

# MAINSTREAM

Mayor's  
Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

I heard once one of the best things about being a volunteer is everybody qualifies. That thought always stuck with me because it shows there is something truly special about the heart of a volunteer.

It takes heart to decide to be a volunteer and commit yourself to a cause, and it's not always an easy decision. We live in a fast-paced society, and what little free time we have we tend to cherish. Which is why I think the heart of a volunteer is even more dear. Speaking from personal experience, I've found the best of intentions and a compassionate spirit will often fail without the momentum that can be gained through the drive from within.

Finding your passion may take time, but, once you discover it, everything falls into place. Albert Schweitzer once said, "You must give some time to your fellow men. Even if it's a little thing, do something for others – something for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it."

In that spirit I would like ask everyone in our community to consider signing up to help in our annual Addressing Mesquite Day project which is referenced in this edition of the Mainstream. Addressing Mesquite Day is a time of fellowship and goodwill which brings people together in our community and helps a lot of people. If you can, please join. If you need help, then please contact the City at 972-216-6216 for assistance.

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).

## AUGUST

- 1-3 Texas Area Artists** will hold an exhibition, *Artrageous 2008*, in the Main and Chamber Galleries. The galleries are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.
- 3 Texas Area Artists** monthly meeting begins at 2 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall and features an artist demonstration. 214-566-8269
- 7-23 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *All My Sons* in the Black Box Theatre. The play is the story of an American family caught in the struggle between personal responsibility and duty to their country. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126
- 11 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

## SEPTEMBER

- 2-30 The Mesquite Arts Council** presents the *Western Water* photography exhibit by Michael Cassidy in the Main Gallery. The exhibit is designed to bring attention to the beauty of the many forms of water as well as climate change. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 5 Meet artist, Michael Cassidy**, at a reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Main Gallery. 972-216-6444
- 6 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Membership Gala & Concert** begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 adult, \$8 seniors and \$6 students. 972-216-8127
- 8-10 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *The Clown Prince of Wanderlust* 7 p.m. to 9 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



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# MAINSTREAM

## Butterfly Trail Opening

It was three years in the making, but the Butterfly Trail in Paschall Park is now ready for viewing.



The Butterfly Trail is a wildflower meadow designed to attract butterflies and birds for avian and insect enthusiasts. It is an aesthetic addition which enhances the walking trails that run throughout the park.

The idea for the trail was born in 2005 when the Keep Mesquite Beautiful board of directors approached the City with an idea to create a wildflower meadow. The project grew from there into a butterfly garden and work got underway. The development phase began with research to determine which species of flowers would make a good supply food for caterpillars and the butterflies which follow them.

Execution of the plan started in 2006 when the Parks and Recreation Department was able to purchase and plant the wildflowers needed for the garden. Trail signs were designed and installed during the second growing season. The signs include educational information which identifies plants, trees, provides information about recycling, wildlife and other environmental topics. Members of the Parks and Recreation Department designed the frames, while members of the Keep Mesquite Beautiful board developed the topics and wording for each of them.

If you plan to go to Paschall Park to see butterflies then the experts say the best time is late summer to early fall. Of course, spring and early summer are the best times to enjoy the beauty and splendor of the wildflowers.

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 4, 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.
- 7 - 23 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *All My Sons* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126
- 9, 23 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.
- 16 The sixth annual Doggie Splash Day** will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Evans Pool. Activities include a doggie diving contest, water retrieval competition and swimsuit contest. 972-216-6260
- 23 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

- Sick of Signs Results
- Addressing Mesquite Day
- DTV Transition
- Mayor's Corner

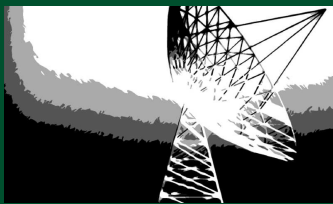
## Digital Television Transition

Television as we know it is about to change, which could create a signal problem if you don't have satellite or cable.

On February 17, 2009, stations across the nation must stop using the old method of transmitting TV signals, known as analog, and begin broadcasting exclusively in a digital format. Digital television is touted as an innovative type of broadcasting technology that will give clearer pictures and sound and provide more programming choices. However, millions of households in the nation risk losing television reception unless they purchase a converter box which can receive the new signal.

DTV converter boxes are available for purchase at electronics retailers across the country. The boxes allow analog televisions to continue to receive a signal from local broadcasters. The federal government is also offering \$40 coupons to help defray the cost of the converter box.

You can learn more about the digital conversion, and how to receive a coupon for a converter box, by calling 1-888-388-2009. Information is also available on the internet at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov).



## Sick of Signs Campaign Results

Mesquite's Environmental Code Division reports it picked up 655 illegal signs as part of the "Sick of Signs" campaign during the last week of May.

The national "Sick of Signs" campaign in Mesquite ran from May 24 - 31. Code officers worked through the holiday weekend, targeting neighborhoods and commercial districts across the city.

