

QUESTION

AND ANSWER

Q: I heard that if I move into a rental home in the City of Mesquite an inspection must take place prior to the water being turned on. Is that true?

A: Yes, each time a rental home changes occupants an inspection for a rental certificate of occupancy (CO) must take place prior to activation of a new water account. These inspections are designed to help protect or improve the condition of all the rental homes in the city by checking items such as the basic structural integrity, exterior and interior condition, plumbing systems, electrical systems and mechanical equipment of the home. For more information contact the Building Inspection Division at (972) 216-6213.

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.

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. 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.
- 4 Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. featuring artist demonstrations. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 10 An Old-Fashioned Visit According to Mark Twain** by Richard Reimer. If you enjoy Mark Twain's writings, you will not want to miss this performance. 7:00 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for students and seniors 60 and over. (469) 363-1380
- 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. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$5 adults and \$2 students. (972) 216-8125

MARCH

3 - April 1

- Texas Area Artists** will hold an exhibition in the Main and Chamber Galleries. *Annual Award Show 2006* is the annual awards exhibit for the members of Texas Area Artists. Hours are Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (214) 566-8269
- 4 Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting at 2:00 p.m. featuring artist demonstrations. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 5 - 6 Mesquite Community Theatre** staged reading series presents *George Washington Slept Here* at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. No reservation required. Admission is free. (972) 216-8126
- 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
- 24 The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Not Just for Kids- Animal Tales*. 7:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$12 adult, \$8 seniors and \$6 students. (972) 216-8127

30 - April 14

- Mesquite Community Theatre** presents the musical *Nunsense* in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126

MAINSTREAM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 5 City Council meeting**, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 9 Daddy-Daughter Dance** at the Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Dr. Call (972) 216-6260 for ticket information.
- 10 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.
- 19 City Council meeting**, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 24 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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Mesquite Earns ISO 1 Rating and Lowers Homeowners' Insurance

by Mayor Mike Anderson

Recently, the city of Mesquite became a member of a very select group of cities. We were awarded the highest standards of safety services according to the Insurance Services Office (ISO), also known as an ISO 1 rating. The rating is a measurement of several aspects of City services. After a year-long evaluation, a "grade" is derived from a certain number of points out of 100 possible.

For instance, a city has the ability to earn a maximum number of 50 points for fire services, 40 maximum points for water services and 10 points for emergency communications. Of the 100 points possible, the City of Mesquite scored a very solid 95.56. Now it has been a long time since I have been in school, but I think that's an "A" in anyone's grade book.

So what does this mean for the residents of Mesquite? First of all, it is important for residents to know that Mesquite is one of an elite few. Only 48 communities nationwide -- that's right nationwide -- have achieved this status. Secondly, a higher ISO rating translates to saving lives and money for our citizens.

Our fire service professionals are some of the best. Prior to the evaluation process, the City of Mesquite purchased and commissioned some new fire equipment. This wise investment of taxpayer funds positions our fire services once again as a leader among first responders. It also signals to others Mesquite provides superior service to its residents. That level of service spills over to the Water Utilities Division, which earned high marks in answering resident requests and record keeping, both criteria judged in the ISO process.

Gaining this precious ISO 1 rating also saves residents money. That savings will be reflected on future homeowners' insurance rates in Mesquite. There is no exact science to calculating this savings. Depending on personal factors, previous claims and the insurance carrier, savings will vary. However, the next time you discuss your insurance rates with your agent, make sure he or she knows you live in Mesquite where we have just achieved an ISO 1 rating.

As Mayor, I feel it is important to those who have chosen to live and work in Mesquite to understand how your city government improves our quality of life everyday. The Mesquite City Council and members of the City staff are working to make our city a great place to live. In this case, we have made the city safer and more affordable.

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MESQUITE

T E X A S

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Daddy, Be My Valentine

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

The dance is scheduled for Friday, February 9, 2007 at the Mesquite Convention Center. This valentine event will be split into two separate dances. The dance for the younger girls, ages four to eight, and their dads will be from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. The older age group, eight to 12, will have their dance from 8:30 – 10:30 p.m.

A limited amount of tickets will be available beginning January 16, 2007 at the Mesquite Parks and Recreation office, located at 1515 North Galloway. Tickets are \$25.00 per couple and \$10.00 for each additional daughter. Sorry, no moms are allowed.

Last year's event was a tremendous success with over 1100 total 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 always remember.



Immunize Your Children

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 inoculations 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.



Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered what the blue reflectors are in the middle of the streets? It is customary to see lane dividers and signal reflectors attached to pavement, but what about the blue ones? The blue reflectors are one way the Mesquite Fire Department can locate fire hydrants in the dark. When called to an emergency, seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Knowing the location

of a fire hydrant means shaving precious minutes off of response times.

The Fire Department also uses maps which indicate the nearest two fire hydrants to the location of the emergency. So the next time you are driving at night and see that blue reflection glowing back at you, just know you are near a fire hydrant that might be used to save your life or property.

MTED Can Be a Senior's Best Friend

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 identification 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. to 5:00 p.m.

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

Real. Texas. Festival.

The City of Mesquite in conjunction with the Mesquite Independent School District and the Mesquite Championship Rodeo will host the inaugural Real. Texas. Festival. on April 26 - 28, 2007. The event will feature a live concert by Jack Ingram as well as other talented Texas artists.

Spend the day and taste the excitement of Real. Texas. Flavor. This family-friendly event will offer carnival rides, rodeo, children's games and entertainment as well as much, much more.

For more information about the event, or if you or a group would like to volunteer during the Festival, please visit the Web site at www.realtexasfestival.com or call Daren Watkins at (972) 216-6499.



APRIL 26-28, 2007 - MESQUITE, TEXAS
www.realtexasfestival.com