



## *In This Issue*

Halloween Decorating Contest Winners .....4  
 HOA Dues.....5  
 Grand Prairie Upcoming Events .....6

Christmas Tree Recycling.....7  
 Homeowners Association Meeting .....12  
 Autos 4 Animals Car Show .....16

# Who to Follow on Twitter

@MiraLagosHOA

Association Information and Neighborly News

@GrandPrairiePD

Grand Prairie Police Department



@gp\_tx

City of Grand Prairie, Texas



@GrandFunGP

City Parks, Arts and Recreation Department

@mansfieldisd

Mansfield Independent School District

@Gpscanner

Grand Prairie Scanner, local Police, Fire, EMS

@DFWscanner

DFW Scanner, area Fire, Police, EMS

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

Find us online at:

[www.facebook.com/MiraLagosHOA](http://www.facebook.com/MiraLagosHOA)

[www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA](http://www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA)



As a nonprofit hunger relief organization, we distribute donated, purchased and prepared foods through a network of more than 340 Food Assistance Partners in 13 counties. Every day, we support the nutritional needs of children, families and seniors through education, advocacy and strategic partnerships.



**North Texas Food Bank**  
4500 S. Cockrell Hill Road  
Dallas, TX 75236-2028  
214.330.1396  
ntfb.org



## Association Contact Information

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

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

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

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

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

817-473-6787 (office)  
817-473-4978 (fax)

South Pool Office "Veranda"  
3025 S. Camino Lagos  
Grand Prairie, TX 75054

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday-Saturday  
8:30 am-4:30 pm  
Closed Sunday and Monday

FirstService Residential  
Customer Service  
(877) 378-2388

Mail Payments to:  
**Lockbox Address**  
Mira Lagos Homeowner's Association  
c/o FirstService Residential  
P. O. Box 60200  
Los Angeles, CA 90060-0200



*Relationships based on respect, trust and effective communication are the cornerstone of our success.*



**Committee Chairs**  
Chair Meetings: Bi-monthly



### Communications

Erica Wagner  
[communications@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:communications@miralagoshoa.com)  
Meetings: monthly

### Landscape

Pam Downs  
[landscape@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:landscape@miralagoshoa.com)  
Meetings: 1st Wednesday monthly

### Sports

OPEN position  
[sports@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:sports@miralagoshoa.com)  
3rd Tuesday (Apr-Sept)

### Safety

Robert McLain, Chairman  
[safety@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:safety@miralagoshoa.com)  
Co-chair : Cheyanne McLain  
Meetings:  
1st Tuesday monthly

### Social

Valorie Felix and Anita Walker  
[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  
Ken Self, Director  
Deirdre Garrett, Director  
John Hughes, Director  
[board@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:board@miralagoshoa.com)

## Mira Lagos Messenger

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

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**Covenant  
Corner:  
Holiday  
Decorations**

4.25 Other (f) - All exterior holiday decorations should be removed within 30 days after the holiday to which they relate.



**A very special thank you to all of  
the committee volunteers for 2018.**

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 2019 will be an enduring asset to the Mira Lagos Community.

**Something is Hidden.  
Can you find it?**



We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger, search for a firecracker. 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.**

**Why Make New Year's  
Resolutions?**

A New Year is an opportunity to improve yourself, your habits and your outlook perhaps making you a better, healthier and nicer self. Whether you join a gym, begin a new hobby, choose a better diet or decide to get rid of a bad habit, the New Year is a great place to start, a fresh beginning.

*How few there are who have courage enough to own  
their faults, or resolution enough to mend them*

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

It takes courage to make a resolution, to rise above your normal responses and actions, to make better decisions for better life outcomes. You should make New Year's resolutions to learn new skills, choose to be kind, think positive thoughts, get more exercise and improve yourself. By improving yourself, you improve your community and your city. Have courage and resolution to make changes this year.

**What will your New Year's  
resolution be?**



**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

# 2018 HALLOWEEN DECORATING CONTEST WINNERS

*Thank you to all those that participated in the Halloween Decorating contest! Here are the winners for 2019! Congrats!*



**2823 ENGLAND PKWY**



**2823 ENGLAND PKWY**



**7476 TORMES**



**6929 NAVA**



**7003 PALENCIA**



**6927 NAVA**



**3220 GUADALOUPE**



**3052 ENGLAND**



**2920 ALMANSA**



**2927 BAHIA**



**2811 TERROSA**



**6931 NAVA**



**3107 GUADALOUPE**



**2951 ALMANSA**



**2736 EXPLORADOR**



**2732 EXPLORADOR**



**3028 S CAMINO LAGOS**



**3028 S CAMINO LAGOS**



# HOA Dues will be Due January 1<sup>st</sup>!

It's that time of year again! The Mira Lagos dues are billed annually in January. It is your responsibility to pay the HOA dues on time. If you do not receive a statement, please call or stop by the onsite office for your balance information. Please note any payments received after January 30th are subject to late fees.