The most common illegal signs confiscated during the campaign were for garage and yard sales (see article on correct placement). No citations were issued, and officers even returned a few of the signs to residents with an explanation of where they can legally place their signs.

Illegal signs are sometimes known as "bandit signs" or "street spam" and have become an increasing problem for code officers who are charged with helping to keep community streets clean and clear of clutter.



Such signs display messages such as, "WILL PAY \$\$\$ FOR HOUSES," "100% HOME FINANCING," and "\$1000 A WEEK HOME BUSINESS," among other signs which frequently advertise questionable multi-level marketing or work-at-home schemes, credit repair and predatory lenders.

Environmental code officers pick up thousands of such signs every year, but use the month of May to create community awareness about the problem.

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

## Addressing Mesquite Day

The Mesquite Ministerial Alliance and the City of Mesquite are hosting the fourth annual Addressing Mesquite Day on Saturday, October 11, 2008.

The event will involve churches and community volunteer groups that will each have a house or yard project they will undertake that day. These projects could be painting the outside of a home, a major landscaping task, a minor construction project (such as a wheelchair ramp, etc.) or assistance in tearing down an old shed/dog house.

If you have questions about the application process, or would like for your home to be

considered for a project, call 972-216-6216, option 4 or email: [planning@ci.mesquite.tx.us](mailto:planning@ci.mesquite.tx.us). For more information on Addressing Mesquite Day in general, contact Valerie Bradley at 972-216-6408 or via e-mail at [vbradley@ci.mesquite.tx.us](mailto:vbradley@ci.mesquite.tx.us).



## Legal Placement of Garage Sale Signs

Every weekend you see on the side of the road  
A sign that points to a sale at some abode.

It's the call of the wild for the father of three  
Who has filled the adjoining room where his cars use to be.

He takes to some cleaning and thinks in his head,  
"Why throw this stuff out when I can sell it instead?"

So he goes to the Wal-Mart and buys a new sign.  
It sells in the utility aisles for \$3.99.

Then he trudges back home to take to the streets  
To find the best place to advertise his old treats.

But, "No, no, no," says the code enforcement man,  
Who sees the illegal signs and warns of street spam.

He says, "There are only a few places where your signs ought to be.  
Just sit right down and listen to me."

You can have it on the premises where the sale is conducted,  
But not in the median where my view is obstructed.

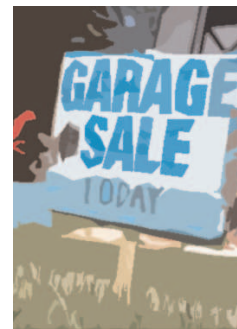
There's also a limit to the size of the sign,  
It can be no larger than five square feet or there will be a fine.

There are, of course, other laws and stipulations.  
We've included them for you below with the correct punctuation.

So please, follow these rules and then you will see  
A cleaner community for both you and me.

### Garage Sale Sign Regulations

1. One sign announcing a garage sale may be displayed on the premises where the sale is being conducted.
2. A maximum of 6 signs giving the location of or direction to a garage sale shall be allowed to be displayed on private property other than the premises where the sale is being conducted.
3. Signs shall not be placed in such a way as to create a traffic hazard. The edge of signs shall be placed no closer than 3 feet from the street curb or edge of the pavement.
4. Signs may be a maximum size of 5 square feet and a maximum height of 40 inches.
5. Signs must be securely anchored and may not be mounted on or placed on vehicles.
6. Signs are prohibited on overpasses, utility poles, trees, medians, traffic signs or other such public property.
7. Garage sales are limited to 2 per year and should not last longer than 3 consecutive days.



## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Movie in the Park

Friday, August 1  
Feature starts at dusk  
City Lake Aquatic Center  
200 Parkview Street



The Parks and Recreation Department continues its Movie in the Park series featuring *Surf's Up*. 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

### Doggie Splash Day

Saturday, August 16  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Evans Pool  
1200 Hillcrest

The sixth annual Doggie Splash Day will include popular activities like the diving contest, retrieving competition and swimsuit contest.  
972-216-6260

### Recreation After School Program

Registration for the 2008 fall session begins August 1. The Recreation After School Program (RASAP) offers structured recreation activities from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. each school day. Activities include snacks, homework time, crafts, games and physical activities. Each site maintains a 1:15 instructor-to-child ratio. For more information call your local recreation center:

Dunford Recreation Center, 972-279-9285  
Goodbar Recreation and Senior Center,  
972-279-6881  
Florence Recreation Center, 972-216-7790  
Rutherford Recreation Center, 972-216-7790  
Shaw Gymnasium, 972-288-6293  
Thompson Gymnasium and Activity Center,  
972-882-7200

Registration for all fall activities and programs is at any recreation center, the Parks and Recreation administrative offices or online at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)  
972-216-6260