



Dear Mesquite Resident,

Welcome to another new year! As I write this letter I am also in the midst of preparing for this month's State of the City Address, which I will deliver at the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce's Annual Awards Dinner.

This year's address will be like no other a mayor of Mesquite has ever been able to deliver. This year I have the opportunity to talk about our progress with Project Renewal. At last year's State of the City Address, I introduced Project Renewal as the City of Mesquite's plan to reinvigorate our community and start down a road to a better future. Our plan focused on four fronts: 1) protecting the tax base; 2) rebuilding infrastructure; 3) seeking developers who will fulfill our vision; and 4) improving the image of our community.

I am proud to say, during the past year we have attracted more than \$100 million dollars in new development, which says a lot about the viability of our community during these hard economic times. One of the most visible projects includes a new Super Target, which is under construction in the Market East shopping center. It will be adjoined by a new renovation of the entire Market East area. The vacant buildings where Wick's Furniture and Mervyn's were once located are being demolished. We've also had tens-of-millions of dollars in new industrial development in the city, and there are a few new restaurant options available on your dinner menu with the new Incredible Pizza which opened last fall. In addition, BJ's and Movie Tavern are on schedule to open later this year.

Of course, there is still much to be achieved in the work to revitalize our community. However, building success in a challenging financial environment shows the character of our city leaders and its citizens. These challenges notwithstanding, I look forward to continuing to work on our story of success with Project Renewal this year, and I hope you are able to notice our investments in programs, parks and infrastructure. One day I know it will help ensure future generations of Mesquite will continue to enjoy the benefits of our community as we do today.

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).

### FEBRUARY

#### 1 - March 15

**Mola Exhibit: Quilts of the Kuna Indians from Panama & Columbia.** The exhibit includes 47 pieces from two collectors, featuring indigenous handwork of the Kuna Indians from South America. Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.

**9 Texas Area Artists "Monthly Paint-In"** begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. Free!  
214-566-8269

**9 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration.  
972-463-6004

**9 - 11 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *T Gillian on Her 37th Birthday* from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre.  
972-216-8126

#### 20 - March 7

**Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Performances are held in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12 on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets for matinees and Thursday night performances are \$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



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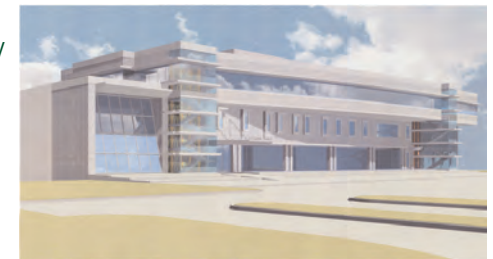
Mainstream is an official publication of the City of Mesquite to inform and advise citizens of municipal activities.

# MAINSTREAM

## New Police H.Q. Set to Open in March

High-tech, functional and just plain beautiful! Those are some of the terms Mesquite police and information technology employees use to describe their new digs set to open in March 2009.

The new facility has been under construction for the past two years, and anticipation of its opening is building as the new structure starts to take form. But, while the outside is nice to look at, for the City it is what's on the inside that will make the biggest difference.



For starters, the new building more than doubles the size of the current police facility to 80,000 square feet. It also expands the holding facility to detain suspected criminals, creates a fully functional electronic forensics and crime scene lab and will have a new emergency operations center. There's also space allotted for Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) operators, who help the City during the severe weather season and during catastrophic events. The new building will also house the City's new information technology center.

A second phase to construction is also on the horizon. Later this year, ground will break for an expansion project which will house a new service area for utility payments and a new public meeting area is being included for Council meetings. It will also be designed with the same energy efficient, and money saving, technology as the first phase.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### FEBRUARY

**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.

**14, 28 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1424 Barnes Bridge Road.  
972-613-7547

**28 Opal Lawrence Historical Park's S.D. Lawrence House**, open for tours, every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 701 E. Kearney St.  
972-216-6468

**20 - Mar 7 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *Don't Dress for Dinner*. Performances are held in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12 on Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets for matinees and Thursday night performances are \$10.  
972-216-8126

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Dennis Tarpley	Councilmember
Al Forsythe	Councilmember
Ted Barron	City Manager



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

## MTED Can Be a Senior's Best Friend

Residents who are mobility impaired, or are at least 60 years of age, have a place to turn for a ride. It's Mesquite's Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled (MTED).

You've likely seen the buses driving around town. MTED takes eligible residents to and from work in Mesquite, Eastfield College, the Garland Area Rehabilitation Center for Developmentally Disabled, the East Dallas Rehabilitation Center and non-emergency medical appointments within Mesquite or any adjoining city.

The service costs \$1 per trip, and there is a one-time cost of \$2 for a picture ID card. All vehicles are accessible for wheelchairs, scooters and other mobility devices. However, you must be able to meet the bus at the curb. Personal care attendants ride free.

The service runs Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., excluding City holidays. To find out more you can call MTED at 972-329-6833.



## Daddy, Be My Valentine

Dads with daughters age 4 to 12 have a chance to take their little ones out for the night at the City of Mesquite's ninth annual Daddy-Daughter Dance.

The dance is scheduled for Friday, February 6, 2009 at the Mesquite Convention Center. This Valentine event will be split into two separate dances. The dance for the younger girls, ages 4 to 8, and their dads will be from 6 to 8 p.m. The older age group, 8 to 12, will dance from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

A limited amount of tickets are available and go on sale January 5, 2009 at all City recreation centers. Tickets are also available

through the Parks and Recreation administrative offices or online at the City's Web site.

