

# QUESTION AND ANSWER

**Q:** I know water restrictions changed, so when can I water my lawn?

**A:** Water restrictions in Mesquite were dropped in July. This means all the rules you became accustomed to during the drought are no longer in effect. You can now water your lawn, wash your car or fill your pool as you wish. However, City utility workers ask you to be wise about your water use. Even though there are no rules in effect for when you can water, there are times of day when it is better to irrigate. The sun has a habit of evaporating water, so this means the best time of day to turn on your sprinklers is during dusk or early dawn. This allows the water time to soak into the ground and actually help the plants you are trying to nourish. Watering during the day is seen as a waste of water and money.  
Check out this good Web link for smart water use: [www.waterwisetexas.org](http://www.waterwisetexas.org)

## 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).

### OCTOBER

- 1-31** The Mesquite Arts Council presents an exhibit by **Rob Pepper** in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. (972) 216-6444
- 7** **Texas Area Artists** host its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. Everyone is invited. (214) 566-8269
- 6** Reception for **Rob Pepper** hosted by the Mesquite Arts Council. 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the Main Gallery. Free! (972) 216-6444
- 8** The *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
- 13** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with MSO POPS, featuring music from *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Jazz Singer*, *Oklahoma* and others. (972) 216-8127
- 20** The **Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas** in concert at 8 p.m. The concert is free although seating is limited. (972) 216-6444
- 27 – November 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

## LIBRARY CONNECTION

### Main Branch Library

<b>October</b>	
26	Halloween Craft Time 4:30 – 5 p.m.
30	Halloween Happenings 6 – 8 p.m.
<b>November</b>	
21	Thanksgiving Craft Time 4 – 5 p.m.
<b>December</b>	
7, 14, 21	Holiday Craft Time 4:30 – 5 p.m.
18	Christmas Preschool Story Time 10:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.
20	Christmas Toddler Story Time 10:30 – 11 a.m.



### North Branch Library

<b>October</b>	
30	Halloween Craft Time 4:30 – 5 p.m.
<b>November</b>	
20	Thanksgiving Craft Time 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
<b>December</b>	
6, 13, 20	Holiday Craft Time 4:30 – 5 p.m.
18	Christmas Preschool Story Time 10:30 – 11 a.m.
20	Christmas Toddler Story Time 10:30 – 11 a.m.

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# MAINSTREAM

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 29** Emergency Preparedness Month evening in the park event with Parks & Recreation movie. Bring the kids to see fire trucks, police cars and perhaps even an up close look at a Department of Public Safety Helicopter. 7 p.m. at Evans Park.

### 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.
- 9** **Junior Youth Advisory Council Kick-Off** (middle school students) 6-7 p.m. at Dunford Recreation Center.
- 13** The third annual **Addressing Mesquite Day**. 7:30 a.m. kick-off at Poteet High School.
- 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.
- 16** **Senior Youth Advisory Council Kick-Off** (high school students) 6 – 7 p.m. at Dunford Recreation Center.
- NOVEMBER**
- 5** **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.
- 10** Historic Mesquite, Inc. hosts its 12th annual **Dinner Under the Cedars** 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** **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.

## “Project Renewal” The 2007 – 08 Budget

By now you have hopefully heard about the new proposed budget for the City, and, more importantly, you have also heard about the many projects which it will bring.

There is indeed a great deal happening which is causing a lot of excitement at City Hall. At the beginning of the year the City Council gave direction to create a budget that would make an impact. Elected officials wanted to see a plan that would start to bring change to help enhance Mesquite's competitive position in commercial, retail and residential arenas.

The 2007-08 City budget begins a deliberate process of community revitalization which we are calling “Project Renewal.” Project Renewal's goal is to achieve long-term economic vitality through reinvestment and restoration throughout the city. Mesquite is a first-ring suburb experiencing redevelopment issues like many of the central cities in North Texas. Based on this challenge, the City of Mesquite is proposing a very aggressive plan to improve the aesthetic appearance of the city, revive older neighborhoods and bolster its retail and commercial development prospects.

