



MIRA LAGOS

Messenger



*Thank you,
Veterans*

In This Issue

Diabetes Walk.....	3	Christmas Decorating Contest.....	5
Upcoming Events.....	4	Grand Prairie Library Events.....	8
Santa Cop.....	5	Veteran Day Parades.....	12

Who to Follow on Twitter

@MiraLagosHOA

Association Information and Neighborly News

@GrandPrairiePD

Grand Prairie Police Department

@gp_tx

City of Grand Prairie, Texas

@GrandFunGP

City Parks, Arts and Recreation Department

@mansfieldisd

Mansfield Independent School District

@Gpscanner

Grand Prairie Scanner, local Police, Fire, EMS

@DFWscanner

DFW Scanner, area Fire, Police, EMS

Who's your favorite? Tweet to @MiraLagosHOA with hashtag #MLMessenger!

Find us online at:

www.facebook.com/MiraLagosHOA

www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA



Association Contact Information

www.miralagoshoa.com

www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos

On-Site Management
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Cynthia Prox, Administrative Assistant
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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:
New 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

Carlos Cucalon
communications@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: monthly

Social

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

Landscape

Pam Downs and Lisa Watkins,
Co-Chairs
landscape@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: 1st Wednesday monthly

Welcome

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

Pool and Sports

Mike Joffrion
poolandsports@miralagoshoa.com
3rd Tuesday (Apr-Sept)

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

Safety

Robert McLain, Chairman
safety@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings:
1st Tuesday monthly



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817-743-4711 • keller@hsnt.org • www.hsnt.org

Mira Lagos Messenger

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It starts with YOU
Take the lead, fundraise for a cure.
Together we can Stop Diabetes®

Join the "Far South Grand Prairie (Grand Peninsula HOA and Mira Lagos HOA) Team" to walk in the City of Grand Prairie's Get Fit Prairie Team's STEP OUT Walk Stop Diabetes on Saturday, Nov. 5 at AirHogs Stadium (1600 Lone Star Parkway), Grand Prairie. The walk begins at 10:00 a.m., Race-Day registration begins at 8:00 a.m. This is appropriate for ALL ages! Bring families, and kids! Donations are not required to walk with the team, but walkers who donate \$10 or more will receive a Get Fit Team long-sleeve T-shirt. Donations may also be made on the link below. This is a health-issue that so many people are affected by, not just a few, it is something relatable to many that many might want to participate in, bring awareness to.

Let's set a goal to get at least 100 of our Grand Peninsula HOA and Mira Lagos HOA neighbors to be a part of this event, hoping to bring the two neighborhoods together in this event.

People are encouraged to join the Far South Grand Prairie Team" that is created online:

https://donations.diabetes.org/site/SPageServer/?pagename=OUT_homepage



Sunday, November 6th

Daylight Saving Time Ends History
 The first Sunday in November marks the end of Daylight Savings Time in the US. On this day, clocks are set back 1 hour, except for Hawaii and parts of Arizona which do not observe DST.

Daylight Saving Time Ends Facts

- In 2016, DST falls on the 6th of November.
- The dates for DST to begin and end were set forth by the US Congress in the Energy Act of 2005.
- Arizona, Hawaii, and four US territories (Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) do not observe Daylight Savings Time.
- Research suggest that daylight savings time is related to a rise in heart attacks, while the end of daylight savings time saw a slight decrease the first three days after the time change.

Methodist Mansfield Medical Center Auxiliary

presents

Holly Days Christmas Market

Saturday, November 12, 2016
 8am - 6pm

Methodist Mansfield Medical Center
 First Floor - Throughout Hospital

The 11th annual Holly Days Christmas Market offers a variety of unique gifts including, Home Décor, Clothing, Jewelry, Baked Goods, Raffles and much more!

Pictures with Santa 11am - 4pm

All proceeds benefit Methodist Mansfield Medical Center
 Contact Judy Teller, Director of Volunteer Services
 682-342-7301



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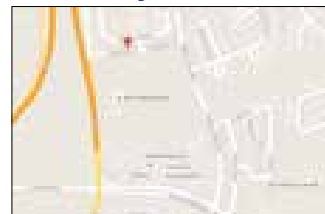
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Santa Cop Grand Prairie



The Santa Cop and Santa Spot programs are collecting new, unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items for Grand Prairie families in need during the holidays. Toys and non-perishable food items will be accepted throughout November.

