



In This Issue

Grand Prairie Events5
 Winter Rodent Control.....6
 Martin Luther King Day8

Christmas Tree Recycling..... 11
 Public Improvement District (PID)13
 Veterans Day at DJMS15

PRRST STD
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 Dallas, TX
 Permit 3384

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
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:
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
Meetings: monthly

Social

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

Landscape

Pam Downs
landscape@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: 1st Wednesday monthly

Welcome

Susan Kennedy
welcome@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: monthly/electronically

Sports

Erik Shinkle
sports@miralagoshoa.com
3rd Tuesday (Apr-Sept)

New Members welcome on all committees!

Safety

Robert McLain, Chairman
safety@miralagoshoa.com
Co-chair : Cheyanne McLain
Meetings:
1st Tuesday monthly

Board of Directors

Joshua Spare, President
Eric Blackwell, Vice President
Robert McLain, Secretary
Dee Garret, Director
John Hughes, Director
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

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

ADVERTISEMENT SALES

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

Mira Lagos does not in any way endorse or support, nor does it take any credit or responsibility for the services, paid or volunteer, nor the statements made in articles or letters published herein not endorsed by the association or the group decision of the Board of Directors.

Happy new year 2018

Mira Lagos Homeowners Association would like to wish you a wonderful New Year full of joy, happiness and success in every area of your life. May this New Year bring you a peace filled life, warmth and togetherness in your family and much prosperity and may your right hand always be stretched out in friendship and unity.

Best wishes for a bright, promising, safe and Happy New Year 2018!

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.

Something is Hidden. Can you find it?



We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, a mitten. 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.

Brought to You By Your Neighbor &
Mira Lagos Expert



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

FREE MARKET ANALYSIS
Christina Kang 817.739.7433

How To Select a Great Realtor

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

Ask friends and family for recommendations.

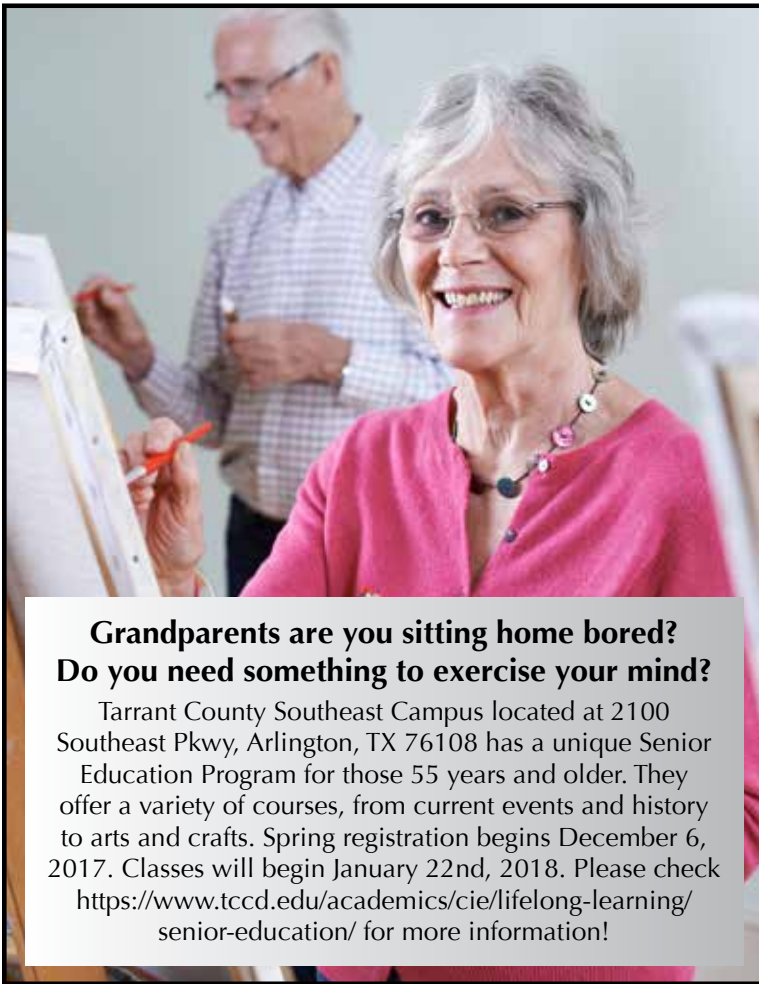
Pay attention to whether a potential agent is listening closely to what you say. Is he or she asking follow-up questions which prompt further explanation and help him or her understand exactly your needs and wants?

