notaries for Mira Lagos. This is a free service for residents and homeowners. Please make an appointment at [manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com).

# MANSFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP 2018

If your child will be entering Pre-K or Kindergarten for the 2018-19 school year, come out to early registration at your child's home campus!

## Thursday, April 5

Choose from two convenient time slots:

★ 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

OR

★ 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

This is your chance to register early, tour your child's future campus and participate in fun activities.



## SHOT CLINIC

Passport Health/Staying Healthy Medical Services will conduct a vaccination clinic for required back-to-school immunizations.

**Date:** Thursday, April 5, 2018

**Time:** 9 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Alice Ponder Elementary School  
101 Pleasant Ridge Drive  
Mansfield, TX 76063

## WHAT TO BRING

For faster registration, bring original and copies of the following items:

- Student's certified birth certificate
- Student's shot records
- Student's social security card
- Proof of residency in the form of current (within last 30 days) electric, gas, water bill, or lease agreement
- Parent/Guardian's driver license or photo I.D.



[www.mansfieldisd.org/kroundup2018](http://www.mansfieldisd.org/kroundup2018)

**Questions?** Contact the Mansfield ISD Department of Instruction at 817-299-4381.



# HEADSPACE APP

## FOR MINDFULNESS AND MEDITATION

**B**eing mindful is being aware and fully engaged with your feelings, thoughts, and surroundings vs. letting your life pass you by. It is taking time to pay attention to every moment, experience the present and not dwell on the past or worry about the future. A person can learn many ways to be present such as putting down a smart phone, slowing down from busyness and reading books about mindfulness. Another way to discover mindfulness is through meditation. The Headspace App is specifically intended for meditation and understanding mindfulness. The techniques in the Headspace App are designed to encourage awareness of being present and promote a better grasp of both the mind and world around you. The app is free and can be downloaded at Google Play and the App Store.



Headspace App is easy to use as it leads you step by step how to be mindful, breath and meditate. Mindfulness and meditation has been shown to relieve stress, manage anxiety, help you focus, sharpen concentration, help you sleep better and improve relationships.

Within the Headspace App, there are devoted Headspaces such as Headspace for Work, for Kids, for Sleep, for Focus and for Stress. Headspace for Work is geared for employees and team building. Headspace for Kids spotlights Calm, Focus, Kindness, Sleep and Wake Up. Each Headspace has bite-size meditations for busy schedules. School teachers are using this app and have discovered the benefits for their students. Employer or employee, parent or student, stressed or unfocused discover how useful and beneficial this app can be for you.

## Mira Lagos HOA Pet Tags



There are Free Mira Lagos Pet tags at the HOA office. Please see Cynthia at the HOA office to receive your tag. Each pet registered will have a unique number assigned in the event your pet gets out and is found. My dog Mia got hers and she loves all the fancy jewelry on her collar.



# BUILDING PERMITS

## Do I need a building permit??

Check to See if You Need a Building Permit

The City of Grand Prairie requires a permit for rehab and remodeling projects, fencing, roof and cement work, decks, patios, carports and construction of outdoor sheds. Before starting a project at home, call the Building Inspections Department at 972-237-8230 to see if a permit is required. [www.gptx.org](http://www.gptx.org).

## Grand Prairie Trash OFF

Saturday, April 7, 2018

Clean house and get rid of your junk during "Trash Off" events at the Grand Prairie Landfill, 1102 MacArthur Blvd., Grand Prairie, TX 75050.

Residents are allowed an unlimited number of trips to the landfill (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.). Proof of residence in the form of a current water bill or driver's license is required.

Trash Off is a great way to dispose of all those bulky items that won't fit in the garbage!



# AUTISM AWARENESS

April 2, 2018



World Autism Awareness Month aims to put a spotlight on the hurdles that people with autism – and others living with autism – face every day.

What's more, World Autism Awareness Month goes one step further to celebrate the unique talents of those with autism, while putting a huge focus on the warm embrace and welcome that these skills deserve through community events around the globe.

