

# QUESTION

AND ANSWER

**Q:** Why was this year's fireworks show cancelled?

**A:** In July the City received numerous calls from people wanting to know why the Chamber of Commerce's fireworks show was cancelled this year. The annual fireworks show in the City of Mesquite was replaced in April with a new signature event called the Real Texas Festival. Off to a great start in its first year, the two-day festival will become an annual event combining music, entertainment and rodeo action. There are many regional venues offered to area residents interested in finding a fireworks extravaganza, but there is only one place in the entire region where you can find the Rodeo and that is right here in Mesquite.

## 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



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

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).

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-30** The **Diane Walker Gladney** exhibit will be in the Main Gallery. Gladney's work explores the concepts of direction and structure through an underlying or superimposed grid. Her paintings sell for thousands, but you can see them free at the Arts Center every weekday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Artist reception on September 8, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- 8** The season begins for **The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra**. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$6 for students. Call (972) 216-8127 for performance and reservation information.
- 10-12** **Mesquite Community Theater's** *Sleepy Hollow* auditions. If you have a hankering to hold a place on stage then come try out for the upcoming presentation of *Sleepy Hollow*. Show directors will hold try outs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. You can call (972) 216-8126 to find out more.
- 10** The **Texas Area Artists Monthly Paint-In** for area artists is a great time for you to meet with other creative spirits to share your work and ideas. Beginners and experts are welcome. The get-together begins at 10 a.m., and is free of charge. Call (214) 566-8269 for information.
- 21-22** The **Latino Arts Association** presents *El Secreto de la Lagartija / The Lizard's Secret* goes on stage Friday and Saturday at 10 a.m. The bilingual Mexican folktale takes you on the magical journey of a prince who encounters giants and talking animals. It promises to be a great event for the kids. Tickets are free, but seating must be reserved by calling (972) 216-6444.

## OCTOBER

- 13** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with MSO POPS, featuring music from *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Jazz Singer*, *Oklahoma* and others. For tickets or information call (972) 216-8127.
- 20** The **Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas** in concert. The show begins at 8 p.m. For more information call (214) 965-0491.

## LIBRARY CONNECTION

September 1  
 The **Manga Book Club** is a great opportunity for teens to get together and talk about their favorite book or Anime series. The group meets every other week from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call (972) 681-0465 to find out more.

September 13- November 15  
**Toddler Time** will be held Thursdays beginning September 13 through November 15 from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at both library locations. Toddler Time is for ages 18 months to three years. There will be stories, songs and fun.

Thank you!  
 The **Summer Reading Club** has drawn to a close. More than 3,000 children took part in the program. The club motivates kids to read during the summer break, and rewards them with prizes and awards from area sponsors. Special thanks go to:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Arby's                        | Ladies Auxiliary of Mesquite Elks Lodge #2404 |
| Celebration Station           | McDonalds                                     |
| Chick-fil-A                   | Mesquite Championship Rodeo                   |
| City of Garland Surf and Swim | Mesquite Credit Union                         |
| The Dallas Zoo                | Outback Steakhouse                            |
| First State Bank              | Pizza Inn (3003 N. Galloway Ave. location)    |
| Friends of the Library        | Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus     |
| Jesse Freeman                 | Rotary Club of Mesquite                       |

# MAINSTREAM

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 4** **City Council Meeting** - (Rescheduled from September 3, due to Labor Day holiday). All meetings are open to the public, and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 18** **City Council Meeting** - (Rescheduled from September 17). All meetings are open to the public, and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 22** The bi-annual **Trash Bash** at City Lake Park. Event runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- 22** The **7th Annual Battle of the Bands** pits high school students from the area against each other to compete for prizes. The show starts at 5 p.m. at the Mesquite Girls Softball Complex located at 1717 McKenzie Road and Faithon P. Lucas Blvd.
- OCTOBER**
- 2** **City Council Meeting** - (Rescheduled from October 1, due to MISD fair day). All meetings are open to the public, and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.
- 1 - 31** **Rob Pepper exhibit** in the Main Gallery of the Arts Center.
- 13** The third annual **Addressing Mesquite Day**. A time and place for the event kickoff is yet to be determined.
- 15** **City Council Meeting** - All meetings are open to the public, and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue.

## Water Restrictions Lifted

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has ended its recommendation of Stage 3 restrictions because of water level improvements at Lake Lavon and Cooper Lake. This decision allows Mesquite and area cities to remove mandatory conservation efforts.

Since May, rain events have provided much needed relief to the drought conditions that have affected the region and water reservoir system during the past two years. In recent months Lake Lavon and Cooper Lake have returned to full capacity. These are major water bodies which provide water to the City.

Even though the drought is over and water restrictions are lifted, the City of Mesquite is still asking residents to voluntarily conserve. The reason is because the future is uncertain concerning the rise and fall of our lake area shore lines. As the hot, dry months approach, we urge you to reduce your water consumption by just five percent. Here are some simple steps you can take which may help:

- Check your sprinkler system frequently and adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk or street.
- Run your washing machine and dishwasher only when they are full and you could save 1000 gallons a month.
- Minimize evaporation by watering during the early morning hours, when temperatures are cooler and winds are lighter.
- Use a layer of organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and save hundreds of gallons of water a year.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. Longer grass shades root systems and holds soil moisture better than a closely clipped lawn.
- More plants die from over-watering than from under-watering. Be sure to water plants only when necessary.

For now water restrictions in the city are lifted, but while the latest drought is behind us, please remember to be wise with your water.

