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# MIRA LAGOS NESSEILCLEIT



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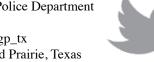
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# Who to Follow on Twitter

@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

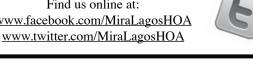
@Gpscanner Grand Prairie Scanner, local Police, Fire, EMS

@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







# Association Contact Information

www.miralagoshoa.com

www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos

On-Site Management Stacy McGrath, General Manager manager@miralagoshoa.com

Matt Urbaniak, Assistant Manager Matt.Urbaniak@fsresidential.com

Cynthia Prox, Administrative Assistant 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:

**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

### Landscape

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

# **Pool and Sports**

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

### Safety

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

#### Social

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

#### Welcome

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

> **New Members welcome** on all committees!

### **Board of Directors**

Joshua Spare, President Eric Blackwell, Vice President Robert McLain, Secretary Jessica Cafferata, Treasuer John Hughes, Director board@miralagoshoa.com

# Mira Lagos Messenger

Is the only authorized and official monthly publication for the residents of the Mira Lagos Community with news and calendar of community events endorsed by the Mira Lagos HOA & its members.

PUBLISHED BY Community News Connection, Inc. 206 W. McDermott Drive, Suite 120 • Allen, Texas 75013 • 972-396-8855 www.communitynewsconnection.com

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For information or to place an advertisement 972-396-8855 • info@communitynewsconnection.com

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# This Christmas Season

Christmas time! A time for happiness, love and togetherness. For the most part this version of Christmas is common and expected. However, for some, Christmas is a time of sadness, debt and loneliness. Since when has this holiday become a season for material gain and division?

I believe that this season like any other season we should take care of our own family, and remember to treat others with the same dignity, respect, and love as we would like to be treated. I believe that if we, as a community, were to not only focus on the needs of our family but also of others, we could stir a positive change that we desperately need.

I encourage you to look at your immediate and extended family, to your kid's friends from school or clubs, your neighbors, the people standing next to you at church, your co-workers, anyone and everyone you come in contact with and ask yourself one question: "How can I give something back to this person right now?" Don't get me wrong, I'm not talking about money, but if that's what you want to give I would hate to limit you, but sometimes a smile, small conversation, an invitation to eat, five minutes of your time

or just simply a hug can be worth more than millions of dollars.

As human beings we were created to relate to one another, so why not turn this "gift receiving" season to a "selfless giving" season? "The next time you put on a dinner, don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be—and experience—a blessing. They might not be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned—oh, how it will be returned!" One day the favor we extend will be given back to us.

In this time of division and segregation between the "haves" and the "haves-not," let's turn it around and learn from those that are in the gap fighting, to unite us, not because of the color of our skin, language, socioeconomic status but because at the end of the day "[w]e hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."



# Brought to You By Your Neighbor & Mina Lagos Expent







"Who knew buying and selling a house at the same time could be so easy. Christina is awesome!"

T. Mays

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS Christina Kang 817.739.7433 The holidays CAN be a good time to sell your home. Here are several reasons why...

- Buyers who look for a house during the holidays are generally more motivated and have more time to look.
- There are fewer homes on the market during the holidays, therefore, less competition for your property.
- Houses look their best decorated for the holiday season and neighborhoods are more attractive.
- Even though your home is on the market, you can delay your closing or restrict your showings for a few days around the holiday if you want to be able to celebrate uninterrupted.
- Potential buyers may want to take advantage of tax deductible closing costs by closing before year end.
- For buyers with children, purchasing a home and getting settled before school resumes in January is the next best alternative to moving during the summer months.
- January is traditionally the month for many company transfers—and transferees can't wait until spring. Your home must be on the market to capture those buyers.
- When marketing your house during the holiday season, you may have fewer actual showings, but the buyers may be more qualified and motivated. Less competition may result in a quicker sale and a higher sales price.

