

MAINSTREAM



Mayor's
Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

In April the City Council and I hosted the 45th annual Student Government Day activities in conjunction with the Mesquite Independent School District. Every time I take part in this event I am proud of our local students and confident in their ability to lead our community into the future.

Student Government Day is designed to give Mesquite's young people a better understanding of municipal government and the roles of the City's elected and appointed officials. Among the day's activities, students from each high school participate in a mock municipal court trial, a mock City Council meeting and have a chance to tour our City's facilities.

The City of Mesquite and M.I.S.D. created Student Government Day as a vehicle to enhance the education of the City's young people and prepare them for their upcoming role as tomorrow's leaders. I had an opportunity to work with the elected "mayors" from each of our high schools and, speaking with them, hearing their ideas and seeing their ability to lead has filled me with nothing but confidence that our future is in capable hands.

The youth of today will soon lead our city, state and nation, and the young people I had the good fortune to work with were bright, well educated and filled with nothing but good potential. Indeed, I believe our future will remain bright with them at the helm, and I want to congratulate their parents on doing such a fine job in raising such accomplished individuals. I hope everyone shares the same confidence in the students our local schools are putting out and I look forward to seeing what they will accomplish in the years to come.

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.

JUNE

- 1 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. 972-463-6004
- 2 - 30 The Mesquite Arts Council** presents an exhibit by *Bobby Chitwood* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Mesquite Symphonic Band** presents *Music in the Park* at Westlake Park at 7:15 p.m. FREE. 972-216-8125
- 3, 10, 17, 24 The Mesquite Arts Council** presents *Jazz Breaks on the Plaza with Mesquite Jazz Repertory Ensemble Big Band and Curt Bradshaw*. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Mesquite Arts Center and it's FREE! Picnic dinners sold on-site. Reservations are required. 972-216-6444
- 5 - 21 The Mesquite Community Theatre** presents the musical, *Our Miss Brooks* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$10 - \$12. 972-216-8126
- 9 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
- 9 - 13 The Mesquite Arts Council** presents the annual *John and Alta Nichols Art Camp*. The camp runs June 9 - 13 from 1 - 4 p.m. Activities are structured for children ages 7 - 9 to improve skills with drawing, painting, sculptural forms as well as mixed media. Campers use a variety of approaches, materials and art techniques to make their discoveries and express their ideas. 972-216-6444
- 23 - 25 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *All My Sons* at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. 972-216-8126

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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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- JUNE**
- 2, 16 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.
- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 The Mesquite Symphonic Band** presents *Music in the Park* at Westlake Park at 7:15 p.m. FREE. 972-216-8125
- 3, 10, 17, 24 The Mesquite Arts Council** presents *Jazz Breaks on the Plaza with Mesquite Jazz Repertory Ensemble Big Band and Curt Bradshaw*. Join us in front of the Mesquite Arts Center for this free event. 972-216-6444
- 14, 28 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.
- 28 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

Pilot Recycling Program Coming

The City of Mesquite will soon launch a new curbside recycling program thanks to a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The commission is giving the City \$98,700 to fund a pilot program that utilizes recycling bins instead of blue recycling bags. The use of bins allows the City to expand the list of acceptable materials that can be collected. The bins are also more convenient, which will hopefully increase citizen participation.

The grant money will be used to purchase approximately 13,000 recycling bins to be distributed to one-third of Mesquite's single family residences. The Solid Waste Division will monitor the bin usage to gauge the impact they make on improving participation in recycling. If it proves successful then solid waste administrators will look to expand the program.

A blue-bag program is currently being used for citywide residential recycling, but many residents do not purchase the bags to take part. The City hopes to see more participation in recycling by providing bins free of charge. Recycling bins will allow residents to place all their recyclables in one container, and residents will now be able to add glass and other materials to the list of acceptable items. The blue recycling bags will also still be collected for those residents not in the pilot program.

The City is currently in the process of selecting 18-gallon bins for purchase and hopes to distribute them to selected residential areas this summer. Residents with questions about recycling are encouraged to contact the Solid Waste Division at 972-216-6972.



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- 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

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Symphonies In The Park

The Mesquite Symphonic Band's "Music in the Park" series begins in June. The group will perform five free outdoor concerts beginning June 2, at Westlake Park located at 700 Gross Road in Mesquite. The concerts will begin at 7:15 p.m. each Monday evening throughout the month.

The band invites everyone to bring their families and friends, lawn chairs, and blankets to relax to the sounds of marches, show tunes, classical numbers and contemporary music. Concessions will also be available. Proceeds will benefit the band's sheet music fund.



The concert scheduled for June 30th will be a "Fourth of July" tribute and everyone is encouraged to dress in patriotic colors and enjoy the planned festivities.

New Marketing Manager

The City of Mesquite, in conjunction with the Mesquite Independent School District and Mesquite Chamber of Commerce, has hired a Marketing Manager to aid in its marketing and economic development efforts. The position has been filled by John Mayner who began work Monday, March 24.

The search for a marketing manager began in November and attracted more than 90 qualified applicants for the position. A committee was created to find the best candidates and Mr. Mayner proved most qualified on the list.

