

May 2017

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MIRA LAGOS

Messenger



Happy
Mother's Day!

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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

www.twitter.com/MiraLagosHOA



Association Contact Information

www.miralagoshoa.com

www.texas.fsrconnect.com/miralagos

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Cynthia.prox@fsresidential.com

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

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

FirstService Residential
Customer Service
(877) 378-2388

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



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



Committee Chairs
Chair Meetings: Bi-monthly



Communications

Erik Shinkle
communications@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: monthly

Social

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

Landscape

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

Welcome

OPEN
welcome@miralagoshoa.com
Meetings: monthly/electronically

Pool and Sports

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

New Members welcome on all committees!

Board of Directors

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

Safety

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



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.

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A History of Mother's Day



by Erik Shinkle

As a young boy I'd often help my grandfather out as an altar boy. Now what does this have to do with Mother's Day you might ask? Well my grandfather was the deacon at our church and he would perform most of the baptisms. He always told the same stories. He would tell the story of how his wife woke him up in the middle of the night when my aunt was a baby, he ran around the house trying to find her, made a bottle, rushed back to their bedroom only to remember that my aunt was not on formula at the time so in his half awoken state, nearly out of breath he yells "why did you wake me up?" My grandmother sitting up in the bed feeding my aunt says, "Richard I just wanted someone to talk to," and then he would lead into how he would always bless the mothers first, because let's face it up to this point in a child's life mom has really done most of the work!

Thinking back to those days I couldn't agree more, Mom's really are super heroes, they cook, they clean, they are doctors, nurses, taxi drivers, financial planners, cheerleaders, maids, and so much more. For most of my childhood my mom was a single parent. (no I didn't have an absent father, that's a story for another day... maybe Father's Day) She was my super mom, putting my needs before her own, and when my brother and sister came along the 3 of us always had food, cloths and a warm bed.

The earliest history of Mother's Day dates back to the ancient annual spring festival the Greeks dedicated to maternal goddesses. The Greeks used the occasion to honor Rhea, wife of Cronus and the mother of many deities of Greek mythology. Ancient Romans, too, celebrated a spring festival, called Hilaria dedicated to Cybele, a mother goddess. It may be noted that ceremonies in honor of Cybele began some 250

years before Christ was born. The celebration made on the Ides of March by making offerings in the temple of Cybele lasted for three days and included parades, games and masquerades. The celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome. Early Christians celebrated a Mother's Day of sorts during the festival on the fourth Sunday of Lent in honor of the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. In England, the holiday was expanded to include all mothers. It was then called Mothering Sunday.

Maybe Mother's Day is a hallmark holiday to you, maybe you enjoy the history of it, maybe you have a tradition, brunch? Dinner? Perhaps you've lost your mom, whatever your situation or tradition is, I pray you have a wonderful day and thank you to all the moms in Mira Lagos and beyond without you we wouldn't be here.





UPCOMING EVENTS

Memorial Day Celebration

Join us as we honor all service men and women with a Memorial Day Celebration featuring an aircraft flyover, bag piper, a 21-gun salute and patriotic music. A free all-American lunch will be provided following the ceremony by local Rotary clubs.

Date: Monday, May 29, 2017

Time: Gather at 9:30 a.m., services begin at 10 a.m.

Location: Veterans Memorial, 925 W. Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75050

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

Itty Bitty Triathlon

Nationally publicized event! This event was featured in the national magazine by NRPA in 2016. Parents, come cheer your little triathlete on at the Itty-Bitty Triathlon 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20, 2017 at Charley Taylor Recreation Center, 601 E Grand Prairie Rd. The course, for children ages 3-5, includes a walk through the sprinkles, a bike or tricycle ride, and a run to the finish line where they will receive a medal and a Itty Bitty Triathlon t-shirt. Fee: \$10 per child. Pre-registration required. Call 972-264-6890. Must bring own tricycle/bicycle and helmet. No parents allowed on course. Children will be guided through course by staff.

Date: Saturday, May 20, 2017

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: Charley Taylor Recreation Center 601 E Grand Prairie Road, Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Information: Charley Taylor Recreation Center at 972-264-6890

Something is Hidden. Can you find it?