In the United States, autism affects 1 in every 110 children. National Autism Awareness Month aims to make the public more aware about this widespread disability and the issues which arise in the autism community. As about 1 in 150 people in America have autism, the chances are that you know someone with this disability. A better-informed public will be more empathetic and supportive towards people with autism.

This month is backed by the Autism Society of America which undertake a number of activities to raise awareness about autism. The Autism Society has local chapters throughout the United States which hold special events throughout April.

The 'Puzzle Ribbon' is the symbol for Autism Awareness and is promoted by the Autism Society as means of supporting awareness for autism.

For more information on National Autism Awareness Month visit the Autism Society's Awareness Page.

## THAT STREET LIGHT IS OUT!

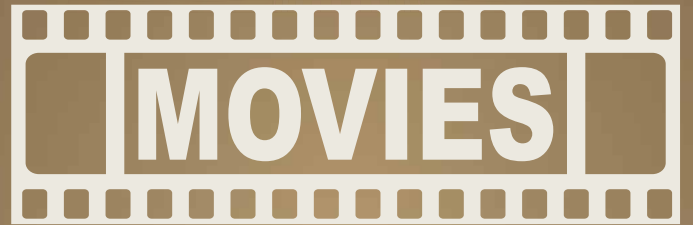
ONCOR Electric owns and maintains the tall street lights scattered throughout Mira Lagos. Should you observe a nonfunctional street light in need of service, please report the issue directly to ONCOR Electric for a prompt repair.

The company's website is [www.oncor.com](http://www.oncor.com) or call 888-317-4747.

The website is very user friendly, allowing you to input your street address and navigate with ease to the light in question. As ONCOR says, "Thanks for helping keep the lights on!"



DON'T MISS THESE UPCOMING



In **May**, "Avengers: Infinity War" will be in theaters. All the Avengers resume their roles, along with Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and the Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), to battle the evil Thanos, played by Josh Brolin. Thanos seeks to amass all six Infinity Stones, which possess unthinkable power in order to destroy the universe one planet at a time. Star-Lord, played by Chris Pratt and the Guardians of the Galaxy characters will join forces with the Avengers in order to save the earth and all existence.

"The Incredibles 2" movie opens in **June**. Bob (Mr. Incredible) and Helen (Elastigirl) are back with their super power children in the sequel to "The Incredibles", which debuted in 2004. In "The Incredibles 2", Helen is fighting crime and saving the world, while Bob is at home caring for their three children. This arrangement might not last long as once again the superhero family, together with other supers, will have to battle a new sinister villain.

"Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom" arrives in theaters this **June**. Owen (Chris Pratt) and Claire (Bryce Dallas Howard) return to the screen for another exciting adventure of the Jurassic World series. Owen and Claire are prompted by the rumblings of the island's volcano to rescue any remaining dinosaurs from sure extinction. These two characters venture back to the Jurassic World Island where they discover amazing and terrifying new dinosaur breeds, uncover a plot that could forever change the order of the planet and engage in more exciting, suspenseful situations you have come to expect from a Jurassic World film.

# 10 ways to help our children be successful with **STAAR** testing

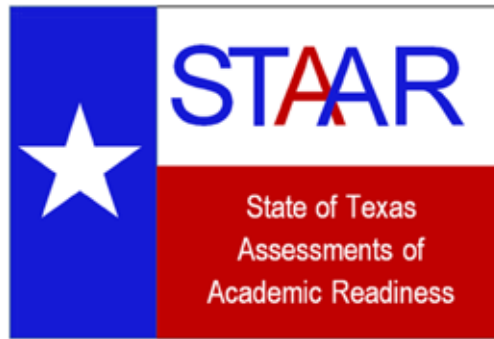
Whether we agree with standardized testing or not is a non-issue when it comes to our children in the classroom. They have to take the test, regardless of our personal opinions. If you want to know more about STAAR and how it compares to TAKS, there are some great resources on the Texas Education Agency website. Here are some tips to help your child through STAAR testing week.

**1. What they should expect.** Talk to your kids about what to expect and how the STAAR test is not that different from regular tests and exams. When I pointed out to my daughter that she was already doing well in Language Arts and making good grades on her writing projects, she relaxed. Sometimes just reminding them that they already have the skills and a record of success can build their confidence.

