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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)

[www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos](http://www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos)

On-Site Management  
 Stacy McGrath, General Manager  
[manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com)

Matt Urbaniak,  
 Assistant Manager  
[Matt.Urbaniak@fsresidential.com](mailto:Matt.Urbaniak@fsresidential.com)

Cynthia Prox, Administrative Assistant  
[Cynthia.prox@fsresidential.com](mailto:Cynthia.prox@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:  
**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**

Deirdre Garrett  
[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**

Joshua Spare, President  
 Eric Blackwell, Vice President  
 Robert McLain, Secretary  
 Dee 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.

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# Happy Holidays

Happy Holiday from your HOA Committee Chairs!! There is room for you in 2018. If you are interested in being a part of an amazing group of volunteers, attending a meeting, serving your community and/or meeting your neighbors contact the committee chair person of your choice for more information on how you can get involved.

## SPORTS COMMITTEE

Chair: Erik Shinkle  
sports@miralagoshoa.com

## LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Chair: Pam Downs and Lisa Watkins  
landscape@miralagoshoa.com

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Chair: Erik Shinkle  
communications@miralagoshoa.com

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Chair: Deirdre Garrett  
social@miralagoshoa.com

## WELCOME COMMITTEE

Chair: Susan Kennedy  
welcome@miralagoshoa.com

## SAFETY COMMITTEE

Chair: Robert Mclain  
safety@miralagoshoa.com

## The Grand Prairie Police Department MISSION, VALUES, MOTTO

### Mission

The Grand Prairie Police Department is dedicated to service and partnering with our community to maintain a safe environment with a high quality of life.

### Values

Commitment – to service through community partnerships, innovation and a holistic approach to policing.

Pride – in our appearance, in our professionalism and in safeguarding our community.

Respect – for our profession and for those we serve.

### Motto

We Protect and Serve

### VACATION WATCH SERVICE

With Holiday fast approaching – take the steps necessary to project your home and belongings. You can 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.)

**See something, say something!**

**Get to know your neighbors!**

<http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/police-department>

## ASSESSMENTS ARE DUE SOON!

You should be receiving your billing statement soon. 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 60200  
Los Angeles, CA 90060-0200**

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

## Something is Hidden. Can you find it?



We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, a bell. 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 gift card.**



# Spread holiday cheer by decorating in lights this year!

Shine bright this winter during our Annual Mira Lagos Holiday Lights Decorating Contest!

The Landscape Committee will be making a list and checking it twice to determine who has the best light display and holiday decorations this December.

To participate email your address to the **Landscaping Committee** [landscape@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:landscape@miralagoshoa.com) before December 17, 2017

Judging begins December 18th through the 23rd. Lights must be turned on daily to win. Each winner will receive a gift card.

## Dear Mira Lagos Homeowners,

In the event you are not able to make your assessment payment in a timely manner, you may opt to be placed on a payment plan. Payment plans must be initiated by FirstService Residential or you will still be considered late. No exceptions. Payment plan arrangements can be started by contacting the On-Site office at 817-473-6787 or by email at [admin@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:admin@miralagoshoa.com). **Assessment dues are due by January 30th.** On the 31st they are considered late. Please plan to have your payment sent in prior to the 30th to be processed on time.

Payments should be made to:

**Mira Lagos HOA  
c/o FirstService Residential  
PO Box 60200  
Los Angeles, CA  
90060-0200**

If you need assistance getting your account number or access to your online account for Mira Lagos HOA. Please don't hesitate to call, we are here to assist.

Thank you!

*Management*

We would like to say thank you to the managers and staff at **Chick-fil-a in Mansfield** for donating sweet tea for our Annual Mira Lagos Fall Festival and Vendor Fair.



