

# MAINSTREAM



Mayor's  
Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

The Mayor's Corner is a new addition to the Mainstream and will appear monthly to give me an opportunity to share with you important insight about what's happening in our community. Since this is my first edition, I wanted to use this month's article to share my perspective on the state of the city.

While the outlook of our community is stable, the Council would like to see Mesquite's competitive position enhanced in the commercial, retail and residential arenas. It is with this in mind that we have begun the community revitalization called "Project Renewal". This aggressive plan will have components that improve the aesthetic appearance of the city and revive older neighborhoods through additional street improvements, curb and median beautification and stepped up code enforcement.

We are also working diligently to bring new commercial, retail and residential developments to town. Specifically, the Council has identified four areas of Mesquite that we feel are best suited for new development or re-development activities: the old Big Town Mall site, Interstate 30, the rodeo arena area and even along Town East Blvd. These sites hold huge promise because of their prominent locations, good access and ability to produce spin-off benefits for adjacent areas.

If you have questions about any of our plans or other concerns, please share your thoughts with me by writing to [jmonaco@ci.mesquite.tx.us](mailto:jmonaco@ci.mesquite.tx.us) and I will do my best to address your comments.

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](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org).

## MARCH

- 1-4/4** The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents an exhibit by *Dawn Hunter* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. (972) 216-6444
- 2** **Texas Area Artists** hosts its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. featuring an artist demonstration. (214) 566-8269
- 7** **Mesquite Arts Council** presents a concert with jazz vocalist *Sandra Kaye, Curt Bradshaw and the Mesquite Jazz Repertory Ensemble*. Performances at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m. (972) 216-6444.
- 10** The "Monthly Paint-In" begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. (214) 566-8269
- 10** **Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meetings begin at 7 p.m. and feature an artist demonstration. (972) 463-6004
- 21** **Art@Lunch** visits the *Wilson Block Walking Tour* hosted by Preservation Dallas. Come see the elegant turn-of-the-century Queen Anne architecture of the Wilson Block. Groups meet at the Mesquite Arts Center at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation and lunch. Reservations: (972) 216-6444
- 27-4/12** **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *And Then There Were None* in the Black Box Theatre. Ten people, each with a deadly secret, find themselves trapped on an island where they become the subjects of a cruel game. Tickets range from \$8 - \$12. (972) 216-8126
- 29** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** in concert with **Not Just for Kids - Among the Stars** featuring *the music of Star Wars and Star Trek*. The concert begins at 7 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$12 Adults, \$8 Seniors and \$6 Students. (972) 216-8127

## FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

<b>Main Number</b> .....	(972) 288-7711
<b>Animal Services</b> .....	(972) 216-6283
<b>Building Inspection</b> .....	(972) 216-6212
<b>Environmental Code</b> .....	(972) 216-6276
<b>Parks and Recreation</b> .....	(972) 216-6260
<b>Planning and Zoning</b> .....	(972) 216-6216
<b>Trash Collection/Recycling</b> .....	(972) 216-6284
<b>Street/Alley Repair</b> .....	(972) 216-6282
<b>Water Billing</b> .....	(972) 216-6208
<b>Water Leaks/Sewer Back-ups</b> .....	(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.

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A City of Mesquite, Texas Publication

# MAINSTREAM

## Police Chief Retires

The Mesquite Police Department has said goodbye to its "Top Cop". After 35 years of service to the department, the last six spent as its leader, Police Chief Gary Westphal retired on January 31.



Gary Westphal  
1972

The Chief is a lifetime resident of Mesquite and began his career in the department in April 1972. He was named Chief of Police in 2001.

During his tenure with the Mesquite Police Department, Chief Westphal received numerous awards and recognition from within the police department as well as honors from outside organizations. In 2006 he was named "Top Cop" by the

Texas Police Chiefs Association for showing exemplary leadership and service to the community.

