

# QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Q:** Have you ever wondered why it's better to fill up in the evenings and why you should avoid refueling in the morning on Ozone Watch and/or Warning days?

**A:** Ozone forms when fuel emissions react in the presence of sunlight and heat. The vapor contains chemicals which are released into the atmosphere as you fill up. Refueling in the evening when sunlight is less intense reduces the likelihood of ground-level ozone formation. Emissions that occur early in the day are the most likely to cause ground-level ozone formation because they linger in the air, and, during the intense afternoon heat and sunshine, "bake" in the atmosphere. Delaying emissions-causing activities until after the morning hours shifts the emissions to a time of day less conducive to ozone formation. Recommendations are to wait until as late in the day as possible to fill up your tank.

## FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

**Main Number** .....(972) 288-7711  
**Animal Services**.....(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



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

## MAINSTREAM

David Paschall.....Mayor Pro Tem  
 John Monaco.....Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
 John Heiman, Jr.....Councilmember  
 Stan Pickett.....Councilmember  
 Shirley Roberts.....Councilmember  
 Dennis Tarpley.....Councilmember  
 Ted Barron, City Manager

# MESQUITE ARTS CENTER ARTIVITIES

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).

### NOVEMBER

- 1 - 4 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *Sleepy Hollow* in the Black Box Theatre. Performances are Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 - \$12. (972) 216-8126
- 3 - Dec. 2 **Texas Area Artists** exhibit *Holiday Hues 2007* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and during performances.
- 4 **Texas Area Artists** will host its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 12 The **Texas Area Artists "Monthly Paint-In"** begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. Free! (214) 566-8269
- 17 The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Masterworks - Evocations* the music of Wagner, Respighi and D'Indy at 7:30 p.m. (972) 216-8127

### DECEMBER

- 3 - Jan. 4 The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents an exhibit by *Janice Johnson* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and during performances. (972) 216-6444
- 8 **Mesquite Symphonic Band** is in concert at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$5 adults and \$2 students. (972) 216-8125
- 10 The **Texas Area Artists "Monthly Paint-In"** begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. Free! (214) 566-8269.

## LIBRARY CONNECTION

### Main Branch Library

300 West Grubb Dr.  
(972) 216-6220

### Manga Book Club

Middle school and high school students meet at the North Branch Library to discuss the latest manga books. Call the library for the next meeting date.

### Anime Club

The anime club previews, discusses and recommends anime movies for the Main Library's collection. The club is open to 12 to 18 year olds and meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m.

### Book Club

The club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Main Library.

### November

21 Thanksgiving Craft Time, 4 - 5 p.m.

### North Branch Library

2600 Oates Dr  
(972) 681-0465

### Mesquite Adult Literacy Center

Your help is needed to teach an adult to read. If you can contribute at least two hours a week please call.

### Computer Classes

The Mesquite Public Library System will offer classes at no cost on computer-related topics. Call the Main Library or the North Branch for a complete schedule.

### November

20 Thanksgiving Craft Time, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Visit our online catalog at: [www.library.mesquite.tx.us](http://www.library.mesquite.tx.us).



Volume 21, Number 10, October 2007  
A City of Mesquite, Texas Publication

# MAINSTREAM

## Red Light Cameras Are Coming

Red light traffic enforcement cameras will soon be placed at four City intersections.



The program comes after the recent City Council approval of an ordinance and contract permitting the use of photographic red-light enforcement. The decision is part of the City's initiative to make drivers, cyclists and pedestrians safer on city streets.

The contract allows REDFLEX Traffic Systems, Inc. to operate red-light cameras within the city. During the winter months research will be done to identify the best places to put the cameras; part of the data identifies intersections with the highest number of current red-light runners and accidents attributed to red light running.

The cameras are expected to go online January 2, 2008. Warnings will be sent during the month of January, but, starting February 1st, citations will come with fines starting at \$75.

Tickets will be sent in the mail to the registered vehicle owner in both English and Spanish. There will be both mail-in and online payment options.