## 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).





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Snow Ho Ho

Date: 12/02/2017 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Location: Betty Warmack Library

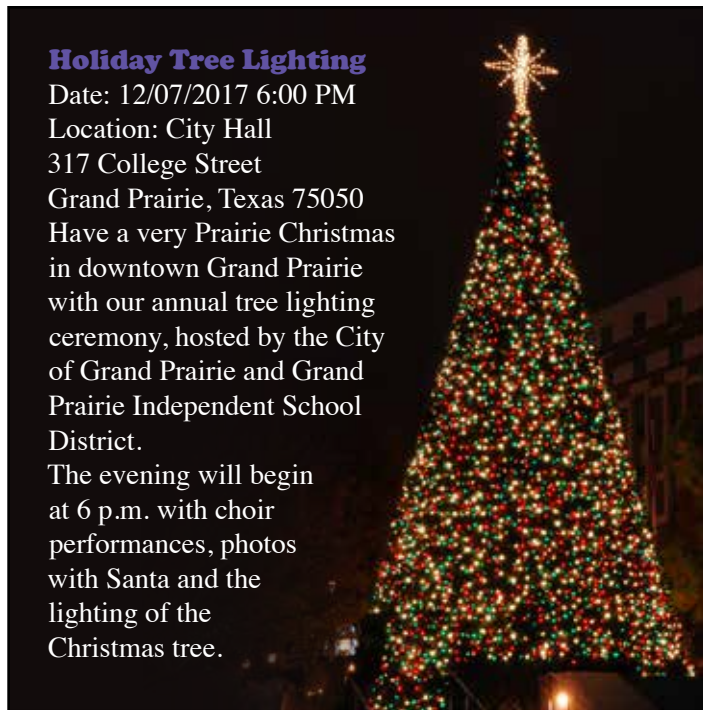
760 Bardin Rd.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

At the Warmack Library, families enjoy sensory stations, arts and crafts, a gingerbread man hunt, story time, and a musical performance. Welcome our special guests: The Gingerbread Man and Santa!

Stanley the Steam Engine miniature train will start offering outdoor rides (weather permitting) at 1:30 pm.

This December, each library will host their own Snow Ho Ho. Join us at the Main Library on Dec. 18 from 2 to 4 pm, or the Shotwell Library on Dec. 12 from 4 to 6 pm.



### Holiday Tree Lighting

Date: 12/07/2017 6:00 PM

Location: City Hall

317 College Street

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Have a very Prairie Christmas in downtown Grand Prairie with our annual tree lighting ceremony, hosted by the City of Grand Prairie and Grand Prairie Independent School District.

The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with choir performances, photos with Santa and the lighting of the Christmas tree.

### Farmers Market: Holiday Gift Market

Date: 12/09/2017 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Farmers Market

120 W. Main St.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Grand Prairie Farmers Market features lots of grand holiday gift ideas! Come out and get those one of a kind items for those hard-to-buy-for people on your list.

Grand Prairie Farmers Market at Market Square is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from April through mid-December and features locally grown fruits and vegetables, baked goods, tamales, salsas, dips, relishes, eggs, honey, chips, plants, soaps, candles and more.

For more information call 972-237-4599.

### Holiday Market with Santa

Date: 12/17/2017

Location: Traders Village

2602 Mayfield Road

Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Santa is at Traders Village Saturday and Sundays November 25 through December 23, 2017.

Kids of all ages can have their photo taken with Santa. Donations for photos go to the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Get into the spirit of Christmas with thousands of dealers who are selling holiday gifts and more for all tastes and budgets. Admission to Traders Village is FREE and it's just \$4 to park.

For more information visit, [tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie](http://tradersvillage.com/grand-prairie) or call 972-647-2331.

### Uptown Film Series: How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Date: 12/18/2017 6:00 PM

### Uptown Film Series: The Polar Express

Date: 12/19/2017 6:00 PM

### Uptown Film Series: A Christmas Story

Date: 12/20/2017 6:00 PM

Location: Uptown Theater

120 E. Main Street

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

The Uptown Theater presents a movie showing of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas."

Tickets:

- \$5 for individual
- \$10 for family
- FREE to Uptown Presenting Series Subscribers

For more information, visit [UptownTheaterGP.com](http://UptownTheaterGP.com) or call 972-237-8786.

### Cirque Dreams Holidayze

Date: 12/15/2017 7:30 PM

Location: Verizon Theatre

1001 Performance Place

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Tickets: 888-929-7849 or [www.AXS.com](http://www.AXS.com), [www.verizontheatre.com](http://www.verizontheatre.com)

### Prairie Lights

Prairie Lights, a holiday light park featuring a two-mile drive through 4 million lights, will run from November 23 through December 31, 2017.

Location: Lynn Creek Park, 5610 Lake Ridge Pkwy., Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Website: [PrairieLights.org](http://PrairieLights.org)

# 2017 Halloween Decorating Contest Winners

**7003 Palencia**



Thank you to all those that went all out to decorate your homes for the Halloween Holiday! We had some great homes in full display. There were two that especially look great during the day as well! For those that won, please stop by the office for your holiday decorating prize anytime on Tuesday - Saturday from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. We are looking forward to the Christmas Holiday decorations next!