### REMITTANCE ADDRESS

Mira Lagos Homeowners Association  
 C/O Firstservice Residential  
 P.O. Box 60200  
 Los Angeles, CA 90060-0220

To make your payment online go to [www.clickpay.com](http://www.clickpay.com) or contact them by phone at 1-888-354-0135. For further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the onsite office at 817-473-6787.

# Snowflake Cookies

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 2 c. sugar                                       | 2 t. vanilla extract       |
| ½ c. vegetable oil                               | 2 cups flour               |
| 4 (1-oz.) squares unsweetened chocolate (melted) | 2 t. baking powder         |
| 4 eggs (not 3)                                   | ½ t. salt                  |
|  | ¾ c. sifted powdered sugar |

Combine first 3 ingredients in large bowl; beat at medium speed of mixer until blended. Add eggs and vanilla and mix well. Combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Add about ¼ of dry mixture at a time to chocolate mixture, mixing after each addition. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours. Shape into 1-inch balls and roll in powdered sugar. Place 2-inches apart on greased sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10-12 minutes. Don't overbake! Make 8 dozen.



## Good Winter Practices

- ✓ Keep your water bottle filled, even in the cold weather. Your body loses approximately eight cups of water each day even when you do not sweat as much. Be sure to replenish your body with at least eight cups of water a day.
- ✓ Winter can leave your skin vulnerable to dryness. Keep your skin hydrated with moisturizing lotions and soothing oils. A humidifier also helps to keep your skin less dry and protected from winter's harshness.
- ✓ Despite the winter temperatures, keep active. Go for a brisk walk or try to balance on an exercise ball (working on your core) while watching television. Keeping active during winter can keep you healthy and keep the winter blues away.
- ✓ Shorter days during winter can affect your sleep cycle. Keep track of your sleep making sure you get seven to eight hours of sleep.



# HOMEOWNER Rights & Responsibilities

As a homeowner in our association, you have certain rights—and responsibilities.

You have the right to . . .

- A responsive and competent community association.
- Honest, fair, and respectful treatment by community leaders and managers.
- Attend meetings, serve on committees, and run for election.
- Access appropriate association records.
- Prudent financial management of fees and other assessments.
- Live in a community where the property is maintained according to established standards.
- Fair treatment regarding financial and other association obligations, including the opportunity to discuss payment plans and options before the association takes any legal action, and the right to appeal decisions.
- Receive all rules and regulations governing the community association—if not prior to purchase and settlement, then upon joining the community.

You also have the responsibility to . . .

- Maintain your property according to established standards.
- Treat association leaders with honesty and respect.
- Read and comply with rules and regulations of the community and ensure that your tenants and guest do too.
- Vote in community elections and on other issues.
- Pay association assessments and charges on time.
- Contact association leaders or managers, if necessary, to discuss financial obligations and alternative payment arrangements.
- Request reconsideration of material decisions that personally affect you.
- Provide your current contact information to the association so you receive all information from the community.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### ATS Lunar New Year

Date: 01/25/2019 - 01/27/2019

Location: Asia Times Square  
2625 W. Pioneer Parkway  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

This huge multi-day festival at Grand Prairie's Asia Times Square celebrates the coming lunar year with dragon and lion dances, martial arts shows, food, and more.

### Disney's DCappella – A Live A Cappella Concert Experience

Date: 01/30/2019 8:00 PM

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

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

### Keep Grand Prairie Beautiful Commission Meeting

Date: 01/08/2019 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Development Center  
206 West Church St.  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Information at [www.gptx.org/kgpb](http://www.gptx.org/kgpb) or 972-237-8152 or  
[kgpb@gptx.org](mailto:kgpb@gptx.org)

### ASAP Rocky

Date: 01/27/2019 8:00 PM

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

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

### Family Science Night: Perot Tech Truck

For kids in grades 1-5.

Date: 01/30/2019 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Location: Main Library  
901 Conover Drive  
Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Registration is required, please email Kristi at  
[kolabode@gptx.org](mailto:kolabode@gptx.org).

Are you up for the challenge! Come work together as a family to work through some different science projects!