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





# What's Happening



# Prairie Lights Drive Thru Holiday Light Park

**Date:** 12/01/2016 – 12/31/2016 **Location:** Lynn Creek Park 5700 Lake Ridge Pkwy Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Prairie Lights will be open from 6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday non-holidays and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday and holidays, Nov. 24-Jan. 1, 2016. The always-popular two-mile drive featuring four million lights that drew 199, 000 visitors in 2015, will be better than ever in 2016 with new custom displays at 5610 Lake Ridge Parkway, Grand Prairie, Texas.

Non-holiday Monday through Thursday, cars are \$25. Holidays and Friday through Sunday, cars are \$35. Cars must be in-line by closing times to gain admission to all the excitement. Rates for larger vehicles vary. Check www.prairielights.org for rates or call 972-237-GLOW (4569).

Josh Barnett Productions, Inc. of Bakersfield, CA., delivers a new exciting park that have audiences smiling in delight with clever new themes like the Steampunk Christmas, Space Christmas and our all-time favorites presented with a new look. The theme park also offers a unique out-of-car experience in Holiday Village midway through the drive with concessions, carousel rides, gifts and photos with Santa.

For an additional cost of \$5/adult and \$3/child, guests will enjoy the Holiday Laser Show, an all-new light extravaganza delivering a light show set to music. Or, the always-popular Holiday Magic Walk-Through Forest featuring dazzling display's and hundreds for illuminated trees, at an additional \$3/adult and \$2/child, all will be amazed at the beauty of all of the lights.

#### **A Charlie Brown Christmas**

#### Dates

12/02/2016 - 12/04/2016 12/09/2016 - 12/11/2016

12/16/2016 - 12/18/2016

### **Location:**

Dallas Children's Theater 5938 Skillman St Dallas, TX 75231

Based on the television special by Bill Melendez and Lee Mendelson Stage Adaptation by Eric Schaeffer By Special Arrangement with Arthur Whitelaw and Ruby Persson

Recommended for ages 5 and up

Christmas time is here, and we're fortunate that it brings Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy,

Snoopy, and the rest of the Peanuts gang to DCT! Charles Schulz's classic animated television special comes to life as you've never seen before. The young and the young at heart will be tapping their toes and oohing and ahhing as the live combo band surrounds the audience in a magical, memorable holiday spectacle. Make sure you're front and center as Charlie Brown and his friends discover the real meaning of Christmas!

# Santa Claus a New Musical

#### Dates:

12/02/2016 - 12/04/2016 12/09/2016 - 12/11/2016 12/16/2016 - 12/18/2016 12/20/2016 - 12/23/2016

#### Location:

Casa Mañana 3101 W. Lancaster Ave. Fort Worth, TX 76107

Delivering toys to children all over the world on Christmas Eve isn't easy, especially when you've been doing it for over a thousand years! When Santa announces that this will be his last Christmas, the search is on for someone to fill some very big shoes – or in this case, boots. But not everyone in the North Pole is feeling too giddy about Santa's first choice for a replacement. Now it's up to Father Christmas and his workshop of elves to get the new Santa Claus ready in time for Christmas! Santa Claus – A New Musical has brand new original songs and lots of holiday cheer.

# Uptown Theater – Hansel & Gretel - A Christmas Fairytale Opera

# Presented by the Grand Prairie Arts Council

#### Dates:

12/02/2016 - 12/04/2016 12/09/2016 - 12/11/2016

#### **Location:**

Uptown Theater
120 E. Main St.
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050
Adapted from Humperdinck's Music by
Adelheid Wette, HANSEL AND GRETEL
features some of the loveliest songs from
Humperdinck's Opera combined with a
delightful retelling of the famous Brothers
Grimm fairytale.

