



## Luminaria FAQ's

Q: What are luminarias and why do it?

A: Luminaries (farolitos) means light. The history of luminaries is linked to ancient traditions of communicating, warning and **celebrating** through linked bonfires. Today, they are best known as small paper lanterns (with a candle set in sand inside a paper bag) and lit. To some, it has religious meaning. But for our diverse community, we like to think of it as more of a showing of unification and the sharing of hope, peace and light for the coming year.

## Ordering Information

Q: What is included in a kit?

A: A kit consists of 6 candles (will burn for ~ 8-10 hours), 6 paper bags, measured sand to fill bags and a How-to Setup/Take Down flyer.

Q: When is the deadline to order luminarias?

A: Deadline is the first Saturday of November.

Q: Oh No, I forgot to get my order form in on time and want to participate?

A: Contact us to determine if there are additional luminaria kits available for purchase. (There may not be sand available.)

Q: I don't live in GH; can I still order luminaria?

A: Yes! We welcome all orders.

Q: When and where do I pick up my order?

A: Your Luminaria team will deliver your order on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. If you need an alternate delivery option, let us know on the order form.

## Setup and Take Down

Q: Where should I place luminaria and how far should we space them?

A: Luminaries should be placed on the edge of your property along the street or on sidewalks. Spacing recommendations are 5 feet or 5-10 feet apart for corner lots (excluding driveways). Residents can make their lots more festive by adding additional luminarias along the driveway and pathway to the home.

Q: How do I prepare the luminaria?

A: Detail instructions will be provided as part of your kit. But here are some simple steps to consider:

Prior to going outside, prepare your bags by:

- a) Fold the top of the bag neatly down twice to create a 1-inch collar. This will create stability for the bag when fully opened. Hint: Create a crease by folding before opening and creating collar. It's much easier and minimizes tears.
- b) Add a "Bag Bottom" to the bottom of each bag.
- c) Place approximately 2 cups of sand in bottom of bag. At least 2 inches of sand should be in the bottom of the bag to create stability for the candle.
- d) Take bags outside and place along edge of property
- e) Raise wick of candle and insert candle firmly in center of bag.
- f) At dusk, light using a long-handled lighter (also called a gooseneck lighter).

Q: What if I need sand?

A: Kits ordered before the deadline will have premeasured sand in the kits. If you got your kits late, or do not want to use the sand, alternatives include birdseed, rock salt and/or rice. Some kitty litter is flammable, so we recommend you not use kitty litter. Sand can be picked up, while supplies last, at Clarendon Hills Pool located at 100 Byrd Ct.

Q: When do we light candles??

A: If weather is favorable on December 24<sup>th</sup>, light your candles at dusk or approximately 5:00 pm. If weather is questionable, see the Contingency Alternate Night plans below.

Q: When do I extinguish candles?

A: Candles will burn for ~7-10 hours and melt into the sand. It is your decision if you want to extinguish them earlier.

Q: How should Luminaria Bags be disposed of the following day?

A: We ask residents to dispose the bags and leftover candles in the trash. Sand can be spread in the garden or grass. **Do Not Dispose of Sand** in the street gutters as it will run into the lake. We want to keep our lake healthy.

### **Contingency Plans**

Q: What if the weather is forecasted to be bad on December 24<sup>th</sup>?

A: Watch for text messages during the day. If the weather is inclement, we will use our alternate date of January 1<sup>st</sup> and light up our community welcoming the new year.

## **Miscellaneous Questions**

Q: What do I do with leftover luminaria?

A: There are several options:

- a) Display extra luminaria along your driveway or path to your home.
- b) Donate extras to the Luminaria team to make Welcome Gifts for new homeowners.
- c) Save for next year

Q: What Charity will receive the proceeds from the fundraiser?

A: Golfview Hills Women's Club selects a a charity for a two year period based on recommendations from the community. Past recipients have included Bridges Community and Constance Morris House.

Q: I am disabled and want to participate, what do I do?

A: Our Luminaria Team will help find someone to deliver, setup and take down your luminaria. Contact Mary Jaworski at 630-730-6419 for details. There is an additional fee of \$20.