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

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

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

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



**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 <https://www.tccd.edu/academics/cie/lifelong-learning/senior-education/> for more information!



**Are you currently receiving
the monthly *e-News blasts*?**

These emails are sent out mid-month to provide homeowners with important information from the onsite management team, elected board members and volunteer committee chairs as well as updates and information on upcoming community and city events and news. To be part of the community information system please email your contact information along with your address to admin@miralagoshoa.com

Scrubby Soap

Soap and a scrubby, ingeniously combined into one bar! These cute scrubby soap bars are super for ridding your hands of the toughest dirt and grim, grease, paint, and oils. Scrubby Soap is gentle and mild on your skin.

Scrubby Soap is made with all-natural ingredients from the essential oils of lemon, lime, oranges, and lavender. There are no synthetic cleaning agents in the ingredients so using a Scrubby is safe for you and our planet. The natural soap is infused into a special scrubber for deep cleaning, exfoliation and the essential oils moisturize your skin.

There is a bath and body line of Scrubby Soap made from rich, pure olive oil, English goat milk and lavender oil. You can use these Scrubby Soaps for a spa experience in your bath or shower for smooth, soft, fresh smelling skin. The pure oils are strong and aromatic naturally, no fragrances are added.

Scrubby Soap is a family owned and operated company in Florida. The Scrubby Soap family was inspired by Florida oranges to create these brilliant soap bars and is manufactured in the USA. Scrubby Soap can be purchased on their website at <https://www.scrubbysoap.com> or use their online store locator map for the names and locations of local shops around town.

The Scrubby Soap is an absolute perfect gift or stocking stuffer for family and friends. These soap bars are excellent for cooks, fishermen, hunters, gardeners, artists, mechanics, and campers! They will be a favorite go-to gift for teachers and new moms. Scrubby Soap is sure to become a standard cleaning product in your kitchen, bath and laundry room.

Haven't tried Scrubby Soap yet, don't wait any longer! Your first Scrubby Soap won't be your last.



Grand Prairie

T E X A S

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Commission Meeting

Date: 01/09/2018 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Location: Development Center
206 West Church St.
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Joe with 112 and Next

Date: 01/20/2018 8:00 PM
Location: Verizon Theatre
1001 Performance Place
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Dennis DeYoung: The Music of Styx and Night Ranger

Date: 01/26/2018 8:00 PM
Location: Verizon Theatre
1001 Performance Place
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic

Date: Every Saturday 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Location: Prairie Paws Adoption Center
2222 W. Warrior Tr.
Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

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.

Recipe of the Month

Southwestern Vegetable Pasta

Penne Pasta, Grilled Red Onions, Roasted Peppers, Cumin Scented Yellow Squash and Zucchini and Hatch Chile Sauce

Recipe courtesy of Michael Weinstein, Dread Head Chef, featured Grand Prairie Farmers Market chef

Yield: 4 servings

1 pound penne pasta
1 tablespoon kosher salt
½ cup pasta water
1 tablespoon grape seed or canola oil

Vegetables

1 large red onion sliced into rings and grilled, cooled and diced into ½-inch pieces
2 red peppers – roasted, peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch cubes
1 medium yellow squash halved and cut into 1/8 half circles
1 medium zucchini halved and cut into 1/8 half circles
¼ teaspoon cumin
2 tablespoons grape seed or canola oil
Kosher salt and black pepper

Hatch chile sauce

1 cup roasted Hatch chiles ½ mild ½ hot-roasted, peeled and seeded
½ cup diced yellow onion
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1½ cups chicken stock/water
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon grape seed/canola oil
Kosher salt and black pepper to taste

For the pasta: Bring a 6-quart pot of water to a boil and add the salt and pasta. Cook for 10 minutes. Remove the ½ cup of water then drain the water and place the pasta in an ice bath or run cold water over the pasta for 3 minutes. Toss the pasta with the oil and reserve.