The poor woodcutter's children are brave and resourceful, as tradition states. They meet the kind Sandman and the dreadful Witch. After almost being turned into gingerbread men themselves, they outwit the witch and rescue the other children from her evil enchantment. http://www.artsgp.org/Current-Show.html

# **102.1 The Edge Presents: How the Edge Stole Christmas**

Featuring Weezer, Awolnation, Dirty Heads, KONGOS, Capital Cities, Judah & The Lion

**Date:** 12/06/2016 5:00 PM

Location:

Verizon Theatre

1001 Performance Place Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

**Tickets:** 888-929-7849 or www.AXS.com

www.verizontheatre.com

# KSCS Country Fest '16 Featuring The Band Perry, Chase Rice, Michael Ray and Trent Harmon

Date: 12/09/2016 6:30 PM

Location: Verizon Theatre 1001 Performance Place Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

**Tickets:** 888-929-7849 or www.AXS.com

www.verizontheatre.com

# Farmers Market: Holiday Gift Market - Closing Day 2016

**Date:** 12/17/2016 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Location:** Market Square 120 W. Main St.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Grand Prairie Farmers Market at Market Square, 120 W. Main St., is open 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays from late March through mid-December and features locally grown fruits and vegetables, plants, tamales, baked goods, salsas, dips, relishes, eggs, honey, chips, soaps, candles and more.

For more information, call 972-237-4599.

# Smooth R&B 105.7 Presents: KRNB Christmas

Featuring Keith Sweat & KEM

**Date:** 12/17/2016 8:00 PM

Location: Verizon Theatre 1001 Performance Place Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

**Tickets:** 888-929-7849 or www.AXS.com

www.verizontheatre.com

# **Gary Owen New Year's Eve Comedy Show**

Date: 12/31/2016 8:30 PM

Location: Verizon Theatre 1001 Performance Place Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

**Ti**ckets: 888-929-7849 or www.AXS.com

www.verizontheatre.com



On Saturday, December 3 from 9 a.m. – noon, the Mira Lagos HOA Safety Committee will be collecting donations for the Santa Cop/Santa Spot program. The collection locations will be at the Mira Lagos Tower at the intersection of England Parkway and Day Miar and intersection of Grand Peninsula and England Parkway.

Santa Cop and Santa Spot are charitable programs endorsed by the Grand Prairie Police (Cop) and Fire (Spot) Depts. Santa Cop and Santa Spot provides assistance to the less fortunate of Grand Prairie, during Christmas, and times of natural disaster, fire, floods, and instances of Family Violence. This helps those children and families to cope with their difficult times making the way to a better living situation.

Residents from Mira Lagos have been BIG donors in past years and we aim to make this the best year ever. Please help by dropping off a new, unwrapped toy with us during the event or at the HOA office during business hours. The program accepts cash donations, but prefers toys. Toys ranging in size from dominoes to bicycles have been donated in the past. Every donation helps and gives back to residents in Grand Prairie.

Look for police or fire vehicles and volunteers taking donations at the intersection mentioned above. If you would like to volunteer to help collect donations, email us at safety@miralagoshoa.com. We will have free hot cocoa, coffee and donuts for volunteers. See you there!

For more information about Santa COP/Santa SPOT, check out the web site at:

http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-departments/police-department/field-operations-bureau/community-services-division/santa-cop-santa-spot

#### December 2016 Calendar December 2016 – Calendar 12/20 - National Sangria Day 12/21 - National Flashlight Day -12/01 - Rosa Parks Day 12/03 - Mira Lagos Santa Cop Day of Winter Solstice 12/04 - National Cookie Day 12/22 - National Re-Gifting Day 12/06 - St. Nicholas Day 12/24 - Christmas Eve / Chanukah 12/07 - National Pearl Harbor **Beains** Remembrance Day 12/25 - Christmas 12/10 - Human Rights Day 12/28 - Pledge of Allegiance Day 12/31 - New Years Eve 12/10 - Mira Lagos Holiday Dinner 12/15 - Bill of Rights Day



By now you should have received your billing statement. 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:

# **New Lockbox Address:**

Mira Lagos Homeowner's Association c/o FirstService Residential P. O. Box 60200 Los Angeles, CA 90060-0200

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



# **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Please email the onsite office or the account services department if you'd like to be put on a payment plan for the assessments. The payment plan process is a \$50.00 charge, but it does allow you to pay out your dues monthly and does stop the mailing fees, late fees and legal fees if the account is not defaulted.

