

QUESTION

AND ANSWER

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

MESQUITE

T E X A S
Real. Texas. Flavor.



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

MAINSTREAM

Mike Anderson, Mayor
 John Heiman, Jr.Mayor Pro Tem
 David PaschallDeputy Mayor Pro Tem
 John MonacoCouncilmember
 Stan PickettCouncilmember
 Shirley RobertsCouncilmember
 Dennis TarpleyCouncilmember
 Ted Barron, City Manager

MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

A R T I V I T I E S

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.mesquitearts-center.org.

JANUARY

- 7 Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. featuring artist demonstrations. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 8 The 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. Free! (214) 566-8269
- 8 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. featuring artist demonstrations. (972) 463-6004
- 8 - 10 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *Dial M for Murder* 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 12 Art @ Lunch** is presented by the Mesquite Arts Council with Master Gardener Dick Coupe in coordination with *Feast Your Eyes: The Unexpected Beauty of Vegetable Gardens*. The event is FREE at noon. Bring your lunch or buy one (reservations required) on site. (972) 216-6444

FEBRUARY

- 3 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Vienna Fest* featuring the music of Franz von Suppe and Johann Strauss. The performance features waltzes, polkas and marches from the Strauss family. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$12 adult, \$8 seniors and \$6 students. (972) 216-8127
- 4 - 28 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** exhibit will be in the Main Gallery Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and during performances.
- 12 The 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. Free! (214) 566-8269
- 12 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. featuring artist demonstrations. (972) 463-6004
- 12 - 13 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *Nunsense* 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 23 - March 10 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *Dial M for Murder* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 - \$12. (972) 216-8126
- 24 Mesquite Symphonic Band with Lakeside Symphonic Winds** in concert at 8:00 p.m. They will be playing in the Concert Hall at the Arts Center. Tickets are \$5 adults and \$2 students. (972) 216-8125

MAINSTREAM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day holiday.** City offices closed. City Council meeting rescheduled for January 2. No residential waste collection.
- 2 City Council meeting,** 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 13 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call (972) 216-6468.
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.** City offices closed. City Council meeting rescheduled for January 16. Residential waste collection as usual.
- 16 City Council meeting,** 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 27 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call (972) 216-6468.

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A Thank You to Mesquite

by Mayor Mike Anderson

One way to measure the strength of a community is by its concern for those less fortunate. Mesquite's faith-based community stepped up recently to answer that timeless call. On October 14, 2006, the city of Mesquite and the Mesquite Ministerial Alliance (MMA) held the highly successful second annual Addressing Mesquite Day.

Many church and civic volunteers lined up to complete minor home improvement projects for fellow homeowners in need of assistance. Some 700 volunteers strapped on work belts, grabbed hammers and dunked paint brushes to tackle more than 60 homes owned by senior citizens and residents with disabilities.

The event was once again an incredible success. Growing from the first year, we saw more than twice as many volunteers and three times the applicants asking for assistance. Although we accomplished our goal, next year we hope to do more. For the third annual Addressing Mesquite Day in 2007, we would like to touch the lives of residents in 100 homes, make the 30 tons of debris we removed this year seem small and grow our volunteer army of workers from 700 to 1000.

The MMA and I would like to thank the other members of the Mesquite City Council, our City staff and all of the many individuals who volunteered their time on a beautiful Saturday morning to help others in need in our community. We would also like to thank the following groups for their participation: Hammer's Hardware, Albertson's on Belt Line Road, Wal-Mart, Print Mail, Inc., and the 26 church groups and civic organizations who pitched in to make Addressing Mesquite Day great. Simply stated, Addressing Mesquite Day would not have been such a great success without you!

Each time I see our community come together I burst with pride. I consider myself extremely fortunate to be the Mayor of Mesquite, a community where we still remember what is truly important. Helping others is a value sometimes lost in today's fast-paced get-what-you-can world. Today, I am particularly proud of our citizens. I thank them for volunteering, I thank them for caring about their neighbors and I thank them for making Mesquite such a great place to live.