We have hidden in the Mira Lagos Messenger,
a lifejacket

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!



Computer Class: Basics of Excel

Date: May 2, 2017, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Computer Class: Basics of PowerPoint

Date: May 9, 2017, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: Main Library

901 Conover Drive

Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Start from the very beginning! Learn the basics of working on a computer, using a mouse, running programs and setting up an email. We will have multiple computer class series where we will teach you everything from turning on your computer to creating a social media profile. Computers are limited, so registration is required! Please sign up at the front desk or contact: kolabode@gptx.org.

*no personal computers

*please come to class on time as staff will be unable to catch participants up who are more than 10 minutes late.

Zumba at the Library

Date: Every Thursday in May, 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Location: Betty Warmack Library

760 Bardin Rd.

Grand Prairie, Texas 75052

Join us for this free six-part Zumba series that will have you sweating and moving to the beat!

Senior Game Day

Date: May 4th , 11th , 18th , 25th 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Main Library

901 Conover Drive

Grand Prairie, Texas 75051

Come make new friends, hang out with old friends while playing classic board games and working on puzzles.



MAY IS NATIONAL BARBECUE MONTH!

With May being National BBQ Month, it's time to drag out the grill, clean out the barbecue pit, and pick up some charcoal, because the smell of smoke drifting from your neighbor's backyard is going to make you want that unique barbecue taste.

"Barbecue" originally referred to pork cooked over a high smoke fuel source like wood or charcoal. The term has now come to include other meats and foods, and refers more to the cooking method, rather than a specific dish.

In history, the term "barbecue" was first used as a noun in western literature by William Dampier, a British buccaneer, way back in 1697. The method is commonly believed to have originated from aboriginal peoples in the Caribbean and Florida, where the word "barbecue" first entered the English language as "barbacoa," which translated as "sacred fire pit." By the mid-18th Century, the term had taken on a more modern meaning, with respect to the cooking of pork. Barbecue then meant "a dressed whole hog," which exists to this day as a quintessential barbecue dish.

Remember, there is also a difference between barbecue and grilling. Grilling refers to cooking with more direct heat, from lower smoke fuels, sometimes having flames licking the meat. Barbecue requires more indirect heat, and higher smoke fuels. Many modern gas barbecues are better described as Grills.

So, with the summer ahead of you, get that BBQ ready to go for some of that delicious smoky flavor.

From www.fix.com

Yard of the Month



2017 Yard of the Month

Spring has sprung, so it is time to wrangle those weeds, and whip your yard into shape for the 2017 Yard of the Month contest. To be considered for a prize and bragging rights, your lot must be free of violations including fence maintenance violations, grease stains and trash. Yards must be weed free and mowed, and edged regularly, bushes and trees should be trimmed and shaped appropriately. Your HOA account must be current and in good standing. Gift certificates will be presented to 14 winners every month from May-August 2017. Pictures of winning houses will be published in the Messenger and the coveted Yard of the Month sign will be placed in the winning yards for the month. Volunteers will be driving slowly around all the neighborhoods looking for the best of the best. Make your neighbors proud, and if you see a house that is deserving please send the address with your nomination to landscape@miralagoshoa.com for consideration. Good Luck, and may the best yards win!

Pool Opening Date

Sometime in May

Due to the City of Grand Prairie changing their procedure on inspections, the pools will not open until they complete the inspections sometime after May 1st. There is no way to know when the inspection will take place but we will keep you posted via an email regarding the opening date. Sorry for the inconvenience. City website is www.gptx.org

- Onsite Management





HOA POOL RULES

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

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

Memorial Day



On Monday May 29th, this year we celebrate Memorial Day. Memorial Day was started in 1966 but its origins can be traced back to the Civil war with a day of remembrance for the fallen called Decoration Day. On Decoration

Day, the grave stones were decorated of those who fell in defense of their country, it was held in May, to not celebrate any battle.