You can make your donations at the Mira Lagos office located at 3025 S. Camino Lagos before December 3rd. December 3rd will be our community collection date at the Mira Lagos Tower at England/Broad/Day Miar and also the England/ Grand Peninsula 4way stop.

Santa Cop is especially in need of teenager appropriate gifts (purses, wallets, hand held electronic games, makeup, hair care products, etc.).

To make a cash donation, call 972-237-8882. All donations are tax deductible as Santa Cop is an IRS registered charitable organization.



The United States presidential election of 2016, scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2016, will be the 58th quadrennial U.S. presidential election.

The 2016 election will determine the 45th President and 48th Vice President of the United States.

Location to vote for Mira Lagos Residents:

Anna May Daulton Elementary School
2607 N. Grand Peninsula Dr.
Grand Prairie, TX 75054

2016 Christmas Decorating Contest

HO HO HO! The 2016 Christmas Decorating Contest will be held again this year. The Landscape Committee will be making a list and checking it twice to find the most festive houses in Mira Lagos. All decorated houses in every village will be considered for prizes. No need to enter, just decorate your houses with holiday cheer! Judging will be starting on December 14th and will be finalized by December 25th. You may nominate your favorite house for consideration by sending an email with the address to landscape@miralagoshoa.com.



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. 24, 2016 (Thanksgiving Day)**

There will be no makeup collection for the holiday. Please set out your garbage and/or recycling on your next regularly scheduled collection day. (Monday, November 28th)

Houseplants That Can Survive Neglect

By Kelly Wills

“As expressive as paintings and as appealing as antiques, houseplants bring life to every room” by Martha Stewart.

Inspired to bring life to every room in my home with houseplants, sans a green thumb, I found a few houseplants that can survive neglect.

Sansevieria (a.k.a. mother-in-law’s tongue) will soak up sunshine or low light and tolerate infrequent watering. Add a pretty pot filled with these shiny, spiky green and yellowish leaves as an interesting focal point to any room.

Jade Plant (a.k.a. lucky plant) is a succulent which means water is stored in their leaves. This green rounded leafy plant will go dormant without water and will restore itself once it is watered again. If you have a room with lots of natural lighting, this plant will be perfect.

Philodendron (or pothos) is a green climbing vine. It will survive in all lighting and irregular watering preferring a dry soil. Once the soil is dry and leaves droop, add water. This plant does not do well in direct sunlight so for a room with few windows and low light Philodendron will be an excellent choice.

Ponytail Palm has sleek bulb-like trunk with long curly dark green leaves. It is forgiving, requires infrequent watering, drought like conditions and bright light making this an ideal houseplant.

Green thumb or no, my house can have splashes of beautiful real living green houseplants bringing life to every room and so can yours!



Sansevieria



Ponytail Palm



Jade Plant



Philodendron

Brought to You By Your Neighbor &
Mira Lagos Expert



Wishing you and your family many blessings this Thanksgiving.
- Christina Kang

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS
Christina Kang 817.739.7433

Easy Ways to Keep Your Home Safe & Cozy This Winter

- Add more insulation to your attic.
- Caulk cracks around windows and doors to eliminate drafts.
- Add weather stripping to doors and windows when winterizing.
- Cover outdoor faucets and leave water dripping in freezing weather to help prevent burst pipes. Open sink base cabinets on cold nights.
- Install outlet gaskets on outlets located on outer walls.
- Change smoke detector batteries and test smoke detectors and fire extinguishers to make sure they are operational.
- Have a professional chimney sweep come out to clean your chimney and dryer vents to keep them clean and safe.
- Make sure your gas fireplace has a c-clamp on the flue to prevent carbon monoxide from building up in your home.



Happy Thanksgiving

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

National Night Out Success!

On Tuesday, October 4, more than 200 residents attended the National Night Out event hosted by the Mira Lagos HOA Safety Committee. The event started at 6:30pm and continued until 8:30pm. Residents enjoyed bounce houses, face painting, a balloon artist, and a live disc jockey. The City of Grand Prairie police department was in attendance with the Citizens on Patrol, police officers, SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics) personnel and vehicle, mounted patrol, and the "Shattered Dream" vehicle. Fire Station #10, located in Mira Lagos on Grand Peninsula Parkway, graciously attended and brought their new ladder truck. Many residents reported having fun learning about the SWAT vehicle and fire truck and having the opportunity to touch and climb through each vehicle. Code enforcement was on hand to answer questions and to provide free swag.

