

# MAINSTREAM

Mayor's Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

If you've watched the news or read your local paper recently, then you've heard a lot about some big new developments coming to the city. In fact, in this edition of the Mainstream you can read about a new Super Target store which is planned to open next fall, and will be one of the biggest in the nation.

Because of this, I thought now would be a good time to give you an update about "Project Renewal." Project Renewal is the name given to our community's new visioning process to revitalize our neighborhoods and attract new development. Since its inception in October last year we have been able to secure nearly \$100 million in new proposed projects for the city, and I am excited about the prospects for the future.

The next major phase people should soon see will be occurring on our major roads and in some of our neighborhoods. A \$2 million reconstruction project is about to start on Town East Boulevard between Highway 80 and Belt Line Road.

In central Mesquite the Truman Heights neighborhood will see more than a million dollars in projects to replace water and sewer lines. Near Mesquite High School in Mesquite Park we have started a program to replace all of the sidewalks along with water lines. In North Mesquite, Casa View will see new sidewalks and street lights, and in West Mesquite Sherwood Forest is being targeted with a fire hydrant expansion program along with some road work.

Many of these are not the type of projects you hear a lot about in the news, but these are also vital projects we need to start the process of rebuilding our neighborhoods.

Project Renewal will improve all of our lives, and, even if your home is not located in one of these first project areas, you should still benefit from the new shopping, dining or entertainment venues we are also attracting. I hope you join me in my enthusiasm for the change we are trying to bring, and I hope you start to notice a difference soon.

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).

## 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 Michael Cassidy at a reception from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Main Gallery. 972-216-6444
- 6** **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** holds its *Membership Gala & Concert* beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 Adults, \$8 seniors and \$6 for students. 972-216-8127
- 7** **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
- 8** **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
- 8 - 10** **Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *The Clown Prince of Wanderlust* from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. 972-216-8126
- 26** **Art@Lunch** visits a local cathedral and *The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451* presentation. Tour departs the Mesquite Arts Center at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation and lunch. 972-216-6444

## 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



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

# MAINSTREAM

Volume 22, Number 8, August 2008  
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## Project Renewal Attracts New Super Target and Redevelopment of Market East Shopping Center

After months of negotiation, Target Corporation has concluded a deal which will bring a new Super Target location to Mesquite. Coming in at 188,000 square feet it will be among the biggest the chain has ever built, and it will be among the first in the nation to use the company's new architectural design standards for its new stores.

The deal was made possible as part of the City's new "Project Renewal" initiative, which is the City's long-term plan to rebuild/re-invent itself. Mesquite helped facilitate the deal by agreeing to sales tax incentives staggered during the next 20 years and by helping to facilitate the purchase of land needed to build the new store.

The new Super Target will replace an existing Target store in the Market East Shopping Center near Town East Boulevard and IH-635. Surveying has already begun, and the old store should be closed and torn down early next year. The new store is expected to open in October 2009.

In addition, several nearby vacant buildings will be demolished, including those that previously contained Mervyn's and Wickes Furniture. The Market East Shopping Center will also be renovated and expanded to accommodate new businesses expected to locate around the new Super Target.



One of Mesquite's Project Renewal initiatives is to devise aggressive public-private partnerships to spur new development and redevelopment. Since its inception in October 2007, the City has been able to attract approximately \$92 million in proposed new development. These projects include the new Super Target and Peachtree Towne Center, which is a proposed \$52 million mixed-use development that will have shopping, dining and a new full-service hotel and conference center, and a new restaurant row to be located along I-635 near Gross Road.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

- 2, 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.
- 6** **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** holds its *Membership Gala & Concert* beginning at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 Adults, \$8 seniors and \$6 for students. 972-216-8127
- 7 - 23** **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *All My Sons* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126
- 13, 27** **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.
- 27** **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

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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)

## Recycling Bin Pilot Program Underway

Starting this month, City of Mesquite Solid Waste crews will distribute green recycling bins to about one-third of Mesquite residents who were chosen to take part in a pilot recycling program.

Ten thousand bins will be delivered to neighborhoods selected according to a wide range of socio-economic and geographic variables in the city. The pilot neighborhoods will be monitored to see what kind of impact the bins have on recycling rates. If the bins significantly increase recycling, then officials will look to purchase more to cover other parts of the community.

If you have not been recycling, this is a great time to start! Studies show about 50% of household waste can be recycled, and it's cheaper to recycle than to pay to put waste in a landfill. All recyclable items, such as plastic, glass, aluminum/tin cans, mixed paper and cardboard, may be placed in the bin together. There is no need to separate items. Recyclables are collected weekly on one of your regular trash collection days. For those not in the pilot program, the blue recycling bags will still be collected.

Although the bins are the property of the City of Mesquite, they will be provided at no cost to make recycling more convenient and cost-effective for residents. In fact, the bins were purchased with grant money awarded from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

If you decide NOT to participate in the recycling pilot program, please contact the Recycling Hotline at 972-216-6972 so we can pick up your bin. Also, for more information on what and how to recycle, please call the Recycling Hotline or log on to the City's Web site at: [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).



## Preparedness At The Park

Mesquite's Fire and Police Departments will have trucks, bomb robots and other tools of their trade on display at this year's second annual Preparedness at the Park event. Preparedness at the Park is part of National Preparedness Month held in September, and Mesquite's Emergency Management Division hopes to use this time to help you and your family know what to do in case disaster should strike.

