

June 2017

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MIRA LAGOS

# Messenger



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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)



## Association Contact Information

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

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817-473-6787 (office)  
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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 and Lisa Watkins,  
Co-Chairs  
[landscape@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:landscape@miralagoshoa.com)  
Meetings: 1st Wednesday monthly

### Pool and Sports

Mike Joffrion  
[poolsandsports@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:poolsandsports@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  
Jessica Cafferata, Treasurer  
John Hughes, Director  
[board@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:board@miralagoshoa.com)



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](http://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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# **Making Mira Lagos Magnificent “The 3M Program”**

*By: Mariah Burdette*

The 3M Program is meant for the entire community of Mira Lagos and for all the residents living here.

**What?**

The purpose of 3M is to encourage all members of Mira Lagos to join a community wide clean up initiative.

**WHEN?**

It's simple - when walking take a bag and pick up trash along your path, or when driving around in surrounding areas.

**WHY? This program should exist for several reasons:**

- To keep the Mira Lagos community clean and in tip top shape all year round.
- To keep our community complete with a beautiful landscape and welcoming atmosphere.
- To keep our community safe for all residents and visitors.
- Improper disposal of trash can cause harm to come not only to our environment but environments in

surrounding counties and cities.

- To increase morale to recycle.
- Because we all care about our community and its surroundings.
- Invite other residents to clean their street and/or areas close by possibly every third Saturday.

**WHERE?**

Residents are asked to clean any area in the Mira Lagos community. This can range from sidewalks to nearby ponds, around trails, on your street, and near fields and parks.

**EXTRA! EXTRA!**

In order to bring more attention to this event residents of Mira Lagos can be invited to join in the effort and event. Via the Nextdoor app, the community newsletter, emails, and neighborhood events.

Pictures of trash collection can be taken and placed on Nextdoor, Facebook, Instagram, and other social media to bring awareness and support to this initiative.



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



"Christina as an agent is the consummate professional realtor. She is accessible, knowledgeable, timely, resourceful, and most importantly successful. As a person she is kind, considerate, patient, everything you would want in an agent!!" - Lucie Muns

**FREE MARKET ANALYSIS**  
Christina Kang 817.739.7433

**Beat the Heat This Summer!**

- Change the AC filter regularly.
- Install solar screens windows with high heat gain.
- Programmable thermostats are great!
- Get magnetic vent covers for AC vents in unused rooms & redirect air flow.
- Get a competitive quote on your electric service (send your last electric bill to me at [Christina@DreamhomeDFW.com](mailto:Christina@DreamhomeDFW.com) and I'll get a bid for you from Reliant Energy. I have a contact with rates lower than what are offered to the public.
- Recaulk windows every five years to seal leaks around windows.
- Take advantage of "free energy audits" to see where you are losing energy.
- Consider adding extra insulation. It's an inexpensive way to help!



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



## Dear Erik

Hello neighbors my name is Erik Shinkle, I moved here 8 months ago from California. I am married to my lovely wife going on 15 years and we have two children. I spent 13 years in the military and so far, love Texas and the opportunities it has given our family. I am the new chairperson for our HOA communications committee.

I would like to start a section of our newsletter designed for our residents to ask questions and have them answered by me. Please ask me anything, from HOA questions to Military advice, from cooking to Guns and I will select a few to be answered each month. Questions can be emailed to me directly at [communications@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:communications@miralagoshoa.com).

*I hope to hear from you.*



# Block Party



Is your street interested in throwing a block party? Not sure what you need to do? Let's cover the basics. Block parties can be a great way to meet your neighbors, build relationships and have fun. Where should you start?

