



Dear Mesquite Resident,

I read a story recently about the City of Corpus Christi and how the people there are trying to improve that community. As many of you may know, we began similar work here through our Project Renewal initiative. This month marks its two-year anniversary, and I thought I would give you an update on how things are going.

Since Project Renewal kicked off, the City has been making steady progress towards its three main goals: 1) to create aspirational housing; 2) to rebuild our deteriorating infrastructure; and 3) to find ways to strengthen our economic base through the creation of public/private partnerships. During the first year we made significant progress. We created the Peachtree Towne Center development which incorporates mixed use development and will one day create a new hotel and conference center. We also generated more than \$400,000 in positive press, and we garnered a multi million dollar deal to bring in a Super-Target and renovate the entire Market East Shopping Center.

Further, I am happy to tell you that in Year Two we are still making significant progress. This month I-635 will officially be complete and ready for the upcoming holiday shopping season, and last month we learned about a major assembly plant locating its manufacturing processes here. This deal will likely give Mesquite the largest industrial lease in the Metroplex two years running.

All this is proof positive Project Renewal is working. With time, it will one day change the landscape of our community and make Mesquite a destination for the entire eastern Metroplex.

Sincerely,

John Monaco  
Mayor

# MESQUITE ARTS CENTER ARTIVITIES

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).

## NOVEMBER

- 1-12/6 **Texas Area Artists** exhibits *Holiday Hues 2009* in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.
- 5 - 7 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *The Butler Did It* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126
- 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
- 14 **Thiago X. Nascimento** will present a piano recital in the Concert Hall at 7:30 p.m. Free!
- 21 **The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Masterworks - Asian Journey*. The show features Amy Whitaker on solo clarinet at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 at the door and \$10 for seniors. 972-216-8127

### 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

## H1N1 Flu Preparations

Preparations for a severe flu season are underway, and the threat of the new H1N1 strain is causing the most concern. Emergency workers from the local to global level are creating plans, but the one thing they all recommend is for everyone to take steps to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

**Here at home** – Mesquite's Division of Emergency Management is working with regional partners to create a coordinated response in case of an outbreak in the Metroplex. Meanwhile, preparations have been made to ensure the continuation of basic City services in case a large number of government employees are unable to report to work. This will help guarantee everything from solid waste collection to water billing remains unchanged.

**State action** – Governor Perry has requested the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provide an additional allotment of antiviral medications from the Strategic National Stockpile. That will bring Texas' total number of doses to 3.3 million. The state has also asked the Department of Homeland Security to classify a pandemic as an emergency which is eligible for a major disaster declaration. That would allow the State to be able to apply for emergency funds to address widespread outbreaks.

**National level** – Cases of H1N1 are growing across the country, and the CDC is monitoring the spread. So far, it appears the virus remains susceptible to antiviral drugs, but fears are the virus could become stronger as treatments are administered. The CDC's response goal is to reduce the spread and severity of illness through whatever means possible.

**What you need to do** – Health officials say everyone should follow standard precautions to reduce the spread of any respiratory illness.

### Basic steps:

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.
- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

The CDC estimates the first H1N1 vaccine will be available this month and increase in availability as time progresses. It is estimated 45 million doses will be available nationwide. There is currently no shortage of the regular seasonal flu vaccine.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER

- 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.
- Closed 24-27 **Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road and is open Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and every second Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 972-613-7547
- 26 **Thanksgiving holiday** - City offices closed; no residential garbage collection.
- 27 **Thanksgiving holiday** - City offices closed; residential garbage collection as scheduled.

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- John Monaco ..... Mayor
- Al Forsythe ..... Mayor Pro Tem, Place 2
- Bill Porter .. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Place 1
- Stan Pickett ..... Councilmember, Place 3
- Shirley Roberts ..... Councilmember, Place 4
- Vacant..... Place 5
- Dennis Tarpley ..... Councilmember, Place 6



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## Street Light Outage Tracking

Oncor has a new street-light outage tracking system which allows anyone to easily report needed repairs on the Internet to [www.oncorstreetlight.com](http://www.oncorstreetlight.com)



The new service gives direct access to maps which show specific lights in local neighborhoods. To report an outage, users need to click on the location and Oncor sends a confirmation ticket that it has received the report of the needed repair. The company also sends follow-up e-mails to update when the problem is fixed.

Outage reports can also be reported by calling 888-313-4747.