Last year's event was a tremendous success with more than a thousand people attending. For more information call the Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department at 972-216-6260. It is sure to be a night you will both always remember.



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

## 3 Steps To Preventing The Flu

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) says there are three easy steps to follow to help protect you and your loved ones from getting the flu this year. Influenza is a serious and highly contagious disease, and the height of the flu season is typically in February and March.

The CDC says the first step is to get the flu vaccine if you haven't already gotten one. It usually takes a few weeks for your body to build its immunity as a result of getting the vaccine, and, though it's typically better to get the shot by at least December, you still have some time to receive a vaccination.

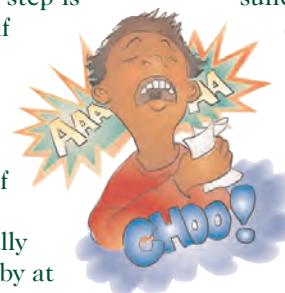
But, it doesn't take a lot of public interaction to get exposed. A simple trip to the grocery store could start an infection. That's why the CDC says the second step is to take everyday preventive actions. The best thing is to always wash your hands with soap and water after being out in public, and to avoid touching your

eyes, nose or mouth when you are out and about.

If you should suffer symptoms of the flu, then the third step to protect yourself is to take antiviral drugs recommended by your doctor. The drugs typically help to stop the flu virus from reproducing, and can help you suffer milder effects of the disease. Symptoms of the flu usually include a high fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

The City of Mesquite Public Health Clinic has flu shots available for children and adults. The Clinic is open Monday through Thursday 8 - 11 and 1-4. No appointment is needed. The cost of the flu shot is \$20. For more information call 972-329-8326.

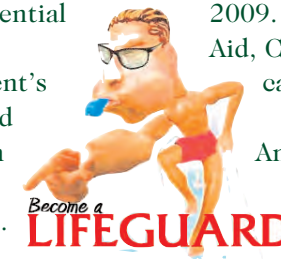
Every year more than 200,000 people are hospitalized from flu complications, and 20,000 of those are children younger than 5 years old.



## Search Starts Early For 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 to attract more recruits.



Starting lifeguards make \$8.67 an hour.

In order to apply, you must be at least 16 years old by May 15, 2009. Lifeguard Training, First Aid, CPR, PR and AED certifications are required.

An application, and more information, is available online at the City's Web site.

## Protect Your Pets This Winter

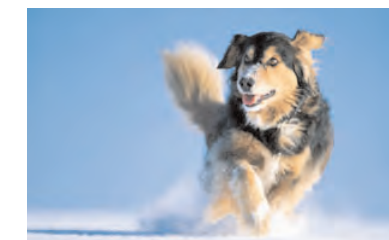
Mesquite Animal Services recommends the following guidelines to keep your pets safe and healthy this winter season:

- During the winter, short-haired, very young or old dogs and all cats should never be left outside.
- In cold weather, cats allowed outdoors climb up inside vehicle engines seeking warmth and shelter. Knock on your car's hood or sound your horn before starting your vehicle in cold weather to protect stray cats.
- Outdoor dogs should have a draft-free dog house that is large enough to allow the dog to sit, turn around and lay down comfortably, but small enough to help hold in body heat. The floor should be raised a few inches off the ground and covered with a blanket, cedar shavings or straw. The opening of the dog house should also face away from the wind, and the doorway should be covered with a piece of waterproof burlap or heavy plastic.
- Keeping warm depletes

energy; therefore, pets that spend a lot of time outside during the winter need more food. Check your pet's water dish routinely to make sure water is fresh and unfrozen. The use of plastic food and water bowls during the winter is recommended because your pet's tongue can stick and freeze to metal bowls.

- Salt and other chemicals used to melt snow and ice can irritate the pads of your pet's feet. Clean the paws with a damp towel before your pet licks them and irritates his or her mouth.

The Mesquite Animal Shelter & Adoption Center, located at 1650 Gross Rd, will accept donations of new or clean used doghouses, which will be used to assist Mesquite residents' pets in need. Please call at 972-216-6283.



## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Daddy-Daughter Dance

Friday, February 6  
Mesquite Convention Center  
\$10/person/session  
Session 1: 4 - 8 years old, 6 - 8 p.m.  
Session 2: 9 - 12 years old, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Your special little sweetheart will be on top of the world at the ninth annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. An evening filled with fabulous music, light refreshments, fun and dancing waits. Professional photographers will capture a keepsake photo for an additional fee starting at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at any recreation center, the Parks and Recreation administrative offices or online at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com) starting January 5. 972-216-6260



### Self Defense Academy

Wednesdays  
February 4 - 25; March 4 - 25  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Ages 5+; \$32/person  
Goodbar Recreation Center



The teachings in this karate class are based on Seishindo Ryu, which is a modern approach to traditional training. The class utilizes techniques from Judo, Jujitsu, Kenpo, Aikido and Tae Kwon Do.

### Next Step Sports - Track & Field

Saturdays  
March 7 - 28  
9 - 10 a.m.  
Ages 6 - 7; \$15/person  
Dunford Recreation Center

Are you ready to go for the gold? This program is for youth who are new to the sport of track and field. The students will learn aspects of the sport by working on skills for running, jumping and throwing events.