**6929 Nava**



**3244 Porma**



**3028 S. Camino Lagos**



**3028 S. Camino Lagos**



**3024 Nadar**



**3011 Meseta**



**2963 Montalbo**



**2951 Almansa**



**2944 Benissa**



**2944 Bahia**



**2939 Arbusto**



**2935 Bahia**



**2927 Bahia**



**2823 England Pkwy**



**2823 England Pkwy**



**2811 Terrosa Dr**



# Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



by Eric Shinkle

**Thursday December 7th, we honor those who lost their lives in the largest attack on American soil. December 7th, 1941 Japanese forces launched a surprise attack that forced the US to declare war on Japan on December 8th and Germany and Italy on the 11th. We honor the 2,403 American Lives that were lost.**

My wife's Grandfather was a young sailor stationed at Pearl Harbor and assigned to the USS Arizona in 1941. He was a radio operator and remembers the 7th like it was yesterday. He was below deck during the attack and was lucky to make it off the boat. As the boat filled with water he was able to unlock a hatch and swim out to safety. Of the 1,512 crewmen 1,177 were killed.

Along with flying the flag, memorial services, educational events are held. Many organizations connected to the attack on Pearl Harbor and its victims put on these events, which may feature wreath-laying, luncheons and dinners, speeches, recollections by survivors, and educational events that may expand into World War II history. It is not considered a public holiday.



## December 2017 Holidays and Observances

- December 1 ..... Rosa Parks Day
- December 3 ..... Advent Begins
- December 7 ..... Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 12 ..... Poinsettia Day
- December 15 ..... Bill of Rights Day
- December 21 ..... National Re-gifting Day
- December 25 ..... Christmas Day
- December 31 ..... New Year's Eve

# THANK YOU



We would like to give a special thank you to **Jason Laningham**, owner of **DFW Fun Bounce** for providing the Mega - obstacle course bounce house for Mira Lagos Annual Fall Festival & Vendor Fair and all our 2017 events. For more info contact Jason at [www.dfwfunbounce.com](http://www.dfwfunbounce.com).

# OUR FALL VENDOR FAIR WAS A HUGE SUCCESS THIS YEAR!

Thanks to all the vendors that came out to participate! The kids and parents had a great time with with DJ Shon, dancing, face painting, bounce houses, food truck, picking up a pumpkin for the house and shopping! The variety of vendors was amazing! We had a photo booth mirror that the girls loved! Artwork from very talented homeowners, a book writer, as well as crafts and yummy homemade foods. We are looking forward to next year's event in the new facility! So, get your ideas together or your business started soon so you can participate too! - Social Committee







# Parking in Residential Areas



We are always getting reports of on street parking from your neighbors. Parking in your driveway and garage is not only less disruptive to your neighbors, but it creates a safe neighborhood and helps prevent car thefts.

Here are some parking tips to live by:

- Use your driveway and garage! Make sure you take the time to clean out and make room for your car in you the garage.
- When parking in your driveway, be careful not to block the sidewalk. This is a violation of the City Ordinances.

If you must have vehicles parked on the street:

- Do not block mailboxes. Vehicles parked in front or close to mailboxes will not have their mail delivered by the US Postal Service.
- Be sure to park in a way that you are not blocking sight or traffic.
- Park in front of your home and have your guests do the same. Please do not punish your neighbors by blocking their home and spaces for visitor parking.
- Be sure the vehicle you are parking on the

street is a regular day to day use vehicle. It must move on a daily basis like going to and from work or school. Vehicles are not allowed to stand or park unattended for a continuous period of 48 hours on a public street.

- Vehicles cannot be parked in the front, side or rear yard, unless on asphalt or concrete
- No parking of oversized vehicles (over 1.5 tons, width of 8 feet and length of more than 16 feet) in residential neighborhoods

Please be a courteous neighbor. If you can, park in the garage or driveway.