City Manager Ted Barron has named former Mesquite Assistant Police Chief Bill Hobson to serve as the Interim Police Chief while the search for a successor is conducted. Mr. Hobson is a 33-year veteran of the Department and retired in 2005. Since then he has been working part-time in the City Manager's office as an assistant to the City Manager.



Gary Westphal  
today

The City Manager says the search includes internal and external candidates for the job. He hopes to name a new Police Chief sometime in March or April.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### MARCH

- 3** **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.
- 18** **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.
- 22** **Opal Lawrence Historical Park's S.D. Lawrence House**, open for tours, every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 701 E. Kearney St. (972) 216-6468

## IN THIS ISSUE

- New Emergency Alert Sirens
- I-30 Gateway Contract
- Ridge Ranch Approval
- Horticultural Tip of the Month
- Mayor's Corner

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

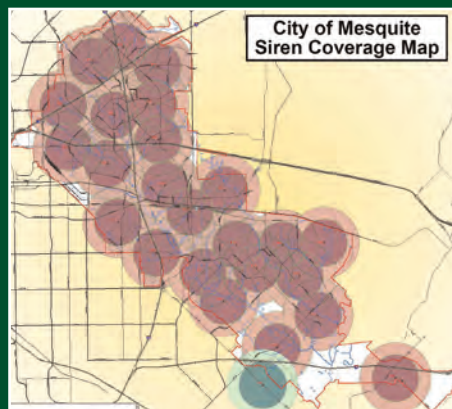
## New Sirens for Severe Weather Season

Work is underway to install new and upgraded warning sirens before the beginning of the next severe weather season.

Many people are probably familiar with the system. On occasion you may hear the familiar whirring sound of the monthly tests to make sure the sirens are working correctly and, on a few occasions, the emergency signals have been called into action during times of severe weather. The most recent emergency activation was last April when a tornado touched down near I-30 in North Mesquite.

The new siren system will work much the same, but will come with a great many upgrades. One of the added advantages is they will also have battery backup. Currently 11 of the City's 24 sirens don't have a second power source. The new warning system will also hook into the City's wireless fiber optic network which allows emergency managers to have direct control over each siren and to monitor them day and night.

The sirens are coming at a cost of \$350,000 and also expand coverage with the placement of four new sirens. The new sirens will be located at the airport, Fire Station No. 1, along Lawson Rd. and in the newly annexed area in Kaufman County.



## I-30 Gateway Design Contract

A Dallas-based business has been chosen to lead the development concepts for the new I-30 gateway in North Mesquite.

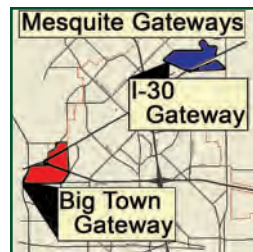
In January the City Council awarded MESA Design Group the contract to create a vision for more than 300 acres around Northwest Drive and I-30. MESA is an award-winning Landscape Architecture, Planning and Urban Design firm which has created attractive projects around the world. Currently it is working on developments in Madrid and Dubai, but closer to home the design group may be known for its Park Lane project in Dallas.

In December the Mesquite City Council approved new land development policies for areas called "gateways". Two of them were created to hopefully entice a new kind of development that would attract people from around the

region. Mesquite's second gateway is located at the former Big Town Mall property. Future gateways are also being considered along the I-20 corridor and along I-635 near the Rodeo Center.

Big news may be coming soon concerning the Big Town gateway site. The property is going through planning right now, and final approval for an athletics concept is expected in mid-February.

The creation of gateways is part of the City's new "Project Renewal" effort. Project Renewal is a new plan in Mesquite designed to spur new development and revitalize older parts of the city.



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

## Horticultural Tip on the Month: Prepare To Fertilize



March is generally the transition month from winter to spring in North Texas. If we have a typical weather pattern, then this is the

month you will want to apply your first application of fertilizer. Be sure at least half of your grass has come out of dormancy before you spread your first layer of fertilizer. This first application is very important to get your turf off and running for the rest of the year.