## Accident Reports Now Available on the Web

Accident reports are now available online through the Mesquite Police Department's Web site. Last year there were 2,224 reported car accidents in the city, and having easy access to the police reports can save the people involved a few hassles during an already rough time.

Copies of reports are available for any accident that occurred in Mesquite after July 1, 2009. Reports are available at [www.mesquitetx.policereports.us/](http://www.mesquitetx.policereports.us/), and can also be found using the Mesquite Police Department's Web site at [www.mesquitelpolice.org](http://www.mesquitelpolice.org).

In order to use the site you will need a report number or the date of the incident, along with the name of one of the drivers. Each copy costs \$6.



## Census Reaches Out Through Mesquite

The U.S. Census was one of the benefactors of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). It received \$1 billion to create jobs, but also to help cities like Mesquite reach out to inform people about the importance of participating in the Census.



Cards will be mailed to every residential address in the U.S. on April 1, 2010, and, through a series of federal grants, Mesquite is putting out the word in many forms to remind people what Census information does for the community. Thousands of posters have been sent to local businesses, the Mesquite Independent School District is reaching out to parents and students and the City has teamed up with the Census and AMC theatres to start a four-month advertising campaign that will begin in December.

Census information is important to all cities because its findings are used by communities to attract new businesses, allocate federal funding for education and safety programs and to draw district lines for representation in Congress.

There are now more than 2,900 people in 12 regional offices, including Dallas, working on the 2010 Census. The diverse staff speaks 95 languages and is working with thousands of government entities, community organizations and the private sector to raise awareness about the 2010 Census.

visit us online at: [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## Winter Water Conservation

Cooler weather is here, which means it's time to scale back irrigation for lawns and landscapes. Most Texas lawns go dormant in the winter months. When temperatures cool, plant growth is limited and irrigation frequency can be reduced to save water resources. The best idea is to set timers to water once every 7 to 14 days, or water manually as needed.

November through March is considered to be the low water season, and soaker hoses can be used to keep your foundation moist. When watering with a sprinkler, the most efficient types are drip or micro-spray systems. The use of such technology can reduce your water bills, prevent fungal lawn diseases and lower maintenance requirements.



Mesquite's water restrictions run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1 to the end of October. A complete copy of the Water Conservation Plan and Ordinance is available on the City's Web site at [www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com).

## Animal Leash Laws

We've all been there before. You're either walking down a sidewalk, or trekking on your bike, and out of nowhere a dog comes barking towards you. More often than not these instances go without incident, but from time to time they can cause great hardship, to everyone involved. That's why Mesquite has a strict leash law.

If you have a dog, or even a cat, the City's ordinance governing leash use says you must have one on your pet if you are out in public. This includes walks in the park, and the law does not discriminate on the size of your animal. The law also applies to pet owners at home. It's illegal to tie a pet outside and leave it unsupervised. Animals must always be in direct care of someone, or be placed where it cannot escape and come in contact with others.



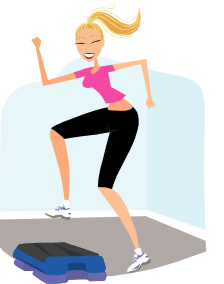
In addition to the leash law, the City also has a restriction on the number of pets allowed at one home. The most pets allowed at a residence are three adult dogs, three adult cats and only one litter up to 6 months of age.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Everybody Step

Monday - Wednesday - Friday  
November 13 - December 9  
7 to 8 p.m.  
Dunford Recreation Center  
16 and older / \$35

Come join our certified instructor for a total body workout. This class allows everyone to start at their own pace. The first half hour of class is a fun step aerobic workout, and the last half of class focuses on body sculpting. Bring your step, mat, and free weights to join the challenging class and stay fit for life.



### First Aid and CPR Training

Saturday, November 14  
8 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Evans Recreation Center  
16 and older / \$25

American Red Cross offers the opportunity to receive training for the recognition and provision of basic care of injuries and sudden illnesses. Skills include operation of an automated external defibrillator (AED) for victims of sudden cardiac arrest, CPR, and basic First Aid for adults, children and infants. Instruction manuals included.

### Rock Band Tournament – PlayStation 3

Saturday, November 21  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Dunford Recreation Center  
All ages / \$5

Do you have what it takes to become the next great rock band? Whether or not you're musically inclined, this tournament is designed for you and your friends to rock the stage in a friendly competition!

