



Dear Mesquite Resident,

The summer break is over and kids are back in school. I hope everyone enjoyed their time off. Of course, back to school means settling back into a new routine, and I wanted to take this opportunity to spark the idea of adding the Mesquite Arts Center to your calendar.

The Arts Center has a wonderful agenda year round, but this fall and winter is scheduled to be something special. For starters, there's *The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451 Mesquite*. The School District and City have partnered together to be a part of this national event, and it will involve hundreds of students in our public schools. There are several community opportunities in which to get involved, and I will even be signing a proclamation in October declaring that month as the official "Big Read" month in Mesquite.

The Mesquite Community Theatre will also be busy with its monthly performances in the Black Box Theatre. It's a great opportunity to do something different, and it highlights the hidden talent we have in our community.

And I would be remiss if I didn't mention the Mesquite Symphonic Band. It is one of the Arts Center's crown jewel performances, and is a must-see for any Mesquite resident. You have to go at least once. I know you won't be sorry.

There's also plenty more which I don't have room to speak about, but please visit the Arts Center on the Web to see everything it offers. It is one of the beacons in our community providing Real. Texas. Service.

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.

OCTOBER

- 1 – 31** The **Mesquite Arts Council** presents *Weaving – A Soft Touch* in the Main Gallery. Scarves from bamboo, silk apparel and table linens. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 5** **Texas Area Artists** hosts its monthly open meeting at 2 p.m. featuring an artist demonstration. 214-566-8269
- 6** **The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451 Mesquite** kicks off with the Mesquite City Council proclaiming October as *The Big Read Month*. See event listings at www.mesquiteartscenter.org or www.mesquiteisd.org. 972-216-6444
- 11** **The Big Read Movie @ Dusk: Fahrenheit 451**. Get Comfortable for a movie at City Lake Park, 403 S. Galloway Ave. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets. Concessions will be available and the movie begins at dusk. 972-216-6260
- 11** The **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *MSO POPS! – The Wild West*. 972-216-8127
- 16** The **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents a stage reading of *Fahrenheit 451* at 7 p.m. in the Black Box Theater at the Mesquite Arts Center. Free! 972-216-8126
- 18** **Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas** in concert at 4 p.m. The concert is free although reservations are required. 972-216-6444
- 19** **Mesquite Symphonic Band** concert begins at 3 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets are \$5 adults and \$2 students. 972-216-8125
- 23-11/8** **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents, *The Clown Prince of Wanderlust* in the Black Box Theatre. It's the story of a princess who has not been able to laugh in 15 years and, unless some one can break her sadness, her father will give her in marriage to the evil Grand Bunkleman. Performances are Friday evenings at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets range from \$6 - \$10. 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



Real. Texas. Flavor.



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

MAINSTREAM

Mesquite Joins "The Big Read"

The City of Mesquite is among hundreds of communities across the country and around the world taking part in the National Endowment for the Arts' "The Big Read" initiative.

The Big Read was launched nationally in October 2006, and since then each year it encourages literary reading by asking communities to come together to read and discuss one book. The City of Mesquite's novel of choice is Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*.



The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451 Mesquite will officially begin Monday, September 8, and last through November 6, 2008. Multiple events in and around Mesquite include public read-ins at libraries and retail establishments, book club discussions, movies in the park, round table discussions at the Arts Center, civic club presentations, writing contests, fire department book give-a-ways, an art exhibit and a staged reading of *Fahrenheit 451* in the Black Box Theater.

Also in September, the Mesquite Fire Department will deliver 100 copies of *Fahrenheit 451* to each of the five high schools in Mesquite. Students in advanced placement classes will participate in panel discussions with noted authors and a movie short will be shown on the Web as well as video screens at football stadiums – all in celebration of reading.

Mayor John Monaco will proclaim the month of October as The Big Read in Mesquite, and on October 7, 2008 a keynote address, "Let's Save the World through Science," will be delivered by noted author James Gunn.

The Mesquite Library Manga Book Club will exhibit original artwork entitled "Five Characters in Search of an Artist" at the Mesquite Arts Center from October 1-31, 2008. The artwork depicts the main characters from the book, *Fahrenheit 451*.

For a complete list of events associated with *The Big Read: Fahrenheit 451 Mesquite*, please call the Mesquite Arts Council at 972-216-6444 or go to www.mesquiteartscenter.org; www.mesquiteisd.org or www.writersgarrett.org.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 1** **Solid Waste** workers will not collect garbage due to the Labor Day holiday. Service will resume on the next scheduled day for pick-up.
- 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.
- 13** **The Big Read Movie Matinee: Fahrenheit 451** in the Rehearsal Hall at the Mesquite Arts Center. The 1966 film adaptation of *Fahrenheit 451* starts at 2:30 p.m. There's also a 7:30 p.m. showing. Popcorn and lemonade will be provided. 972-216-6444
- 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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Lawn Amendment
- Newspaper Complaints
- Hybrid Savings
- Mayor's Corner

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



Real. Texas. Flavor.

www.cityofmesquite.com

Newspaper Deliveries Cause Complaints

The City of Mesquite is working with *The Dallas Morning News* to curtail complaints regarding the distribution of its papers in the community.

In August the City received a sudden increase of calls regarding the distribution of *Al Dia* in certain neighborhoods from people who were concerned about the papers turning into litter. During the first week in August *The Dallas Morning News* increased its distribution of *Al Dia* in Mesquite from 1,000 to 10,000 homes located in the 75149 and 75150 zip codes. In addition, on August 27, The DMN also started distributing 5,000 copies of a paper called *Briefing* in the 75150 zip code.