## Severe Weather Season Is Here!

Springtime in North Central Texas ushers in beautiful flowers, warmer temperatures and, unfortunately, severe storms. Lightning cracks in the dark of night, rough winds spawn tornados and sometimes Mesquite residents are caught with little notice. That's why it's important to be prepared.

Severe storm season runs from mid-March through mid-July. One of the best ways to be ready is to have a plan. Make sure you and your family know where the safe

rooms are in your home, and have a severe weather radio plugged in to wake you if you're asleep.

Every year thousands of people across the nation are caught off guard because of storms and the disasters they can cause. That's why Mesquite Emergency Management hopes you remember to be prepared.

To learn more:  
[http://www.cityofmesquite.com/emergency\\_mngmt/](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/emergency_mngmt/)

## Council Approves Ridge Ranch Site Plan

Planning for a new 800-home development in Southeast Mesquite moved closer to reality in January as the City Council approved the site plan for the Ridge Ranch subdivision.

Ridge Ranch is to be located on a 260-acre parcel southwest of the intersection at Cartwright Road and Lawson Road and is anticipated to be built in two phases.

Nearly 34 acres of the site will be dedicated to parks and open space with a new elementary school proposed to be located in the middle of the development.

The developer now has to go through the process of getting building designs and permits approved, which are a few steps among many others that need to be taken before construction can begin. Community Development officials believe work on the new subdivision will not begin for about two years.



## We Need You

The following is a list of open positions in the City of Mesquite:

Position	Salary
Police Officer	\$51,060
Public Safety Dispatcher	\$14 / hour
Life Guard	\$8.67 / hour
Other Seasonal Aquatics Positions	Varies

All positions are open until filled. Information on all employment opportunities in the City is available at [www.cityofmesquite.com/hr/positions.php](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/hr/positions.php).

## Burson-Marsteller To Help Market Mesquite

Mesquite has a lot to offer as a suburb of one of America's largest cities, but unfortunately there are not a great many people in the Metroplex who know it. That's why the City has joined forces with the Mesquite Independent School District and Chamber of Commerce to hire a top-notch marketing firm to help get the word out about what our city has to offer home and business owners.



In January the City Council approved a contract with Burson-Marsteller public relations and

public affairs consulting company to implement a new marketing strategy designed to change some of the misperceptions people have about Mesquite. The campaign will be designed to improve the image of the city and school district and will also help with tourism efforts through the Visitor's and Convention Bureau.

Some of the primary messages for the City will highlight the Police Department's safety record, the Fire Department's top service ranking and community events like the Real. Texas. Festival. and rodeo.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

**Mother and Son Luau**  
Friday, March 7  
6:30 - 9:30 p.m.  
Evans Recreation Center



Boys ages 4 to 12 are invited to enjoy this fun-filled night with their mothers. An evening filled with games, music, light refreshments, fun and dancing waits. Tickets go on sale February 11 at the Parks and Recreation administrative offices (1515 N. Galloway). (972) 216-6260

**Spring Eggstravaganza on the Go**  
Saturday, March 15

9 - 10:30 a.m. Rutherford Recreation Center  
12 - 1:30 p.m. Evans Recreation Center  
3 - 4:30 p.m. Florence Recreation Center

Join the fun as the Parks and Recreation Department hosts its annual egg hunt. Infants to 9-year-olds can catch the bunny hopping from one spot to another, and the guest of honor has planned several activities for the entire family to enjoy. The bunny and crew will be available for pictures for a small fee. Enjoy games, arts and crafts and other activities as well.



**Teen Spring Eggstravaganza**

Saturday, March 15  
8 - 9:30 p.m.  
Dunford Recreation Center

After the sun goes down, 10- to 14-year-olds can enjoy an egg hunt at night. Bring your flashlight and join the bunny and crew for music and refreshments. Prizes will be awarded after the hunt.

**Father and Son Basketball Tournament**

Saturday, March 29  
Florence Recreation Center  
\$25/team

Join us for the third-annual award-winning Father and Son Basketball Tournament. The whole family is invited. (972) 279-7477