## 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!"

### Mansfield ISD Winter Break Schedule

December 22nd - January 5th  
Classes resume on January 9th  
*All campuses and district offices are closed in observance of the holidays.*

### Mira Lagos HOA Holiday Office Hours

Closed December 23rd - 26th  
reopen on 27th  
Closed December 30th - January 2nd  
reopen on January 3



# top 10 NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

The end of a year is not just a time that we spend partying, drinking and having fun with our friends and families. For almost a half of people all over the world, it is also a while when they evaluate what they have done during the year and what they should change in the upcoming year. In the U.S., 45% of people make New Year resolutions.

Have you ever wondered what New Year's resolutions others are making? USA.gov released a list of the 10 most popular New Year's resolutions:

1. Get Fit
2. Eat Healthy Food
3. Lose Weight
4. Drink Less Alcohol
5. Manage Debt
6. Volunteer to Help Others
7. Quit Smoking
8. Get a Better Job or Education
9. Save Money
10. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle

For most individuals, a New Year's resolution revolves around getting fit, eating healthier and losing weight. For that reason, we have some tips for a healthy and safe way to meeting your New Year's resolutions.

## Be Healthy and Safe in 2017

According to the CDC, here are five healthy and safety tips for the New Year:

1. Don't tackle your New Year's resolutions on your own. Find reliable health resources online to help you along the way.



2. Avoid injury whenever possible, which can be done by wearing a helmet when riding a bike, applying sunscreen when out in the sun to avoid damage to the skin (cancer), and/or applying insect repellent when outdoors to avoid disease from virus-carrying insects.

3. Take the time to learn a few healthy lifestyle changes or tips that take just a few minutes to incorporate into your daily routine. This means that you can start living healthy with just a few moments of your time making it ideal for those on-the-go moments.

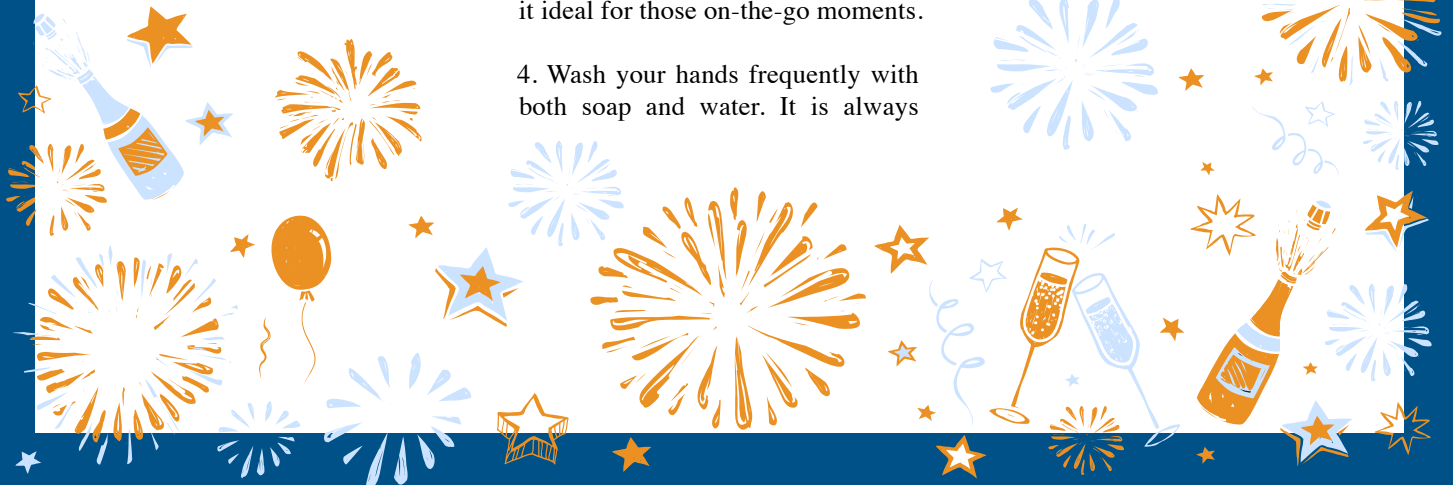
4. Wash your hands frequently with both soap and water. It is always



helpful to carry a small bottle of alcohol-based hand sanitizer in your purse, bag or car to ensure that if soap and water are not available that you can stay clean.

5. Make a doctor's appointment to ensure you and everyone in your family are up-to-date on their vaccinations. Depending on your age, schedule yourself for a mammogram or prostate screening (as well as any other exams or screenings that are necessary pertinent to your age).