Red Poppies

In 1915, inspired by the poem "In Flanders Fields," Moira Michael replied with her own poem:

We cherish too, the Poppy red
That grows on fields where valor led,
It seems to signal to the skies
That Blood of Heroes never dies



She then conceived of an idea to wear red poppies on Memorial Day in honor of those who died serving the nation during war. She

was the first to wear one, and sold poppies to her friends and co-workers with the money going to benefit servicemen in need. Shortly before Memorial Day in 1922 the VFW became the first veterans' organization to nationally sell poppies. Two years later their "Buddy" Poppy program was selling artificial poppies made by disabled veterans. In 1948, the US Post Office honored Ms. Michael for her role in founding the National Poppy movement by issuing a red 3 cent postage stamp with her likeness on it.

What's the difference?

The United States celebrates three national holidays for service members:

Memorial Day- To honor those who sacrificed their life

Veterans Day- to celebrate those who have served

Armed Forces Day – to honor those serving

So, this Memorial Day please take a moment and pause, think about the troops that didn't make it home, think about the families that are missing someone from their BBQ, but most of all let's be a community that is thankful for the scarifies of others so we can live in such a wonderful place.



What we Remember on Memorial Day

What we remember and honor on Memorial Day is heroic sacrifice. We acknowledge those who nobly gave of themselves, even unto death, for a purpose they believed was greater than themselves. Since the days just following the end of the Civil War, Americans have gathered in late May to honor those who died in military service to their country.

Here are some facts to keep in mind as you celebrate and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and those that are still making sacrifices for this country.

Memorial Day was a response to the unprecedented carnage of the Civil War, in which some 620,000 soldiers on both sides died. The loss of life and its effect on communities throughout the country led to spontaneous commemorations of the dead.

Gen. Logan, the speaker at the Carbondale gathering, also was commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans. On May 5, 1868, he issued General Orders No. 11, which set aside May 30, 1868 "for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of

comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

"Here rests in honored glory an American soldier known but to God." That is the inscription on the Tomb of the Unknowns, established at Arlington National Cemetery to inter the remains of the first Unknown Soldier, a World War I fighter, on Nov. 11, 1921. Unknown soldiers from World War II and the Korean War subsequently were interred in the tomb on Memorial Day 1958.

It is customary on Memorial Day to fly the flag at half-staff until noon, and then raise it to the top of the staff until sunset.

President Bill Clinton signed the National Moment of Remembrance Act on Dec. 28, 2000, designating 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day as a *National Moment of Remembrance*.

Red poppies are known as a symbol of remembrance, and it's a tradition to wear them to honor those who died in war.

Mira Lagos Community Garage Sale

A very special thank you to all of those who participated in our Mira Lagos Community Garage Sale. The clouds didn't keep the homeowners from setting up or the shoppers from coming out despite the rain chances. Everyone removed their signs, cleared away left over sale items and put forth great effort to keep our community beautiful, for that we are truly grateful.

The next community garage sale will be September 19, 2017.



DON'T FORGET TO



Election May 6th

You will have the opportunity to vote for Council Member, Place 7 and there is a Special Election for Proposition 1. Proposition 1 is the reauthorization of the local sales and use tax in the City of Grand Prairie at the rate of ¼ of 1% to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets.

Early voting is April 24–May 2, 2017 and Election Day Voting is Saturday, May 6, 2017.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at the following locations:

- Asia Times Square (Tarrant County voters only)
2615 W. Pioneer Parkway
- Lake Parks Operation Center (Tarrant County voters only)
5610 Lake Ridge Parkway

TARRANT COUNTY EARLY VOTING DATES AND TIMES

- April 24 - April 28 8 am to 5 pm
- April 29 (Saturday) 7 am to 7 pm
- April 30 (Sunday) 11 am to 4 pm
- May 1 - May 2 7 am to 7 pm

For further information please go to <http://www.gptx.org/city-government/city-secretary/elections>



Hawaiian LUAU party

Mira Lagos 2017 Luau

The New Mira Lagos Amenity Center is under construction at the South Pool but the Annual Community Luau must go on!