1. Pick a date, get a few organizers together and delegate duties. Pick 2-3 dates and ask your neighbors what dates they can attend, to maximize participation. Pick a theme, have name tags you may know everyone but not all your neighbors know one another.
2. Block off the street to be safe you will need to get a block party application approved by the GPPD. Visit [gptx.org](http://gptx.org) and search for Block party application, you will need this form to have your street blocked off. The concern of accident liability has many steering clear of allowing the BBQ grill or bounce house on their property. How to handle this worry? One source said they have homeowners sign a waiver to protect homeowners and reduce potential neighborhood tension.
3. What to eat? BBQing, catering, potluck so many options, manning the grill and enjoying a beverage is my favorite, whatever your street decides, make sure everyone is on board, maybe a few neighbors want their entrée catered and others want to cook, go for it. The intent is to mingle and enjoy each other. Many neighborhoods opt for each family to bring their own beverages (although some will provide soft drinks) and often ask every family to donate a set amount to offset the cost of the meat, prizes for the kiddies and entertainment.
4. Entertainment, DJ's, block rockers, garage-stereos, bounce houses, bean-bag toss, washers, face paintings, snow cones, sack races, make it fun! Come up with games for all ages, maybe get a street block party trophy, for the winner. Have a pie eating contest, or egg toss (please clean the street if you do) water balloon toss for the kids or adults. There are way too many ideas to list, talk to your neighbors and see what they like.
5. Other ideas, Ask the local police and fire department if they would stop by for a mini hands on seminar for the kids. Have a bike decorating contest, chili cook off, or live entertainment.
6. Have a plan, be safe, have sunscreen, first aid kits, water and shade available. If you're going to have alcohol be safe. Don't try and ride a mini dirt bike with a fire-works mortar launcher duct-taped to a helmet and shoot off fire-works while popping a wheelie! Let's have the neighbors talking about what a great time they had and not telling the story of how the fire depart showed up.
7. Clean up! Nothing is worse than being the neighbor that didn't help, if you played help clean up. Designate a house for trash. Make sure you have bags, and containers out for trash and recyclables.



Backpack and Food drive  
June 1st to August 5th

Please help the kids in Grand Prairie that need help by donating a new backpack and canned food  
Bags can be dropped off at the HOA office  
3025 S. Camino Lagos | Grand Prairie, Texas 75054

## Something is Hidden. Can you find it?



We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, small trash can  
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.**



Lake Ridge Eagle Band Boosters



Carnival Rides

Games

Food

Join the Eagle Band and Talley Amusements  
A New Tradition Begins

When: Thursday, June 8, 2017 to Sunday, June 11, 2017

Time: 5pm - Midnight

Where: Newsom Stadium Parking Lot

Method of Payment at Carnival: Cash or Credit Card only

# CPR Class

Thu, Jul 13, 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM  
Cora Spencer Elementary



The Mira Lagos HOA and Safety Committee is once again hosting our CPR Class. This during this class you will learn how to perform life-saving CPR. We have hosted this class for the last 7 years and it has always filled up very fast. At the completion of this class you will receive an American Heart Association CPR card.

This class is free to residents of Mira Lagos. Please RSVP at [Safety@Miralagoshoa.com](mailto:Safety@Miralagoshoa.com)

Robert McLain, Safety Committee Chair

## Important Information!



*Please note the following important changes being made to Online Payments*

**ClickPay** will be our new and preferred provider for accepting homeowner payments made online began May 22, 2017.

Payments made by e-check (ACH) and credit or debit card through our existing online payment provider will be disabled on May 21, 2017. Homeowners will be required to activate their new account with ClickPay on or after May 22, 2017 in order to make payments online.

**For questions about these upcoming changes, please contact [ClickPay@FSResidential.com](mailto:ClickPay@FSResidential.com).**



## Amenities and Fitness Center

The ground has been broken the earth has been injected! We can all see that progress but what about anything else? Well as of May first the HOA board and the builders have sat down to discuss timelines, safety and laying the groundwork for the internal design. Our lead contractor is waiting for the soil samples to be given the ok to start pouring concrete and getting our foundation set. There are several contracts the board is in the process of approving, the gym equipment, the furniture, and even the door locks. The gym equipment is going to be equal to that of a private gym, and it's all ours to use! The TENTATIVE completion date is December of 2017, please keep in mind this date can be influenced by a number of different factors. I'm excited to see the progress and can't wait until it's finished. We will keep the residents updated each month as the building progress's.

# Father's Day



*By Erik Shinkle*

In May we have mother's day and how fitting they go first, like my grandfather used to say "well they've done all the work up until now." We celebrate Father's Day second because maybe men don't like to be celebrated, maybe we don't like the spotlight, let's face it men we know just what every mom wants on mother's day, and that's a day off (hopefully we don't mess up the house too bad on Sunday and mom has extra work on Monday.) In most cases men are different, we want a day on, activity, exploring, maybe a new tie, or a nice shirt, I always enjoy a homemade card. Maybe its chivalry or maybe it's just because Father's Day comes second because Mother's Day was already being celebrated and June was the open month? If you ask historians they will tell you about a church in West Virginia who had a celebration for fathers and a year later a woman named Sonora Smart Dodd in Washington who after listening to a sermon on Mother's Day decided to honor her father. The nation's first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, in the state of Washington. However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official. That the day honoring fathers became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

