

QUESTION

AND ANSWER

Q: Can I receive a citation for not properly maintaining my yard?

A: Yes, it is the responsibility of the property owner/tenant to ensure the growth of the grass on residential properties does not exceed 12 inches in height. The area included in this responsibility is from behind the street curb to the rear alley pavement or adjacent easement. For more information or to report a code violation, call the Environmental Code Division at (972) 216-6276. Code violations can also be reported online at www.cityofmesquite.com.

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 L. Paschall.....Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
 Stan Pickett.....Councilmember
 John Monaco.....Councilmember
 Shirley Roberts.....Councilmember
 Dennis Tarpley.....Councilmember
 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.mesquiteartscenter.org.

SEPTEMBER

- 1-30** The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents a woven art exhibit by Anna Rose Barry in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (972) 216-6444
- 9** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** presents *Myths and Legends*, The Music of Bach, Carmichael and Rutter featuring the Brookhaven College Chorus at 7:30 p.m. (972) 216-8127
- 10** The **Texas Area Artists** will host its monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 11** 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. (214) 566-8269
- 11-13** **Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *War of the Worlds: A Radio Experience* from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126
- 15** Join us for **Art @ Lunch**. This month participants will be visiting the Nasher Sculpture Center. The group will leave the Mesquite Arts Center at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation, admission into the museum, a docent-led tour and lunch. Reservations required. (972) 216-6444
- 16** An artist reception will be held for Anna Rose Barry from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Main Gallery. (972) 216-6444

OCTOBER

- 1-31** The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents an exhibit by David McCullough in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (972) 216-6444
- 1** The **Texas Area Artists** will host its monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. and will feature an artist demonstration. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 7** An artist reception will be held for David McCullough from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Main Gallery. (972) 216-6444
- 9** 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. (214) 566-8269
- 14** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** (MSO) is in concert with *MSO Pops! Fright Night Scary Music for Halloween* will be performed at 7:30 p.m. (972) 216-8127
- 20** Join us for **Art @ Lunch**. This month participants will be visiting the Dallas Museum of Art. The group will leave the Mesquite Arts Center at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation, admission into the museum, a docent-led tour and lunch. Reservations required. (972) 216-6444
- 22** The **Mesquite Symphonic Band** is in concert at 3:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall. (972) 216-8125
- 27-31** The **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *War of the Worlds: A Radio Experience* by H.G. Wells at 8:00 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126

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MAINSTREAM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 4** *Labor Day. City offices closed. City Council meeting rescheduled for September 5. No residential waste collection.*
- 5** City Council meeting, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 9** Historic Florence Ranch Homestead is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call (972) 216-6468.
- 18** City Council meeting, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.

OCTOBER

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- 14** Historic Florence Ranch Homestead is open for tours, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call (972) 216-6468.
- 14** Addressing Mesquite Day, 7:30 a.m. at Poteet High School. For more information call (972) 216-6408.
- 16** City Council meeting, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.

Thanks to Summer Book Club Sponsors

The 2006 Mesquite Public Library Summer Reading Club has ended successfully. Children from across Mesquite read more than 40,000 books. The Mesquite Public Library would like to thank the individuals, businesses and organizations that contributed prizes. Thank you to:

Arby's
 Bennigan's
 Celebration Station
 Chick-fil-A

Cinemark Theaters
 City of Garland Surf and Swim
 City of Mesquite Parks and Recreation

The Dallas Arboretum
 Dallas Cowboys
 Dallas Stars
 Dallas Zoo
 First State Bank
 Fort Worth Zoo
 Friends of the Mesquite Public Library
 Half Price Books
 Jefferson Bank
 Jesse Freeman
 Johnny Carino's
 McDonald's - four locations in Mesquite:

1817 North Beltline @ SH 80
 1531 Town East Blvd.
 18751 IH-635 @ Towne Centre Dr.
 3010 Town East Mall

Mesquite Championship Rodeo
 Mesquite Credit Union
 Pizza Inn (3003 N. Galloway location)

Pizza Patron
 Posados
 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey

Rotary Club of Mesquite
 Ryan's Steakhouse
 Sandy Lake Amusement Park
 Sixth Floor Museum

Sonic Corporation
 Starplex Cinemas
 T.G.I. Friday's
 Taco Bueno
 Texas Skatium
 Ty Corporation
 Westlake Skating
 Whataburger of Mesquite, Inc.



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Frequently Requested Numbers

Citizens are often unsure of the correct telephone numbers to call for a variety of needs and services. The following numbers are some of the most frequent requests received by the City's switchboard.

Atmos Energy (gas) – (800) 460-3030

City of Mesquite Health Clinic – (972) 329-4535

Comcast Cable – (972) 445-5555

County Clerk's Office (marriage license) – (214) 653-7559

Dallas County Constable – (972) 288-7665

Dallas County Tax Office (license plates) – (214) 653-7811

Judge Ken Blackington, Justice of the Peace (birth/death certificates) – (972) 285-5429

Mesquite Chamber of Commerce/ Mesquite Convention and Visitors Bureau – (972) 285-0211

Mesquite Independent School District – (972) 288-6411

Passports – (214) 653-7691

Social Security Administration – (800) 772-1213

Texas Department of Public Safety (driver's license) – (214) 861-2125

TXU Energy – (972) 791-2888

U.S. Post Office, Mesquite Branch – (972) 288-4477



Bike Safety

Even though biking is a fun activity for children, parents should be serious about teaching youngsters how to properly operate a bicycle. Below are some tips published on the Safe Kids Worldwide Web site (www.safekids.org/tips/tips_bike.htm):

- Wear a bicycle helmet on every ride. Check to see if your helmet should have a safety certification.
- Ride so drivers and cyclists can see you.
- Look both ways for oncoming vehicles before turning or crossing a street. Go only when it is clear.
- Watch out for potholes, cracks, rocks, wet leaves,

storm grates, railroad tracks or anything that could make you lose control of your bike.