**Don't miss out on the chance to spend a day at
Hawaiian Falls Waterpark • Mansfield, TX**

Saturday, May 27, 2017

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Tickets include all-day admission to Hawaiian Falls Waterparks in Mansfield, TX. The luau will be exclusive to Mira Lagos HOA residents from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Cost:

Cash or check - \$10.00/person

Credit card - \$11.00/person

Children under 2 - free

General admission regularly \$28/person

Park rules and any fees (coolers, additional guests, etc.) will apply. You must purchase and reserve your tickets in advance.

LIMIT 4/household

Additional tickets may be purchased at the general admission price at the gate.

**E-mail your Mira Lagos HOA at
admin@miralagoshoa.com for more information.**

Hosted by
Mira Lagos Social Committee
social@miralagoshoa.com



Recipe of the Month – Vietnamese Pho Noodle Soup

Ingredients

Broth

- 4 cups Asian beef stock
- 1 big slice ginger
- 1 whole star anise
- 3 cloves
- 1 teaspoon light soy sauce (or soy sauce)
- 2 teaspoons fish sauce

To serve

- 200 grams raw beef short ribs (or sirloin steak, or tenderloin)
- 150 grams (5 ounces) dried rice noodles
- 2 green onions (green part)
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 1 cup fresh herbs (mix of cilantro, basil, and/or mint)
- Sriracha and hoisin sauce (or homemade hoisin sauce)

Instructions

1. Combine beef stock, ginger, star anise, and cloves in a pot. Bring to a boil over medium high heat. Turn to medium low heat. Add ginger, star anise, cloves, light soy sauce, and fish sauce. Cover and cook for 30 minutes.
2. Use a slotted spoon to remove all the solid ingredients and discard them. Return soup to the stove, cover, and heat over the lowest heat needed to keep it hot. If you have leftover cooked beef, you can add it into the broth now to reheat it.
3. While boiling the soup, slice the raw beef against grain into thin slices. You can freeze the beef briefly, about 10 minutes, so it will be easier to slice. Prep and cut veggies and set them aside.
4. Ten minutes before the beef broth is ready, bring another pot of water to a boil. Add rice noodles and cook (or soak) according to instructions, or until tender. It usually takes 3 to 8 minutes, depending on the type of noodles. Rinse with tap water and drain. Divide the noodles among the serving bowls.
5. Top beef slices, without overlapping, on the rice noodles and pour the soup over them, to quickly cook the beef. If you want the beef to be cooked more thoroughly, lightly press them into the soup to heat evenly. Garnish with bean sprouts and herbs. Serve immediately with lime wedges, Sriracha sauce and hoisin sauce.



Snails eat plants, flowers and vegetables making them a real pest in your garden. Here are a few options and ideas that may help to repel and deter pesky snails from harming your garden.

- Use Copper – purchase copper tape from a garden center, wrap it around your plant containers. Copper reacts with the slime produced by the snail with an unpleasant electro-neural shock.
- Crushed Egg Shells – sprinkle crushed egg shells all around your plants. Snails will avoid the shells sharp edges. Egg shells also enrich and nourish your soil with calcium.

- Use Coffee Two Ways - Scatter coffee grounds at the base of your plants or place cooled coffee in a spray bottle and spritz the leaves and soil of your plants. Studies have shown coffee is a good snail repellent and also enriches soil.
- Change Your Watering Schedule – a moist soil is easier for snails to travel over so try watering in the morning so the sun will slightly dry out the soil vs. watering in the evening leaving the soil moist longer.
- Till the Soil Often – tilling the soil in your flower beds or around your plants frequently will kill off any snail eggs.
- Use Mulch or Sand – place mulch or sand around your plants to deter snails, making it difficult to climb over and reach your plants.
- Try Planting Companion Plants – many plants and herbs can be unappealing to snails. Plants include azaleas, foxglove and hibiscus. Herbs include rosemary, mint, parsley and/or basil.
- Encourage Predators – frogs, toads, and salamanders snack on snails as well as other insects. Place a ceramic toad house to encourage toads and frogs to your garden. Studies show that one single frog can consume 10,000 insects a season, including mosquitoes, grasshoppers, caterpillars, snails and flies.