Last month I talked about my mom and mentioned that my mom and dad were not together. My mother and father quickly learned the only thing about each other they tolerated was me so they had joint custody of me. I can always remember my dad being there for me, despite the hour or longer commute in Los Angeles traffic to come see me, or to be at an event. I grew up in the 80's and dirt track racing was the best; my dad was a mechanic at the time and he used to race. So, going to the track on a Sunday night then driving out to my mom's house was our routine. I got a call one Friday night when he was supposed to come get me, he said "Erik the guys are racing out by your moms tonight we can go but might miss the first couple of races, or we can come back to my house," without hesitation "I want to go!" so he drove out to pick me up. Traffic was a little bad he said and asked if I wanted to go again, I was in. we got on the road and traffic, half an hour later traffic, an hour we started to question it, three hours later we made it to the track, we watched the final race and drove home.... No traffic. See for me it didn't matter how late we were I just spent 5 hours in the car with my dad, I got to sit up front and he didn't treat me like a kid. I got to adjust the radio, sing the lyrics out loud with him to the songs I knew, If I was hot I could roll my window down. We talked about racing we didn't worry about the fact that it took us 3 hours to drive 35 miles, we enjoyed the time together. I'll never forget that time, and my dad and I still talk about it 25 years later. Making memories and being there for me was always my dad's greatest accomplishment.

***I want to wish all our dads a happy Father's Day!***



# Congratulations Yard of the Month Winners

1. El Llano - 2947 Albares
2. Las Brisas - 7227 Brisa Dr.
3. La Tierra - 7259 Roble
4. Valencia - 2720 Ponce De Leon
5. Marbella - 2752 Fuente

6. Bella Vista - 2851 England Pkwy
7. Bella Vista - 2952 England Pkwy
8. La Pradera - 7274 Mirada
9. El Arroyo - 7403 Gallo
10. Cordova - 3059 Nadar

11. El Sendero - 2803 Tranquilo
12. El Mirador - 2815 Mastil
13. Sonora - 6919 Nava
14. La Ensenada - 2935 N Camino Lagos
15. Escondido - 2951 Lavanda





# Juneteenth

## a history in the United States and Texas

On June 19 ("Juneteenth"), 1865, Union general Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and issued General Order Number 3, which read, "The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired labor. The freed are advised to remain at their present homes, and work for wages. They are informed that they will not be allowed to collect at military posts; and that they will not be supported in idleness either there or elsewhere." The tidings of freedom reached the approximately 250,000 slaves in Texas gradually as individual plantation owners informed their slaves over the months following the end of the war. The news elicited an array of personal celebrations, some of which have been described in *The Slave Narratives of Texas* (1974). The first broader celebrations of Juneteenth were used as political rallies and to teach freed African American about their voting rights. Within a short time, however, Juneteenth was marked by festivities throughout the state, some of which were organized by official Juneteenth committees.

Juneteenth, also known as Juneteenth Independence Day or Freedom Day, is a holiday that commemorates the June 19, 1865 announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas, and more generally the emancipation of African-American slaves throughout the Confederate South. Celebrated on June 19, the word is a combination of "June" and "nineteenth". Juneteenth is recognized as a state holiday or special day of observance in most states.

In 1980, Texas was the first state to establish Juneteenth as a state holiday under legislation introduced by freshman Democratic state representative Al Edwards. Juneteenth is a "skeleton crew" day in the state; government offices do not close but agencies may operate with reduced staff.

By 2008, nearly half of US states observed the holiday as a ceremonial observance. As of May 2016, when the Maryland legislature approved official recognition of the holiday, 45 of the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have recognized Juneteenth as either a state holiday or ceremonial holiday, a day of observance. States that do not recognize it are Hawaii, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota and South Dakota.

In 1996, the first legislation to recognize "Juneteenth Independence Day" was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives, H.J. Res. 195, sponsored by Barbara-Rose Collins (D-MI). In 1997 Congress recognized the day through Senate Joint Resolution 11 and House Joint Resolution 56. In 2013, the U.S. Senate passed Senate Resolution 175, acknowledging Lula Briggs Galloway (late president of the National Association of Juneteenth Lineage) who "successfully worked to bring national recognition to Juneteenth Independence Day", and the continued leadership of the National Juneteenth Observance Foundation.