# SAFETY TIPS FOR YOUR WINTER

## Roadtrip

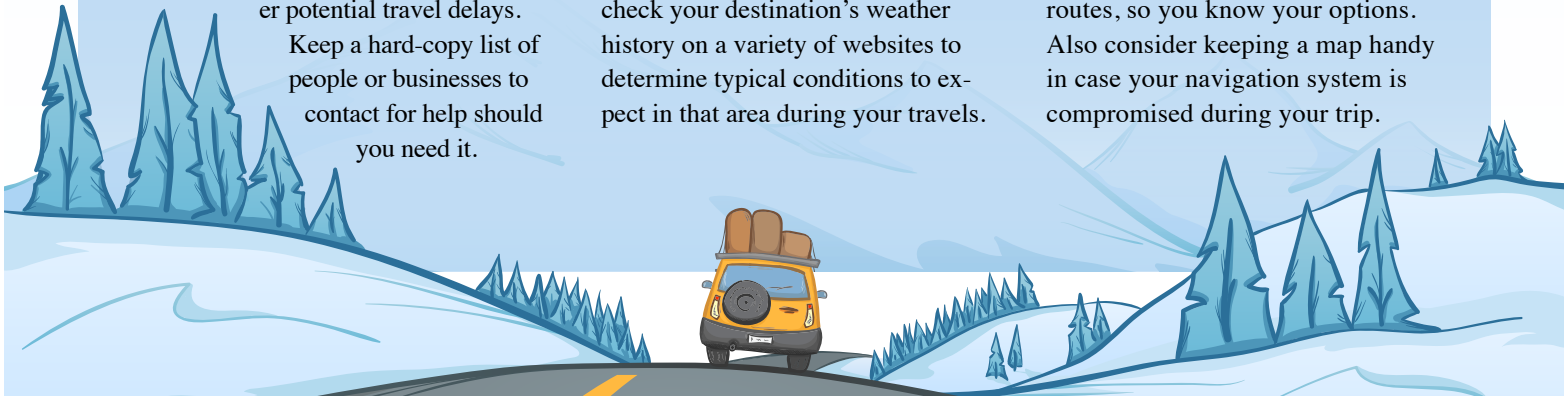
Preparedness is paramount when it comes to road trips year-round, and hitting the road for a long drive during winter months is no exception. With an increased risk of potential driving hazards like sleet, snow, strong winds and frigid temperatures, it's a good idea to think about ways to ensure you'll travel safely.

Consider the following tips when preparing for your winter road trip:

- **Invest in an emergency kit for your vehicle.** Available at most major retailers, these kits are relatively inexpensive and contain items like flares, booster cables, flashlights, ponchos and first aid supplies for minor injuries.
- **Develop a contingency plan.** Create a strategy for dealing with a flat tire, vehicle accident, dead battery or other potential travel delays.

Keep a hard-copy list of people or businesses to contact for help should you need it.

- **Stay in touch.** Check in with a designated contact during your journey with updates on your location, delays encountered or unexpected situations that require longer travel time. When driving, remember always to pull off the road before using your cell phone.
- **Check the local weather report before heading out.** Winter weather can be tricky and forecasts aren't always accurate. You can double check your destination's weather history on a variety of websites to determine typical conditions to expect in that area during your travels.
- **Store warm clothes and blankets in your vehicle.** Be prepared to stay warm if you're stuck for extended periods by keeping a blanket or two in your car. Also, pack a small travel case with snow boots, socks, gloves, a scarf, hat and heavy sweater in case you need to leave your vehicle.
- **Review your travel route without GPS.** Read through detailed driving directions, including alternate routes, so you know your options. Also consider keeping a map handy in case your navigation system is compromised during your trip.



### CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

**December 26 - January 10**  
**Multiple Drop Off Locations**

Remove all ornaments, stands and plastic bags and drop your tree off at one of the following locations:

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



For more information, contact 972-237-4566

### 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.

# What Your Association Board Does for You

As a recognized homeowners association, our community has a board to help our HOA run smoothly. The Mira Lagos Homeowners board consists of 5 volunteers that are homeowners just like yourself that have a vested interest in

this community, who execute a wide variety of tasks you may not be aware of; however, their work affects every single resident.

One of the most important things the board does is create and enforce the association rules. While some residents may not like being told what they can and can't do, ultimately the board is looking out for the greater good. By enforcing the rules, the board is doing its best to keep property value up and conflicts down. Of course, the board wants to make sure the rules are ben-



eficial for the majority—and hopefully all—residents. You are welcome to raise concerns about the rules at open board meetings.