As proposed in the new budget, Project Renewal will include funding for street improvements, curb and median repair and beautification, stepped up code enforcement and redevelopment projects in key locations. With this new direction comes a continued commitment to public safety, including staffing increases in both police and emergency management.

This year's budget is the first step to initiating bold new changes designed to redefine Mesquite's future. The new fiscal year, beginning October 1, symbolically signals a new beginning for Mesquite. In the months and years to come, we hope this will be the point where it will prove we were indeed poised to compete.



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

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## City Health Program Helps Waist And Bottom Lines

The City of Mesquite Human Resources Department hopes a nationwide health program will help with gains in the budget while helping employees lose weight.

The program is dubbed "Naturally Slim". Since its inception in April last year it has helped 106 employees lose 1,751 pounds. The biggest loss was noticed by Public Works Department worker Tony Douglas who dropped 50 pounds in four months.

Other benefits of the program are seen in people who tested to be pre-diabetic or diabetic. After participation in Naturally Slim, their blood sugar levels went down to the normal range. Cholesterol levels in others have also dropped.

Meanwhile, City staffers and the City's budget are also seeing savings in prescription drug medication expenses. Many employees have been able to halt certain medications due to their increasing health. This goes to the target of the program to help the City save money through preventative measures, rather than spending more money on the detrimental health problems connected to being overweight. No hard numbers have been calculated on savings, but during the years to come it is expected to be significant.

Human resource managers say they think the program is so successful because its diet is not too restrictive. It allows workers to eat what they normally do, but works on helping them realize when they are, and when they are not, hungry.

The City of Mesquite is not the only one in the area with this kind of plan. Many other local cities and businesses have also adopted the weight management program with hopes of saving lives and money.



Tony Douglas (Before)

(After)

## City Seeing Savings with Hybrids

Big improvements in the City of Mesquite's bottom line are proving so impressive that vehicle managers say they may soon be looking to expand hybrid fuel technology in the current fleet.

Right now the City of Mesquite has three hybrid vehicles. There are two Toyota Prius cars and one Ford Escape SUV. Each of them is proving to sip gas along at a much slower pace than the guzzlers they replaced.

The two Toyota Prius hybrids are used in place of a Chevy Colorado pickup, which is the non-hybrid vehicle used for the same kind of

duty. Since the changeover the City has started noticing a near doubling in mileage fuel efficiency. The news gets even better with the Ford Escape. It is getting nearly triple the amount of miles compared to the Chevy Silverado truck it replaced.

The City's Public Works director says those big differences have his people re-evaluating new car purchases now, to see if hybrids may be better to replace certain vehicles. However, the use of traditional cars and trucks won't go away, because there are some heavy-duty jobs with which the hybrid cars simply can't keep up.

Hybrid	HYBRID SAVINGS			
	27.4 MPG	Replaced Vehicle	15 MPG	Savings
Toyota Prius One	27.4 MPG	Chevrolet Colorado	15 MPG	12.4 MPG
Toyota Prius Two	30 MPG	Chevrolet Colorado	15 MPG	15 MPG
Ford Escape	44.7 MPG	Chevrolet Silverado	15.3 MPG	29.4 MPG

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

## Foiled Crime by Mesquite Police Highlights New Threat

Officers with the Mesquite Police Department are warning people to keep a watchful eye whenever cashing checks or using an ATM.

The warning comes after a mid-July robbery in Mesquite where the suspects had apparently followed the victim from a check-cashing business more than 50 miles away in Fort Worth. When the victim pulled into her driveway she was approached at gunpoint.

Fortunately Mesquite police officers were nearby and noticed the robbers fleeing the area at a high rate of speed. After an elusive chase police finally caught up with the

suspects and were able to make an arrest.

Police say the fact the criminals would travel such a long distance to perpetrate their crime should give citizens a sense of vigilance in observing their surroundings. Whenever you leave a check-cashing business, ATM or a bank, officers recommend you watch for suspicious people or vehicles. When driving home, take care to notice if anyone seems to be following. If you should become suspicious, then call 911 from a cell phone, drive to a police station or drive to a heavily populated area and ask for help.