Most of the time we're lucky, but Mesquite is faced with several high-risk hazards which could happen at any moment. The monthly sound from siren tests may keep you aware of the severe weather threat, but do your kids know what to do if there's a fire in your home? Or, do you have a plan in place in case something should happen and you can't get in touch

with those you love? That's why the U.S. Department of Homeland Security sponsors September as the time to encourage all of us to be prepared.

Preparedness at the Park will be held September 13, at 5 p.m. at Travis Williams Athletic Complex, across from Paschal Park. There will be games and activities to keep the kids busy, and plenty of information will be available to help you create a disaster plan at home. In the evening you can also enjoy a Movie-at-the-Park featuring *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

You can also find out preparedness information day and night at the click of a button by going to the City's Web site located at [www.cityofmesquite.com/oem](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/oem).

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

## The Smartest Card. Get It. Use It @ Your Library!

September is also Library Card Sign-Up Month and the Mesquite Public Library System wants to make sure you are carrying the smartest card of all – a Mesquite Public Library card.

The library offers books, DVDs, video and audio tapes, and other multimedia materials for loan. All you need is a

Mesquite Public Library card. Librarians are always on hand to help recommend materials suitable for various ages and interests.



A library card can be your ticket to a world of opportunity and to resources that can enrich the lives of your family. Libraries are a place where families come to read and relax. Bring your family to the library and get a library card.

Visit the Main Library at 300 W. Grubb Drive or the North Branch Library at 2600 Oates

Drive. For more information about library services visit the library's Web site at [www.cityofmesquite.com/library](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/library).

## When To Put Out Trash

With the green bin recycling program about to get underway in many neighborhoods, City Solid Waste workers thought now would be a good time to remind residents about when to put out trash.

The pickup schedule is different for every neighborhood, but the times are always the same. You can place your garbage out for collection as early as 5:30 p.m. the day before it is scheduled to be picked up, but remember to have it out for collection by 7:30 a.m. or you may miss collection. Also, remember garbage containers should be removed by 8 p.m. on your scheduled collection day.

Solid Waste crews also pick up appliances and yard trimmings,

but the service is handled differently. Appliances are picked up every Wednesday by request only, and small brush piles and other yard waste should be set at your regular collection point by 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday only. All large items set out for bulk collection must be placed at the front curb.

Disposal times are regulated by City ordinance in order to help keep neighborhoods clean and clear of clutter. There's also a health benefit to not letting trash stay out too long since it can attract pests and cause other problems. Please do your part to help keep our neighborhoods clean. If you have any questions about garbage collection call 972-216-6285.

## Why Is There A Limit To Pets?

A question came in to the City Manager's office recently asking why Mesquite has an ordinance limiting the number of dogs or cats a resident can own.

The purpose of the law helps with a few things. Its primary objective is to limit puppy mills and dog fighting operations, but the regulation also helps control other neighborhood problems. Typically, a large number of dogs will create a pack mentality which

can create a safety issue for homeowners and neighbors alike.

Large numbers of dogs also cause many barking complaints for animal control officers, and there are also health issues that arise when large numbers of animals are constrained to one home.

That is why City code limits the number of pets to three adult cats or dogs in one home in Mesquite.

## Prescription Pick-Up Service Available

Parkland Hospital customers can get prescription drug delivery service through a volunteer program sponsored by the City.

The service is called the Mesquite Special Transportation Program, and every Thursday volunteers drive to the Parkland Hospital Pharmacy to pick up prescriptions and deliver them to residents.

The program has been in operation for more than 10 years, and has served hundreds of seniors in need during that time.

If you would like to take advantage of this service call 972-681-1890, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to register. Only Parkland Hospital patients are eligible.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

**Movie-in-the-Park**  
Saturday, September 13  
Feature starts at dusk  
Travis Williams Athletic Complex  
1005 New Market Rd.



The Parks and Recreation Department continues its Movie-in-the-Park series featuring *Harry Potter Order of the Phoenix*. Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase. The event is subject to weather conditions. 972-216-6260

**Battle of the Bands**  
Saturday, September 20  
Mesquite Girl's Softball Complex  
1717 McKenzie Rd.

Get your band ready for the annual battle of the bands! Band and solo artists can register now for \$20. There is a \$6 admission for spectators. Winner gets an invitation to perform at Pumpkin Fest and Christmas in the Park. 972-216-6260

**Senior Dance Night**  
Every second, fourth and fifth Friday of the month  
Evans Recreation Center  
1116 Hillcrest Street

Adults 50+ are invited for a night of live music, dancing, fellowship and light refreshments at Evans Recreation Center. The event runs from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Dress is casual and the music is country. 972-285-6761

**Flu Shots**  
Tuesday, September 30  
10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Rutherford Senior Center  
900 Rutherford Dr.

Flu and pneumonia shots will be offered in preparation for the winter flu season. Flu shots will be \$25 and pneumonia shots will be \$35 for those not on Medicare or Secure Horizons. You must have your Medicare or Secure Horizons card available at the time of service. Reservations are required! The center will start taking reservations Tuesday, September 2. Call 972-216-7791 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for more information or to schedule an appointment.