

Mesquite Citizens Ask...

Q: Is there a City Ordinance regarding trees and shrubs on the parkway of corner lots to prevent obstructions for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians?

A: City Ordinance requires the person owning or occupying property which borders a public street, alley or sidewalk to prune the vegetation in such a manner that it will not obstruct or shade streetlights, obstruct the passage of pedestrians, obstruct vision of traffic signs or obstruct the view of any street or alley intersection. Violations may be reported to the Environmental Code Division at (972) 216-6276.

Frequently called city phone numbers:

Main Number.....(972) 288-7711	Trash Collection/
Animal Control.....(972) 216-6283	Recycling.....(972) 216-6284
Building Inspection.....(972) 216-6212	Street/Alley Repair.....(972) 216-6282
Environmental Code.....(972) 216-6276	Water Billing.....(972) 216-6208
Parks and Recreation..(972) 216-6260	Water Leaks/
Planning & Zoning.....(972) 216-6216	Sewer Back-ups.....(972) 216-6278



MESQUITE
T • E • X • A • S

Mainstream is an official publication of the City of Mesquite to inform and advise citizens of municipal activities.

Mike Anderson
Mayor

Stan PickettMayor Pro Tem
John Heiman, Jr.Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
John MonacoCouncilmember
David L. PaschallCouncilmember
Shirley RobertsCouncilmember
Dennis Tarpley.....Councilmember

Ted Barron
City Manager

Mesquite Arts Center Arts Notes

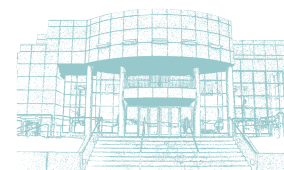
The following activities are funded in part by the City of Mesquite hotel-motel occupancy tax revenues. The Mesquite Arts Center is located at 1527 N. Galloway. For updates, check www.mesquiteartscenter.org.

February 2006

- 1-3 The **Mesquite Creative Arts** will have an exhibit in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- 5 **Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 6-29 The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents an exhibit by the students of the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m., Wednesday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 pm. (972) 216-6444
- 7, 14, 16, 21, 28 Come meet the **student artists of MISD** whose work is being displayed in the Arts Center. The reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Gallery. (972) 216-6444
- 13 **Texas Area Artists** monthly *Paint-In* begins at 10:00 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. (214) 566-8269
- 13 **Mesquite Creative Arts** monthly meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and feature an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004
- 13-15 **Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *The Housekeeper* from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 21 Join us for an **Art @ Lunch TOUR**. This month we will be guided through the Main Collection at the Meadows Museum of Art. Cost is \$20, which includes admission, transportation and lunch. (972) 216-6444
- 24-29 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *On Golden Pond* in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 27-28 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents a staged reading series featuring the *Diaries of Adam and Eve* from the story by Mark Twain at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. No reservation required and admission is free. (972) 216-8126

March 2006

- 1-11 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *On Golden Pond* in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 4-31 **Texas Area Artists** will hold their annual awards exhibit entitled *Annual Award Show 2006* in the Main and Chamber Galleries. (214) 566-8269
- 5 **Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 11 **The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Not Just for Kids* at 7:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall. (972) 216-8127
- 13 **Texas Area Artists** monthly *Paint-In* begins at 10:00 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. (214) 566-8269
- 13 **The Mesquite Creative Arts** monthly meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004
- 21 Join us for **Art @ Lunch**. This month will feature a brief, fun and informative mini art session introducing the audience to theatre, music and visual art. Free at the Mesquite Arts Center at noon. Bring a sack lunch or buy one on site.
- 31 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *The Housekeeper* by James Prideaux in the Black Box Theatre. This comedy highlights the life of a middle-aged, stuffy bachelor and the eccentric bag lady he hires as a housekeeper. (972) 216-8126



Mainstream

Volume 20, Number 1

A City of Mesquite, Texas Publication

January 2006

"Daddy, Will You Be My Valentine?"

Dads of girls from ages four through 12 will have a chance to take their daughters out for the night at the City of Mesquite 6th annual Daddy Daughter Dance.

The event is scheduled for Friday, February 10, 2006, at the Mesquite Convention Center. This year the valentine party will be split into two separate dances. The festivities for the younger girls (ages four

through eight) and their fathers will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 pm. The older group (ages eight through 12) will boogie from 8:30 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. A limited number of tickets will be available beginning January 18, 2006, at the Mesquite Parks and Recreation office, located at 1515 North Galloway Avenue. Tickets

are \$25 per couple and \$10 for each additional daughter. Sorry, no moms are allowed.

Last year's event was a tremendous success with over 900 participants. For further information call the Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 216-6260. It is sure to be a night your daughter will never forget.



Memories of the 2005 Daddy Daughter Dance

Inside this issue...

- Community Development News
- Proper Disposal of Cooking Grease
- Cold Weather Pet Care
- Immunize Your Baby

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

February 2006

- 4, 18 Paws Patrol will take City Animal Shelter cats and dogs to a remote pet adoption at Petco, 1500 Town East Blvd., from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (972) 216-6283.
- 6 City Council meeting, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 11 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. (972) 216-6468.
- 20 City Council meeting, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.