**We can celebrate locally in Grand Prairie with a parade that begins at Grand Prairie City Hall Plaza and continues to Tyre Park. The parade is followed by free food, music and entertainment. Hope to see you there.**





## HOA POOL RULES

1. **NO LIFEGUARD** on duty. Swim at your own risk.
2. Children under the age of 14 **MUST** be accompanied by a resident, 18 years or older, possessing a valid pool card.
3. Only 4 guests allowed per residence. A resident, 18 years or older, possessing a valid pool card, **MUST** accompany all guests.
4. Proper swimwear required.
5. Persons with skin diseases, open sores or wounds, inflamed eyes, nasal or ear infections or any communicable diseases are not allowed to use the pool.
6. For the health and safety of the residents, rubber pants in addition to swim diapers are **REQUIRED** for all non-toilet trained children.
7. **NO** water wings allowed without a **U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest**, properly fitted with age and with adult supervision. **NO** rafts allowed.
8. **NO** diving allowed.
9. **NO** pets, **NO** smoking, **NO** alcohol or glass objects of any kind allowed in pool area. **NO** food or drink allowed in the pool water.
10. Radios and other noise should be maintained at a low level at all times.
11. **DO NOT** ride bikes, tricycles, scooters, roller blades, skateboards, or any other similar vehicle in the pool area.
12. Running, roughhousing or general horseplay that may endanger the safety of others is **NOT** allowed.
13. Foul language and/or threatening behavior will **NOT** be tolerated.
14. Emergency equipment is to be used for emergencies only.
15. Access to the equipment room is restricted.
16. **NO** trespassing after pool hours or during pool closures.
17. The Homeowners Association or Management Company is not responsible for personal property, accidents, injuries or theft.
18. **VANDALISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.** To report vandalism, call police immediately, then notify Management Company **817-473-6787**.
19. **Pools WILL CLOSE during inclement weather.**
20. **In case of EMERGENCY, CALL 911.**

**Violation of pool rules may lead to revoking of pool privileges  
and/or criminal prosecution.**

## Recipes of the Month

### *Chamomile-Strawberry-Orange Cold-Brewed Tea*

#### **Ingredients**

- 8 chamomile tea bags
- 12 cups filtered water, at room temperature
- 2 small juice oranges (thin-skinned), peeled, cut into slices, and seeded
- 24 large strawberries, halved
- 4 teaspoons honey
- 4 teaspoons hot water

#### **How to Make It**

1. Place 1 tea bag and 1 1/2 cups water in each of 8 pint-size canning jars with lids. Place 2 orange slices and 6 strawberry halves in each jar. Cover with lids; refrigerate 12 to 24 hours.
2. Remove tea bags from jars. Combine honey and 4 teaspoons hot water. Divide honey mixture evenly among jars (about 1 scant teaspoon in each).



### *Chicken and White Bean Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette*

#### **Ingredients**

- 3 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
- 2 teaspoons country Dijon mustard
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 2 tablespoons minced shallot
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 3 cups chopped cooked chicken
- 1 (15.5-oz.) can cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 (6-oz.) bag microwave steam-in-bag snow peas, steamed according to package directions and sliced into 1-inch pieces
- 3 cups shredded purple cabbage
- 2 oranges, sectioned
- 6 tablespoons roasted sliced almonds with salt

#### **How to Make It**

1. Whisk together orange juice, vinegar, Dijon mustard, honey, shallot, salt, and pepper in a large bowl; slowly whisk in olive oil.
2. Add the chicken, cannellini beans, snow peas, purple cabbage, and oranges to the bowl. Toss the salad in the dressing until all the ingredients are thoroughly coated. Divide salad among 6 plates, and top each plate with 1 Tbsp. sliced almonds.





# Flag Day

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States, which happened on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.[1] The United States Army also celebrates the U.S. Army Birthdays on this date; Congress adopted "the American continental army" after reaching a consensus position in the Committee of the Whole on June 14, 1775

The week of June 14 June 11–17, 2017 is designated as "National Flag Week." During National Flag Week, the president will issue a proclamation urging U.S. citizens to fly the American flag for the duration of that week. The flag should also be displayed on all government buildings. Some organizations, hold parades and events in celebration of America's national flag and everything it represents.

If you are interested in putting a flag pole or attaching a flag holder to your house please request an ACC approval before doing so. Mira Lagos will proudly support the flying of the American Flag in our community.