Previous City traffic safety initiatives in Mesquite include retiming and synchronizing of traffic signals, intersection reconfiguration, street restructuring and the implementation of a 25 MPH residential speed limit.

Earlier this year Allstate Insurance rated Mesquite as the 3rd safest city to drive in the entire region.

**MESQUITE**  
T E X A S  
Real. Texas. Flavor.  
[www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Holiday Closing	Event
1	<b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>Historic Florence Ranch Homestead</b> , open house, every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1424 Barnes Bridge Road.
	The <b>Florence Ranch Homestead and Opal Lawrence Historical Park</b> will not be open Saturday, November 24, or December 22, due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Open house hours will resume January 26, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
5	<b>City Council Meeting</b> - All meetings are open to the public and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
10	<b>Historic Mesquite, Inc.</b> hosts its 12th annual <b>Dinner Under the Cedars</b> fundraiser at Opal Lawrence Historical Park. Tickets include: dinner, entertainment, silent and live auctions and tours of the Stephen Decatur Lawrence Homestead and barn. Tickets must be purchased in advance by Nov. 5; \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors over 55, and \$20 for children 12 and under. (972) 216-6468.
19	<b>City Council Meeting</b> - All meetings are open to the public and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
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## IN THIS ISSUE

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## Serial Number Registry

A City Web site designed to help Mesquite residents keep track of their property is proving to be a useful tool for people here at home and abroad.

The Web site is called Serial Number Central. It allows people to create a database of the serial numbers from electronics and other equipment in their homes, and archives the information for them in case the property should ever get stolen.

Lt. David Faaborg in the Mesquite police department came up with the idea, and the Mesquite Information Technology staff built the site as a community service. Though the program started out as something for Mesquite citizens to use, it has since captured users from across the United States and even from other countries. Some of the serial number listings come from Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Turkey and Yugoslavia. In fact, today the users from other cities, states and countries outnumber Mesquite residents' use 50 to 1.

The information entered is made available to patrol officers in the field through in-vehicle mobile data computers. If an officer stops a suspicious person and locates property he has reason to believe may have been recently stolen, he can check the serial numbers immediately against the information citizens have entered at Serial Number Central. The rightful owner can then be contacted to determine if the property was indeed taken without consent. This all may done even before the owner of the property realizes the items have been taken.

Examples of items people may want to register are television sets, stereo equipment, lawn equipment, gaming systems, car stereo equipment, cell phones, guns, computers, bicycles, etc.

The service is located on the City's Web site ([www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)) under the Online Services link. It is free and available regardless of whether or not you live in Mesquite.

## Library Benefits From Grant

The City of Mesquite Library System has 18 new computers thanks to a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The grant totals \$21,250 and was used to buy the computers along with new educational game software for children. The programs feature such favorites as Bob the Builder, Dora the Explorer and Nemo. New software has also been added to help newbies learn how to type.

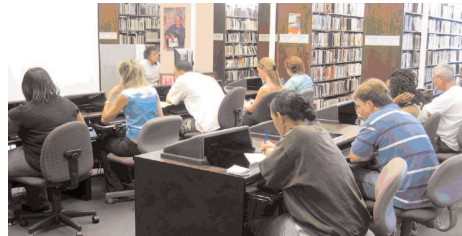
Library computers are available for people to access the Internet, create Word, Excel or Power Point documents and even to play games. The library also offers classes on basic computer skills, word processing and a special session for learning genealogical research. All classes are free to the public, however, registration is required.

A previous grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000 helped Mesquite create a computer lab and purchase three separate

computers for public access as well as a computer for the children's area. Since then, public computer use at City libraries has steadily increased with more than 60,000 sessions held during the last fiscal year.

In order to use library computers you must have a library card and a PIN. Residents showing a picture I.D. with current address are eligible. Children under 14 need a parent signature to obtain a library card and must have a parent present in order to use Internet computers. Teens between the ages of 14 to 17 do not need parents present to use the Internet, but do need signed parental permission. Out of state visitors may obtain a visitor's pass at the Computer Desk by showing picture identification.

