



Dear Mesquite Resident,

As you read earlier in this edition of Mainstream, we finally have our first major success in our quest towards Project Renewal. Peachtree Town Center is our first solid win towards attracting new and major development to Mesquite, and I am excited about this and the other projects to come.

Peachtree Town Center will add \$52 million in new value to our community, and bring a variety of new amenities to boot. The largest part of the development is a new hotel and conference center which will help us attract more conventions and tourists to Mesquite. The proposed site plan also shows a new medical and wellness facility, four new restaurant sites, a multi-story office building and three new retail shopping centers. It is a development which was led and sought out by the City, and I am happy to see this private-public partnership being created to leverage the assets we have here.

I want to let you know we are seeking out more opportunities like this for our community. We are exploring the feasibility of a new, and larger, development for our northern I-30 gateway. Such a project might be built using a concept known as "mixed-use," with commercial offices and shops located within tight-knit residential communities. Many mixed use developments also include walking and bike trails and other recreational amenities, which will no doubt be a big draw for people looking for a new kind of lifestyle in the Metroplex.

Yes, we are proud of our first success, and there are many more to come. With patience and time all of these stories of triumph will accumulate to something great, and ultimately benefit us all.

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).

### MAY

- 4 – 31 Texas Area Artists** hold the annual "Award Show" exhibit in the Main and Chamber Galleries. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 214-566-8269
- 4 Texas Area Artists** hosts its monthly meeting at 2 p.m. featuring an artist demonstration. 214-566-8269
- 9 Art@Lunch** tours *The Crow Museum Documenting China: Contemporary Photography and Social Change*. The tour starts at the Mesquite Arts Center at 11:30 a.m. and includes lunch in the Main Gallery of the Mesquite Arts Center. The cost is \$20. 972-216-6444
- 10** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with "Masterworks – Melodic Magic!" featuring violinist Jason Issokson and the music of Bernstein, Tchaikowsky and Rachmaninoff at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 Adult, \$8 Seniors and \$6 Students. 972-216-8127
- 12 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
- 12 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meetings begin at 7 p.m. and feature an artist demonstration. 972-463-6004
- 12** Registration for the annual **John and Alta Nichols Art Camp** begins at 8 a.m. The camp runs from 1 to 4 p.m. on June 9-13. Activities are structured for 7- to 9-year-olds to develop skills with drawing, painting and sculptural forms as well as mixed media. Cost is \$35 and includes materials. 972-216-6444
- 16, 17 El Secreto de la Lagartija / The Lizard's Secret**, a bilingual play based on Mexican folktales. It tells the story of a prince and a magical journey where he encounters giants and talking animals. The show starts at 10 a.m. and admission is free; however, reservations are required. 972-216-6444
- 17 Texas Voices** performs in the Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets are \$15 Adults, \$12 Seniors and \$5 Students. Tickets at the door are \$18 Adults, \$15 Seniors and \$5 Students. 972-801-2532 or [www.thetexasvoices.org](http://www.thetexasvoices.org)

### 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



Real. Texas. Flavor.



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

# MAINSTREAM

## First "Project Renewal" Development Approved

The City is proud to report its first "Project Renewal" success story! It is a \$52-million development to be constructed along Mesquite's I-635 business corridor.

In February the City Council gave the go-ahead for Lang and Company to build Peachtree Town Center on a 60-acre, City-owned site southwest of I-635 and Gross Rd. It will be located just down the road from the AMC-30 movie theatre and the restaurant row.



Peachtree Town Center Proposed Development Plan

The development includes a full-service hotel and conference center, a series of restaurant and retail sites and commercial office buildings. 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.

John Monaco.....Mayor  
David Paschall.....Mayor Pro Tem  
Shirley Roberts.....Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
John Heiman, Jr.....Councilmember  
Stan Pickett.....Councilmember  
Dennis Tarpley.....Councilmember  
Ted Barron.....City Manager



### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- MAY**
- 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 Municipal election** polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- 10 Mesquite Recycles Day** runs from 8 a.m. to noon at Poteet High School.
- 10, 24 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. For special tours call 972-613-7547.
- 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.
- 24 Opal Lawrence Historical Park's S.D. Lawrence House** is open for tours every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 701 E. Kearney St. 972-216-6468
- 26** Scheduled trash pickup will not occur due to the Memorial Day holiday. Normal service for affected neighborhoods will resume on the following Thursday.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Community Alert
- Lifeguards Needed
- Municipal Election
- Mayor's Corner

## COMMUNITY ALERT: Water Worker Impersonators Reported In The Area

City of Mesquite residents are encouraged to be on alert for people impersonating City Water Utilities employees. The warning comes as the City of Garland reports receiving complaints of such people trying to gain access to residents' homes.

The impersonators use high-pressure sales techniques to sell water purification systems. Part of the sales pitch reportedly involves a false water test where the perpetrators claim there are high levels of contaminants in the water. Mesquite has a "Superior" rated public water supply and no such filters are needed for its municipal water system.

The City of Garland reports some imposters are using false identification badges to help gain access to homes. Other imposters falsely claim they are sent by the City.

All City of Mesquite field personnel carry photo identification cards and drive marked City vehicles. Mesquite residents are urged to call 911 if they feel they have been approached by someone impersonating a City employee.

## 18 Years and Running for Tree City U.S.A. Designation

For the eighteenth year in a row the City of Mesquite has been named a Tree City USA community by the Arbor Day Foundation. The designation honors the City's commitment to community forestry.