Setting up your own payment arrangements if you are behind will result in all the additional fees.

Please make every effort to reach out to accountservices.tx@fsresidential.com for assistance.

# FALL FESTIVAL

The Annual Fall Festival and Vender/Craft Fair brought 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 back in time, 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 bounce houses and everyone enjoyed a slice of pizza or a hot Chic-Fil-A sandwich while it lasted!

Thanks to all the Vendors that participated! Hope to see you next year!



























# **Halloween Decorating Contest Winners!**

Thank you to all those that participated in the Annual Mira Lagos Halloween decorating contest! It's fun to see the competitive side of our community each year with this event! Congrats to those who have won! Please stop by the onsite office for your "Trick or Treat".

El Arroyo 3267 Yeltes Sonora 6929 Nava **La Ensenada** 2944 Bahia 2951 Bahia 2927 Bahia Escondido 7003 Palencia 7007 Palencia Marbella 7263 Bucanero

2704 Fuente
El Llano
2963 Montalbo
Bella Vista
2823 England Parkway

La Pradera 3028 S Camino Lagos 3011 Meseta El Sendero 2883 S Serrano

































# Mira Lagos 2016 Holiday Lights Contest



Spread holiday cheer by decorating in lights this year! 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. Shine bright this winter during the annual Mira Lagos Holiday Lights Yard of the Month Contest!

# Register to participate

by providing your address to the Landscape Committee landscape@miralagoshoa.com before December 16, 2016

Judging begins December 17th through the 23rd. Lights must be turned on by 6:00 p.m. daily. Each winner will receive a holiday treat.

# Grand Prairie's Newest Self Storage Facility!



We have a storage unit to fit all your needs and budget.

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Video Surveillance!



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- On-Site manager
- Daily electronic gate access
- Video surveillance
- Climate controlled units
- Enclosed RV & boat units
- Family owned and operated



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 that in your spring cleaning, 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.

# Something is Hidden. Can you find it?

We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, a Gingerbread man!

Please email manager@miralagoshoa.com in the subject line put "I FOUND IT" to be entered in a random drawing.

Provide the page # item is on, your name, address and phone number in the email. Good Luck and have fun!

If you find it, you could win a \$25.00 gift card!

# December Landscaping Tips

The holidays are upon us and everyone is busy planning for Christmas with family and loved ones. But just in case you don't have enough to do, we thought we'd go ahead and share some December Landscaping Tips for all our gardening enthusiasts!

Plant bare root roses.

Be watchful with indoor plants that children, cats, and dogs don't nibble.

Buy Christmas tree shaped rosemary and after the holidays plant it outside.

Plant spring flowering bulbs like Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, and Crocuses.

In bare vegetable garden areas, plant Elbon cereal rye, till under in the spring 6 weeks before planting.





Japan's December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor and six other military bases on the Hawaiian island of Oahu precipitated America's entry into World War II, a global conflict. Pearl Harbor endures as a symbol of American resilience and resolve, and the annual commemoration of the attack on Pearl Harbor fosters reflection, remembrance, and understanding. The 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor is an opportunity to honor the sacrifice and dedication of our "Greatest Generation" both civilian and military, the endured incredible sacrifices on December 7, 1941, the "date which will live in infamy." It would thrust America into World War II, changing Hawaii and America forever and continues to define their place in the world. The events of that date triggered our resolve as a nation, our can-do attitude and resourcefulness and an unmatched commitment to the defense of freedom.



# Replace Mailboxes

To replace the actual MAILBOX – they can be purchased at Home Depot – http://m.homedepot.com/p/Gibraltar-Mailboxes-Elite-Standard-Size-Galvanized-

Steel-Post-Mount-Mailbox-in-Black-E1100B00/100004508 (I believe the price is either \$17.99 or \$19.99 – can you look. I tried but the website was down...)

