

## Mesquite Citizens Ask...

**Q:** Is there a City ordinance regarding when trash cans and bags can be placed outside for pickup?

**A:** Yes. According to Section 14-35 of the City Code, it is unlawful for solid waste and recyclable material to be placed out for collection earlier than 5:30 p.m. the day before scheduled pickup and later than 7:30 a.m. the day of scheduled pickup; except that placement later than 7:30 a.m. is permitted if it can be determined that collection along the street or alley has not yet occurred. In addition, containers should be removed from the curb line no later than 8:00 p.m. of the day in which collection occurs. 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/ Recycling.....(972) 216-6284
Animal Control.....(972) 216-6283	Street/Alley Repair.....(972) 216-6282
Building Inspection.....(972) 216-6212	Water Billing.....(972) 216-6208
Environmental Code.....(972) 216-6276	Water Leaks/ Sewer Back-ups.....(972) 216-6278
Parks and Recreation..(972) 216-6260	
Planning & Zoning.....(972) 216-6216	



**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 Pickett .....Mayor Pro Tem  
John Heiman, Jr. ....Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
John Monaco ..... Councilmember  
David L. Paschall ..... Councilmember  
Shirley Roberts ..... Councilmember  
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](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org).

### March 2006

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| <p>1-11 Mesquite Community Theatre presents <i>On Golden Pond</i> in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126</p> <p>4-31 Texas Area Artists will hold their annual awards exhibit entitled <i>Annual Award Show 2006</i> in the Main and Chamber Galleries. (214) 566-8269</p> <p>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</p> <p>11 The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra is in concert with <i>Not Just for Kids</i> at 7:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall. (972) 216-8127</p> <p>13 Texas Area Artists monthly <i>Paint-In</i> begins at 10:00 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. (214) 566-8269</p> <p>13 The Mesquite Creative Arts monthly meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004</p> <p>21 Join us for <b>Art @ Lunch</b>. 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. (972) 216-6444</p> <p>31 Mesquite Community Theatre presents <i>The Housekeeper</i> 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</p> | <p>1-2, 7-9, Mesquite Community Theatre presents <i>The Housekeeper</i> 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</p> <p>13-15</p> <p>2 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</p> <p>3-30 The Mesquite Arts Council presents an exhibit by Jackie MacLelland in the Main Gallery. (972) 216-6444</p> <p>3-4 Mesquite Community Theatre presents a staged reading series featuring the <i>Wit</i>, the Pulitzer Prize winning play that asks profound questions about the value of 'wit' in the face of life and death, at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. No reservation required and admission is free. (972) 216-8126</p> <p>8 An artist reception will be held for Jackie MacLelland from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Main Gallery.</p> <p>10 Texas Area Artists monthly <i>Paint-In</i> begins at 10:00 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. (214) 566-8269</p> <p>10 The Mesquite Creative Arts monthly meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004</p> <p>18 Join us for <b>Art @ Lunch</b>. This month will feature a brief, fun and informative mini art session. Free at the Mesquite Arts Center at noon. Bring a sack lunch or buy one on site. (972) 216-6444</p> |
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### April 2006

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| <p>1 Texas Area Artists will hold its annual awards exhibit entitled <i>Annual Award Show 2006</i> in the Main and Chamber Galleries. (214) 566-8269</p> | <p>24-26 Mesquite Community Theatre will hold auditions for <i>The Heiress</i> from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126</p> <p>28-30 The Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas is in concert with their 8<sup>th</sup> <i>Annual Spring Concert</i> at the Mesquite Arts Center. (214) 965-0491</p> |
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# Mainstream

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February 2006

## 2006 Summer Job Expo

The City of Mesquite is hosting the 2006 Summer Job Expo offering summer aquatic employment opportunities. Applicants will have the opportunity to apply for summer employment, interview with a supervisor and complete a swim test. Candidates who are extended job offers will also need to complete pre-employment paperwork and complete and pass a physical exam at the Expo.