For the Hatch chile sauce: In a 1-quart sauce pan add the



oil and place on medium heat. Once the oil starts to smoke, add the onions and garlic and sweat until translucent. Add the chiles and cook for 5 more minutes then add the stock/water. Turn the heat down to low and reduce the liquid by a fourth.

Place in a blender and puree until smooth. Add the lemon juice and season with salt and pepper to taste and reserve.

For the squashes: Place the squash and zucchini in a bowl and toss with the cumin, a drizzle of oil and some black pepper. Let marinate for 15 minutes.

To complete: In a 6-quart pot add the oil and place on medium high heat. Once the oil starts to smoke, add the squashes and season with a little salt. Make sure to stir. After 3 minutes add the red peppers and onions and cook for 3 more minutes. Make sure to stir. Add the reserved pasta water, pasta and Hatch chile sauce. Cook until everything is hot and season with salt and pepper to your liking. Place into a bowl and enjoy.

Winter Rodent Control

During winter, it is important to make sure your house is protected against pests and rodents. As the temperatures continue to drop, we aren't the only ones running into the warm indoors. The colder weather also tends to push mice, squirrels and other rodents indoors. Rodents pose a serious health risk as they can transmit many different diseases. Here are a few things you can do to make sure you and your family are the only ones getting inside your home!

- Seal any cracks or openings around your home.

Mice and other small rodents are able to squeeze through small cracks and holes within your home. Make sure that you seal any visible openings along the exterior of your house. Often times the foundation settling may cause cracks or openings near windows or doors. Look around your house to ensure you have any openings sealed. You also want to look within the interior of your home. Look for any openings behind kitchen cabinets and appliances, around your baseboard, and in closets. Keep an eye out for any opening a rodent might use to access your house.

- Store food in airtight containers.

The other major attraction to mice and other rodents is an available food supply. Make sure to clean up any food supply in your pantry. You do not want to leave open food containers in your pantry or even food in thin bags or containers – these will not stop a rodent! Store your food in airtight containers.



This is especially important for vacation homes. Make sure you clean out any items that might attract small rodents and store the remaining items in airtight containers. Open food items will attract rodents to visit your pantry while you are gone. This is not something you want to find upon returning to your home!



Reach Your Neighbors! Advertise in this Magazine!



Contact Community News
Connection
for more information:

972-396-8855

info@communitynewsconnection.com



You're committed to bettering our community, so why not put that passion to work and run for a spot on the association board.

The association will soon be holding elections for three (3) board members, and we are looking for dedicated homeowners like you to help us shape and implement our governing rules, handle association finances, make important decisions that affect the entire community and much more. If you are interested in running for the board, please speak with a board member to find out more information, including responsibilities of the open positions and how to get your name on the ballot.

Working on the board can be an enriching experience and can help you make lasting, positive changes to the community. So, start campaigning today for a chance to earn a seat on the association board.



It is so important to keep your brain stimulated and thinking. A good way to do that is to learn something new each day. Learning will enrich your quality of life personally and professionally.

A new skill or experience will develop and extend your knowledge as well as your understanding of the world. It can cause personal growth, expand your potential and boost your self-esteem.

As you learn something new, knowledge enables you to actively transform the information into action and usefulness. Your per-

spectives can change to help you with difficult situations or circumstances, making better decisions.

An advantage to experiencing and learning something new is you will become a more interesting person and your conversations will be more stimulating. Having general knowledge makes for a great conversationalist.