By making and following through with your New Year's resolution to lose weight, get fit and/or eat healthier, you can improve your quality of life.





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.

**Lucky River Poker Club**

Contact Mike Watkins, Watkins9111@att.net

**Ladies Game Night brought to you by AllMyHomeGirls**

**LCR** (Left,Right,Center) Is the 1st Monday of the month, 7:00 pm.

**BunKo** is the 2nd Monday of the month, 7:00 pm.

**LCR Wild** is the LAST Monday of the month, 7:00 pm.

A nice way to make new friends. Ladies Game Nights are hosted and/or co-hosted by attendees - no pressure to host until you have attended several and feel comfortable with the group! We are booked for hostesses through December 2017 (don't want to frighten anyone away until they have met us!)

Contact: Elissa Sherlock esherlock@me.com or Susan Kennedy (Welcome Chair)

Have an organized group not listed? Jeep Club, Music, Sports, Classic Cars, Mommy Groups?  
Please contact communications@miralagoshoa.com.

## 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.

# 🎬 Erik's Top 10 🎬 CHRISTMAS MOVIES



**10**

**Die Hard** - There are two types of people out there those who know that *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie and those that haven't been informed. While Bruce Willis portrays John McClane a machine-gun wielding cop who saves the day during Christmas

**5**

**The Nightmare Before Christmas** - Tim Burton gives us a dark and mysterious stop-motion film of Jack Skellington who winds up traveling from his Halloween town to Christmas Town

**4**

**Home Alone** - 1 kid, a house, and an R rated movie versus 2 adults, how did Kevin get left at home while his family is on vacation? Why is Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern so set on robbing his house, who knows but it's a fun movie to watch with the kids

**9**

**Elf** - Will Ferrell gets to be an over the top Christmas loving elf, who is on the hunt to find his dad, but what happens when his dad is on the naughty list? It's a good kind of funny that always gets me in the holiday mood

**3**

**A Christmas Story** - All he wanted was an Official Red Ryder Carbine-Action Two-Hundred-Shot Range Model Air Rifle! If you haven't seen this, turn the tv on a week before Christmas and you'll find it airing on 2-5 stations

**8**

**Scrooged** - The evil TV executive Bill Murray who falls into Richard Donner's twist on *A Christmas Carol*. A little dark but fun to watch someone realize there's more to life than money.

**7**

**The Muppet Christmas Carol** - Jim Henson's Muppets retell this Dickens classic, with a fun musical backdrop

**2**

**National Lampoons Christmas Vacation** - A true Christmas classic featuring every family disaster possible during the holidays.

**6**

**Miracle on 34th St.** - Who puts Santa on trial? Les Mayfield directed the original and he was bold enough to try. Watch and enjoy the Miracle that only Christmas can provide

**1**

**It's a Wonderful Life** - What great story of a man on the brink of ending his life who is shown the importance of life.

# Ten Reasons Trees Die

## #10 Tree not adapted to North Central Texas heat.

A native or adapted tree will tolerate North Central Texas' long hot summers, the occasional cold winter and alkaline soil. Trees grown in others parts of the country may not thrive, or even survive, here due to these factors. Non-adapted trees can have a very short life span, problems with insects, diseases and/or leaf drop.

## #9 Not adapted to alkaline/clay soil.

A native or adapted tree will tolerate North Central Texas' long hot summers, the occasional cold winter and alkaline soil. Trees grown in others parts of the country may not thrive, or even survive, here due to these factors. Non-adapted trees can have a very short life span, problems with insects, diseases and/or leaf drop.

## #8 Trunk was damaged during transportation/ planting.

Be careful about damaging the bark while moving the tree. The vascular system (similar to our own veins and arteries) of a tree is directly under the bark. Since a young tree has thin bark, it is very easily damaged. If the damage is severe the tree will die because it lost its ability to transport water/nutrients from the roots to the stems and leaves. Avoid damage by transporting it in a manner that keeps the trunk bark from rubbing or hitting any surfaces in the vehicle and by carrying the tree by the container, not the trunk.

## #7 The wire used to stake or label the tree was never removed.

Remove all tags from the tree. Keep the tags, with the planting date, for your records. Do not stake

a tree unless necessary. Most trees don't require staking unless the tree is located in a windy area. Cover the staking wire that contacts the trunk or limbs with pieces of garden hose or similar material so the wire doesn't cut into the tree. Remove the stakes and wire in 6 months to a year. If left around a tree or limb, a wire can girdle a tree, which cuts off the supply of water and nutrients.

