



Dear Mesquite Resident,

I want to personally thank you and tell you how proud you should be of our community for its role in the State of Texas' emergency evacuation plan.

On August 31 and September 1 the City of Mesquite was the central point for distribution of Hurricane Gustav evacuees from the Louisiana coast in the Dallas area, and our emergency service personnel and local volunteers are to credit for the smooth running of that portion of the operation.

After Hurricane Katrina hit three years ago, Mesquite was identified as the eastern entrance into the Metroplex and was found to be the best place to coordinate such a massive evacuation effort. Back then we funneled thousands of people to area shelters, and our success in meeting that mission put us on the map for statewide emergency planning.

I am proud to know our location and connections to North Texas make us not only a hub for industry and commerce, but also a vital point for the State's disaster response plan. I personally met some of the evacuees as they arrived, and they were impressed with our Texas hospitality and we're thankful we were here for them.

I would like to especially thank all of our Citizen's Police and Fire Academy members for their efforts in this response, and, of course, the good people who serve in the Fire, Police, Public Works, Community Services, Information Technology and Parks and Recreation Departments.

I would also like to thank you, my neighbors in Mesquite, for your continued support for our City. It is good to know Mesquite is becoming regionally known as the place that offers Real. Texas. Service.

Sincerely,

John Monaco
Mayor

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.mesquiteartscenter.org.

NOVEMBER

1 – 8 Mesquite Community Theatre presents *The Clown Prince of Wanderlust* in the Black Box Theatre. It's the story of a princess who has not been able to laugh in 15 years and, unless someone can break her sadness, her father will give her in marriage to the evil Grand Bunkleman. Performances are Friday evening at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$6 - \$10. 972-216-8126

2 – Dec. 7 Texas Area Artists exhibit *Holiday Hues 2008* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444

2 Texas Area Artists hosts its monthly open meeting at 2 p.m. featuring an artist demonstration. 214-566-8269

10 Texas Area Artists hosts its *Monthly Paint-In* beginning at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share with others. 214-566-8269

10 Mesquite Creative Arts Club monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. 972-463-6004

22 The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra is in concert with *Masterworks – Worlds Apart* at 7:30 p.m. 972-216-8127

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.



Real. Texas. Flavor.



MAINSTREAM

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Los Lonely Boys to Headline Real. Texas. Festival.

Multi-platinum Epic recording artists Los Lonely Boys signed on to headline the 2009 Real. Texas. Festival., set for April 24-26, 2009.

The San Angelo trio – Henry, JoJo and Ringo Garza – burst onto the music scene in 2003 with its self-titled debut album featuring the smash hit “Heaven” that occupied the number one spot on several music charts for weeks. Their follow up album, “Sacred,” debuted at number 2 on the Billboard album charts. They released their third album, “Forgiven,” over the summer and have been touring on it heavily, including the Brotherhood Tour with one of Los Lonely Boys’ biggest influences as a band, Los Lobos.

Los Lonely Boys will take the Dodge Real. Texas. Music. stage at 9:30 p.m. Saturday, April 25, capping off a full day of music, carnival excitement, food, attractions and a Mesquite Championship Rodeo performance.



Tickets for the festival will likely go on sale after the first of the year and the festival Web site (www.realtexasfestival.com) will go live soon for updates, announcements of additional concerts and ticket sale information.

The festival will include the attractions that have made it a regional draw the past two years such as the concert series featuring all Texas performers, as well as the rodeo performances, the Taste of Mesquite Barbecue Cook-off and the Real. Texas. Customs. car show.

A new attraction will be the inclusion of another concert stage featuring even more Texas music, including a battle of the bands event featuring the best local high school bands competing for prizes and a chance to meet Los Lonely Boys prior to the group's performance.

Festival organizers will soon put out the call for volunteers, and the festival is only made possible through the support of its corporate partners. For sponsorship information, contact Daren Watkins, special events/economic development coordinator for the City of Mesquite, at 972-216-6499 or dwatkins@ci.mesquite.tx.us.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 1 – 8 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents, *The Clown Prince of Wanderlust* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$6 - \$10. 972-216-8126
- 3, 17 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.
- 8, 22 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call 972-613-7547.
- 15 Dinner Under the Cedars** at Opal Lawrence historical park. Tours begin at 5 p.m. \$30 for adults; \$25 for seniors 55+, and \$20 for children 3 to 11 and must be purchased by November 8. Tickets not sold at the gate. 972-216-6468
- 22 The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Masterworks – Worlds Apart* at 7:30 p.m. 972-216-8127
- 22 Opal Lawrence Historical Park's S.D. Lawrence House** is open for tours every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 701 E. Kearney St. 972-216-6468

IN THIS ISSUE

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John Monaco	Mayor
Shirley Roberts	Mayor Pro Tem
Greg Noschese	Deputy Mayor Pro Tem
Stan Pickett	Councilmember
Dennis Tarpley	Councilmember
Al Forsythe	Councilmember
Ted Barron	City Manager



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www.cityofmesquite.com

Shelter Offers Animal Courses

The Mesquite Animal Shelter & Adoption Center now offers basic obedience classes on Saturday mornings at 10:00. The six-week course is offered at \$60 or \$35 for any dog adopted from a shelter within the past 90 days.

The class is limited to 20 people with dogs. You can pick up a registration form at the Mesquite Animal Shelter & Adoption Center located at 1650 Gross Rd, Mesquite TX 75149 or call 972-216-6283 for more information.