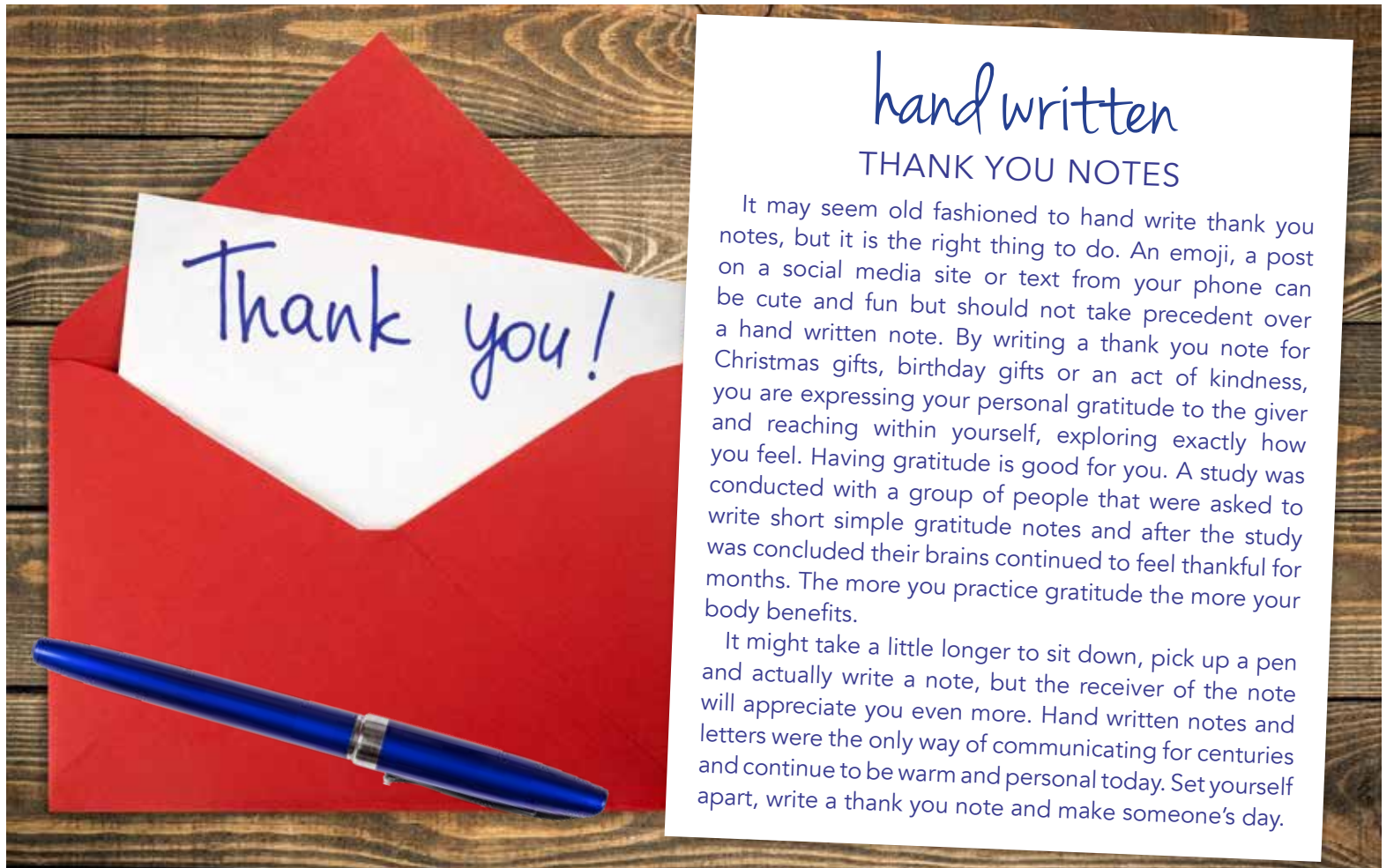
Another major responsibility of the board is to collect assessments from homeowners. Collecting this money is important for the stability of the association, because the assessments pay for the common elements enjoyed by all residents. Assessments also help to replenish the reserve funds, which pay for any major repairs the association may need. The board is responsible for the

association's finances, and collecting assessments is how it ensures that the association remains solvent.

Finally, the board acts on behalf of the association by hiring managers, attorneys, contractors and other professionals

who help better the association. Board members also help conceive and lead many of the projects that will improve the HOA.

While it's a big job, board members are happy to serve the residents and make the community a great place to call home. So why not learn more about what these volunteers do by talking to your board members, attending an open board meeting or even running for a seat on the board during our next election? The more people we have looking out for our association, the stronger it will be.



## handwritten THANK YOU NOTES

It may seem old fashioned to hand write thank you notes, but it is the right thing to do. An emoji, a post on a social media site or text from your phone can be cute and fun but should not take precedent over a hand written note. By writing a thank you note for Christmas gifts, birthday gifts or an act of kindness, you are expressing your personal gratitude to the giver and reaching within yourself, exploring exactly how you feel. Having gratitude is good for you. A study was conducted with a group of people that were asked to write short simple gratitude notes and after the study was concluded their brains continued to feel thankful for months. The more you practice gratitude the more your body benefits.