To have the mailbox POST painted: please contact the onsite office – make a check payable to "MAKE IT READY" – for \$25.00.

To purchase a LOCKING INSERT: please contact the onsite office – make a check payable to "Mira Lagos HOA" – for \$60.00.

To replace their mailbox NUMBERS, please send a SASE to furnish the numbers at no charge to:

John Pichler Identitec P.O. Box 93555 Southlake, TX 76092 817-329-0411 voice







# Recycling drop off locations for your tree will be at:

Charley Taylor Recreation Center parking lot 601 E. Grand Prairie Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75051

Parkhill Park parking lot 5100 Block of S. Robinson Road Grand Prairie, TX 75052

Grand Prairie Landfill 1102 MacArthur Blvd. Grand Prairie, TX 75050

Please remove all ornaments, stands and plastic bags. Artificial trees or trees sprayed with artificial snow cannot be accepted for recycling. Acceptable trees will be recycled into mulch. Free mulch is available to all Grand Prairie residents. Trees may also be left at curbside on your normal garbage collection day, however, these trees will not be recycled into mulch and will be collected as garbage.

For more information, please call 972-237-8061.

Grand
Prairie
Snap &
Send!





"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer."

A very special thank you to all of the committee volunteers for 2016. Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They share their time and talents without any compensation, so it crucial to acknowledge your contributions and let you know how valued you are! 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 2017 will be an enduring asset to the Mira Lagos Community.

- Mira Lagos HOA Management

# Volunteers are paid in six figures... S-M-I-L-E-S.

~Gayla LeMairesk

When asked if I would write an article in appreciation of our Welcome Committee Volunteers, I asked myself what could I write that would extend a thank you to the best committee a gal could have! Researching online, I found the quote above ~ it truly describes the group of volunteers that take the time to bring our new homeowners a welcome bag, sometimes making multiple attempts before finding someone home.

Yet a quote isn't enough. So, here are the names of the best volunteer group a neighborhood could have. Thank you again to all that give their time and energy.

Ahsinet Everett, Alberta Lane, Allison Blackwell, Anita Walker, Arnel Vick, Arquila Todd, Barry Kruger, Betty Jenkins, Cheyenne Mclain, Cori Bianco, Cynthia Delci, David Mohler, Denise Hunter, Diana King, Ida McKinley, Jackie Silva, Jana Ellis, Jeanne Spare, Jill Helm, Joyce Lok-Guzman, Julie Jordan, Kelly Shepard, Kip Braun, La Varne Hines, Marquita Anderson, Melissa Manning, Monica Wayts, Pam Patterson, Patricia Lyman, Patricia Charles, Patty Mohler, Tamika Barnett, Teresa Brunschweig and Vivian Paton.

Elissa Sherlock Welcome Committee Chair



# Merry Christmas from you HOA Committee Chairs!!

There is room for you in 2017. 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.

### **Pool Committee**

Chair: Mike Joffrion pools@miralagoshoa.com

# **Landscape Committee**

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

### **Communications Committee**

Chair: Carlos Cucalon communications@miralagoshoa.com

### **Social Committee**

Chair: Deirdre Garrett social@miralagoshoa.com

### **Welcome Committee**

Chair: Elissa Sherlock welcome@miralagoshoa.com

### **Safety Committee**

Chair: Robert Mclain safety@miralagoshoa.com

# **Mansfield ISD Winter Holiday**

Start Date: Monday, December 19, 2016 End Date: Monday, January 2, 2017 Classes will resume: Tuesday, January 3, 2017 All campuses and district offices are closed in observance of the holidays.

# Mira Lagos HOA Holiday Office Hours

The HOA office will be closed Friday, December 23, 2016 and reopen Tuesday, December 27 and closed December 30 and 31, 2016 and reopen January 3, 2017.

