

# QUESTION

AND ANSWER

**Q:** Is a permit required for an above-ground swimming pool?

**A:** A permit is required any time a swimming pool or spa is installed either in-ground or above-ground that is in excess of 1.5 feet in depth. Permit fees vary depending on the type and depth of the swimming pool or spa. For more information, contact the Building Inspection Division at (972) 216-6212.

## 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

**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  
 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

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](http://www.mesquitearts-center.org).

## JULY

**1-31** The **Texas Area Artists** will hold an exhibition, *Artrageous 2007*, in the Main and Chamber Galleries. The galleries are open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (214) 566-8269

**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

**9** **Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004

## AUGUST

**1-5** The **Texas Area Artists** will hold an exhibition, *Artrageous 2007*, in the Main and Chamber Galleries. The galleries are open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (214) 566-8269

**5-31** **Mesquite Creative Arts Club** will hold an exhibition in the Main and Chamber Galleries. The galleries are open Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and during performances. (972) 463-6004

**5** **Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting and artist demonstration at 2:00 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall. The public is invited. (214) 566-8269

**13** 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

**17-31** **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *The Foreigner* in the Black Box Theatre. (972) 216-8126

**27-28** **Mesquite Community Theatre** staged reading series presents *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Reservations are not required and admission is free. (972) 216-8126

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# MAINSTREAM

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### JULY

- 2** **City Council meeting cancelled**
- 4** **Independence Day holiday**, City offices closed. No residential waste collection.
- 14** **Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open for tours from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Rd. For special tours call (972) 613-7547
- 16** **City Council meeting**, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue
- 28** **Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open for tours from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Rd. For special tours call (972) 613-7547

### AUGUST

- 6** **City Council meeting**, 3:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Avenue
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## Fire Department ISO Rating of “1”

On Monday, December 4, 2006 the City of Mesquite was presented a plaque commemorating an Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 evaluation. Less than 50 communities nationwide have achieved the Class 1 rating.

ISO is the leading supplier of statistical, underwriting and actuarial information for the property/casualty insurance industry. Most insurers use the Public Protection Classification (PPC) program for underwriting and calculating premiums for residential, commercial and industrial properties. A Class 1 rating will go a long way in reducing insurance premiums for Mesquite residents.

To determine a community's PPC, ISO conducts a field survey. Expert ISO staff members visit the community to observe and evaluate features of the fire protection systems. Using a manual called the Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS), ISO objectively evaluates three major areas:

1. *Fire alarm and communications systems*: A review of the fire alarm system accounts for 10 percent of the total classification. The review focuses on the community's facilities and support for handling and dispatching fire alarms.
2. *Fire Department*: A review of the fire department accounts for 50 percent of the total classification. ISO focuses on a fire department's first-alarm response and initial attack to minimize potential loss. Here, ISO reviews such items as engine companies, ladder or service companies, distribution of fire stations and fire companies, equipment carried on apparatus, pumping capacity, reserve apparatus, department personnel and training.
3. *Water-supply system*: A review of the water-supply system accounts for 40 percent of the total classification. ISO reviews the water supply the community uses to determine the adequacy for fire suppression purposes. Hydrant size, type and installation, as well as the inspection frequency and condition of fire hydrants are reviewed.

For more information about the ISO and PPC process, please visit their Web site at: <http://www.isomitigation.com>.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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## Common Code Violations

Well-maintained lawns not only make a neighborhood look inviting, but they also can help maintain property values. Now that the spring and summer months are here, grass and weeds are growing throughout the city. Environmental Code Inspectors will be driving through neighborhoods to make sure that all properties are properly mowed. They will also check for any violations related to outside storage, parking, inoperable vehicles, fencing and general property maintenance.

Grass and weeds over 12 inches in height are in violation of City ordinance. Upon viewing yards that contain grass exceeding this limitation, inspectors will send notification to residents to have the property mowed within 10 days. If compliance is not achieved, a contractor will be hired by the City to mow the property at the owner's expense.

The Environmental Code Division appreciates the cooperation it receives throughout the year from residents and property owners who want to keep Mesquite a beautiful place to live. To report a code violation, use one of the following options:

- 1) **Online** – [www.cityofmesquite.com/online-services.php](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/online-services.php) – (click on Report a Code Violation)
- 2) **Complaint Line** – (972) 216-6276

## Proper Drainage of Pools Required

Nothing helps beat the heat on a hot summer day like a cool swimming pool. However, with the joy of pool ownership also comes responsibility. Proper drainage of a swimming pool is not only necessary to protect the environment, it is also required by City ordinance.