If you are always learning, you will not be bored. New information, skills and experiences nourish your mind and assist with critical thinking. You use your imagination skills as you

learn something new. You may even discover a hidden ability or perhaps a new passion!

Chances are as you learn something new, you will meet new people who share your new interest and who may inspire you. Meeting new people with like minds will keep you motivated to learn more and perhaps master a new skill. The people you meet could become close friends.

Your interest in a new skill, information or experience you will inspire your family and friends. It also sets a good example encour-

aging them to keep learning too!

A few suggestions which will require learning something new:

- Start a collection.
- Begin a new hobby such as photography, quilting, ceramics, etc.
- Take cooking classes.
- Listen to podcasts and Ted Talks.
- Read books.
- Learn a new language or to play a musical instrument.
- Enroll in an art or computer class.
- Join an organization, club or team sport.
- Volunteer.
- Travel.

Mira Lagos HOA Pet Tags



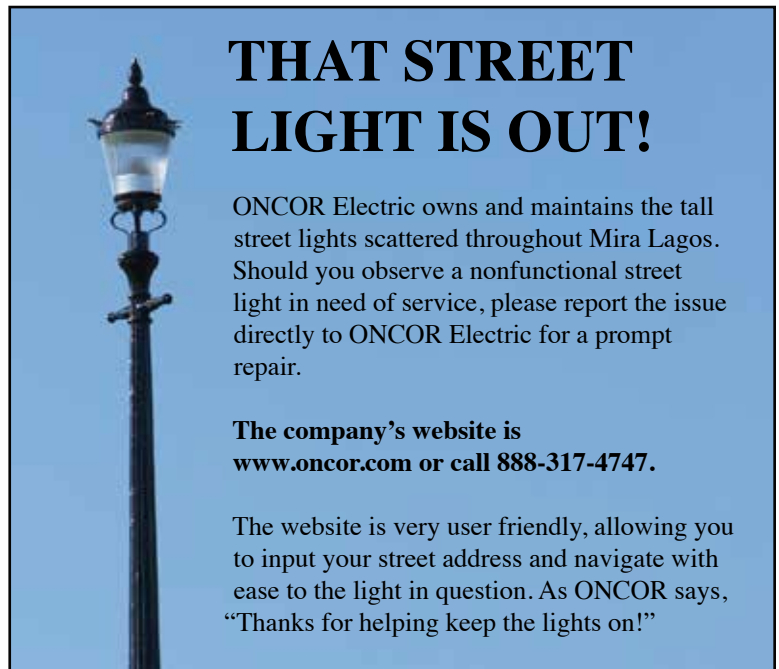
There are Free Mira Lagos Pet tags at the HOA office. Please see Cynthia at the HOA office to receive your tag. Each pet registered will have a unique number assigned in the event your pet gets out and is found. My dog Mia got hers and she loves all the fancy jewelry on her collar.

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 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!"



Martin Luther King Day



Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. King, both a Baptist minister and civil-rights activist, had a seismic impact on race relations in the United States, beginning in the mid-1950s. Among many efforts, King headed the SCLC. Through his activism, he played a pivotal role in ending the legal segregation of African-American citizens in the South and other areas of the nation, as well as the creation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. King received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, among several other honors. King was assassinated in April 1968, and continues to be remembered as one of the most applauded African-American leaders in history.

Martin Luther King Day January 16, 2017, was signed into law in January 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, the national Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday is a celebration of Dr. King's immeasurable contribution to the United States, and to humankind. Celebrated on the third Monday of January, Martin Luther King Jr. Day is a time when the nation pauses to remember Dr. King's life and work, but also to honor his legacy by making the holiday a day of community service, "a day on, not a day off."



UPCOMING EVENTS

Does your school have an event coming up? Let us know! The Mira Lagos Messenger would like to advertise your school events.

Please send an email to Communications@miralagoshoa.com with the details.



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.