Toad Houses and Why You Need Them



Most homeowners spend countless hours and money in order to have beautiful lawns. No matter how much you invest in plants, trees and grass, pesky bugs and insects can destroy it in no time if not dealt with. Don't use harmful harsh chemicals and pesticide instead let toads naturally rid

your garden and yard of pests. Toads are the most natural form of pest control preying on insects, snails, slugs and mosquitoes. Studies show that one toad can eat thousands of pests in a single summer.

If you haven't seen toads in your yard, you might need to entice them. You will need a toad house or clay pot to provide toads an escape from predators and from curious pet cats or dogs. You should make sure to find a cool spot and soil that is slightly raised or mounded. Place a toad house on the soil. If you use a clay pot bury it angled halfway in the soil leaving an opening just big enough for the toad to enter.

Toads are amphibians, living on both water and land needing moisture to survive. A clay pot saucer is an excellent choice for providing water for toads. Place both the



house and water source close together near an area that is known to have bugs and insects. It isn't too difficult to attract toads to the garden if the right habitat is provided. Just like humans, toads want to live in a safe place and have plenty of food and water.

It is a fact that the number of amphibians is declining in the world today which may be due to agricultural and residential pesticides. By creating a toad habitat, you could help save the toad population as well as rid your lawn and garden naturally of damaging pest.

Note: If you are currently using harsh chemicals or pesticides, your garden and lawn is too toxic for toads to survive. Even small amounts of chemicals can harm a toad. Before you entice toads to your lawn or garden, remove synthetic fertilizers, fungicides, and herbicides.

Raised Bed Vegetable Gardening

Dream of growing your own vegetables but may not have ground space sufficient for a traditional garden? Maybe your ground soil is full of clay or you have pets that may crush and trample plants and vegetables. Perhaps a bad back, hip or knee issues keep you from growing and enjoying a vegetable garden. A raised bed garden container might an option for you. Raised bed containers can be purchased at a garden center, DIY store or online in several heights and dimensions. If you are handy consider building one keeping in mind the type of wood, paint and stain you choose to ensure healthy eatable vegetables.

A key factor in any garden is good soil. In a raised bed garden your soil can be created to grow specific vegetables for an ideal producing environment using compost, vermiculite, sand and/or peat moss. As a result of mixing the soil, the soil is loose which provides the needed aeration for plant roots to absorb nutrients.



Proper drainage in a raised bed allows water and rain to seep into the garden container preventing runoff which washes away soil. Water can soak down into the raised bed without puddles remaining resulting in wet soil. Most vegetables do not like wet feet.

In a raised bed garden, it is easier to keep out pests and crawling insects. Use copper tape around the perimeter of the frame

or container legs to deter snails and slugs from entering your garden. The container should be lined. Use a landscape fabric liner or a fine mesh screen for good drainage as well as thwart soil parasites.

Plant your plants or seeds in rows in a raised bed as you would in a ground garden. Most gardeners suggest planting rows that run east to west with taller plants on north side and shorter ones on the southern side to preclude shade on short plants. Compact planting helps prevent weeds and gives more food production in less space. Be sure to consider height and spacing requirements specific to each plant. You can also prolong your growing season by planting early and continuing later because the soil will warm earlier in a raised bed garden than the soil in your yard.

A raised bed container garden could be a perfect solution for you to grow the vegetable garden you have always wanted!



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

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

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

We do like:

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

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!"



At FirstService Residential we have very strong values!