Applicants must have current certifications and must present certification cards on the day of the Summer Job Expo to be considered for employment.

### Interview and Swim Test

Saturday, March 11, 2006  
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Location: Town East Pool

### Hiring Process and Physical Exam

Date: Saturday, March 11, 2006  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Location: 1515 N. Galloway Avenue

### Positions Available

(must be 16 years of age or older)

- Lifeguards
- Pool Managers
- Cashiers

### Required Identification

1. Photo ID (drivers license or school ID)
- AND
2. Proof of eligibility to work in the United States, such as an original Social Security Card or Certified Birth Certificate

### Required Certifications Lifeguard/ Pool Manager

- Lifeguard Training and First Aid
- CPR/PR and AED

### Cashier

- First Aid, CPR and AED



### Lifeguard Training and First Aid

February 25, 26 and March 4  
Town East Pool (8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

### CPR/PR/AED

February 23 and 28  
Florence Recreation Center  
(6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.)  
March 4  
Florence Recreation Center  
(9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

To register for classes, call the American Red Cross at (214) 678-4800. For more information regarding the Summer Job Expo, call (972) 216-4119.

## Inside this issue...

- Community Development News
- Income Tax Assistance
- Story Time
- Water Conservation Reminders
- Mesquite Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### March 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.

### April 2006

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visit [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

## The Environmental Code Division

All cities have a code enforcement program and Mesquite is no different. The Environmental Code Division seeks to protect the community's quality of life through property maintenance codes and the elimination of common public nuisances. The staff of certified inspectors enforce more than 30 different ordinances that impact private and public property. Performed effectively, environmental code enforcement strengthens residential property values, positively influences economic development decisions and supports other efforts of the Community Development Department to revitalize neighborhoods.

Through pro-active surveys performed daily, the Environmental Code officers work to correct problems before they become complaints. The program is a win-win situation for property owners. By taking responsibility early, violation notices and citations are reduced. The officers do respond within 48 hours to all complaints received, which total 3,000 annually.

Complaint notification procedures begin when a violation is discovered. If the property is in violation, proper notification will be mailed as required by City Ordinance. The first Code Notice, with an explanation of the violation, is mailed to the property owner and tenant (if applicable) with a deadline of 10 days to comply. In some cases, a second and Final Notice may be sent. Properties still in violation at the end of the notification period are turned over to the City's contractor for compliance at the owners' expense. The owner is invoiced and, if not paid, further action will be taken, which could include filing a lien against the property.

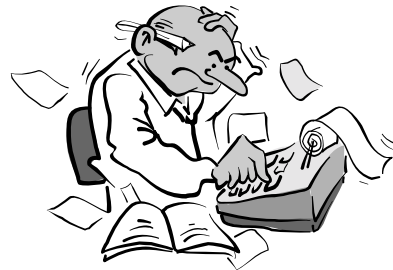
Currently there are two ways to report a possible nuisance to the City of Mesquite:

- Online – Report a code violation by visiting [www.cityofmesquite.com/code](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/code); under Online Services, click on "Report a Code Violation" or
- By telephone – The City has a 24-hour automated system for reporting such violations at (972) 216-6276.

The Environmental Code Division of the Community Development Department is dedicated to providing prompt, courteous and professional service, and gaining willing compliance that provides a quality environment for all citizens.

## Income Tax Assistance

The Mesquite Public Library stands ready to assist citizens who need federal tax forms or help in preparing their federal income tax returns. Copies of the most widely used tax forms and publications are available at the Main Library, located at 300 W. Grubb Drive, and the North Branch Library, located at 2600 Oates Drive. Master copies of less frequently used forms are also available for reproduction.



American Association of Retired Person (AARP) volunteers provide free tax

preparation assistance at the Main Library on a first-come, first-served basis. Assistance will be offered on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. beginning February 6 and ending on April 17. You should bring a copy of last year's return and paperwork necessary for the volunteers to complete this year's return. For more information, call the Main Library at (972) 216-6220.