Registration for computer classes can be made at the Main Library's reference desk or by calling (972) 216-6220.



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

## Prescription Delivery Service

A volunteer program sponsored by the City is helping to bring medications to those who otherwise couldn't get them on their own. It's all made possible through the Mesquite Special Transportation Program.

The program is made up of volunteers who work with Parkland Hospital to get the needed meds to people in the community. Once a week the volunteers go to the hospital's pharmacy to pick up prescriptions and then deliver them to residents. The service is free of charge.

Mesquite is just one of many local communities that have the same kind of volunteer service. If you would like to take part in the program you must have your prescriptions transferred to the Parkland Hospital Pharmacy. You can also find out more information on the program by calling (972) 681-1890. Information is available between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.



## Alcohol Sales Issues Will Go On November Ballot

The Mesquite City Secretary's office reports it has verified a sufficient number of petition signatures to add two local option alcohol sales issues to this November's ballot.

On August 1 the Save Our Stores PAC submitted two petitions related to alcohol sales in the city. The first issue legalizes the sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption. The second legalizes the sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only.

You can find a copy of the official ballot language at your local library. You can also go to the City's Web site ([www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)) to get an early look at what will appear on the ballot and to find a list of early voting and Election Day polling locations.

The two issues will go up for a decision by Mesquite voters on November 6. Early voting for the two issues begins October 22 and runs through November 2.

### Petition Statistics

Legal sale of beer/wine for off-premise consumption	
o Number of verified signatures needed	7,584
o Signatures verified	8,119
Legal sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only	
o Number of verified signatures needed	7,584
o Signatures verified	8,333

## We Need You

The following is a list of open positions in the City of Mesquite:

Position	Salary
Community Planner	\$42,456
Water Conservation /Recycling Coordinator	\$36,000
Police Officer	\$51,060
Public Safety Dispatcher	\$14/hour

All positions are open until filled. Information on all employment opportunities in the City is available at [www.cityofmesquite.com/hr/positions.php](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/hr/positions.php).

## Did You Know?

### You can pay your property taxes online!

The City of Mesquite Tax Office offers convenient and secure online property tax payment service. The Tax Office processes online payments usually within one business day. A receipt is provided immediately for paid accounts. Property taxes are due in October and are past due in February. If you pay late then penalties and interest payments are also charged.

If paid in:	Penalty & Interest
February	7%
March	9%
April	11%
May	13%
June	15%
*July	18%
*August	19%
*September	20%

\*Accounts unpaid on July 1 will have lawsuits filed and the property owner will be assessed additional attorney fees.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale

Saturday, November 17  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Evans Senior Center  
Take care of your Holiday shopping with a unique gift crafted by talented senior adults at Evans Recreation Center, 1116 Hillcrest. Handmade or one-of-a-kind merchandise and baked goods will be for sale. Proceeds benefit the senior program activity fund. Adults 55+ may place items for consignment in the Craft Store. (972) 285-6761



### Tea and Story Time with Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 8  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Florence Recreation Center  
Mrs. Claus would like to extend a special invitation to children 0 - 5 for a visit at Florence Recreation Center, 2501 Whitson Way. Mrs. Claus will visit and read stories to children, and the elves will serve a special Christmas Tea and cookies. Children will take home a keepsake photograph and Mrs. Claus's cookie recipe and cutter. Tickets must be purchased by December 3 and cost \$6. (972) 279-7477

### Christmas in the Park

Thursday, December 6 - Saturday, September 8  
6 - 9 p.m.  
Westlake Park  
The 21st annual Christmas in the Park will be held at Westlake Park, 601 Gross Road. Thousands of twinkling lights, Frosty, Rudolph and Santa will help spread the holiday spirit. Enjoy Mrs. Claus's cookies, hot beverages, Santa's Workshop, letters to Santa, the Yule log, hay rides, pony rides, musical entertainment and a nativity scene. (972) 216-6260