It might take a little longer to sit down, pick up a pen and actually write a note, but the receiver of the note will appreciate you even more. Hand written notes and letters were the only way of communicating for centuries and continue to be warm and personal today. Set yourself apart, write a thank you note and make someone's day.



## 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 in doors. 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!

## Garbage & Recycling

### Pick-Up Schedules

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

**Christmas Day**

**New Year's Day**

If one of these holidays falls on your garbage or recycling collection days there will be no makeup collection for the holiday. Please set out your garbage and/or recycling on your next regularly scheduled collection day.

### AREA 5

Zone 9: South of Joe Pool Lake Dam	Garbage: Mon & Thu Recycling: Mon	No change
------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	-----------

For questions on the garbage and recycling routes, call 817-261-8812.

### Garbage and Recycling Collection Info

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. Notify Code Compliance if violating with snap.

#### Garbage Collection:

Use any color plastic bag for garbage except blue or red (blue bags are used for recyclables only and will not be collected if they contain trash).

**Do not put garbage in trash cans or any container except plastic bags. Containers will be taken with garbage.**

## 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 1.888.313.4747.**

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!"

**RECIPES**  
*from our cookbook*  
**NEW YEARS EVE**  
*party*

**CHIPPED BEEF CHEESE BALL**

- 3** pkgs. of cream cheese
- 3** pkgs. sliced beef lunch meat (chopped)
- 2** bunches green onions (chopped)
- Worcester sauce to taste
- Salt to taste

Mix together and form ball and chill. Can be formed into molds (lay down plastic wrap first).

**HOLIDAY SANDWICH LOAF**

- 2** lb. loaf bread (chilled)

**HAM FILLING**

- 1** cup ground cooked ham
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup chopped walnuts
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup pickle relish

**CHEESE FILLING**

- 1**  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup shredded cheddar cheese
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup butter
- $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp. cayenne pepper

**CHICKEN FILLING**

- 1** cup chopped chicken
- 1**  $8 \frac{1}{2}$  oz. crushed pineapple
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp celery salt

**FROSTING**

- 2** **8 oz. cream cheese**
- $\frac{1}{2}$  **cup sour cream**

Slice crust of bread length wise. Butter each side of bread that will have a filling against it (this keeps



**CHIPPED BEEF CHEESE BALL**

the filling from seeping into bread). Put chilled fillings on bread and chill loaf until time to frost. Frost one hour before servings.

**TORTILLA ROLLUPS**

- 1** (8 oz.) pkgs. Cream Cheese
- 1** (8 oz.) pkgs. Chive & Onion cream cheese
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. Salt
- 2** tbsp. El Fenix Hot Sauce
- 2** tbsp. Pace Picante Sauce
- 1** (10 ct.) pkg. Flour Burrito Tortillas

Mix ingredients into cream cheese. Spread cream cheese mixture on tortillas and roll. Chill. Cut into inch sized sections and serve with picante sauce.

**WHITE CHOCOLATE TRASH**

- 3** cups Rice Chex Cereal
- 3** cups Wheat Chex Cereal
- 3** cups Cheerios Cereal
- 1**  $\frac{1}{2}$  bags White Chocolate Chips (3 cups)
- 2** cups Honey Roasted Peanuts
- 1** bag (1 lb) regular M&M's
- 1** bag (1 lb) Peanut or Almond M&M's
- 2** cups stick Pretzels

In a LARGE bowl mix together all ingredients except the white chocolate chips. Melt the white chocolate chips and pour over mixture in bowl. Mix gently until all coated. Let set in bowl 30 minutes or so to dry. You can use

seasonally colored M&M's to make it look festive!

**STUFFED MUSHROOMS (ELKES)**

- 1** lb. Breakfast Sausage
- 1** tsp. Crushed Red Pepper
- 8** oz. Cream Cheese
- 1** cup Monterrey Jack Cheese
- 2** dz. Mushrooms (cleaned and trimmed)\*
- \*save trimmings and chop into sausage

Cook sausage and mushroom trimmings with crushed red pepper and cool to room temperature. Fold in cream cheese and Monterrey jack cheese. Stuff mushrooms. Bake @ 350 for 15 minutes or until hot. Makes 2 dozen.