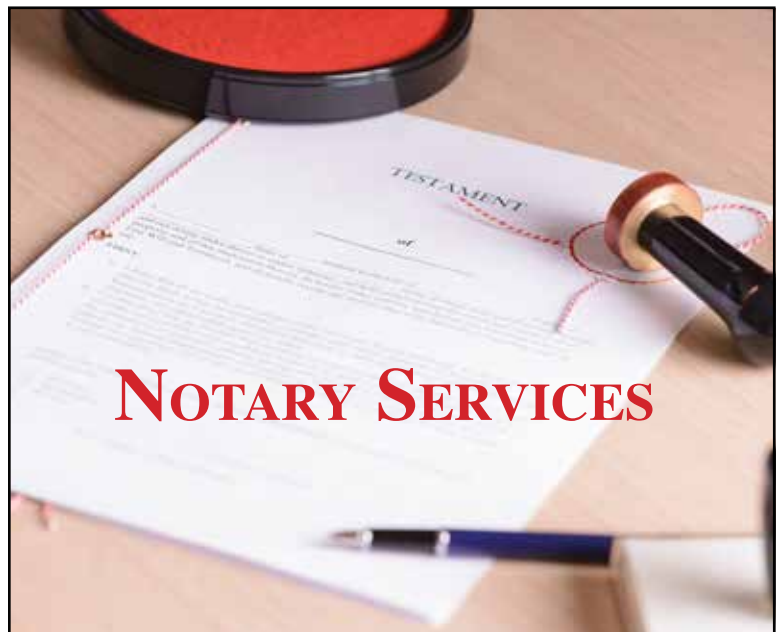
We strive to meet these values every day for our residents and hope you will join us in recognizing those individuals who go above and beyond in delivering great customer service.

- ▶ 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

- Be Genuinely Helpful
- Aim High
- Improve It
- Build Great Relationships
- Own It
- Do What's Right



NOTARY SERVICES

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

ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN ★ HISTORY MONTH ★



May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month – a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. A rather broad term, Asian/Pacific encompasses all of the Asian continent and the Pacific islands of Melanesia (New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Fiji and the Solomon Islands), Micronesia (Marianas, Guam, Wake Island, Palau, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru and the Federated States of Micronesia) and Polynesia (New Zealand, Hawaiian Islands, Rotuma, Midway Islands, Samoa, American Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, Cook Islands, French Polynesia and Easter Island).

Like most commemorative months, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month originated with Congress. In 1977 Reps. Frank Horton of New York introduced House Joint Resolution 540 to proclaim the first ten days in May as Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. In the same year, Senator Daniel Inouye introduced a similar resolution, Senate Joint Resolution 72. Neither of these resolutions passed, so in June 1978, Rep. Horton introduced House Joint Resolution 1007. This resolution proposed that the President should “proclaim a week, which is to

include the seventh and tenth of the month, during the first ten days in May of 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” This joint resolution was passed by the House and then the Senate and was signed by President Jimmy Carter on October 5, 1978 to become Public Law 95-419. This law amended the original language of the bill and directed the President to issue a proclamation for the “7 day period beginning on May 4, 1979 as ‘Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week.’” During the next decade, presidents passed annual proclamations for Asian/Pacific American Heritage Week until 1990 when Congress passed Public Law 101-283 which expanded the observance to a month for 1990. Then in 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-450 which annually designated May as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.



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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 or call city offices at 972-237-8000.

Armed Forces Day in the United States



Many Americans celebrate Armed Forces Day annually on the third Saturday of May. It is a day to pay tribute to men and women who serve the United States' armed forces. Armed Forces Day is also part of Armed Forces Week, which begins on the second Saturday of May.

US Army officer hugging daughter
©iStockphoto.com/videodet

What Do People Do?

Many events across the United States take place on Armed Forces Day to honor Americans in uniform who served their country in times of war and peace. Those who are honored on this day include people who serve the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard. National Guard and Reserve units may celebrate Armed Forces Day/Week over any period in May because of their unique training schedules. Events and activities may include:

- Multi-service military displays in areas open for the public.
- Various educational activities that teach children about the armed forces.
- "Support the Troops" themed motorcycle rides.
- Large parades and other local celebrations.

Certain types of music are also played at Armed Forces Day events, including at memorials and at cemeteries, to respect those in the armed forces who died for their country. For example, buglers have played a bugle call, known simply as Taps, on Armed Forces Day in recent years. Taps is usually sounded by the United States military at events such as flag ceremonies, memorial services and funerals.

Background

On August 31, 1949, Louis Johnson, who was the United States' Secretary of Defense, announced the creation of an Armed Forces Day to replace separate Army, Navy and Air Force Days. The event stemmed from the armed forces' unification under one department – the Department of Defense. The Army, Navy and Air Force leagues adopted the newly formed day. The Marine Corps League declined to drop support for Marine Corps Day but supports Armed Forces Day too.