## #6 Tree was planted too deeply.

Plant the tree so the root ball sits firmly on the bottom of the hole with the top of the root ball even with the surrounding soil or slightly higher. It is important that you don't plant the tree too deep. Start by digging the hole the same depth as the root ball. Then dig the width of the hole at least twice the width of the root ball. After placing the tree in the hole, fill the void with the original soil (after removing any rocks or debris). Water thoroughly to settle the soil and tree. Cover the exposed earth with 6"- 8" of bark mulch right up to, but not touching, the trunk.

## #5 Tree was not healthy when purchased.

Select a healthy tree. Check the tree for any splits in the bark, broken branches, insects and healthy white roots. If it is possible to inspect the roots of a tree before purchase, do not buy the tree if the tree has encircling roots. However, if the tree has been purchased with encircling roots, spread the roots before planting or cut through them. New roots will grow where you cut the circling roots. If left untouched, circling roots could eventually girdle the tree and strangle it.

## #4 String trimmer or lawnmower damage to trunks.

A tree trunk hit by a string trimmer and/or lawn

mower will lose part of the vascular system. If the tree is hit too often, the tree will die. Keep a thick layer of bark mulch around the tree. This cuts down on evaporation of water from the root zone, moderates the soil temperature, helps control weeds and keeps the trimmer and mower away from the trunk.

## #3 Roots over dried while waiting for the hole to be dug.

Keep the tree watered until you plant it. Many a tree has over dried while it waited for the end of football/hockey/basketball season. Place the tree in the landscape where you want to plant it. This will help acclimate it to the light and wind. Most container grown trees need water every day during the heat of the summer.

## #2 Leaves dehydrated while being driven down the highway.

Don't transport a tree in the back of a truck, sticking out of a car window or a car trunk without covering the tree. Cover it with a bed sheet or similar cover. If not covered, the wind will dehydrate leaves and small limbs. As a result, the tree may drop its leaves later.

## #1 Lack of water or over-watering during the first 18 months.

And the #1 killer of newly planted trees.... is lack of water or over-watering during the first 18 months. It usually takes at least that long for tree roots to become established and help the tree survive hot, dry North Central Texas summers. During this time, use the soil wetness test on a weekly basis to guide your watering schedule. See the previous section, Watering and Mulching, regarding the use of an iron rebar probe to conduct a wetness test.



# Recipe of the Month

## Pull Apart Apple Cinnamon Bread



by Cynthia Prox

Preheat oven to: 375 degrees  
9 x 5 loaf pan

**Ingredients:**

- 1 roll large 8 count biscuits
- 2 tsp Cinnamon
- 2 c. Sugar
- 2 Tbsp Brown Sugar
- 2 Diced Apples
- 6 tbsp or 1 stick Melted Butter

**Directions:**

- Peel, remove core and dice apples. Mix with 2 tbsp brown sugar, 2 tbsp granulated sugar & 1 tsp cinnamon. Set aside.
- Cut biscuits into quarters. Roll biscuit dough into balls, dip in butter, roll in sugar cinnamon mixture and place layer in the bottom of loaf pan.
- Layer with apples and with biscuit dough and top with layer of apples.
- Bake for 40 mins or until crust is brown.

## Garbage and Recycling Schedule

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.

**Garbage Holiday Schedule**

**There will be no garbage or recycling collection on the following dates:**

- Thursday, Nov. 23, 2016 (Thanksgiving Day)
- Monday, Dec. 25, 2017 (Christmas Day)
- Monday, Jan. 1, 2018 (New Year's Day)

**Note:** There will be no makeup collection for the holiday. Please set out your garbage and/or recycling on your next regularly scheduled collection day.

**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. If you have contractors that cut and prune your trees and shrubs, make sure the limbs are either cut and bundled or taken to the landfill by the contractor.

Bagged leaves and shrubs will be collected with household garbage, but not grass clippings. Grass clippings can simply be left on your lawn or used as compost for gardens. (For information on the "Don't Bag It" Yard Care or Master Composter programs, call 972-237-8061 or e-mail [composting@gptx.org](mailto:composting@gptx.org).)

The City of Grand Prairie also operates a Limb and 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. Call 972-237-8525 for more information.



