



Dear Mesquite Resident,

On behalf of the City Council, it is my pleasure to report on the recently adopted Fiscal Year 2008-09 City budget. As always, we have developed a strong budget that balances revenues and expenses while providing the quality community programs and services you have come to enjoy, such as the Real. Texas. Festival., Movies in the Park, and recreational programming for all ages at our local recreation centers and at the Mesquite Arts Center.

In particular, I want to thank the public safety and general government employees of our city. The people who work for you to provide public services are going a full year without pay increases to help keep our budget in line, and this is a lot to ask during these trying times. When you see our City workers on the street, please give them a sign to let them know how much we all appreciate the work they're doing.

Like many other cities in the Metroplex, we have been hit hard by the state budget crisis and economic downturn, but the City's smart fiscal policy over the years has allowed us to continue to invest in Project Renewal to improve our infrastructure and pursue economic development opportunities.

We are fortunate this Council and the ones before it have continued to follow a sensible fiscal policy that is constantly aware of changes in the economy and budgets accordingly. This foresight enabled the City Council to ensure a balanced budget during increasingly tight economic times that have forced the state and nearby cities into tremendous budget deficits. I am happy to say we were able to preserve the high level of public safety, infrastructure development and public services even with forecasted revenue reductions and, more importantly, without an increase in your City taxes.

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.

DECEMBER

- 1 - 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
- 8 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
- 8 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. 972-463-6004
- 13 Mesquite Symphonic Band** is in concert at 8 p.m. in the concert hall. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for students. 972-463-6004
- 15 - Jan. 19 Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West** features 30 photographs revealing the complex, unglamorous, yet inspiring reality of women in the modern West. Two very different kinds of cowgirls are depicted in the black and white photographs: women ranchers and rodeo contestants. The show is available for viewing in the exhibit hall Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 20 The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with Music of the Season at 5:30 and 8 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



Real. Texas. Flavor.



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

MAINSTREAM

Year-Round Water Conservation Measures



Year-round water restrictions are now part of Mesquite's amended Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan. It means, come next year, you will want to pay more attention to the times you water your lawn, how you wash your car and, if you have an automated sprinkler system, you'll want to make sure it's working correctly.

During the past few years rain events have been feast or famine. In an effort to conserve water during the up years to make sure there's some left for the down, the North Texas Municipal Water District is asking its member cities to implement year-round restrictions. In response, the City of Mesquite has put some time limits during the day when irrigation is allowed and made some other changes.

These changes include:

- 1) Car washing during any time of year is only allowed with use of a water control nozzle.
- 2) Use of a malfunctioning irrigation system is a violation during any time of year. A malfunctioning irrigation system includes, but is not limited to, a system where heads are broken, lines are broken or similar damage exists that result in the waste of water.
- 3) Lawn or landscaping irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. from April 1 to October 31 each year.

There are some stipulations which say you can water during the day. For instance, if you have installed new landscaping, then you can request an exception from the City's Utilities Division to water as needed to ensure your new landscaping survives. Sprinkler systems can also be turned on for short periods for testing purposes.

Mesquite's water conservation ordinance falls in line with state legislation which requires cities like Mesquite to submit a plan to the Texas Water Development Board. Additional new rules also require the City to regulate the design, installation and operation of irrigation systems to ensure they are designed correctly and reduce water waste.

Beginning January 1, 2009, the City of Mesquite will begin enforcement of the new water conservation ordinance.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1, 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.
- 4 - 6 Christmas in the Park** – Annual winter fest with crafts, games, children's area, fun holiday treats, musical entertainment and Santa. Located at Westlake Park on 600 Gross Road. Event runs from 6 to 9 p.m.
- 13 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., but will be closed Saturday December 27 as part of the holiday season. It is located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call 972-613-7547.
- 25 No solid waste service** due to the Christmas Day holiday.

IN THIS ISSUE

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- Mayor's Corner

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

Cowgirls Exhibit On Display At Arts Center

COWGIRLS features 30 photographs accompanied by narrative quotes that explore the daily challenges, professional triumphs, and personal tenacity shared by the women who run cattle or ride broncos and bulls. From the competitive grit of the rodeo circuit and the exhausting demands of cattle ranching to the intimate bond they share with their animals, modern cowgirls call to mind the independence, fortitude, and incomparable vigor demonstrated by women who endured the hardships and challenges of life on the American frontier.

In the exhibit, photographer Ronnie Farley displays three years of work documenting the lives of two very different kinds of cowgirls: women ranchers and rodeo contestants. From the high country of Wyoming to the national Professional Women's Rodeo circuit, the resulting black-and-white images capture the everyday reality and resolute strength of the women who call these settings home.



The show opens December 15, 2008 at the Mesquite Arts Center, and is available for viewing in the Main Gallery Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.

Peachtree Project Breaks Ground

Amongst a crowd of City officials and other economic development well wishers, a fence leading to the entrance of a future bridge was uprooted to signify the official ground breaking for the Peachtree Town Center Project.