The City has passed on community concerns regarding the distribution process, and *The Dallas Morning News* has been very responsive and says it will address problems as quickly as possible.

Al Dia is a publication targeted for Spanish-speaking households, while *Briefing* is targeted for working families who have little time to pick up a full newspaper. The papers are being distributed for free in select neighborhoods, but there is an opt-out system if you do not wish to receive a copy. The customer service number for *Al Dia* is 469-977-3747, and the customer service number for *Briefing* is 214-977-8333. You can call these numbers to cancel delivery or register complaints. You can also call it to inquire about delivery.



Lawn Maintenance Amendment

The Mesquite City Council has approved new measures to control overgrown vegetation within its city limits. The changes come as part of the Project Renewal initiative and target properties left vacant or abandoned due to the prevailing mortgage crisis.

An amendment to the City's ordinance regulating landscaping and vegetation was passed August 4, 2008, and it allows Environmental Code officers to target overgrown shrubs, trees and other vegetation which are unkempt around a home. The need for the change comes due to a higher number of property owners deciding not to maintain their yards or who have abandoned their property to foreclosure. The amendment now

allows the City to take action to clean up such properties.

Keeping landscaping in check is vital to helping revitalize and maintain neighborhood integrity, which is one of Project Renewal's goals. Project Renewal is the City's long-term plan created to improve economic opportunity, rebuild aging infrastructure, create aspirational housing and improve the image of our community.



Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

City Seeing Savings with Hybrids

Big improvements in the City of Mesquite's bottom line are proving so impressive that vehicle managers say they may soon be looking to expand hybrid fuel technology in the current fleet.

Right now the City of Mesquite has three hybrid vehicles. There are two Toyota Prius cars and one Ford Escape SUV. Each of them is proving to sip gas along at a much slower pace than the guzzlers they replaced. The two Toyota Prius hybrids are used in place of a Chevy Colorado pickup, which is the non-hybrid vehicle used for the same kind of duty. Since the changeover the City has started noticing a near doubling in mileage fuel efficiency.



The news gets even better with the Ford Escape. It is getting nearly triple the amount of miles compared to the Chevy Silverado truck it replaced. The City's Public Works director says those big differences have his people re-evaluating new car purchases now, to see if hybrids may be better to replace certain vehicles. However, the use of traditional cars and trucks won't go away, because there are some heavy-duty jobs with which the hybrid cars simply can't keep up.

HYBRID SAVINGS

Hybrid	Replaced Vehicle	Savings
Toyota Prius One 27.4 MPG	Chevrolet Colorado	15 MPG 12.4 MPG
Toyota Prius Two 30 MPG	Chevrolet Colorado	15 MPG 15 MPG
Ford Escape 44.7 MPG	Chevrolet Silverado	15.3 MPG 29.4 MPG

Prescription Pick-Up Service Available

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

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.



Thank You!

The Summer Reading program in the Mesquite Public Library System has ended, and more than 2,600 children took part. The program motivates children to read during the summer break from school and rewards them with prizes and awards from area sponsors. The City would like to extend its thanks to the following for taking part in the program:

Arby's
Mesquite Championship Rodeo
Black-Eyed Pea
Mesquite Credit Union
Celebration Station
Pizza Inn (3003 N. Galloway location)
Dads Broadway Skating Land
Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus
Chick-Fil-A
Sandy Lake Amusement Park
Church's Chicken
Sixth Floor Museum
City of Garland Surf and Swim
Spring Creek Barbeque
Golden Corral
Ladies Auxiliary to the Mesquite Elks
Lodge #2404

City of Mesquite Parks and Recreation
Starplex Cinemas
Dallas Cowboys
Texas Rangers
Dallas Mavericks
Texas Skatium
Dallas Zoo
T.G.I. Friday's
First State Bank
Wal-Mart
Fort Worth Zoo
Westlake Skate Center
Friends of the Mesquite Public Library
Whataburger Of Mesquite
Carino's Italian Kitchen
Mr. Jesse Freeman



Building Report

Major commercial projects recently permitted in the city:

Project	Location	Size	Value
Global Bearing Warehouse (New)	4601 Eastover Drive	28,786 Sq. Ft.	\$1,656,449
Tom Thumb (Remodel)	1501 Pioneer Rd.	42,350 Sq. Ft.	\$1,200,000
Taco Cabana Restaurant (New)	110 US Hwy 80 E	3,745 Sq. Ft.	\$950,000



Parks and Recreation Corner

Pumpkin Fest

Saturday, October 18
2 to 10 p.m.
City Lake Park



All ages will enjoy this annual fall festival with crafts, games, rides, costume contests, live music and entertainment, and great festival food! There will be a small fee for some activities and concessions.
972-216-6260

Haunted Trail Fest

Friday and Saturday, October 24 - 25
7 to 9 p.m.
Camp Rorie-Galloway

Do you dare venture into the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway on a moonlit Halloween's Eve? Gather all of your courage, wear your costumes and prepare for a scary fun time. There will be a small fee for some activities and concessions.



Haunted Family Campout

Saturday, October 25
5 p.m. to noon Sunday
Camp Rorie-Galloway
\$25 per family of four (\$5 per additional family member)

Sure you've got the courage to make it through the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway, but are you brave enough to last the entire night? The Second Annual Haunted Family Campout will take place at a



ghostly Camp Rorie-Galloway. We'll have prizes for the spookiest campsite, not-so-scary stories around the campfire, and s'mores for all! Breakfast will be served for those that survive!