## Painting Problem Tricks to Try

Are you a messy painter and usually have more paint on your hands and arms than the project? Try spraying your uncovered skin with cooking spray before you begin your project for easy cleaning without scrubbing. You can also use solid vegetable shortening after painting. Both techniques will work if using latex or oil based paint.

Do paint smells bother you? Try adding a tablespoon of vanilla extract per gallon to any type paint which can help to neutralize strong smells. The extract will not affect the color of the paint.

Painting metal or plastic surfaces? To help paint adhere better to metal and keep it from cracking, rub a sponge dampened with vinegar on the metal surface before painting. For plastic surfaces, rub the plastic with a used fabric softener sheet.

Have white paint and want to add color? Try slowly adding a pack or portion of 'unsweetened' powdered drink mix into the white paint until the desired color is reached.

Spill paint on the carpet? Before calling a professional carpet cleaner, try to remove as much paint with a paper towel as possible and then cover the spill with white flour which absorbs the paint helping for an easier clean up.





## A message from our local Ducks!! Thank you for not feeding us bread.

Bread makes us ill, as it does not contain the right nutrition or calories that we need to keep us warm in the winter.

Rotting bread pollutes our water and causes nasty surface algae, which kills our fish and gives us diseases. It also makes our water smell.

### We do like:

- Half cut seedless grapes
- Cooked rice
- Birdseed (any type of mix)
- Peas
- Corn
- Oats
- Chopped lettuce

# Tips for Better iPhone Photos



- Clean the lens on your iPhone before taking photos
- Take lots and lots of photos – more options for a least one great photo
- Avoid using the flash – natural light like a window, sunrise and sunset is best
- Avoid using zoom – distorts resolution of photos
- Turn the grid setting on for centering your photo subject
- Turn the HDR setting on for clearer, brighter photos
- When taking a photo, tap the screen for focusing, then swipe up/down for light exposure
- Always edit your photos!

Here are a few free apps to download and edit your photos:

- Adobe Photoshop Lightroom for iPhone
- Aviary iPhone App
- Snapseed iPhone App



## STAR SERVICE

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



Be Genuinely Helpful



Aim High



Improve It



Build Great Relationships



Own It



Do What's Right



# NOTARY SERVICES


The On-site Manager, Stacy McGrath, and Assistant Manager, Matt Urbaniak are Notaries for Mira Lagos Free to the residents needing services. Please make an appointment at [manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com).

*Graduation Announcement*



Tyler Brooks, the son of Eric and Ruth Brooks will be graduating from Lake Ridge High School. After graduation Tyler plans to attend Texas Wesleyan University and play soccer.

*Congratulations Tyler and the Brooks house!*



## 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!"



**Reach Your Neighbors!  
Advertise in this Magazine!**



Contact Community News Connection for more information:

**972-396-8855**

[info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com)

## Grand Prairie Snap & Send!



Grand Prairie residents using the city's new "Snap and Send" app can now report issues, such as street light outages and code violations, using their smartphones. The app, currently compatible with iPhone, iPad and iPod touch, allows users to specify the location of an issue and attach a photo to send directly to city staff as well as track the status of their service requests.

Search "Snap and Send Grand Prairie TX" in the Apple App Store and download for free. The city plans to make the app available for Android users in the future.

Residents can also report issues directly through the city's website at [gptx.org/report](http://gptx.org/report) or call city offices at 972-237-8000.

# Summer Travel Tips

By Erik Shinkle



## 1. Know thy airport.

Take a look at the airport's website and terminal map to get an idea ahead of time of things such as your eating options, the locations of family restrooms, and the availability of kids' play areas for children to work off some energy.

## 2. Anticipate flight delays.

Summer thunderstorms can delay flights as much as snow. Bring lots of good, healthy snacks, so if you're delayed in the terminal — or worse, on the tarmac — you and your family will be fine.

## 3. Check out the library.

The local library in your vacation destination probably has visitor passes so you can check out real books instead of using your expensive e-reader that doesn't do well in sun and sand. If there's a rainy day, this could be a nice hangout for the family, as libraries usually have great tween and kids' sections. There's also access to computers to print out boarding passes.

## 4. Take a break.

Every day, make sure you build in a break around 3 or 4 p.m., when everyone's energy and fuses run short. Take a nap, read, write in a journal and let teens have time on their phones. That way, everyone will be rested and recharged for dinner.