For the past 10 years John Mayner has successfully run his own public relations and marketing company, and before that he served as the Director of Communications and Visitor Development for Grapevine's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Mr. Mayner is responsible for directing Mesquite's Convention and Visitor's Bureau and implementing a marketing plan to help Mesquite redefine its image in the Metroplex.

How Do Red-Light Cameras Work?

By now many people in the Metroplex are familiar with red-light cameras, but since Mesquite started using the technology earlier this year many people have asked how they work.

Mesquite's red-light camera system operates through a series of sensors which are installed in the pavement at select intersections. The sensors are connected to a computer which is able to determine whether a vehicle has run a red light and calculates how fast it was going through the intersection. When the system is triggered by a red-light-runner it automatically starts a video recording and takes pictures from several different angles to record the offense.

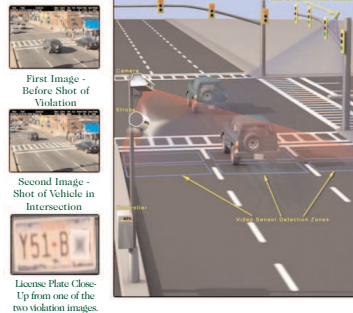
Once a possible violation is recorded the information is sent to a company which compiles the evidence and weeds out the close calls. That information is then sent to a police officer in the Mesquite Police Department who reviews the evidence and makes the final determination on whether or not to issue a citation.

One thing many people may not know is the citations do not go on your driving record. It is recorded as a civil offense and the ticket is sent in the mail to the registered vehicle owner in both English and Spanish. It also includes information so red-light violators can watch an internet video stream of their offense. Mail and online payment options are available.

The City of Mesquite currently has two intersections using the technology. They are located at the intersections of Grubb at Belt Line Road and at Grubb and North Galloway Avenue. The City is also working on adding two more locations. These will be located at I-635 on Military Parkway and at Main Street and Belt Line Road.

Previous City traffic safety initiatives in Mesquite include retiming and synchronizing of traffic signals, intersection reconfiguration, street restructuring and the implementation of a 25 MPH residential speed limit.

These safety measures helped Mesquite attain Allstate Insurance's recognition for being the 3rd safest city to drive in the entire region.



Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

We Need You

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.

Benjamin Moore Commits To Neighborhood Revitalization

One of Mesquite's aging neighborhoods will receive a new coat of paint thanks to a large donation by the local Benjamin Moore paint company.

Benjamin Moore announced it will donate enough paint for 51 homes in the Truman Heights neighborhood, near Highway 80 and North Galloway, and will also provide color design services, community outreach advice and other tools for aiding in the revitalization process.

Since Benjamin Moore's announced commitment Mesquite's Community Development Department and Historic Mesquite Inc. have started recruiting

contractors in order to kick off the program later this year. With the contractors donating their time and Benjamin Moore donating paint, the residents in this area will not have to pay for any of the improvements.

In 2005, the Mesquite City Council initiated a neighborhood revitalization program called Addressing Mesquite. Based on an analysis of several indicators, the City Council identified four priority neighborhoods as starting points for neighborhood revitalization. Truman Heights was one of those neighborhoods. Casa View, Mesquite Park and Sherwood Forrest are also on the City's target list for revitalization work.

Truman Heights Neighborhood District - Hillview Drive



The current condition of the residential core in the Truman Heights Neighborhood District.



The streetscape improvements, exterior home improvements and all housing developments within the residential core of the Truman Heights Neighborhood District. Improvements and all housing developments are illustrated according to the standards created in the Truman Heights Revitalization Code.

New Brush Truck

Mesquite's Fire Department has commissioned a new brush truck which will be used to fight grass and other open space wild fires.

Brush Patrol 07 is assigned to Fire Station No. 7 in Southeast Mesquite and it is able to respond both inside city borders as well as in other areas for mutual aid assignments. One of its unique features is its foam generator which allows it to lay down a protective fire resistant layer of foam on structures or open



areas. The foam is a big benefit since water alone tends to evaporate more quickly.

Mesquite purchased the new brush truck to help cover the newly annexed open areas which spread into Kaufman County. It is the second brush truck to be put into service. Future plans also include construction of a new fire station in Southeast Mesquite to better protect the city's newest residents.

Parks and Recreation Corner

Movie in the Park
Thursday, June 5
Feature starts at dusk
Valley Creek Park
2482 Pioneer Road



The Parks and Recreation Department continues its Movie in the Park series featuring *The Natural*. 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

Mesquite Yard Sale
Saturday, June 7
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Evans Recreation Center
1116 Hillcrest

Come look for a bargain or sell your items at the Mesquite Yard Sale. It's free to browse and \$20 for a sales booth.

Mesquite Quilts 2008
Friday - Saturday, June 20 - 21
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Rutherford Recreation Center
900 Rutherford Dr.
\$5 admission

Quilts, demonstrations, vendors, special exhibits, mini auction, door prizes and judged show for quilters and quilt lovers.



Summer Recreation Programs
Mesquite offers a variety of activities and programs for almost all ages in recreation centers, pools, athletic facilities and parks.

This summer's schedule includes children's camps, fitness and sports programs, art and drama classes, outdoor activities, music, games, tournaments and more.

Program information and registration is available online at www.cityofmesquite.com or by calling 972-216-6260.