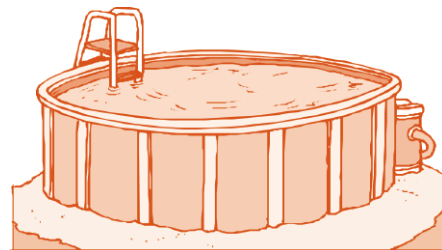
Chlorine and other chemicals used in maintaining pools and spas, which often include acidic or alkaline cleaning compounds, can have a severe negative impact on the plant and aquatic life in our waterways. Even at extremely low levels, chlorine can be toxic to aquatic life. Pollutants also kill microorganisms and have a detrimental effect on water quality.

According to Section 5-410(e) of the City Code, adequate provision must be made to drain swimming pools into the sanitary sewer system of the city. It is a violation of City Code to drain pool water into the alley, street, gutters or

storm drains. Draining pool water into the sanitary sewer system allows the water to be properly treated and reused.

Many pools are equipped with their own sewer connection so they may be drained directly into the sanitary sewer. However, if a swimming pool is not equipped with this connection, an alternative and inexpensive method, such as a drainage hose, is available to properly drain the water.

If you are unsure about proper drainage or need assistance, please contact the Building Inspection Division at (972) 216-6212, or call a licensed pool service provider or plumber.



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

## Informational Meetings for High School Parents

During this school year, there has been a significant increase in the abuse of Cheese Heroin throughout the North Texas area. In order to educate residents regarding this development, crime prevention officers from the Mesquite Police Department will present valuable facts to parents within the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD). The listed high school auditoriums will host these presentations from 7:00

p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on the following dates. Maximum seating capacity is 1,000.

- Poteet High School - June 19 (Tuesday)
- Mesquite High School - July 17 (Tuesday)
- Horn High School - August 16 (Thursday)

If you are a parent of a teenage MISD student, please make plans to attend one of these important seminars.

## Parks and Recreation Facilities

Need a place to host a party this summer? Look for the Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department for your every need.

If you want a splashing experience, any of the four City swimming pools can be reserved. Pools are rented during non-operational hours on specific days. The most popular pools are the City Lake Aquatic Center and Vanston Pool. A water cannon shooting streams of water is a featured attraction at Town East Pool. A double-loop slide is sure to be a hit at Evans Pool this summer. And Movies in the Park and Swimmin' Cinema will make the City Lake Aquatic Center a popular destination for family and friends.

Smaller groups can rent tables under shade structures for parties or gatherings during public swim hours at City Lake Aquatic Center and Town East Pool.

Pavilions and shelters are also available for hosting a group outdoors. Pavilions can accommodate larger gatherings with seating for approximately 75 guests. All pavilions have playgrounds and restrooms nearby. The most popular pavilions are at KidsQuest and DeBusk Park. Brandy Station, Paschall, Valley Creek and Town East Pavilions are also available for rentals.

Shelters are smaller units that will seat approximately 30 guests, but do not have

restroom facilities. City Lake and Hodges Park shelters are the most popular. Shelters and pavilions are reserved from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

If you have a large group or need wide open space for your function, the Rorie-Galloway Day Camp is the answer. Business outings, schools programs and sports organizations reserve the Day Camp for a multitude of purposes. Reservations have exclusive use of the entire park. Reservations are only available on Saturdays and Sundays during the summer.

Recreation centers can also be reserved when your activities need to be held indoors. During operational hours, individual rooms can be reserved by the hour. Out of operational hours, the entire building can be reserved with a four-hour minimum.

Lakeside Activity Center is a very popular facility for family reunions, receptions and business meetings. The Westlake House provides an intimate reservation experience that is available for business meetings and retreats, weddings, teas and formal receptions.

Call the Parks and Recreation Department at (972) 216-6260 for rental rates and availability. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Movie in the Park

July 10  
7:00-9:00 p.m.  
Westlake Park  
FREE

It's movie madness with Mesquite's Parks and Recreation Department! Come experience the joy of movie watching in the great outdoors. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets so you can truly enjoy these family events. Please call (972) 216-6260 for more information.

### Splash Movie

July 11  
8:00-10:00 p.m.  
City Lake Aquatic Center  
\$5 admission

Experience the joy of movie watching in the pool. Bring your family and friends to enjoy this fun event. Please call (972) 216-6260 for more information.