**2. Sample tests.** If they are feeling stressed, you can see example of the types of questions and problems kids can expect at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/staar/>. When I reviewed one of the 4th grade reading tests, I knew my daughter would be fine. It's very similar to the type of work she has been doing in class already. Let them take a sample test and see how well they do. Talk through some of the problems that may be challenging them.

**3. Get plenty of sleep.** A tired child cannot stay focused for hours on end.

**4. Eat a healthy breakfast.** Minimize sugar and carbohydrates and make sure your child has



some protein to help keep their energy stable for a longer period of time. In many cases, schools are providing hot breakfast for kids this week. Check with your local school. Sometimes getting to school early to have breakfast with friends can help relax your child and take their mind off the test.

**5. Make sure they get plenty of exercise and free play time after school.** The test is stressful and the kids' normal routine at school is different this week. Their minds need a mental break and after sitting all day, your younger ones will have excess energy to burn off. Physical activity is also great for helping kids to relax and sleep better!

**6. Support and praise them.** It may sound simple, but just tell them you are proud of them and know they will do a great job. Knowing you are rooting for them can help boost confidence.

**7. Eat Healthy.** Send a healthy lunch or talk to your kids about choosing a healthy lunch at the school cafeteria. Explain how healthy food supports their brains, kind of like Popeye and his spinach! My son's middle school has required us to bring a sack lunch for the two days of testing. Kids will be eating in their testing rooms, so check your school's regulations today.

**8. Surprise them with a special note.** Put a note in their lunch box to just say hi and you hope they are having a great day. Nothing fancy, just a sticky note saying "I love you" will lift tired spirit. Got older kids? Send them a quick lunchtime text showing your support. Don't ask how it's going, just say, "I am thinking about you, have a great day." Whether they admit it in public or not, our kids need our love and support on a daily basis.

**9. Go to the Dollar store and buy a couple of fun, colorful pencils.** Even something this small brightens their day and gets them excited. As we near the end of the school year, pencils tend to be worn down and erasers nearly gone, make sure your kids are prepared.

**10. Celebrate when the testing is complete and again when you get the scores.** Acknowledge your child for their effort and their success. It might help to tell them that you will go out for ice cream or for a movie or a walk in the park at the end of the week. The key here is to keep their spirits up throughout the week!

<http://northtexaskids.com>

## BANANA PUDDING

By Cynthia Prox

*All my life my Mom and Grandma always made homemade banana pudding from scratch. I watched them get all the ingredients, measure and mix and then cook it on the stove stirring it constantly to keep it from scorching. To me, as a little kid, it felt like it took forever. So here I am as an adult, and I want that pudding for my family but I don't have the time in my busy schedule to stir pudding for 20 minutes.*

*Here is an easy and quick way to make that homemade tasting pudding that mom and grandma used to make. I know when you look at this recipe you will probably think, "this is way to easy to taste like cooked homemade pudding." But when you taste it you will be pleasantly surprised.*

- 3-4 bananas**
- 1 box of vanilla wafers**
- 1 sm. Box of vanilla pudding**
- 1 can sweet condensed milk**

Layer bananas and cookies in a medium bowl. Mix vanilla pudding according to directions and mix in the can of sweet milk, pour over layer bananas and cookies. Add egg white meringue or cool whipping cream to top as desired. Store in refrigerator until ready to serve.





# Lawn & Garden Tips

March is a good time to start planning lawn and gardening projects. By April 1 in North Texas, we should be safe from late season freezes. If you haven't already started planting, now is the time to get inspired and make a plan.