START DATES:

Saturday, November 1, 2008
Saturday, January 3, 2009
Saturday, February 21, 2009
Saturday, April 11, 2009
Saturday, May 30, 2009

Mesquite Passes Ordinance Banning Use Of Cell Phones In School Zones

The City of Mesquite has joined other communities in the Metroplex and across the nation in outlawing the use of cell phones in active school zones.

People caught using cell phones in active school zones would face a maximum fine of \$200 for each offense. The ordinance does include text messaging and use of e-mail, but the use of hands-free devices is allowed.



The new ordinance will take effect in October to give time for City work crews to construct and place necessary signage in Mesquite's 40 school zones.

Mesquite Reception Center Re-Activated For Gustav Evacuees

Mesquite is proving to play a major part in regional evacuation plans as two hurricanes bring focus to the City's ability to move resources and people.

On Saturday, August 30, City emergency managers were notified by state coordinators that Mesquite was needed to open an evacuation reception center to receive people fleeing the path of Hurricane Gustav. The call up came almost three years ago to the day when Hurricane Katrina evacuees started arriving at the former Big Town Mall site in Mesquite. At that time hundreds of buses filled with thousands of people in dire medical condition and in need of help started to arrive, and Mesquite was tasked with evaluating them and leading them to regional shelters.

This time around the mission was the same, though the location and amount of evacuees were different. Texas Department of Transportation signs led people to Memorial Stadium, where emergency workers and volunteers helped evacuees with medical attention, food and water until shelter space could be identified for them somewhere in the Metroplex. Many evacuees ended up in Dallas' convention center, while others were sent to Fort Worth, McKinney, Richardson and other communities.

Mesquite plays a critical role in the State's disaster evacuation plan, which was created after 6,700 Louisiana residents found their way to North Texas after Katrina. The City's role during that emergency response laid the groundwork for future planning, and now Mesquite is one of two entryways into the Metroplex for coastal hurricane evacuees.



Mesquite is designated to receive evacuees primarily from the Houston area, but Gustav proved the plan can work for other regions as well. During the Gustav and Ike responses, about 100 staff and volunteers from the Mesquite Office of Emergency Management, the Mesquite Police and Fire Departments, the Public Works and Parks and Recreation



Departments, the Citizens' Fire and Police Academies, the Mesquite Independent School District, regional Citizen Emergency Response Teams, the Salvation Army and representatives from the Dallas County Office of Emergency Management and the Texas Department of Public Safety were on hand to help.

In all, Mesquite received 35 buses of hurricane evacuees with about 1750 people on board, and about 400 people drove to the center by car. The grand total of Hurricane Gustav evacuees was 2,139. Many came from areas around New Orleans, Houma and Baton Rouge.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

Super Target on Track for 2009 Opening

Target's plans to build a new super store in Mesquite are on track and, once open, it will be one of the chain's largest stores in the nation.

Target announced plans to build a new Super Target in July, and reported it will replace an existing Target store in the Market East Shopping Center near Town East Boulevard and IH-635. Since then, engineering plans have been released and construction has already begun. Currently, work is concentrating on the area behind the present Target building to remove existing utilities, such as electric, phone, gas and water lines. Once those are clear, Target hopes to get as much of the new building pre-construction work done without interfering with the operation of the existing store.

The existing Target store is expected to operate throughout the holiday shopping season, and then the store will close its doors on January 4.

Anticipated Super Target schedule:

January 4, 2009 – Close the existing Target Store
February 1, 2009 – Demolition Begins
September 2009 – Construction Complete
October 2009 – New Super Target Opens

The new Super Target will be 188,000 square feet, making it among the biggest the chain has ever built, and it will be among the first in the nation to use the company's new architectural design standards for its new stores.

The deal was made possible as part of the City's new "Project Renewal" initiative, which is the City's long-term plan to rebuild/re-invent itself. Mesquite helped facilitate the deal by agreeing to sales tax incentives staggered over the next 20 years and by helping to facilitate the purchase of land needed to build the new store.

In addition, several nearby vacant buildings will be demolished, including those that previously contained Mervyn's and Wickes Furniture. The Market East Shopping Center will also be renovated and expanded to accommodate new businesses expected to locate around the new Super Target.

One of Mesquite's Project Renewal initiatives is to devise aggressive public-private partnerships to spur new development and redevelopment. Since its inception in October 2007, the City has been able to attract approximately \$92 million in proposed new development. These projects include the new Super Target and Peachtree Towne Center, which is a \$52-million mixed-use development that will have shopping, dining and a new full-service hotel and conference center to be located along I-635 near Gross Road.



Parks and Recreation Corner

DANCE PERSPECTIVE

Ages 3-5: \$25 for 4-week sessions
\$20 for 3-week sessions
\$15 for 2-week sessions

Children experience the excitement of movement to music while developing coordination, muscle tone, posture, strength and agility. Techniques taught in ballet, jazz and tap. It's not just fun—it's a blast!
972-279-9285

BEGINNING GUITAR LESSONS

Saturdays
10 to 11 a.m.
Ages: 8 to 12
\$30

(November 1-22, November 29-December 30)

Learn how to play the basics of jazz, blues, and rock guitar like a professional.



BELLY DANCE CORE WORKOUT

Mondays
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Ages: 16 and older
\$35

(November 3-24, December 1-22)

Learn belly dance steps, combinations and techniques while incorporating fitness exercises and conditioning.

FIRST AID AND CPR TRAINING

Saturdays
8 to 6 p.m.
Ages: 16 and older
\$25

(November 8, December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9)
American Red Cross training to provide basic care for adults, children and infants.

Save the Date!!!
CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
December 4 through 6
Westlake Park

Annual winterfest with crafts, games, children's area, fun holiday treats, musical entertainment and Santa. Volunteers needed!
972-216-6260