After building an appetite from all of the activities, residents enjoyed sandwiches from Chick-Fil-La then washed the yummy food down

with a choice of water, tea or lemonade. To satisfy any sweet tooth, the Snowbie Bus provided shaved ice - available with a large variety of flavors. Some residents' skipped dinner all together just to get their fill of cold, refreshing shaved ice.

The evening was filled with food, desserts, painted faces, balloons, police stickers and smiling faces.

Mayor Ron Jensen visited the event and mingled with residents for about an hour. He paused from his busy schedule to visit and take photos show his support for our wonderful community.

Special thanks to The Church on Rush Creek for providing the venue for the Mira Lagos National Night Out event. Pastor Marty Collier and staff were seen opening doors and greeting guests throughout the evening.



Family Traditions

A few years back, the holidays were creeping up on us once again and I told my husband, “the holidays aren’t even here yet and I’m already tired! Why do we have to have all these traditions anyway?” As a working mother of two, the last thing I wanted to do was cook for two days of my four days off from work, for the cumulative effort of serving one single meal. The old saying, “be careful what you wish for” must have been in effect that year. As luck would have it, I have a very accommodating husband, so we (or rather I) decided that instead of the traditional turkey and dressing dinner, we would have Mexican food that year! I decided it would be a nice change and much less trouble. Well to make a long story short, it was a good meal but it was not any less work. It WAS different and the bottom line is, it just wasn’t the same. I learned a valuable lesson that year. Some times the monotony of the family tradition is exactly what we need; I just didn’t know it until it was missing.

Since I was a little girl, my mother made my sister and I break the bread and corn bread for the dressing. Now that I look back on it,

we really did have a good time doing it. So, I too have passed down this tradition to my children as well. Now, it has become one of my favorite times I spend with my daughter. She sits at the table and we talk and drink coffee while I work on other goodies and she tears the bread into little pieces. At Christmas, it’s the annual making of the old fashion fudge (the one that makes your arm hurt for a week from stirring it, but man, oh man, is it worth the effort!) When I was still in my late teens, my father very wisely handed down the family candy thermometer. I didn’t know at the time, he was also passing the “Fudge Torch” and so it has become my job each year to make the Christmas Fudge. (Wow, my arm’s starting to hurt just thinking about it, but the memory of the taste of that fudge always overshadows the labor it takes to make it.) Being a person who learns the lessons life has to teach with top speed, I too have now made certain that each of my kids knows how to use that candy thermometer!

As my daughter grows into a lovely young adult, she has been the one who has taught me how much



we all value our family traditions. She’s the one who has held my feet to the fire by insisting, “We just have to. We always do!” It took me a few more years but it finally dawned on me that you don’t keep all of your family traditions; you blend them. We take what we think are the best from my family (Grandmothers dressing for the turkey, Mom’s secret gravy recipe, and the cheese sauce for the vegetables), the best from my husbands family (Grandma’s cheese ball, Mom’s Jell-O salad, and the combo pumpkin/pecan cake/pie) and the ones our kids love the best (the cheesy green bean casserole, the sweet potato casserole recipe I got from the Senior Center and the twelve-inch New York Cheesecake from a gal at work) and before you know it, we’ve created our own family

tradition! It happened so fast, we didn’t know it was happening! So after many years of fighting it, I get it. I really do get it now! This is what my family wants and expects to come home to. This is what I so looked forward to coming home to my mom’s every year. This is now what I enjoy fixing for my family to come home to each year!

Traditions are worth the time and the effort and it’s what we all look forward to. As usual it was right there in front of me all this time and I just didn’t know it! Traditions allow you to always have a little piece of home for the holidays, even if you can’t be there. Let me click my ruby slippers together, because it’s time to go home for the holidays. There still no place like home!

Save the Date for Library Events!

Lets Go to the Movies!

How the Grinch Stole Christmas
Monday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.
Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.

Holiday Festivities for the whole family!

Saturday, Dec. 3, 1-2:30 p.m. - Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road
Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-noon - Main Library, 901 Conover Dr.
Monday, Dec. 19, 2-4 p.m. - Shotwell Library, 2750 Graham St.

**For more information, call 972-237-5700
or visit gptx.org/library.**



Mira Lagos Social Events

**We have had
a fantastic &
awesome year!**

SPRING FLING 2016

We began the year with hundreds of families and friends in attendance at our Annual Spring Fling 2016 in April. We hosted food trucks, bouncing castles and games, Snowie Bus snow cones and a Game Truck with video games. Tacos and sliders were a huge hit and everyone enjoyed the music, spending time with their families and building new relationships with people in their community. We really had a great time getting the parents involved in the "wipe out" bounce game; even Mira Lagos management took a few turns and had a few wipe outs.