- Put down pre-emergent herbicide in February to prevent last year's weed seeds from germinating.
- Remove all dead vegetation from gardens.
- Sow vegetable and flower seeds or plant bedding plants. Be prepared to protect them in case of a late freeze. You can use the planting containers inverted over the plant, but be sure to remove as soon as temps are above freezing.
- Plant summer flowering bulbs, perennial flowers shrubs and trees.
- Fertilize existing trees with fertilizer spikes around the drip line of the tree.
- Once grass starts to green up, mow to remove some of the dead grass, and fertilize with a balanced lawn fertilizer. Aerate lawn if soil is compacted. If needed use Broadleaf weed killer on lawn, but avoid getting it on desirable plants and trees.
- Add compost to garden soil and work it into the soil.
- Lightly prune trees to raise the canopy height, and remove diseased and crossing branches before it gets too hot.
- It is a great time to audit your sprinkler system by checking your controller settings and looking for leaks before letting it run on auto pilot. One inch of water per week is ideal for lawn, plants and trees. April and May is also thunderstorm season. If mother nature doesn't provide enough rain, be sure to supplement with your sprinklers, so that plants develop a strong root system heading into summer.

Lawn maintenance and gardening chores are great exercise that costs much less than a gym membership, and it also increases your property value. Plan your work, work your plan and then sit back and enjoy the beauty!



## Open a Window

How much time do you spend in the fresh air? For most people the answer may be only a few minutes a day while walking to their car, to the store, to work then back home at the end of the day.

A good amount of fresh air each day is needed no matter the weather or temperature. Studies have shown that opening a window even for 5 minutes a day can be very beneficial for your home. It is recommended your home be aired out daily, all year long.

Generally, the inside of a home has a higher amount of pollutants than the outside world, which may be difficult to believe. As more homes become energy efficient and more air tight, as homeowners use products to remove strong cooking and pet odors, and as people use 'freshening' sprays to treat carpets, sofas and pillows, pollutants and chemicals build up. Opening a window allows fresh air to clean and clear the air reducing pollutants in your home.

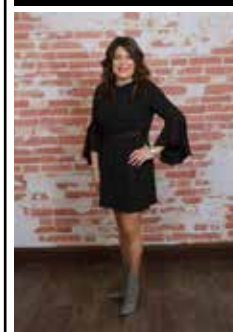
For odor issues, the simplest thing you can do is open a window. While cooking breakfast or dinner, consider creating a habit of opening a window then closing it when your meal is complete. This could make a huge difference in the quality of air in your home.

## Something is Hidden. Can you find it?

We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, an umbrella. Please email [manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto: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 gift card.**



### ANY THOUGHTS OF SELLING

Call today for the following:

1. Sellers Consultation - Discuss How To Prepare Your Home To Put On The Market
2. Free Home Market Analysis
3. Free Staging Consultation

Feel Confident When You Work With An Area Expert That Has Over 15 Years of Market Knowledge & Experience

**Gina Brown** Broker/REALTOR  
ABR, BPOR, CCS, CNS, EPRO, NHS, SRS, RENE, SFR  
[gina@shiningstarrealty.com](mailto:gina@shiningstarrealty.com) | 817.401.4129

# 2018

## Mira Lagos Events

*Note: Events subject to change- updates would be sent out in future mailings of the Messenger or eNews.*

- March 31 ..... Egg-stravaganza .....Social
- May 5..... Pool Opening & Popsicles with the Police.....Social
- May 19..... Mother/Son Event .....Social
- June 23 ..... Luau at Hawaiian Falls.....Social
- July 14 ..... Jazz Night.....Social
- July 1 – August 4 ..... Fill-A-Backpack event .....Social
- September 15 ..... Community Garage Sale.....Social
- October 2 ..... National Night Out .....Safety
- October 20 ..... Fall Festival & Vendor Fair.....Social
- December 8 ..... Holiday Event .....Social

*Note: Events not listed at this time, Dates to be determined: Women’s Self Defense Class, CPR Class, First Aid Class, Fall Welcome Reception.*



## VACATION WATCH

**Submit a Vacation Watch Request to have your home checked by uniformed police officers or Citizens On Patrol when time and call load permits.**

*(The city of Grand Prairie cannot guarantee that this will keep your home from being damaged or broken into. Be sure to notify the police if you return earlier than scheduled.)*

[www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/police-department/vacation-watch-form](http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/police-department/vacation-watch-form)



## MAKE YOUR OWN DETOX WATER

Drinking water is one of the greatest things you can do for your health. Drinking water helps flush out toxins from your body and also helps with your metabolism. Drinking water can also help you lose weight. Mixing fruits, vegetables and herbs to your water can create a low calorie, delicious drink you will not have any trouble drinking. Here are a few common choices to add to your water.