**CHEESE LOG**

- 1** pkg. Cream Cheese (8 oz.)
- 2** lbs. Sharp Cheddar Cheese, finely grated
- 1** cup finely chopped pecan pieces
- 2** cloves of garlic (or 2 tsp. chopped)
- Chili Powder (lots! Spice jar full!)**
- Wax Paper and Foil**

**1.** Blend together (you can use a food processor if you have one). Add a couple of shakes of chili powder too.  
**2.** Divide in half and mix thoroughly with hands to blend all together smoothly. Divide into 4 equal quarters and roll each



**STUFFED JALAPENO POPPERS**

quarter into a 2 inch diameter log (about the size of a Ritz cracker). On a sheet of wax paper coat the out side if each log totally in chili powder. Wrap in wax paper and over wrap with foil tucking ends over to seal. Keep refrigerated.  
**3.** Slice and place on crackers and serve! Will keep for a little over a week but never more than two weeks!

**STUFFED JALAPENO POPPERS**

- 1** lb. ground sausage
- 1** pkg. taco seasoning
- 1** (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1** pkg. bacon (thin sliced)
- 1** lb. large fresh jalapeno peppers

**1.** Place sausage in a skillet over medium heat, and cook until brown. Drain grease and mix in the taco seasoning. In a bowl, mix the sausage and cream cheese. Slice your peppers in half; Make sure you remove the seeds and ribs from the pepper. (You may want to wear gloves while handling the peppers so you don't end up getting the juices in your eyes later on!) Spoon about 1 tablespoon sausage mixture into each jalapeno half.  
**2.** Wrap thin sliced bacon around each stuffed pepper and secure with a soaked wooden toothpick. Wrap a slice of bacon around each pepper. Secure the bacon with a wooden toothpick. (You may want to soak wooden toothpicks in water before you begin to prevent burning.)  
**3.** Grill or broil the poppers until the bacon is cooked.



**TORTILLA ROLLUPS**  
(see previous page)

**B-L-T POPPERS**

- 16** cherry tomatoes
- 1** lb. bacon, cooked & crumbled
- ½** cup mayonnaise
- ⅓** cup green onion, finely chopped
- 3** tbsps. parmesan cheese, finely grated
- 2** tbsps. parsley, finely chopped

- 1.** Cut a thin slice off the top of each tomato. Scoop out and discard pulp.
- 2.** Turn tomatoes upside down on a paper towel to drain. In a small bowl, combine the remaining ingredients and mix well.
- 3.** Spoon filling into tomatoes, mounding slightly.
- 4.** Cover and chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours.

Tip: I use a metal 1/4 tsp measuring spoon to scoop out the tomatoes.

**LONE STAR CAVIAR**

- 1** 2 oz. jar diced pimentos, drained
- 1** cup red onion, chopped
- 1** cup celery, chopped
- 1** red bell pepper, chopped
- 3** cans black eyed peas, drained & rinsed
- 1** 4 oz. can chopped green chili peppers, drained

Mix all ingredients together.

**DRESSING**

- ⅔** cup vinegar
- ⅔** cup sugar

- ½** cup oil
- 1** tsp. seasoned salt
- ½** tsp. black pepper
- 1** tsp. minced fresh garlic

Mix all ingredients together in a large bowl. Pour dressing mixture over salad and mix. Chill over night. Serve as a side salad or use as a dip. Enjoy!

**CHEESY SAUSAGE BALLS**

(Cooks.com or yummlly.com)

**Family Size Recipe (makes 24)**

- 3** cups Bisquick
- 1** lbs. breakfast sausage
- 4** cups cheddar cheese
- ½** cup grated parmesan
- 4** green onions, chopped
- ¾** tsp. crushed red pepper
- 1** cup water

**Party Size Recipe (makes 48)**

- 6** cups Bisquick
- 2** lbs. breakfast sausage
- 8** cups cheddar cheese
- 1** cup grated parmesan
- 8** green onions chopped
- 1 ½** tsp. crushed red pepper
- 2** cups water

Mix together, drop by teaspoon and form balls and bake for 15 -20 minutes at 275 degrees. Spray Baking Pan or Foil with Pam Spray!!! Spray even when reheating! Make ahead of time because they reheat wonderfully! Freezes well too! To reheat, loosely cover in foil to keep from drying out and reheat in 350 degree oven.



**CHEESY SAUSAGE BALLS**

**TWO-PEPPER TOMATO RELISH**

(Better Homes & Gardens)

- 1** cup red bell pepper, chopped
- 1** cup tomato, seeded & chopped
- ½** cup red onion, finely chopped
- ¾** serrano pepper, seeded & chopped
- 2** tbsps. balsamic vinegar
- ¼** tsp salt

Combine all ingredients in a medium bowl. Cover and chill in the refrigerator for 2 hours. Great for hamburgers, hot dogs and brats. Yields 2 ½ cups (20 servings).