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. **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



TIPS FOR STAYING WELL THIS WINTER

Go outside. A 15 minute walk outside will boost your mood and increase your energy level. Being outside is a good resource of vitamin D which helps support your immune system.

Opt for a protein. Most people have a tendency to choose a quick carbohydrate such as chips, crackers or candy when feeling hungry. Try choosing a protein such as yogurt, eggs, almonds or goat cheese which can help to stabilize blood sugar levels, can improve concentration and supports muscles and bones.

Get extra sleep. Sleep is as needed as eating, drinking and breathing for whole body health. A good night sleep reduces body stress, improves your memory, and contributes to a happier disposition. During winter, the days are shorter, try going to bed a little earlier.

Eat fruit and vegetables. For overall health, eating fruits and vegetables are known to reduce risks for strokes and heart disease, protect against certain cancers, and help to lower calorie intake. Fruits and vegetables are an excellent source of vitamins and fiber and should be included in your diet year round.

Laugh. Laughter is good for your general healthiness and wellbeing. Besides making you feel better, some researchers say that one minute of laughter is like a mild workout increasing your blood pressure and pulse rate which makes you breathe faster directing oxygen to your tissues. Laughter balances your mind and body, eases tension and helps release anger.



Space for Sale

Call 972-396-8855

or email info@communitynewsconnection.com
 for ad rates and sizes.

A VISIT FROM SANTA



On December 2, Mira Lagos HOA invited Santa to come and meet the kids and take pictures at the Mira Lagos Tower. The weather was great which provided a great back drop for Santa to enjoy all the cute kids and share some chocolate chunk pizookie cookies donated by BJ's restaurant in Arlington.

Thank you everyone who came out and enjoyed the day and with us.

Happy Holidays!



Christmas Tree Recycling

Trees free of ornaments, stands, and plastic bags can be recycled for free in the two weeks following Christmas (December 25) at the landfill. Artificial trees and trees sprayed with artificial snow cannot be accepted for recycling. Acceptable trees will be recycled into mulch, which is free and available at the landfill to all Grand Prairie residents. Trees can also be collected on your normal garbage collection day, but will be collected as garbage rather than recycled.

Recycling stations for trees that meet these guidelines are located at:

- Charley Taylor Recreation Center parking lot, 601 E Grand Prairie Rd
- Parkhill Park parking lot, 5100 Block of S. Robinson Rd
- Grand Prairie Landfill, 1102 MacArthur Blvd

For more information call 972-237-8151.



New Years Resolutions

Every year many people vow to do something new, from changing a habit to doing more or less of something. Here is a list of ideas that might help you decide how you can be a better version of YOU in 2018!

1. Learn something new every day
2. Get a hobby, or find a new one
3. Read more
4. Learn a new skill
5. Watch less TV
6. Cut out the caffeine
7. Be on time...to everything
8. Save money
9. Meet new people
10. Cook more
11. Do it yourself
12. Enjoy the little things
13. Slow down
14. Meet your neighbors, all of them
15. Laugh more



**Get Your Business
Noticed
Advertise Here**

Call 972-396-8855 or
info@communitynewsconnection.com
for ad rates and sizes.

Coffee Grounds Are Worth Saving

Gardens, flowerbeds, plants and your lawn will look and be better when used coffee grounds are applied. It is easy, simply sprinkle coffee grounds around indoor and outdoor plants, add the grounds to potting soil or distribute directly on your lawn and water it in. Rhododendrons, hydrangeas and azaleas use the nitrogen and acid from the coffee grounds for amazing blooms. You can also add coffee grounds in your watering can for a nitrogen boost as you water.

Prevent ants, snails and slugs by using coffee grounds as a barrier around plants or apply to areas where these pests are known to frequent as a repellent. Another idea to rid your yard or patio of pests is to fill a jar with old coffee grounds, line the neck of the jar with doubled sided tape. The smell of the coffee will draw pests to the jar and the tape will trap them inside.

To sharpen your garbage disposal blades, merely run water in your sink and add one tablespoon of grounds to a running disposal.