- |            |              |            |          |
|------------|--------------|------------|----------|
| Lime       | Strawberries | Grapefruit | Basil    |
| Watermelon | Blueberries  | Kiwi       | Cilantro |
| Oranges    | Blackberries | Cucumber   | Cinnamon |
| Mango      | Raspberries  | Mint       | Rosemary |

Simply place your fruit, vegetable or herb in the bottom of a glass container or infuser, fill with ice (approximately 5 inches) and then add spring or filtered water. After chilling for about an hour your detox flavored water is ready! If you exchange a sugary juice, soda or energy drink with flavored water, you will feel and be healthier.



# 5 EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR LANDSCAPE

1

Mow your yard weekly, cutting off 1/3 of the leaf blade. Regular mowing helps control weeds by not allowing seed production, while

stimulating the grass to thicken up. Healthy grass crowds out weeds and shades the ground to help retain moisture. In hot dry climates, most grasses will be healthier if cut about 3 inches tall. Pull weeds if possible or use liquid weed killer (hose end sprayer) for broadleaf weeds. There

are different products for Bermuda and St. Augustine. If grass is actively growing (green) you can use fertilizer or a weed and feed product depending on your preference. Keep all weed killers away from trees, shrubs and gardens. Do not mow when grass is wet!

4

Plant Flowers! Adding color to your landscape improves curb appeal. Add annual flowers (flowers that produce seeds and die at first frost) in front of shrubs for instant color, and use Perennial flowers (flowers

that die down at frost, but come back year after year) for seasonal bloom. Use a mixture of leaf colors and textures to add interest. Pay attention to sun exposure, water requirements and height and width of mature plants. Add mulch to gardens to help retain moisture, but keep it from touching your foundation (to help prevent termites).



2

Level your soil, by filling in low spots with top soil as needed. Over time, our clay soil tends to compact, due to foot traffic. If soil is compacted, aerate with a core aerator to allow air and nutrients into the soil before adding top soil.



3

Raise the canopy on your trees, by pruning off lower branches flush with the tree trunk. Removing the lower branches encourages trees to grow up instead of out. Prune trees before it gets too hot. Regular pruning of small lower branches, will help to shape young trees without stressing them out, and allows sun to get to your lawn. Overgrown trees block visibility of your house and invites crime. Trees that come into contact with your house damage your shingles and gives wildlife access to your attic.



5

Get acquainted with your sprinkler system. Verify your controller settings, and check for leaks on a regular basis, to conserve water and prevent heart attacks from high water bills. In general, lawn grasses and plants need at least 1 inch of

water per week year around. In the Summer be sure to water trees and shrubs deeply once a week if mother nature is not providing rain. Soaker hoses work great to conserve water and allow the soil to absorb water instead of running off.



# BOARD ANYONE?



If you're considering running for the board, we ask that you take a few moments to ask yourself the following three questions:

## Do I have the time?

As a board member, you will need to devote at least several hours of your time each month to association business. In addition to regular monthly board meetings, you will need to be active in email discussions and occasional special meetings. During special projects, you may need to spend a little extra time on association business. Some board members may also spend a little more time than others if they work with a committee

## Can I make tough decisions when it's required?

The primary role of the board is to conduct the business of the association. This doesn't just mean approving the budget, but also developing and enforcing policies. Board members are required to step outside their immediate circle of family and neighbors and make decisions based on the greater good of the community.

## Can I do all this and have fun, too?

It isn't all about policies and tough decisions. Our community is only as good as we make it, and establishing and maintaining a sense of community is a part of a board member's responsibility. Planning and attending functions such as our picnics and being a presence in the community are as important as any policy decisions you may make.

Being a board member can be frustrating at times, but it may also be one of the most rewarding ways you'll find to volunteer your time. If you're interested in running for the board or would like more details about board's responsibilities, please contact the manager or a current board member.