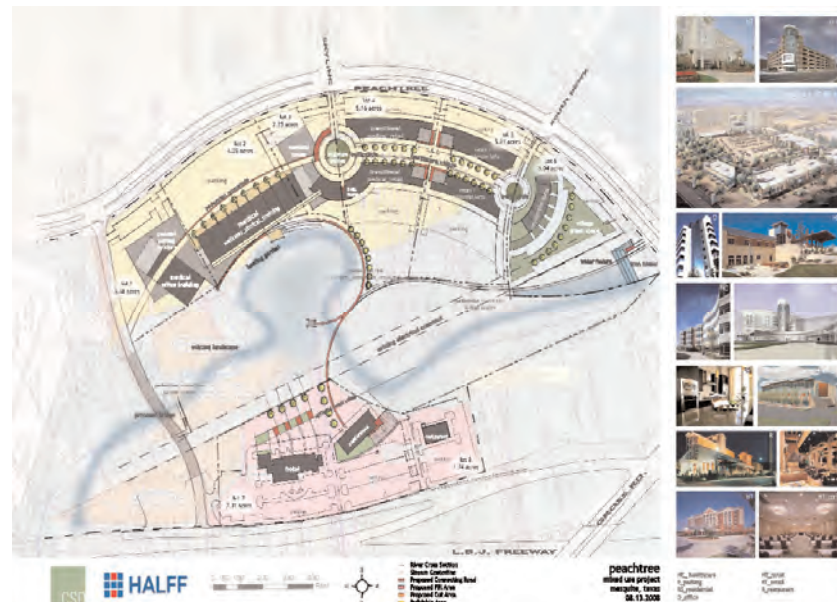
Peachtree Town Center is a \$52-million development underway along Mesquite's I-635 business corridor, and is the first major development to come as part of the City's Project Renewal effort. In February the City Council gave the go-ahead for Lang and Company to build on the 60-acre site southwest of I-635 and Gross Rd. It will be located just down the road from the AMC-30 movie theater and the restaurant row. The property was owned by the City, but was made available to the developer, with the stipulation that Lang and Company move forward with development.

The Peachtree Town Center project includes a full-service

hotel and conference center, a series of restaurant and retail sites, a multi-story office building and a medical/wellness facility. Lang and Company has also agreed to build a bridge and I-635 access road extension for the project.

The City has agreed to some tax incentives and to dedicate the land for the development. In return, Lang and Company will invest the money needed to build the project and make the property improvements. It has also agreed to return half of the property back to the City with hiking, bike trail and drainage upgrades.

Project Renewal is the designation given to Mesquite's new citywide revitalization initiative. The aim is to seek out developers to create visionary projects, like Peachtree Town Center, which improve and update property in the city.



Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

Mesquite Unveils CNS

The City of Mesquite has launched a Citizen Notification System (CNS) to keep people better informed about City events, projects and services. It's the same type of service many people use to get updates from major news organizations.

CNS is a Web-based program in which people enroll to receive text or e-mail

messages sent by the City. Typical communications would include road closings, special event announcements and emergency information.

Registration is now available online for this free service at the City's Web site located at www.mesquitecns.com. When you sign up you can select the types of

information you wish to receive.



City Officials Tour BNSF HQ

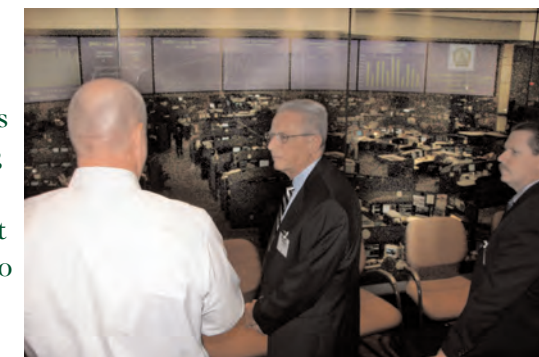
How rail works, and the role it plays in regional transportation was the topic of discussion between Mesquite City Council members and BNSF representatives during a recent tour at the rail line's national headquarters in Fort Worth.

Mayor John Monaco and City Council member Stan Pickett visited the facility to talk about improving local transportation corridors and discussed how freight systems work with commuter services.

Mesquite hosts one of the nation's largest intermodal rail systems in the country, making Mesquite one of the central lines for freight heading from Mexico to the northeastern portions of the United States and even

Canada. In addition, many local products, such as new cars and raw materials for local industries, are unloaded at the Mesquite facility and make their way to store shelves and factories across the Metroplex.

BNSF is a 160-year-old company, and is the largest rail operator in the Western and Mid-western portion of the country, and is an industry leader in private-public partnerships between cities and rail lines.



Pictured left to right: BNSF official, Mayor John Monaco, Councilman Stan Pickett

Parks and Recreation Corner

Christmas in the Park

December 4 - 6
6 - 9 p.m.
Westlake Park



Annual winter fest with crafts, games, children's area, fun holiday treats, musical entertainment and Santa. Parking shuttles are available and entry is free!

Drawing 101

Tuesdays, December 2 - 23
7 - 8 p.m.
Ages 8 - 12; \$15
Rutherford Recreation Center

Learn the basic tools in drawing, along with line and basic shapes. Some project ideas include cartooning, wacky birds, nature/outdoor drawing. 972-216-7790



Women's Self-Defense

Thursdays, December 4 - 18
7 - 8 p.m.
Ages 15+; \$40
Rutherford Recreation Center

Discover techniques and tools for personal self defense by learning where, when, and how to strike. You'll understand how to protect yourself from someone bigger and stronger and enjoy the confidence that comes from knowing you will not be helpless should you find yourself in a dangerous situation. 972-216-7790