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



**FirstService**  
RESIDENTIAL



## Thank you

### DJ Shon Daniels

Thank you very much Resident DJ Shon Daniels for providing your DJ services at our Mira Lagos Annual Fall Festival and Vendor Fair. The music was just perfect for the kids and the parents to enjoy and do a little dancing. For more information on DJ Shon and his services email [shon.daniels04@yahoo.com](mailto:shon.daniels04@yahoo.com) or call 817-521-0076.



# HO HO HO!!!

## Come and join us for photos with Santa!

### December 2nd, 2017 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Mira Lagos HOA will provide Hot Chocolate, and BJ's Restaurant will provide yummy Pizookie Cookies. A Mira Lagos Homeowner photographer, Michael Enoch, will be on hand to capture those special moments with Santa.

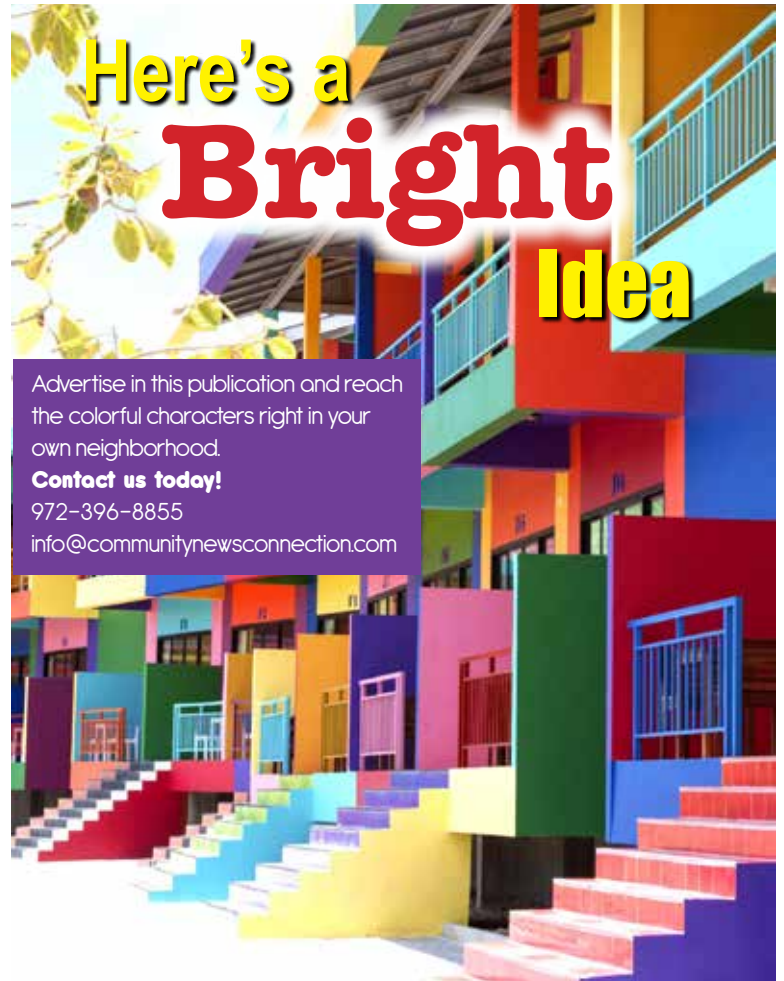


In case of any weather changes, please make sure the onsite office has your most current email address by emailing [admin@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:admin@miralagoshoa.com).



### Grandparents are you sitting home bored? Do you need something to exercise your mind?

Tarrant County Southeast Campus located at 2100 Southeast Pkwy, Arlington, TX 76108 has a unique Senior Education Program for those 55 years and older. They offer a variety of courses, from current events and history to arts and crafts. Spring registration begins December 6, 2017. Classes will begin January 22nd, 2018. Please check [www.tccd.edu/academics/cie/lifelong-learning/senior-education/](http://www.tccd.edu/academics/cie/lifelong-learning/senior-education/) for more information!



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# Thank You!

### A very special thank you to all of the committee volunteers for 2017.

We know and understand that life is busy, that's precisely why the time and energy that you devote to this community is so important to us. We appreciate you and the great efforts that you all express in helping make this community a wonderful, beautiful and pleasant neighborhood to live in. Your continued efforts into 2018 will be an enduring asset to the Mira Lagos Community.

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*Mira Lagos Expert*



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### 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)**