**Here's a  
Bright  
Idea**

Advertise in this publication and reach the colorful characters right in your own neighborhood. **Contact us today!**  
972-396-8855 or [info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com)



22 APRIL

## THE IDEA

The idea for a national day to focus on the environment came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment" to the national media; persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair; and recruited Denis Hayes from Harvard as national coordinator. Hayes built a national staff of 85 to promote events across the land. April 22, falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, was selected as the date.

On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. By the end of that year, the first Earth Day had led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts. "It was a gamble," Gaylord recalled, "but it worked."

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries and lifting environmental issues onto the world stage. Earth Day 1990 gave a huge boost to recycling efforts worldwide and helped pave the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. It also prompted President Bill Clinton to award Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1995)—the highest honor given to civilians in the United States—for his role as Earth Day founder.

## EARTH DAY 2018 CAMPAIGN

### *A World Without Plastic Pollution*

From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is now threatening the survival of our planet.

Earth Day 2018 will focus on fundamentally changing human attitude and behavior about plastics and catalyzing a significant reduction in plastic pollution.

Send your ideas or propose a partnership to [plastic@earthday.org](mailto:plastic@earthday.org).



## CELEBRATE DIVERSITY MONTH

OUR PLANET IS FILLED with a rainbow of races and religions – all equal in every way. It doesn't matter if you don't understand them all or even know they exist, but it does matter that you accept them all and do not judge any of them as less than worthy. We are all in this together, and our ignorance of other's beliefs is no excuse for intolerance in any form.

**A**s part of celebrating diversity month, take the time to involve yourself and others in learning about cultures and religions that are not part of your daily life. Involve your children, family, friends and neighbors; so that we may all gain a better understanding of our global family. Talk about, show examples of and become involved in celebrating diversity today and every day. There are endless possibilities of how you can do this, but here are a few examples if you need a bit of inspiration:

1. Invite friends and family over for a pot luck meal where participants bring in dishes that represent their ethnicity or their favorite ethnic foods.
2. Create a craft with your children that represents different cultures.
3. Plan an event that brings together different ethnic groups to celebrate.
4. Bring together different religious groups to learn about each other or pray for world peace together.
5. Explore different cultures through art forms, poetry, music, crafts, traditional costumes, language, etc. Have an art show featuring local, diverse artists, or a poetry reading, or a concert.
6. Rent movies that deal with diverse topics.
7. Have a display or flag ceremony of different nations' flags.
8. Read about a religion you have heard of but don't know much, if anything, about.

# Drive-In Movies are back

That's right drive-in movies are back. Located in Fort Worth at 223 NE 4th Street is Coyote Drive-in Movie. You can enjoy a new release blockbuster movie or a classic like Raiders of the Lost Ark and Twister.

Once again you can experience a drive-in movie in your car with your family and friends. And for those who have never been to a drive-in movie, make new memories listening to the sound coming through your car radio on the Coyote FM frequencies, breathing in the night air under the stars and visiting with the people in the

cars next to you. Coyote Drive-in has a playground area for the kids. You can even bring your dog as long as it is on a leash.

Drive your car in or back it up, bring chairs or stay in your car, grab a snack or eat a meal at Coyote Canteen, a full kitchen restaurant. The restaurant serves burgers, pizzas, tacos, chicken wings and much more. All your favorite movie concessions like popcorn and candy are available and fun desserts like fresh baked cookies, banana pudding and churros are also on the menu! Coyote

Canteen serves soft drinks, wine by the glass, bottled and craft beers.

Admission is \$8 for 12 years and over, \$6 for children 5-11 years and children under 4 are free. Tickets are available online at <http://coyotedrive-in.com/fortworth/tickets/> or at the gate. Coyote Drive-in shows are double features so your tickets include two movies for the price of one. It's open 7 days a week.

Get in your car and go to the drive-in, make some memories and enjoy a movie or two!