When cleaning dishes and utensils, a teaspoon of old coffee grounds can be poured onto your dish cloth to scour grease and grime away.

Next time you wash your hands after cooking, cutting or dicing foods like garlic and fish, grab a small scoop of old coffee grounds, mix with soap, lather together in your hands to help remove the odors.

If you use real wood in your fireplace and know the mess of cleaning out the ashes, try scattering old coffee grounds over the ashes to cut down on the flying dust.

For an artsy antique looking piece of paper, soak an old cloth in a mixture of used coffee grounds and water then blot the edges of the paper with the cloth. Be sure you use an old cloth as coffee stains.

Coffee grounds will mold unless re-used within a day or two. To save coffee grounds, it is a good idea to dry them. Spread a very thin layer of coffee grounds on a cookie sheet, heat your oven to 350 degrees, then turn the oven off, place the coffee lined cookie sheet in the oven and leave overnight. Dry coffee will not mold and can be stored in containers for more uses!

Use dry coffee grounds to soak up odors in your shoes overnight and in the morning shake shoes over trash bin before wearing.



What is a PID?



How can a PID be of assistance to residential communities and developers?

A PID (Public Improvement District) is a defined geographical area established to provide specific types of improvements or maintenance within the area which are financed by assessments against the property owners within the area.

Chapter 372 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes the creation of PIDs by cities.

What improvements can be provided in a Public Improvement District?

A PID improvement may include:

- landscaping and irrigation;
- erecting fountains, distinctive lighting, and signs;
- constructing or improving perimeter fencing;
- constructing or improving sidewalks;
- acquiring and installing pieces of art or decorations;
- acquiring, constructing, or improving entry features;
- establishing or improving parks;
- projects similar to those listed previously;
- acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, real property in connection with an authorized improvement;
- using special supplemental services for

improving and promoting the district, including services relating to advertising, promotion, public safety, security, business recruitment, development, recreation, and cultural enhancement; and

- paying expenses incurred in establishing, administering, and operating the district.

What is the benefit of a Public Improvement District?

A PID allows for improvements and a higher degree of maintenance within the PID area which presumably enhances the property values.

With the establishment of an advisory body, the property owners within the PID have control over the types of improvements, level of maintenance, and amount of assessments to be levied against the property owners.

Assessments are usually collected by the city's tax collecting agent and are deposited into a specific PID fund. Revenue collection is simple since a homeowner's association does not have to perform fee collection. Also, the PID allows for an interest charge and lien on unpaid assessments. This ensures a dependable revenue source for the PID. In most instances, mortgage companies include PID assessments within the property owner's escrow payment and pay the assessment at the same time that ad valorem taxes are paid.

What are Public Improvement Districts doing in Grand Prairie?

Currently the approved PIDs are performing landscape improvements and maintenance functions along right-of-way's, landscape irrigation services, maintenance of common property decorative fencing, sign maintenance, funding decorative street lighting, and park and playground maintenance services.

How do they operate?

- Governed by City Council.
- Resident advisory board appointed annually.
- Annual budget/five year plan/assessment rate prepared by advisory board and approved by Council in September.
- Property owners are notified of proposed assessment and invited to public hearing before the Council before rate is set.
- City pays PID for base level maintenance.
- PID reimburses City for the cost of collections.
- Assessments may be collected through the mortgage escrow process just like property taxes.
- Contracts are negotiated by PID advisory board or property manager, and contracts over \$50,000 are approved by City Council.

What is the difference between a PID and an HOA?

	PID	HOA
Type of Property Maintained	Public	Private
Governed by City Council	Yes	No
Deals with Deed Restrictions	No	Yes
Enhances Public Property Maintenance	Yes	No
Collect through Mortgage Payment	Yes	No
Cash Held in Separate City Fund	Yes	No
PID Expenses Exempt from Sales Taxes	Yes	No

For more information or questions <http://www.gptx.org/city-government>



Christmas Lights should be removed from property no later than January 25. This includes any clips or brackets attached to the home.