## Story Time

Preschool and toddler story times at both libraries will begin the week of February 13, 2006

### Main Library

Preschool Story Time

Tuesdays - 10:30 a.m.

Infant Lap Sit Story Time

Wednesdays - 9:30 a.m.

Toddler Story Time

Thursdays - 10:30 a.m.

### North Branch Library

Preschool Story Time

Tuesdays - 10:30 a.m.

Toddler Story Time

Thursdays - 10:30 a.m.

Infant Lap Sit Story Time

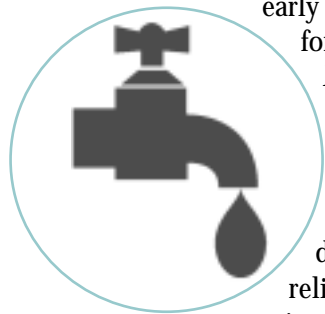
Fridays - 10:30 a.m.



For more information on Story Time and other activities at the Mesquite Public Library, call the Main Library at (972) 216-6220 or the North Branch Library at (972) 681-0465.

## Lack of Rain Prompts Conservation Reminders

In most years, water utility officials begin distributing water conservation ideas to its customers in late spring or early summer. This is not the case for 2006.



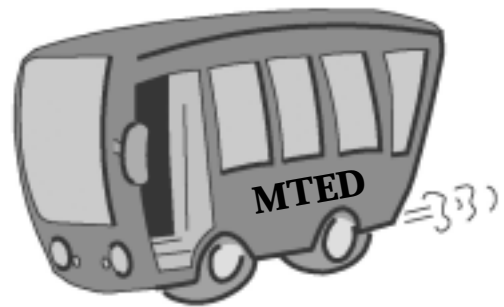
*The Dallas Morning News* reported in January that the current dry conditions have been the most severe the area has experienced since the drought of the 1950s. And it does not look like there is much relief in sight with the wet season passing us by.

So, while water use is at its highest during the summer months, the current conditions require effort by all water users now to conserve use. Studies have shown that as much as half of water usage, both indoor and outdoor, is wasted through poor water practices. The following tips are easy ways to conserve water:

- Water lawns during the coolest parts of the day to help prevent evaporation losses. Early morning is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
- Do not water on windy days. Set sprinklers so the lawn is watered, not sidewalks and driveways.
- Plant trees and plants native to the region. These plants are drought resistant and also require less fertilizer and pesticides. Visit the Texas SmartScape Web site at [www.txsmartscape.com](http://www.txsmartscape.com) for more information on North Texas' native flora and fauna.
- Fix leaky faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Repair or replace leaking irrigation system valves as necessary.
- Install water-saving showerheads.
- Use a bucket of water and a spray head on the hose to wash your car. A running hose can waste over 100 gallons of water in the time it takes to wash a car.
- Wash only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or while shaving.
- Take short showers instead of a bath.
- Use a broom to clean driveways, walks and patios – not a hose.
- Do not use the toilet as a trash can.

## Mesquite Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled

Mesquite Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled (MTED) provides transportation services to residents of the city who are physically or mentally disabled, mobility impaired and/or 60 years of age or older. The service provided is curb to curb, with vehicles equipped to handle wheelchair passengers. Passengers must be able to get to the transporting vehicle independently or they must have a personal care attendant to assist them. An



attendant who provides full assistance during a trip may ride free of charge.

MTED takes eligible residents to and from school (post high school) and work in Mesquite, the Garland Area Rehabilitation Center for Developmentally Disabled, the East Dallas Rehabilitation Center and non-emergency medical appointments within Mesquite or any adjoining city (Balch Springs, Dallas, Garland, Seagoville and Sunnyvale). The service runs Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., excluding holidays. Riders pay \$2.00 for a picture ID card. Each one-way trip is \$1.00 (one coupon). Coupons may be purchased at the MTED office or by mail.

For additional MTED information or to request service, call

**(972) 329-MTED (6833)**

Monday through Friday

8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Service requests should be made at least 24 hours prior to desired trip time.