Trees are a vital component of the infrastructure in Mesquite, and the Tree City USA designation

recognizes the work of citizens, staff and elected officials who plant and care for the community forest.

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service.

## Mesquite Recycles Day

On Saturday, May 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at Poteet High School, Mesquite residents will have the opportunity to clean out their closets for Mesquite Recycles Day.



waste includes: cell phones, computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, televisions, microwaves, stereos, VCRs, telephones and other kitchen or electronic devices or appliances.

Some of the most sought after trash is electronic waste. Electronic

Document destruction and tire recycling will also be available.

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

## New Ordinance Places Barriers on Alternative Loan Businesses

The Mesquite City Council has approved a zoning ordinance limiting the location of check cashing, payday loan and similar businesses.

The ordinance was passed in February and prevents such establishments from locating near residential areas, along major roads, within protected redevelop-

ment zones and requires them to be in a freestanding building. The new regulations do not affect the businesses which are already operating in the city.

The restrictions are designed to prevent the kind of blight which alternative loan businesses have caused in other areas of the Metroplex.

## City Seeking Summer Lifeguards

The City is looking to refill its corps of lifeguards for duty at public swimming pools this summer.

Lifeguards are an essential part of the Parks and Recreation Department's summer program, and the position has been given a raise this year to attract more recruits.



Starting lifeguards make \$8.67 an hour. In order to apply you must be 16 years or older by May 15, 2008, and obtain all required certifications before being hired.

Applicants must obtain a Lifeguard Training and First Aid certification among other prerequisites to work as a lifeguard for the City. You can find out more and apply online at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).

## Mayor Selected as Regional TML President

On February 28 Mesquite Mayor John Monaco was elected President for the Texas Municipal League's (TML) Region 13 service area.

Region 13 encompasses nine counties in North Texas, including Dallas County, and is the largest populated region for the Texas

Municipal League. It is one of 15 sub-regions which are designed to promote interest in city government on a regional level, facilitate the exchange of information among cities in that region and assist in the formulation of state policy.

## Horticultural Tip Watch Your Trees for Oak Wilt Disease!

Oak wilt disease is caused by a fungus, and our local oak species are very susceptible. The two main ways the disease is spread are through roots from an infected tree growing with roots from a non-infected tree and bark wounds caused from damage or pruning. Experts recommend you do not

prune oak trees from February through July. If pruning is necessary then it is recommended you paint the wound to prevent infection.

Detailed pictures and information of symptoms can be found at [www.texasoakwilt.org](http://www.texasoakwilt.org)

## Municipal Election Coming May 10

The annual municipal election is scheduled for Saturday, May 10, to elect a Mayor and Councilmembers for Places 2, 3, 4 and 5. The terms for the Mayor and Place 2 City Council seat are for one-year periods to fill unexpired terms and will expire in May 2009. The terms for City Council Places 3, 4 and 5 are for full two-year periods and will expire in May 2010.

DALLAS COUNTY PRECINCTS LOCATED WITHIN MESQUITE'S CITY LIMITS

<u>POLLING PLACE (open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)</u>	<u>PRECINCT NO.</u>
Mesquite High School 300 East Davis	2323, 2324, 2325, 2326
Pirrung Elementary School 1500 Creek Valley	2327, 2328
Horn High School 3300 East Cartwright Road	2329, 2330, 3902
Galloway Elementary School 2329 Candleberry	2319, 2320, 2321, 2322
Wilkinson Middle School 2100 Crest Park	2315, 2316, 2317, 2318
Tosch Elementary School 2424 Larchmont	2303, 2307, 2309, 2310, 2312
Florence Park Community Center 2501 Whitson Way	2300, 2301, 2302, 2308, 2332, 2333
Scott Dunford Community Center 1015 Green Canyon	2304, 2305, 2306, 2313, 2314
Price Elementary School 630 Stroud, Garland	2141*, 2147*
Vial Elementary School 126 Creekview Drive, Garland	2142*

\*Split precincts voting outside city limits.

KAUFMAN COUNTY PRECINCTS PARTIALLY LOCATED IN MESQUITE'S CITY LIMITS

<u>POLLING PLACE (open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)</u>	<u>PRECINCT NO.</u>
Horn High School 3300 East Cartwright Road	29, 37

## Parks and Recreation Corner

**Movie in the Park**  
Friday, May 2  
Feature starts at dusk  
DeBusk Park  
1625 Gross Rd.



*Ratatouille* will be the feature movie for this month's Parks and Recreation Department Movie in the Park event. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and picnic fixings for the free family outing. Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. The event is subject to weather conditions. 972-216-6260

**KIDFISH**  
Saturday, May 17  
9 a.m. – noon  
Ages 16 and under  
City Lake Park  
403 South Galloway Ave.

City Lake Park will be stocked with fish for the annual KIDFISH event. KIDFISH is an outreach program designed to educate and provide a hands-on fishing experience. Poles and bait will be provided or feel free to bring your own. The event is FREE; however, registration is required. Donations are accepted to support the community fishing outreach efforts of the KIDFISH Foundation.



**SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION**  
Registration for summer camp begins April 15. The programs are for kids ages 3-16 and range from preschool camp, sports camps, theater camp, arts and crafts camps and our traditional Cool Kidz Camp.

Registration information is available at recreation centers, online at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com), or at the Parks and Recreation Department administrative office located at 1515 N. Galloway Ave. 972-216-6260