**SAUSAGE BREAD**

Andrea Immer Robison (Pairings with Andrea)

- 12** oz pork or turkey sausage
- 3** cloves garlic, mashed and minced
- 1 ½** cups grated mozzarella cheese

- ½** cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1** can refrigerated pizza dough
- 1** large egg, beaten
- 1** tbsps. oregano

- 1.** Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- 2.** Over medium heat, add sausage, garlic and oregano to heated skillet, Cook, stirring until sausage if browned. Remove from heat and spoon sausage onto paper towel-lined plate to drain.
- 3.** On lightly flowered surface, roll pizza crust dough into and 8 x 12 inch rectangle. Spread sausage along center of dough, then top with cheeses. Fold long sides of dough over sausage and cheese mixture, overlapping. Fold ends over slightly.
- 4.** Transfer to baking sheet sprayed with cooking spray, seams side down. Brush top and sides with beaten egg.
- 5.** Bake for 20-25 minutes until golden brown. Remove from oven and cool on baking rack.
- 6.** Cut into one-inch thick slices and serve. Yields 6 servings.

# JANUARY 2019

## Holiday & Observances

- January 1.....New Year's Day
- January 4.....National Spaghetti Day
- January 10.....Houseplant Appreciation Day
- January 15.....National Hat Day
- January 21.....Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday (celebrated on the 3rd Monday)
- January 26.....Spouse's Day

# 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.

# Get Your Business Noticed Advertise Here

Call 972-396-8855 or [info@communitynewsconnection.com](mailto:info@communitynewsconnection.com) for ad rates and sizes.



## Mira Lagos Annual HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday, February 28th

Sign In: 6:30 pm | Meeting: 7:00 pm

Mira Lagos Clubhouse

3025 S. Camino Lagos, Grand Prairie, TX 75054

Annual HOA & PID Review | Board Member Elections

Interested in becoming a Board Member?

Please express your interest by emailing Stacy McGrath at [manager@miralagoshoa.com](mailto:manager@miralagoshoa.com) or by phone 817-473-6787.



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



# Winter Pet Safety

We love our pets, so keeping them safe in the winter-time should be a top priority. See below for some friendly reminders detailing how you can ensure your pet stays warm, happy and out of harm's way even on the dreariest of winter days.

**Beware of sidewalk salt and de-icer.** Pets' paws are extremely sensitive, so prolonged exposure to sidewalk salt can be problematic. If you walk your dog regularly in areas where sidewalk salt is used during inclement weather, wipe the underside of paws with warm water and a clean towel when you go back inside. Doing so also eliminates risk of ingestion if your pup licks its paws often. Keep an eye on your pet's toe pads for severe dryness, cracking or bleeding.

**Bring pets indoors.** Just as in summer months when temperatures reach extreme highs, pets should be brought inside during extreme wintertime lows. This applies for daytime and nighttime temperatures, so check your local weather daily and limit your pup's outside time if the forecast is looking chilly. And remember—if you're uncomfortable with the outside air temperature, chances are your pet is too.

**Bundle them up!** When pets do go outside during the cold winter months, those with thinner fur coats may need extra warmth. Your local pet store should have an assortment of extra layers for your dog—even winter boots for pups who need extra paw protection from the cold and ice. Only add layers if your pet can truly benefit. If you're unsure, ask your veterinarian.



Keep your pet active and out of trouble. During inclement weather when you can't make it outside with your pup, set aside some extra time during the day to make sure they have some exercise—even 15 minutes of playtime helps. Paying attention to your pup keeps them engaged and happy, and ensures no bad behavior caused by boredom.



## Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

There are many small changes you can make to your outdoor—and indoor—surroundings to adopt environmentally conscious habits that could reduce your carbon footprint. Luckily, making careful choices can be easy with the right tools and information. Check out the following advice for taking a few small steps to a more sustainable living space. Remember to check the association’s CC&Rs for guidelines and possible restrictions prior to beginning any projects.

**Try composting.** Compost is a natural way to enrich planting and gardening soil with nutrients from kitchen waste like apple cores, banana peels and coffee grounds mixed with plant matter like yard clippings and fallen leaves. The keys to successful compost are time, ventilation and heat. You can start with a medium-sized container and a lid that includes ventilation holes placed in direct sunlight, if possible. Remember to be mindful of where you place the compost on your property to decrease the likelihood of offensive odors seeping into your neighbor’s living space.

**Grow your own herbs and garden veggies.** Even if you don’t have an outdoor gardening space, you still can grow herbs and vegetables indoors in small containers. Herbs like oregano, rosemary and mint require little maintenance and can thrive if placed near a bright or sunny window. Vegetables like tomatoes and carrots also can be grown indoors with the proper care. Check your local home improvement store for seed packets and guides for getting started. And, don’t forget to use your compost to enrich that soil!