ANNUAL LUAU AND BBQ COOK-OFF

Once the community pools opened for the summer, the HOA Social Committee hosted close to 1000 attendees at the Luau and BBQ Cook-Off in May! The BBQ at the Luau left you wanting more & a roasted pig was a sight to see. Our entertainment was provided by our resident DJ-Shon and of course all the Polynesian Dancers, particularly the Fire Dancer, had everyone around the pool learning dances of the islands.

Our children absolutely LOVE the Snowie Bus and as always the laughter could be heard from all directions anytime DFW Bounce Houses are on the grounds. Let's not forget the long lines of people who waited for a cool and refreshing smoothies. Of course, I would be remiss for not mentioning the various local businesses like Park Place Motorcars,

Twice the Ice, Mansfield Methodist Hospital, Chayon-RYU Martial Arts, USMD Health System for sponsoring many of the activities held at our events. There are so many Mira Lagos entrepreneurs who continue to support the community every year as well as other businesses in the community. Their unwavering contributions are a large part of what makes Mira Lagos a Premier Community.

FILL-A-BACKPACK CAMPAIGN

Our Mira Lagos Community through the HOA Social Committee also took some time out to give back to the community through the Mira Lagos Fill-A-Backpack campaign. We collected school supplies and non-perishable food items following the 4th of July holiday through August 13, 2016. Fifty (50) children from Erma Nash Elementary School (Broad Street, Mansfield, TX) received backpacks filled with various school supplies and food items. School administrators and counselors from Erma Nash thanked Mira Lagos for graciously helping so many of their children feel good about coming to school with the supplies they need.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The summer activities concluded with Family Movie Night at the south pool in August with Blanket Top Theatre. Families enjoyed an evening lounging poolside with an endless supply of popcorn and glow necklaces for the kids as they watched Pixar's UP.

Fall is in full swing and the Mira Lagos Community never fails to find a way to get together for a celebration.

Fall Festival & Vendor Fair

The Annual Fall Festival and Vendor/Craft Fair (October) brings out the best in all of us! Vendors within and outside our community

showcased their products or services, horse and buggy rides were fantastic, Miss Purdy had everyone dressed for the fall trip with Ole Time Photos, (check with the onsite office for a copy of your pictures if you haven't received them yet.) Kids of all ages waited patiently to have their face painted, parents took the opportunity to take their children's fall pictures in the pumpkin patch while they gathered a pumpkin for their kitchen table or the front porch, kids had a blast jumping around in the DFW Bounce Houses and everyone enjoyed a slice of pizza or a hot Chik-Fil-A sandwich while it lasted! Thanks again to our Community Partner Mansfield Methodist Hospital for all their support to our Mira Lagos Community events!

SPRING AND FALL COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALES

were held in March and September with more than 100 Mira Lagos families participating and many more who visited our community. The weather was great for a garage sale and it's always nice to be able to meet your neighbors and build new relationships within our community.

Last but not Least – MIRA LAGOS HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Everyone is invited to attend the Mira Lagos Holiday Celebration at Mira Lagos Rush Creek on Saturday, December 10, 2016. Come enjoy some Jazzy holiday music from 5pm-8pm. Hopefully all of you have been good this year to enjoy a story from a special visitor. Bring your cameras to catch that memorable moment. We will close out the year with food, music, and comradery. More details to come!



*Thanksgiving
Coloring Page*

Coffee Lovers and K-Cups



By Kelly Wills

Coffee...it's our wake me up in the morning, our pick me up in the afternoon and our keep me up for late nights. Many of us coffee drinkers have converted to Coffee K-Cups for variety and convenience. A single coffee drinker can use up to 3-4 K-Cups a day! Statistics show that almost 20 billion K-Cups are thrown away in a year. In its original state a K-Cup cannot be recycled. Good news coffee lovers, using an inexpensive Recycle A Cup® cutter, K-Cups can be recycled. The handheld cutter is easy to use by simply placing the cutter over the used K-Cup, twisting to remove the top from the bottom. The coffee grounds can be used as compost or mulch for your plants and garden then recycle the rest!

As a bonus, coffee grounds are supposed to be a deterrent on garden pests and may help repel squirrels and rabbits from spoiling vegetables.

Be sure to check your neighborhood or city recycling policies as there is no universal recycling standards in the U. S. K-Cups are #7 plastic and not all facilities will accept this type of plastic. If your recycling facility does not accept #7, no worries go to recycleacup.com or earth911.com both offer alternative recycling options. The K-Cup cutters are made by Medelco and are sold at Bed, Bath and Beyond, Amazon and Recycleacup.com.