## INCOME TAX DEADLINE

You will have until **Tuesday, April 17, 2018**, to file your 2017 returns and pay any taxes due. The filing tax deadline is later this year due to several factors. The usual April 15 deadline falls on Sunday this year, which would normally give taxpayers until at least the following Monday. However, Emancipation Day, a Washington, D.C., holiday, is observed on Monday, April 16, giving taxpayers nationwide an additional day to file. By law, Washington holidays impact tax deadlines for everyone in the same way federal holidays do. Taxpayers requesting an extension will have until Monday, Oct. 15, 2018, to file.



# STAR SERVICE



Be Genuinely Helpful



Aim High



Improve It



Build Great Relationships



Own It



Do What's Right

At FirstService Residential we have very strong values!

We strive to meet these values every day for our residents and hope you will join us in recognizing those individuals who go above and beyond in delivering great customer service.

- ▶ Have you witnessed an associate doing something great?
- ▶ Have you been exceptionally pleased with the service you have received?
- ▶ Do you want to let others know how awesome someone is?

Help us show recognition to our Star Performers. Please email your feedback to [starserviceonsite@fsresidential.com](mailto:starserviceonsite@fsresidential.com). Be sure to list the Star performers' name and community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Your HOA Management Team



## PARKING IN MIRA LAGOS

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 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.

If you see a vehicle that has been parked for more than a few days you call the Grand Prairie code compliance or non-emergency police department (972)-237-8700 to report it. The police have access to vehicle owner information that the HOA does not have, so reporting it allows the Code Compliance or police to make contact with the owner and inform if the vehicle needs to be moved.

Please note that the gated area of Las Brisas has their own restrictions which may restrict overnight parking. In addition, RV's boats, trailers are prohibited anywhere in the community (including driveways) for a period of time. These kinds of vehicles should be stored off site and are to be in the community for loading and unloading only.



# DALLAS/FORT WORTH EVENTS

## April 6 - 8 — Deep Ellum Art Festival

Stroll six blocks of Main Street in Deep Ellum to take in the sights and sounds of this eclectic street fest. There will be hundreds of artists creating, displaying and selling their original art; live music on outdoor stages and performance areas and inside Sons of Hermann Hall; and delicious festival food and drinks. Don't miss the popular Sunday pet parade followed by the Artists in Motion Parade.

## April 19 - 22 — Main Street Fort Worth Art Festival

Sundance Square Thousands of visitors will take in the sights, sounds and tastes of this annual arts fest, now in its 33rd year. Browse artists booths lining the charming red-brick streets of downtown Fort Worth - from the Tarrant County Courthouse to Sundance Square Plaza to the Fort Worth Convention Center. Main St. will feature 223 juried artists from across the country, chart-topping entertainers on four outdoor stages, authentic Texas cuisine, and artsy activities for the whole family.

General admission is free. Food and beverage service is by coupon only.

Music headliners include Bonnie Bishop (Thursday 4/19), Shane Smith and the Saints (Friday 4/20), Jamestown Revival and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (Saturday 4/21), Brave Combo and Tejano groups Gary Hobbs and Latin Express (Sunday 4/22)

## April 28 — Taco Libre — Dallas Farmer Market

Celebrate the best tacos in town at Taco Libre. In addition to taco tastings, there will be, Lucha Libre matches and live music. José Ralat of the Taco

Trail will once again be curating the Taco Libre taquerias. Confirmed taquerias include: Urban Taco Uptown, Holy Frijole, Salsa Limon, El Tizoncito, TacoDeli, Revolver Taco Lounge, Ki Mexico, El Come, Chili Pepper Grill, La Botana Taco Bar, Mario Bros Tacos, Resident Taqueria, Trompo and Azucar Food Truck. Additional taquerias, music and lucha lineups will be announced soon.

Tickets include lucha libre matches, music and access to purchase tacos from 24 of the region's best taquerias. All taquerias will have a \$2 taco option, while supplies last. Get there early for the best selection of tacos and prices.