## Building Report

The following shows major commercial projects recently permitted in the city.

Project	Location	Size	Value
Villas of Mesquite Creek (new apartments)	900 Gross Rd.	369,967 Sq. Ft.	\$12,976,000
First Operations (new industrial)	8500 Eastpoint Dr.	150,500 Sq. Ft.	\$5,900,000
Mesquite Dialysis Center (remodeled office)	3330 N. Galloway Ave.	5,898 Sq. Ft.	\$450,000

## Parks & Recreation Expanding Movie Program

City Parks and Recreation staffers have found a new attraction with an old-style flare... movies at the park. The events are reminiscent of the days when people used to frequent drive-in movies, but now the experience has evolved to local parks and even pools. The Parks and Recreation Department is working with the City's Police Department on the events. The Police Department is able to provide the screen and projector. The first movie-in-the-park event was held in

June. Since then there have been five showings. The program was to end with summer, but thanks to its success the movies-in-the-park have now been scheduled into October.

- Movies-in-the-Park Schedule
- September 29 – "We are Marshall" at Evans Park. Movie starts at dusk (about 7:15 p.m.).
  - October 24 – "Cars" at Valley Creek Park. Movie starts at dusk (around 6:45 p.m.).



## 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 homeowners in need. Kick-off for

the event will be at Poteet High School at 7:30 a.m.

If you or a group you belong to would like to volunteer, contact your church or call the City of Mesquite at (972) 216-6408. Updates on the event are available at the City's Web site located at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).

## Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered what a senior tax exemption is?

The older than 65, or disabled person, exemption allows people to receive a "tax ceiling" for City and School taxes. The ceiling is set at the amount of taxes paid in the year the property owner qualifies for the over-65 or disabled person exemption. The City and School taxes do not increase above the "tax

ceiling" amount as long as the person lives in the home. However, if improvements are made to the home, other than by normal repairs and maintenance, then taxable value is added to the property. For example, if you add a garage or a room to your home, your tax ceiling can rise. The exemption also changes if the exempted person moves to a new home.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

**Pumpkin Fest**  
Saturday, October 20 • 1 – 9 p.m.  
City Lake Park

All ages will enjoy this annual fall festival with crafts, games, costume contests, pumpkin painting contest, children's area, musical entertainment and, of course, fun fall food! Event sponsored by Old Town Mesquite. (972) 216-6260.

**Pumpkins and Spice**  
Saturday, October 27 • 10 a.m. – noon  
Florence Recreation Center  
Bring your kids, ages 3 to 6, for a fun day filled with pumpkin activities. Pumpkin decorating, pumpkin stores, toasted pumpkin seeds, pumpkin cookies and much more! Cost is \$6 per child. (972) 279-7477.

**Haunted Trail Fest**  
Saturday, October 27 • 6 – 9 p.m.  
Camp Rorie-Galloway  
Do you dare to venture into the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway on a moonlit Halloween's Eve? Gather all your courage, wear your costume, and bring a decorated pumpkin for contests and prizes. Admission to the haunted trail is \$2.

**Haunted Family Campout**  
Saturday, October 27 – Sunday, October 28  
5 p.m. – noon  
Camp Rorie-Galloway  
Sure you've got the courage to make it through the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway, but are you brave enough to last the entire night? The First Annual Haunted Family Campout will take place at Camp Rorie-Galloway. We'll have games, prizes, not-so-scary stories around the campfire, and smores! Breakfast will be served at sunrise for those who survive! Cost is \$25 per family.

**Fall Festival at Evans**  
Tuesday, October 30 • 6 – 8 p.m.  
Evans Recreation Center  
Celebrate the change of season with the Evans Recreation Center! Wear your costume and play carnival games, win prizes and trick or treat! The event is free for all ages, but tickets may be purchased to play games. (972) 285-4145.

**Annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale**  
Saturday, November 17 • 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Evans Senior Center  
Find a unique gift crafted by talented seniors. Handmade and one-of-a-kind merchandise and baked goods will be for sale. Proceeds benefit the center activity fund. Adults 55+ may place items for consignment in the craft store. (972) 285-6761.