I purchased a K-Cup cutter about a month ago. It is easy to disassemble the used K-Cup, empty the coffee grounds in a small container then sprinkle the grounds around my yard and plants. I dispose the used K-Cups in my recycle bin. My plants are doing better and I feel like I am doing a small part to make a cleaner world.



*Be thankful for what you have;
you'll end up having more. If
you concentrate on what you
don't have, you will never, ever
have enough.*

~ Oprah Winfrey



- Each year, 10 million serious crimes - more than half of the nation's total - go unreported. That's why Neighborhood Watch was initiated.
- The Neighborhood Watch program is simply you and your neighbors working together and with your local police to reduce criminal opportunity on your streets.
- Neighborhood Watch operates to educate participants in the principles of deterrence, delay and detection. The program depends on a communication network organized with three levels of participants - the resident, block captains and co-captains, and a local law enforcement representative.
- The Grand Prairie Police Department needs your help to function effectively. Police officers that patrol your neighborhood regularly could be called away on an emergency or may not be able to recognize a stranger in your yard.
- But your neighbors are there. They know you and your family, what type of car you drive and when you will be away. Your neighbor could be the first to spot a burglar in your window or a strange car in your driveway.
- Vigilante actions are in no way condoned by the Neighborhood Watch program. No one is asked to take personal risks or be a hero.
- But think about what may happen if you didn't call and think of how important and effective it is to join with the police in a cooperative effort of reducing criminal opportunity in your neighborhood.

For more information on how you can participate in Neighborhood Watch, contact one of your area's Crime Prevention Officers:

Officer Greg New: 972-237-7545

Officer Joe Wood: 972-237-8966

<http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/police-department/field-operations-bureau/community-services-division/neighborhood-watch>

Veterans Day Parade Events



The 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour in 1918 marked an armistice until the Treaty of Versailles was signed. In 1926, a presidential proclamation made November 11 the official federal legal holiday commemorating Armistice Day. After getting through two more wars (World War II and the Korean War), more war veterans were created and in 1954, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day. There were some changes to the day and for a

period of time, it was designated as being the fourth Monday in October but was changed back to November 11. Celebrate these brave soldiers this year with the following Veterans Day events.

Grand Prairie 2016 Veterans Day Ceremony

Date: Friday, Nov. 11, 2016
Free: Event
Location: Veterans Memorial,
925 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75051
The City of Grand Prairie Parks, Arts & Recreation Department will host a Veteran's Day Ceremony and free all-American lunch. Performances include color guard, a bag piper, trumpeter, 21-gun salute by Grand Prairie Police Honor Guard and vintage-aircraft fly over. The free All-American lunch for all will include hotdogs, lemonade and apple pie.

Attendees are welcome to begin gathering at 9:30 a.m., as the ceremony will begin promptly at 10 a.m. Lunch is sponsored by the Grand Prairie Rotary Clubs.

Information: Grand Prairie Parks, Arts and Recreation Department, 972-237-8100

Tarrant County Veterans Day Parade

Starting Point
Point Sundance Square
Fort Worth, TX
Time: 11:00 am
Ending Point • North Main Street • Fort Worth,
<http://www.tarrantcountyveterans.org>

Please join in the appreciation of our Veterans, past, present and future. Enjoy the bands, marching units, floats, military vehicles and lots more in downtown Fort Worth. Details at www.VeteransDay.com

Dallas Veterans Day Parade

Starting Point: Young and Houston Streets
Dallas, TX
Time: 11:00 am
Ending Point: Marilla and Ervay Streets
Dallas, TX
<http://www.vetsdayindallas.org>
Phone: 972-983-4843

Bulbs...

Fall Planting Spring Blooming

Bulbs...tulips, hyacinth, daffodils, iris to name a few! The perfect time to plant bulbs is in the fall and in the spring your garden will be filled with a bounty of colors, smells and stunning flowers.

For success with bulbs, here are a few suggestions:

- Plant bulbs in the fall before a freeze.
- Plant the bulb pointy side up. No worries if it is not obvious which end, the plant will find its way up.
- Plant 3 – 4 times deep as the bulb is tall.
- For a fuller look, plant the bulbs in clusters rather than in rows.
- In spring, after blooms fade, do not cut the plant back. Let plants wither in the sun and next year as well as years to come, the bulbs will fill your garden with spectacular floral beauty.