## 5. Create some house rules.

If you're renting a house this summer, print out a house rules page with a list of daily chores that need to be done, such as washing dishes, restocking toilet paper and taking out the trash. If you don't, you'll be the one who is cleaning up after everyone, and that's no vacation.

## 6. Picnic in the park.

Locate the best public park for an afternoon picnic. Young kids can play on the equipment, older kids can kick a ball or throw a Frisbee, and adults can sit down and relax.

## 7. Game Changer: Travel Apps

Travel apps have seriously changed my life and made my travels easier. I love FlightAware, as it allows me to track my inbound flight. AroundMe tells me what's near me, including ATMs, restaurants and emergency rooms. I also like iExit while I'm on the road to see what exit is best for gas and food.

## 8. Call your credit or debit card company before traveling

The last thing you want is to be reported for suspicious activity and not have access to your money.

## 9. When packing your suitcase, roll your clothes to save space and avoid wrinkles.

This is how many flight attendants pack.

## 10. If you're heading to a theme park or the beach, put your phone in a plastic bag to prevent it from getting wet.

A ruined phone is bad enough. A ruined phone on vacation in a different city/state/country is even worse.

## 11. How to Keep Kids Occupied

If your destination is hours away, pre-make binders for each child that include a coloring book, blank paper, crossword puzzles and activity sheets. Also include a zipper bag of crayons and writing utensils.

## 12. Pack Old Underthings?

This tip makes me chuckle but packing light might be one way to bring home extra souvenirs, but so is packing your oldest undergarments. As you and your family wear old undergarments throughout the trip, throw them out the next day. This lightens your suitcase and/or makes room for cool souvenirs along the way.

# Mason Jar Salads to Go



Mason Jars were once mainly used for canning jellies and jams. Today, social media has given us countless ideas in which to use Mason jars. Ideas like backyard hanging tea lights, vases for fresh flowers, filling with fun gifts especially designed for teachers, birthdays or baby showers. Mason jars are also excellent for making salads to go.

Make your favorite salad in several Mason jars for a week of easy convenient lunches. Salads in Mason jars can be a unique way to serve your guests at your next dinner party or supper club.

Here are a few basic rules to follow when making salads in Mason jars:

- Choose the size jars right for your needs; washed and dried.
- Begin layering wet ingredients first such as tomatoes, cucumbers, fruit and dressing.
- Next layer less moist items such as carrots, beans, peas, and corn.
- The top should be reserved for protein, greens and crunch.
- Fill the jar full to keep ingredients from shifting too much.
- Salads can be stored in the fridge for about 10 days
- When you are ready to eat your salad, shake, shake, shake and enjoy!

## Travel with **Power** and **Organization**

Do you love to travel, travel for work or are you going on vacation soon? You might want to consider a backpack that actually has a battery built in for charging laptops and smart phones. The convenience and comfort of a backpack with a phone, pad or media charger can keep your devices powered and ready to go. Most of the technical backpacks come with specific media pockets for keeping organized, are TSA security approved and have lifetime warranties.

Is a backpack too small for your travels? A business called Away (Awaytravel.com), offers unbreakable, light weight carry-on luggage in different sizes and colors which include built in batteries for smart phones and USB devices. The battery is built in and placed on the top of the carry-on for convenient accessibility. The carry-ons from Away provide a smooth 360° rotation, scratch resistant surface, a lifetime warranty and also have a TSA-approved lock.

Organization can empower people at home, at work and especially when they travel. Shelfpack (Shelfpack.com) is a company that offers a suitcase with integrated shelves. The suitcase has four shelves that pull up and collapse into the suitcase providing a portable 'dresser' for travelers. You can pack your clothes and place them on the shelves then collapse the shelves and zip the suitcase. This suitcase is not a carry-on but is perfect for a longer stay.

Organize a suitcase you already own with the help from Rise Gear (www.RISEgear.com). This company has created a collapsible shelving insert which can be added to any suitcase. The shelving has compartments capable of



**RISE**™/M/C

holding up to 20lbs, a laundry compartment for dirty clothes and separate pocket for shoes. The inserts are equipped to hang in a closet or over a door. At home pack your clothes, shoes and accessories then collapse the insert into your suitcase or bag. Once you've reached your destination, simply remove the insert from your suitcase, hang it in a closet or over a door for a well-organized vacation.



**AWAY**

**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
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**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

**For additional information call:  
817-473-6787**

**Stacy McGrath**  
Association Manager

Email – [manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com)