March 2006

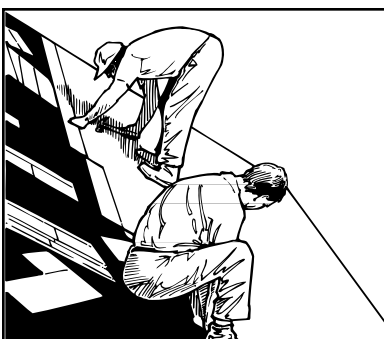
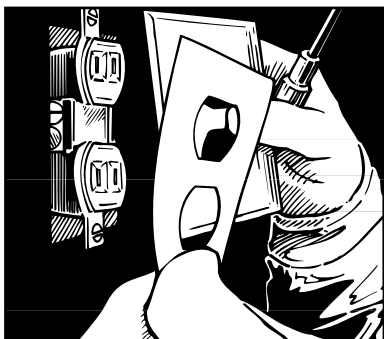
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visit www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Rental Certificate of Occupancy Program is a Success!

As part of the City of Mesquite's overall neighborhood revitalization effort, called Addressing Mesquite, the Rental Certificate of Occupancy (RCO) program has proven to be very productive. On August 1, 2005, the City



launched the RCO program, which requires all single-family and duplex rental homes throughout the city to pass an interior and exterior inspection before new tenants can occupy the home. The inspections cover a wide variety of areas in and around the home to determine compliance with minimum building codes.

The RCO program has been successful in improving the building conditions of rental properties throughout the city. Prior to the initiation of these revitalization efforts, the City of Mesquite inspected all the single-family homes in town and rated the exterior quality of each unit. Of the 800 rental properties that were approved for occupancy from August 1 to October 31 this year,

135 or 17 percent were upgraded to the City's highest condition rating as a result of the required improvements of the RCO program. The success of this endeavor can be attributed directly to the diligence of the landlords in maintaining their properties and the work of Residential Building Inspectors.

Proper Disposal of Cooking Grease

Most people who cook at home think nothing of putting leftover grease and food scraps down the drain, but state officials strongly advise residents to avoid this practice. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) explains on its Web site that fats, oils and grease that combine with food particles can clog pipes in sanitary sewer lines and can cause serious backups. The following is a list of instructions for residents to follow so sewer overflows can be prevented in Mesquite.

DO

- Put oil and grease in covered collection containers.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using the garbage disposal for this type of clean up.
- Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles. Cool first before skimming, scraping or wiping off excess grease.
- Prewash dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.
- Cover kitchen sink with a catch basket and empty into garbage can as needed.

DON'T

- Pour oil and grease down the drain.
- Put food scraps down the drain.
- Run water over dishes, pans, fryers and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.
- Rinse off oil and grease with hot water.



Para leer el artículo anterior
en español visite
[www.cityofmesquite.com/solidwaste/
greasedisposal.php](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/solidwaste/greasedisposal.php)

Cold Weather Pet Care

Cold weather can be dangerous, even fatal, to pets that are left outside. Pet owners are encouraged to be attentive to their pets and make sure they are adequately cared for as the temperature drops.

Even though dogs and cats have fur coats, extreme changes in temperatures can result in frostbite or other problems. Before the weather reaches freezing, dog owners



are encouraged to provide good shelter for outdoor dogs. An ideal shelter is one that is wind, rain and snow proof and is elevated off the ground. Straw and other dry bedding are also recommended to help dogs retain body heat. If at all possible, bring dogs inside when the temperature nears freezing. Short-haired

breeds should be kept indoors as much as possible and only let out to relieve themselves. Be sure to keep plenty of water available and replace it often, as it will freeze in the bowl when left outside.

Cats also need proper care in cold weather. Cats will generally stay inside if provided with a litter box. Outside, cats will tend to search for warm places and could crawl into the engine of a car. Make sure cats have a source of fresh, clean water at all times. Cats in search of water will sometimes drink from puddles in the street or alley that could contain antifreeze. Antifreeze is extremely poisonous and will result in death if ingested by a dog or cat.



All pets will require more food in cold weather months. Be sure that nutritional meals are given in proper amounts. Also, dry off dogs and cats thoroughly after exposure to water. Wet fur will keep the pet's body temperature low and will take longer for it to recover from the cold.

All pet owners are responsible for the proper care and sheltering of their pets from all types of weather. Winters in North Texas can be quite severe and the temperature can drop below freezing in a matter of hours. Taking steps before the cold weather arrives will ensure you are prepared for the sudden temperature changes.

Tips for Sheltering Your Dog Outside

If keeping your dog outside is the only option, make sure the shelter you provide will protect the animal from severe weather.

- Provide shelter that is wind and rain proof.
- Make certain the dog is able to sit and turn around comfortably inside the shelter.
- Check to make sure the floor is solid and is at least two inches off the ground.
- Use a sufficient amount of bedding consisting of hay, straw, cedar chips or blankets.
- Face the door or opening away from prevailing winds.
- Clean the house/shelter regularly and replace the bedding frequently.

Immunize Your Baby at Two, Four, Six and 12 – 15 Months

Protecting babies from childhood diseases by making sure immunizations are timely is every parent's responsibility. Immunization begins at birth and infants need five vaccination visits before they turn two years old to protect them against serious childhood killers like measles, tetanus and diphtheria. This early start on inoculation is crucial because an infant's immune system does not yet have the necessary defenses to fight infectious diseases. Infants and toddlers are, therefore, especially susceptible to these illnesses as well as their serious complications. Children who start their immunizations early in life are more likely to complete the series of preventative shots and receive optimal protection against disease during their preschool years. State law requires children to be immunized in order to enter school.

If you would like more information on childhood immunizations, you may contact the Mesquite Public Health Clinic at (972) 329-4535. The Health Clinic offers vaccinations for all children eligible under the Texas Vaccines for Children program. The Clinic is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Don't delay; immunize today.