## April 7 - May 28 — Scarborough Renaissance Festival — Scarborough Renaissance Festival Grounds in Ellis County 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie, TX 75167

Step back in time at the Renaissance-themed festival set on 35 acres in the "village" of Scarborough. Visitors can join in the mirth and merriment, sights, sounds and tastes of the days of King Henry VIII. The 38th annual festival runs for 8 themed weekends, April 7 through May 28.

Visitors will encounter colorful characters such as knights, villagers, fire jugglers, jousters, sword fighters and turtle racers. Eat a giant turkey leg, buy a longbow or some jewelry at the shops, watch a village artisan at work, stop in the Elkhorn Tavern or Dirty Duck Pub, or simply take in the sights.

Admission is \$24 online (until March 15), \$28 at the gate. \$12-\$13 for ages 5-12. Free for ages 4 and younger.

# GARDENING

Most people know getting your hands in dirt, digging, scooping and turning soil, planting vegetables or adding bushes and shrubs to your yard, can be therapeutic. It can also trigger the release of serotonin in your body.

**S**erotonin decreases anxiety and improves your mood which helps with depression. While many people spend the majority of time behind computer screens, sitting at desks or working inside, studies have concluded that gardening after a stressful situation can lower stress levels significantly.

Gardeners have long told how having your hands in the dirt is relaxing, helpful and calming. Gardening is a sensory experience. The cool feeling of the dirt on your hands, the smells of fresh herbs, seeing bright, dark and rich colors of flowers, and hearing outside sounds like chirping birds enhance the practice of gardening. Gardening

has a positive physical and mental influence on the mind.

Trading your Apple product (or other technological device) for planting an apple tree could be one of the best things you can do for yourself. Gardening gets you outside, gets you moving and gets your blood flowing. The repetitive action of digging, weeding, planting and pruning can be as good for you as low impact exercising. And most gardeners stick with this exercise and do it often.

If you do not have space in your yard for a proper vegetable garden or lots of room for flowers in your yard, you can still reap the benefits of gardening. Simply start with a medium container, an herb or flower, soil and dig in!



ACC Use Only
Rq. No.
Phase

## Mira Lagos Homeowners Association - ACC Property Modification Approval Request Form

As each of us bought our property in Mira Lagos, we agreed by our signatures to abide by the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (a.k.a. CCRs or Deed Restrictions). The Deed Restrictions protect our property values by keeping Mira Lagos a highly desirable place to live. ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approval must be obtained prior to the start of your project. To avoid delay, make your request as complete as possible and type or print legibly. Incomplete requests will be returned for additional information. Incorrect information or changes made after approval invalidates approval. The ACC tries to assure that all changes to our properties conform to the appropriate Deed Restrictions. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

### 1. ABOUT THE RESIDENT(S) **EMAIL ADDRESS:**

Name(s)	
Address	
Phone	Best time to call:

### 2. ABOUT THE PROJECT

Proposed start date	Proposed completion date
Describe the nature of the project (attach pages as necessary)	
Location (attach sketch/drawing)	
Dimensions	Distance from fences and easements
Colors	Shape
Materials	
Builder	
Other (specify)	

**IMPORTANT:** Include plan view and elevation drawings (to scale) plus any other supporting documents indicating project's location and its relationship to property lines, neighbors, construction, easements, etc.

### 3. ABOUT THE REQUIREMENTS

YES	NO	N/A	
			I/We have read the appropriate Deed Restrictions
			I/We have obtained a Grand Prairie building permit (attach copy) <b>City approval does not supersede deed restrictions.</b>
			This project will require a fence removal (if yes, inform Association Manager)
			Completed project will be visible from the street
<b>Check any that apply:</b>			<input type="checkbox"/> Corner lot <input type="checkbox"/> Iron park fencing <input type="checkbox"/> Project already started

Homeowner's Signature	Date
-----------------------	------

Signature constitutes permission for ACC members to inspect property and agreement to abide by ACC's decision.

Mail this request, along with all supporting documents, drawings, photographs, etc. to:

FirstService Residential  
3102 Oak Lawn Ave, Ste 202  
Dallas, Texas 75219

<p><b>For additional information call: 817-473-6787</b></p> <p>Email – <a href="mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com">manager@miralagoshoa.com</a></p>
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