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

## Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered how to report needed repair work on roads, storm drains or other City facilities? Of course, it's impossible for City workers to know about every nook and cranny in the city's nearly 44-square-mile footprint. So, one of the best sources of information comes from people in our community who see or notice problems. People report potholes, blocked culverts, road debris and missing road signs. These reports help the City keep track of emerging problems in our community. One of the best tools to report problems is on the City's "Public Works Service Request" Web site. The site can be found at the "Online Services" Web link on the City's home page. The link leads to a list of 64 types of requests for services. Of course, you can also call the City at (972) 288-7711 to report any problems in your neighborhood.



## Allstate Insurance Ranks Mesquite Area Drivers As Third Safest In The Region

An annual report card from Allstate Insurance shows Mesquite ranks third in having the safest drivers around the Dallas / Fort Worth area.

The 2007 "Allstate America's Best Drivers Report" ranks cities based on claim data to determine the likelihood drivers in America's 200 largest cities would have a car accident. Twenty-one Texas cities are included in the research, and during the past three years since the report has been released, the city of Mesquite rankings have improved year over year.

City traffic engineers and police officers attribute the increase in safety to a number of road projects. Traffic enforcement officers also say the biggest safety improvement was the addition of median barriers along I-635, which prevents the head-on and other crossover collisions which caused the most deadly accidents in the city.

During the past five years fatal

accidents in Mesquite have been on a steady decline (see table below).

Deadly Accidents	
Year	Deaths
2002	18
2003	16
2004	12
2005	8
2006	7
2007	6 to date

Other recent long-term road safety projects in Mesquite include:

- The installation of LED traffic lights at all 101 of the city's traffic intersections
- A signal coordination project to improve the flow of traffic
- Intersection design improvements

The cities of Fort Worth and Grand Prairie took the first and second place rankings in regional safety respectively. The city of Brownsville ranked at the top of the list in the state for having the safest drivers.

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

## Owners Of Lost Pets Finding Hope In City Web Site

The City of Mesquite Lost and Found Animal Web site for lost pets is proving to be a big success. Since its inception in July 2004, the Web site has had more than 5,000 submissions from people who have lost or found pets and more than 2,300 posts have been removed by owners who have presumably found their animals.

The Web site was designed by the City's Information Systems

Manager. He says he averages about four posts per day to the site. Currently there are 48 posts of people looking for their lost or found dogs, cats or even birds. Several people credit the service with reuniting them with their lost pets.

A link to the Mesquite Lost and Found Animal Web site is located on the City's home page at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).

## 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 3rd annual Addressing Mesquite Day. On Saturday, October 13, groups of church and civic volunteers will complete minor home improvement projects for those fellow homeowners in need. This

event definitely exemplifies the true character of Mesquite residents.

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](http://www.cityofmesquite.com), for more details.

## Mowing In Mesquite Takes Top Priority

Mesquite parks and recreation workers are making mowing a top priority project. Recent rains have caused considerable vegetative growth on recreation areas, and flooding has caused debris problems in local parks. Maintenance crews will try to get back on schedule by August with making fields and other recreation areas look as good as possible.

Mesquite has more than 1,600 acres of parkland to maintain. However, due to the length of the grass it will take repeated mowing during the next four to six weeks for athletic fields and other open

areas to once again have a manicured appearance. Extra personnel from other divisions have been brought in to help with the work.

The last week of June was the first time in two years mowing had to be put on hold for an entire week because of daily deluges. Flood debris has also been an issue, which has been slowing down the mower work crews.

Mesquite parks and recreation officials would like all residents to know work is going as quickly as possible.

## Cone Zone

Tripp Road reconstruction is underway between N. Galloway Ave. and Belt Line Road. Work will expand this section of roadway from two to four concrete lanes, and improve area water drainage. Construction work began in July, and will last until August of next year.

Edward Church Road reconstruction is underway between Cartwright Road and Clay-Mathis Road. Work here widens the road from two to four concrete lanes, and also replaces a bridge and water main. Work began in December 2006, and is scheduled to be complete and open by mid-August.

Lucas Boulevard Bridge construction and utility

relocation work is underway on Lucas Boulevard at South Mesquite Creek. The new bridge elevates the road above the 100-year flood line, and work also includes stone columns for a pedestrian overpass. Construction began in October 2006, and is scheduled to be complete in January 2008.



## Parks and Recreation Corner

### After Hours Café

August 21

September 18

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Back by popular demand, the **After Hours Café** will be held during August and September at the Evans Senior Center. The event offers dinner and entertainment for Mesquite Seniors at the low price of \$6 per night.

The August 21st show includes a three-course meal followed by Richard Reimer presenting his impersonation of *An Evening with Mark Twain*. The September 18th show also offers a full three-course meal and features *The Harmonichords of Dallas Area Agency on Aging*.

Advance reservations are required. They are easy to get by calling (972) 285-6761. You can also call that number for more information on the event.

### After School Program Registration

Registration begins in mid-August for the Parks and Recreation Department's After School Program. The program is a great opportunity for working parents who need an affordable and safe place to send kids before they get home from work.

Children in the program can work on homework, have fun doing arts and crafts or just have fun being together with friends. A snack is also provided.

Full registration for returning children will be held August 13. New participants may begin signing up on August 20 or later. Registration is held during the normal hours\* for local recreation centers.

The cost for the program is \$95 per month for the first child and \$85 per month for additional children, and provides care until 6:30 p.m.

### Locations for the 2007 programs are:

Dunford Recreation Center	1015 Green Canyon (972) 279-9285
Florence Recreation Center	2501 Whitson Way (972) 279-7477
Goodbar Recreation & Senior Center	3000 Concord (972) 279-6881
Rutherford Recreation Center	900 Rutherford Dr. (972) 216-7790
Shaw Gymnasium & Activity Center	707 Purple Sage (972) 288-6293
Thompson Gymnasium & Activity Center	2525 Helen Lane (972) 882-7200

\*Hours of operation vary. Contact each center to find out more, or go to the City's Web site at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).