- Make sure your bike fits your height, weight and age.
- Inflate tires properly.
- Check brakes before riding.
- Bikers should ride one behind another and with the flow of traffic.

Enjoy your family time together and have a safe ride!



Addressing Mesquite Day

As an extension of the City's *ADDRESSING MESQUITE* neighborhood revitalization program, the Mesquite Ministerial Alliance and the City of Mesquite will host the 2nd annual Addressing Mesquite Day. On Saturday, October 14, groups of church and civic volunteers will complete minor home improvement projects for

those fellow homeowners in need. In order to volunteer for this event, contact your church or call the City of Mesquite at (972) 216-6408. As you are making plans to attend this event be sure to watch the City's Web site, www.cityofmesquite.com, for more details.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

Battle of the Bands

The 6th annual Battle of the Bands will be held Saturday, September 16, at 5:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by Mesquite Youth Services and will be held at the Mesquite Girl's Softball Complex located at 1717 McKenzie Road. The admission fee is \$6.00 at the gate for spectators. Band and solo artists can register now for

\$20.00. Late registration (after September 7) is \$25.00 until all slots are filled. Contact Patricia Musgrove at (972) 329-8346 or visit www.teenmesquite.com for more information.



School Traffic Safety

It's August, the beginning of a new school year, and the Mesquite Police Department wants to remind you to drive carefully and exercise extreme caution when nearing school zones.

You should always slow down around schools and residential areas, but during the school year you must obey reduced speed limits in posted school zones. The maximum allowable speed in Mesquite school zones is 20 miles per hour. If you are driving 20 miles per hour in your vehicle, you're actually traveling 30 feet per second. This means that if you take your eyes off the road, even for one or two seconds, you will have traveled 30 to 60 feet. It also takes this amount of time and distance to bring your vehicle to a complete stop. Furthermore, the higher your speed, the more time it takes to stop and the more chance you have of not being able to stop in time if a child walks in front of your vehicle.

One-fifth of all children 14 years of age and younger who die in motor vehicle crashes are pedestrians, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. These pedestrian fatalities are more likely to happen in the afternoon hours, when school is letting out.

The American Automobile Association's (AAA) School's Open — Drive Carefully campaign encourages motorists to stay alert in areas where children are present, paying special attention during the morning and afternoon hours while children are going to and from school. As part of the School's Open — Drive Carefully campaign, AAA Texas offers drivers tips to keep school children safe:

- Recent studies have shown that more than one-third of motorists in school zones or neighborhoods just "roll through" intersections with a stop sign. Slow down in or near school and residential areas, and be sure to come to a complete stop in all intersections.

- Drivers should look out for children who may dart out into the street near school zones, playgrounds, bus stops and in neighborhoods. School-age children can be especially vulnerable in areas with heavy traffic volume, parked vehicles on the street, higher posted speed limits and few pedestrian control devices. Look for clues such as crossing guards, bicycles and playgrounds, which indicate children could be in the area.

- Drive with your headlights on — even during the day — so children and other drivers can see you. Scan between parked cars and other objects for signs that children could dart into the road. Practice extra caution in adverse weather conditions.

- Always stop for school buses that are loading and unloading students. It is illegal for a motorist to drive by a school bus that has stopped to receive or discharge a student, if the bus has its lights flashing or a stop sign out. The driver may not proceed until the school bus resumes motion, the driver is signaled by the bus driver to proceed or the visual signal is no longer activated. (A driver on a highway with separate roadways is not required to stop for a school bus that is on a different roadway.)

Source: www.aaa-texas.com

Being Young Fair



Take your inner child to Goodbar Senior Center's "Being Young Fair" on Friday, September 29, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Enjoy washers, a golf chipping contest, face tattoos, the dunk tank, good food and other entertaining activities.

How Do Pedestrian Signal?

The safest place to cross a busy street is at an intersection equipped with pedestrian signals. However, most people do not understand how a pedestrian signal functions.

There are three phases to a pedestrian signal. Normally when one arrives, one faces a solid "Don't Walk" symbol. This symbol means that it is not safe to step into the crosswalk. If a pedestrian wishes to cross when this symbol is showing, the pedestrian button on the signal pole needs to be pushed in order to activate the crossing sequence. The first phase that appears is the solid, white "Walk" symbol. As long as this symbol is visible, one may enter the crosswalk after double-checking to ensure that no cars are attempting to cross the pedestrian path. The "Walk" symbol will be visible for a minimum of four seconds, but normally seven seconds. The next phase to appear is the flashing "Don't Walk" symbol. If a pedestrian is already in the crosswalk, he/she may continue to walk at a normal pace. If one has not entered the crosswalk by the time the "Don't Walk" symbol begins to flash, do not start to cross. Once the solid "Don't Walk" symbol appears, the pedestrian still has four seconds to exit the intersection before cross traffic is given a green light.