JANUARY 2018

Holiday & Observances

- January 1..... New Year's Day**
- January 4..... World Braille Day 2018**
- January 15..... Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- January 21..... World Religion Day**

Improve Your Emotional Health



During and especially after the holiday season, you may find yourself exhausted and possibly emotionally drained. Your emotional health is absolutely as important as your physical health. It is vital for complete health that you take time for yourself. Many people feel guilty when they take time for themselves. Even so, if you do not take time to slow down and be proactive to improve your emotional health, you risk becoming rundown, depressed and feasibly physically sick.

Begin to develop habits or schedule time to enjoy activities especially for you that can help increase emotional health such as reading. Take 20 minutes a day alone to read a book, magazine or web article. Reading enables you to rest your body and release pressures or

thoughts on your mind.

Get a massage, manicure or facial for a little pamper time. You will relax and your body benefits as well as your emotional state of mind.

Plan a girl's trip or guy's trip to get away. Enjoy new scenery, laugh, explore a hiking trail or shop till you drop. Being with friends is a great way to improve your emotional health as it brings a sense of belonging, happiness, and reduces stress.

Listening to your favorite music soothes a weary soul and studies confirm music can reduce pain, relieve stress and stimulate brain cells. Listening to music releases endorphins which block pain and control emotions.

Create a vision board for yourself of your goals, wants and how you want to feel. It is fun to cut out pictures of places you want to visit, find words that express a feeling or experience you long for or list the ideal job/career you seek. The board will remind you to push forward emotionally during difficult times.

Walking, exercise and yoga are excellent activities that will expand your emotional health. You know the benefits of walking and exercise, however yoga joins a body workout with strengthening, breathing and relaxation bringing a calm serenity to your emotional well-being.

Be good to yourself. Take time to improve you and your emotional health!

Veterans Day at Danny Jones Middle School

Most schools in the area host a Veterans Day celebration, pictured here is one at Danny Jones Middle School (DJMS). Breakfast was served for the Vets followed by a school assembly where the band and choir performed.





A hot cocoa bar at your next holiday gathering can be a fun new tradition. Celebrate the season, get your friends and family together, sip some great hot cocoa and let the memories begin.

Creating and preparing a hot cocoa bar is easy. Two basic steps are involved, deciding on toppings and choosing the hot cocoa recipe. Marshmallows and whipped cream are standard toppings for hot cocoa but don't let your imagination stop there! Your hot cocoa bar can include crushed peppermint candies, finely chopped candy bars, peanut butter chips, cinnamon chips, butterscotch chips, white chocolate chips and thinly sliced Andes mints. Other options are pourable ice cream toppings, decorating sugars, multi-colored sprinkles, and ground cinnamon. Candy canes and cinnamon sticks are great for stirring.

Choose a hot cocoa recipe to be cooked in a slow cooker or Crock-Pot which is the easiest and most convenient way to ensure your cocoa is hot and ready for your guests to enjoy.

Here are the ingredients needed for a simple slow cooker recipe for 8 guests:

- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 7 ounces sweetened condensed milk (half a 14 oz can)
- 2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- ¼ cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 6 cups whole milk
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- Pinch of salt

Simply combine all the ingredients in the pot and cook on low for two hours; stirring occasionally to combine milk and chocolate.

You can ladle the hot cocoa in holiday themed ceramic mugs or paper cups. Your hot cocoa bar can be unpretentious or as elaborate as you desire. No matter the decorations or the simplicity of the setting at your gathering, your friends and family will enjoy each sip of their delicious hot cocoa creations!

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. Be sure to list the Star performers' name and community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

Your HOA Management Team

FirstService RESIDENTIAL

Be Genuinely Helpful

Aim High

Improve It

Build Great Relationships

Own It

Do What's Right

Here's a Bright Idea

Advertise in this publication and reach the colorful characters right in your own neighborhood.

Contact us today!
972-396-8855
info@communitynewsconnection.com