IN THIS ISSUE

City Employees Raise \$46,000 for United Way

During Winter, Protect your Pets

Proper Disposal of Cooking Grease

Invest in a Beautiful Mesquite

MESQUITE

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Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

During Winter, Protect Your Pets

It is very important for pet owners to remember that their pets, just as humans, are susceptible to frigid weather. Mesquite Animal Services recommends the following guidelines to keep your pets safe and healthy this winter season:

- ◆ Pets are safer when living indoors and taken out for regular exercise. During the winter, short-haired, very young or old dogs, and all cats should never be left outside without supervision. Short-coated dogs may feel more comfortable wearing a sweater when outdoors.
- ◆ In cold weather, cats allowed outdoors climb up inside vehicle engines seeking warmth and shelter. This can lead to injuries or even death when those engines are started. Keep your cat inside to prevent such an occurrence. Knock on your car's hood or sound your horn before starting your vehicle in cold weather to protect cats.
- ◆ No matter what the temperature, wind chill can threaten your pet's life. If your dog is an outdoor dog, he or she should be provided with a dry, draft-free doghouse that is large enough to allow the dog to sit, turn around and lay down comfortably, but small enough to hold in his or her body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with a blanket, cedar shavings or straw. The doghouse should face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with a piece of waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- ◆ Keeping warm depletes energy; therefore, pets that spend a lot of time outside during the winter need more food. Check your pet's water dish routinely to make sure water is fresh and unfrozen. The use of plastic food and water bowls during the winter is recommended because your pet's tongue can stick to metal bowls.
- ◆ Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Clean the paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his or her mouth.
- ◆ Conventional antifreeze is a deadly poison that has a sweet taste, which may attract animals. Clean up spills immediately and store antifreeze in a safe area. If possible, use pet friendly antifreeze coolant made with propylene glycol.

The Mesquite Animal Shelter & Adoption Center, located at 1650 Gross Rd, will accept donations of new or clean used doghouses, which will be used to assist Mesquite residents' pets in need. Please call at (972) 216-6283.



Dogs and cats crave human companionship. The happiest pets are those that are taken out frequently for walks and exercise, but live inside with the family.



City Employees Raise Record Amount for United Way Agencies

The 2006 United Way campaign was an overwhelming success. Employees of Mesquite stepped up to assist state and local United Way agencies by donating \$46,307, the most ever raised by Mesquite employees. Week-long activities included silent auctions and a luncheon donated by local restaurants and retailers.

As a matter of fact, not only did employees donate to United Way, many participated in a food drive to benefit Mesquite Social Services. The cooperation

yielded 1986 pounds of food which would feed approximately 198 needing adults or 283 children for a crisis period of three to five days. Setting an example for other organizations within Mesquite, City employees faced the challenge to raise at least \$40,000 and they conquered that challenge. Giving back to the community is important. City employees are no different. We love Mesquite and want to be an important part of its success.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

Don't let this Opportunity to Invest in a Clean, Beautiful Community Pass You By.

Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. (KMB) and the City of Mesquite would like to give you the opportunity to invest in a cleaner, more beautiful community by sending a monthly donation with your water bill payment:

- Donations are added to one's water bill each month. (Please notify the water billing office to cease donation billing.)
- One may also make a one-time cash donation. (All donations are tax deductible as provided in section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code.)
- Past donations have been used to fund KMB programs such as litter prevention, school programs, recycling education and more. For additional information please call (972) 288-7730.
- If currently contributing to KMB, thank you and please re-submit this form so that your account may be updated.

Please complete and return with your utility bill:

I pledge the following amount PER MONTH to be included in my utility bill:

\$1.00 \$2.00 \$5.00 Other _____

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Your name _____

City of Mesquite utility account number _____

Address _____

Zip code _____

Daytime phone _____

Signature _____

OR, a ONE-TIME ONLY CONTRIBUTION in the amount of: \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc.** and return with your water bill.