The first Armed Forces Day was celebrated on Saturday, May 20, 1950. The theme for that day was "Teamed for Defense", which expressed the unification of all military forces under one government department. According to the U.S. Department of Defense, the day was designed to expand public understanding of what type of job was performed and the role of the military in civilian life. Armed Forces Day was a day for the military to show "state-of-the-art" equipment to Americans. It was also a day to honor and acknowledge Americans in the armed forces. Parades, open houses, receptions and air shows were held at the inaugural Armed Forces Day. Armed Forces Day is still celebrated nationwide today and is part of Armed Forces Week.

<https://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/us/armed-forces-day>



HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO

Cinco de Mayo—or the fifth of May—commemorates the Mexican army's 1862 victory over France at the Battle of Puebla during the Franco-Mexican War (1861-1867). In the United States, Cinco de Mayo is widely interpreted as a celebration of Mexican culture and heritage, particularly in areas with substantial Mexican-American populations. Chicano activists raised awareness of the holiday in the 1960s, in part because they identified with the victory of indigenous Mexicans over European invaders during the Battle of Puebla. Today, revelers mark the occasion with parades, parties, mariachi music, Mexican folk dancing and traditional foods such as tacos and mole poblano. www.history.com

20th Annual Cinco De Mayo Celebration

Date: 05/06/2017 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Location: City Hall

317 College Street

Grand Prairie, Texas 75050

Grand Prairie celebrates Cinco De Mayo with a parade, entertainment, festival foods, art contest, and other activities on Saturday, May 6, 2017. The annual event is presented by the Cinco De Mayo committee in junction with GPISD, City of Grand Prairie, and other community businesses and organizations.

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at 1405 Main Street near Graff Chevrolet and ends at Grand Prairie City Hall, 317 College St. Free entertainment is noon to 6 p.m. For more information: cinco@gpisd.org, 972-237-4014 or 972-237-5366.



The Truth About Cleaning



Most of us learned to clean growing up however, cleaning has changed over the years. Here are a few truths that will help your home be clean and healthy.

We know that bleach can be used to rid your home of germs however did you know that you must first clean, remove dirt and food particles from countertops, flooring and fixtures otherwise germs linger?

Carpet cleaning with harmful chemicals is not a good idea and have scared some of us so much that we may neglect our carpets altogether. However having clean carpet results in a healthy home. The best way to clean your carpet is to hire a reputable company that does not use chemicals but steam or invest in steam cleaning equipment yourself.

Polishing wood tables and furniture was what some of us were taught but applying polish consistently is not the best for wood. Simple regular dusting with a natural plant based cleaner will be good for you and the wood products in your home.

Grout cleaning can be a tedious job but is necessary for a clean and healthy home. Some people suggest using baking soda and a bit of vinegar is a great way to remove dirt from grout which is true. It may be easier to hire a professional to clean and seal the grout. Grout in the shower area which is wet on a daily basis, it may be necessary to re-seal every year or so but on kitchen backsplash grout or a tiled area that is not normally so wet, the grout seal will last two to three years. Sealed grout keeps mildew and odor away resulting in a clean home.



Share Your Announcement!

If you have a Mira Lagos senior who will be graduating this year, and what to share the news, please send:

- Name of graduate
- Recent photo
- School name
- Parent's names
- Plans for after graduation

Your email to communications@miralagoshoa.com

means you grant us permission to use and publish the photograph and information you provided.

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Your Homestead Exemption Deadline is April 30th!

If you owned your home and have lived in it since January 1st, you may be eligible for a homestead exemption. The Texas legislature increased the exemption to \$25,000 in 2015, so if you qualify, be sure to file the appropriate paperwork with the Tarrant County Tax Appraiser's office. You do not need to file every year. Once you have filed, the tax appraiser will hold your homestead exemption information for future years. Even though we pay taxes to two different tax offices, you do not need to file this form in both tax offices. File in Tarrant County, as Dallas County relies on Tarrant County values to calculate the amount of city and PID taxes they collect. A copy of the exemption form can be downloaded from:

<http://www.tad.org>



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