**Consider using drip irrigation.** Drip irrigation uses a slow-drip watering method to hydrate your lawn and garden on an ongoing basis instead of running a sprinkler system or hose for several intermittent periods. Running drip irrigation often can be both a cost-efficient and environmentally responsible alternative to traditional watering methods, but be sure to consult a landscape professional to learn about which plants and foliage benefit most.

**Use solar-friendly outdoor lights.** Several products on the market now employ the use of small solar sensors or panels to help reduce the amount of electricity used for outdoor lighting accessories. Semi solar-powered lantern lights, walkway illuminators and attached light fixtures are available at many home improvement stores. Opt for energy efficient light bulbs to go with your solar-friendly outdoor lighting accessories whenever possible.



Semi solar-powered lantern lights, walkway illuminators and attached light fixtures are available at many home improvement stores.



# Excuses, Excuses

Association members who pay their assessments late or not at all come up with some very interesting excuses. Here's half a dozen of the most common, and why it's smart not to use them.

## Excuse #1: "You didn't bill me."

"I didn't get an invoice."

"You didn't tell me I was behind in my payments."

Many association governing documents neither require the association to send invoices nor provide advance notice of payments due or past due. However, associations are required to send the approved budget to each owner annually and we do just that. When the association approves and hands out the budget each year to our members at the annual meeting, it contains notice of the amount you must pay annually. If you're ever unsure about the amount or the due dates, just call the onsite management office they will be more than happy to assist you with the knowledge. It is not the association duty to inform you to pay them, just like your house payment or car loan, you agreed upon contractually, but the association does send out a statement out of consideration.

## Excuse #2: "I don't get what I paid for."

"My common area fence hasn't been stained in five years! I'm not paying another cent until some basic maintenance gets done."

"The gate was not working for three or more days due to an accident. I'm withholding a pro-rated amount from my assessment check."

You have a right to require the association to perform its duties, and various legal channels exist to accomplish this. Withholding assessments is not one of them. Your obligation to pay assessments has nothing to do with the association's obligations to provide maintenance and service. If you withhold your check or pay a reduced amount, you'll become delinquent, and that leads to late fees, and actually makes your situation worse.



## Excuse #3: "You can't do that!"

"These people have no right to make me pay for neighborhood upkeep."

"If they think I'm paying those outrageous late fees and interest, they're crazy."

Actually, the association not only has the authority, it has a duty to all owners to collect assessments. This authority is established in the governing documents and the state's common interest ownership statutes. When you moved into a community association, you agreed to abide by those documents—and that includes paying assessments, period.

## Excuse #4: "I never use the recreational facilities."

"I don't swim. I shouldn't have to pay to maintain the pool."

"I've never been in the fitness center, and I don't plan to ever use it. Why can't you pro-rate my assessments accordingly?"

Admittedly, recreational facilities are expensive to operate and—for some associations—represent a good chunk of the budget. Nevertheless, most declarations specify that even if you don't use the association's amenities you're still obligated to pay for their upkeep.

Many of our residents moved into this community specifically for the recreational amenities; they're willing to pay for them because they take full advantage of the opportunities they provide. Even if you're not using some of the amenities, they make the community more desirable and the homes in the community more valuable. If you're not using the facilities, perhaps you should

consider whether this community is the best fit for you and your needs.

## Excuse #5: "I paid in full."

Sometimes the association receives a check that says "paid in full" in the memo section—but it isn't. Or the check will arrive with a letter or note, stating the check is "payment in full," or it covers all charges through a certain date. Nice try. If you still have an outstanding balance, we're not going to cash your check. We're going to return it to you. This will put you further behind in your payments and just cause more late fees.

## Excuse #6: "The fees are too high."

Assessments reflect the actual cost of maintaining all common elements in the community. If you owned your home outside the association, you would have to pay individually for all the same expenses your assessments cover—trash removal, water, landscaping, and so on. In fact, you're actually spending less on assessments because the association has bulk buying power, and you're getting more because the common areas provide amenities that you likely could not afford on your own. Mira Lagos has one of the lowest HOA fees around with the number of amenities it has.

## Legitimate Reasons, not Excuses

When association members lose their jobs or become injured or ill, the association board understands that arrangements need to be worked out for paying assessments. If you have a legitimate reason for falling behind and you need to work out a payment plan, please call the onsite admin assistant or manager. The board considers each situation individually and will try to accommodate your special circumstances.

100% of car show proceeds go to the Mansfield and Grand Prairie animal shelters!!!

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