Contributors

A-1 Hobby Shop
Academy Sports & Outdoors
Ace Hardware - Mesquite
Action Suzuki
AG-Power Inc.
Albertson's #4187
AMF Showplace Lanes
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar
Art USA
Auntie Anne's Soft Pretzels
Avjdgolfer Magazine
Baker's Ribs
Bakery...By George!
Bally Total Fitness
Bennigan's
Black-eyed Pea
Blue Bell Creameries
Bueno, Aurora
Calzone's Pizza
Car Wash Headquarters
Cavender's Boot City
Celebration Station
Chicken Express
Chick-fil-A
Chili's
Chipotle Mexican Grill
City Secretary's Office
Continental Airlines
Courtyard by Marriott
Custom T-shirts
CVS Pharmacy #7645
Dallas Arboretum
Dallas Cowboys Golf Club
Dallas Mavericks
Dallas World Aquarium
Dallas Zoo
Dickey's Barbecue Pit
Diek's Last Resort
Dollars and Cents
Don Pablo's
Donna's Kitchen
El Chico #59
El Fenix Corporation
Enchilada's
Farr Family & Cosmetic Dentistry
FC Dallas
Flowers By Cheryl
Four Brothers Outdoor Power
Friends of the Library
Go Diva Catering
Griff's Hamburgers
Hands on Therapy/The Spa
Hawthorn Suites - Richardson
Helzberg Diamonds
Historic Mesquite, Inc.
Historical & Genealogical Society
HoneyBaked Ham
Hooters
IHOP #1399
Joe's Pizza & Pasta
Johnny Carino's
Kroger #209
Lazy Bones - Grapevine
Lindy's Restaurant
Lloyd, Curtis
Lone Star Wings
Luby's
Majors, Vickie and David
Marble Slab Creamery
Martinez Restaurant
Mesquite Arts Center

Mesquite Chamber of Commerce
Mesquite Chiropractic Health Center
Mesquite Fire Department
Mesquite Housing and Community Services Department
Mesquite Independent School District
Mesquite Metro Airport
Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department
Mesquite Quilt Guild
Mesquite Sports Center
Mesquite Tax Office
Ming's Star
Mrs. Baird's Thrift Store
Nichols Jeweler
NYPD Pizza Delicatessen
O.C. Tanner
Omni Theater
On the Border
Oscar's Mexican Grill
Outback Steakhouse
Pancho's Mexican Buffet
Panera Bread #819
Papa John's Pizza #861
Pearl Chinese Restaurant
Pepper's Café
P'etcetera Boarding & Grooming
Pizza Hut #311176
Pizza Hut #744129
Pizza Inn
Purified Water To Go
Quality Furniture
Quiznos
Razzoo's Cajun Cafe
Red Lantern Chinese Restaurant
Red Lobster #416
Royal Car Wash
Rutherford Senior Center
Ryan's Family Steakhouse
Sales, Travis
Shero, Deanna
Sonic of Mesquite
Southwest Coffee
Spaghetti Warehouse Italian Grill
Spring Creek Barbeque
Starbucks
Steak Angus
Subway of Mesquite
Tangleridge Golf Course
Terry Jones Services
Texas Oil XChange
Texas Rangers Baseball Club
Texsun Tan
The Picture People
Thompson, Gail
Thurman, Brenda - AVON
Tom Thumb #1784
Town East Golf Center
Town East Trophies
Twin Peaks Restaurant
Ulta
Uni-First
USA Fitness Center
Wally's Golf
Waterview Golf Club
Weight Watchers
Whataburger of Mesquite
Williams Chicken
Williams Paint and Body
Wood Pit Bar-B-Que

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 back-ups. 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 discard 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 drains 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 art culo anterior en espa ol visite www.cityofmesquite.com/solidwaste/greasedisposal.php

