



Dear Mesquite Resident,

Last month I presented Teresa Jackson with the Mayor's Office first-ever Pillar of the Community Award. The November edition of Mainstream had an article about the Pillar of the Community program, but I want to take this opportunity to share with you the wonderful things Teresa has done in Mesquite to have this honor bestowed upon her.

More than 10 years ago, Teresa found herself as a single mom with too few resources to take care of her family. She told me that when she reached out for help the people who provided it were cold and uncaring. That's when she decided to work towards creating a service that would have a heart as well as extend a helping hand. That goal turned into the Sharing Life Community Outreach Center and, in November, she and her fellow volunteers celebrated their 10-year anniversary.

Sharing Life Outreach Center does a lot of great things in the city of Mesquite. Last year the program helped meet the needs of nearly 35,000 people. Services like this are critically important because any one of us can come upon hard times, and today that sad fact seems truer than any time in recent memory.

Not only does she help those in need in our community, but when Mesquite received the call that thousands of Hurricane Katrina evacuees were hours away from our borders, Teresa, and Sharing Life Outreach, were there to help. She provided leadership, food and other resources which helped our City meet the challenge.

I wish to publicly thank Teresa again for all her hard work and what she has done for our community, and I hope you join me in letting her know how much Mesquite appreciates her and the Sharing Life Outreach Center.

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).

**JANUARY**

**1-19 Red Desert, Green Prairie, Blue Sky: Photographing the West** features 45 color and black-and-white photographs which unite the efforts of eight photographers working on three separate photography projects. Each project seeks to illuminate the beauty, tragedy and strength of a different geographic region. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444

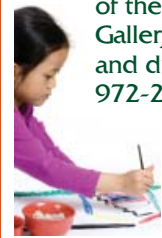
**11 Texas Area Artists "Monthly Paint-In"** begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. Free! 214-566-8269



**30 The Mesquite Symphony** is in concert with *The Big Top* featuring music from Cirque de Soleil. The show begins at 7:30 p.m. Call for tickets or more information. 972-216-8127

**FEBRUARY**

**8-28** The Mesquite Arts Council presents an exhibit by the students of the **Mesquite Independent School District** in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444



Elementary exhibit - February 8 - 12  
Middle School exhibit - February 15 - 19  
High School exhibit - February 22 - 26

**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



T E X A S  
Real. Texas. Flavor.



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

**MAINSTREAM**

**COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

**DECEMBER**

**25 Christmas Holiday** – City facilities closed. No trash/recycling pick-up. Garbage will be collected Tuesday, December 29, 2009, and recycling will be collected Friday, January 8, 2010.

**30 Christmas Tree Recycling Starts** – Trees will be picked up from your regular garbage collection site along with limbs, leaves and other vegetative debris. All lights, ornaments and other items must be removed.

**JANUARY**

**1 Year's Day Holiday** – City facilities closed. No trash/recycling pick-up. Garbage will be collected Tuesday, January 5, 2010, and recycling will be collected Friday, January 8, 2010.

**4, 19 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.

**18 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday** - City facilities closed. No trash/recycling pick-up. Garbage will be collected Thursday, January 21, 2010, and recycling will be collected Monday, January 25, 2010.

*Check opening of Park Thanks*  
**various Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road and is open from noon - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and every second Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 972-613-7547

**23 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

**Fowler to Return to  
Real. Texas. Festival.**

The Real. Texas. Festival. and one of Texas music's favorite sons are forming a tradition in the last weekend in April.

The festival recently confirmed that Kevin Fowler will once again anchor the Friday night headliner slot for the festival. Fowler concerts are synonymous with packed houses and cheering crowds.



"We are hoping we can make Kevin Fowler a Friday night staple," said City of Mesquite Special Events Coordinator Daren Watkins. "He's tailor-made for the event and we are fortunate to have found a custom fit in an off-the-rack world."

The festival takes place April 23 and 24, 2010 at Rodeo Plaza. This will be it's fourth year, and the city hopes to build on the momentum of a breakout year in 2009 where 23,000 people attended.

Kevin Fowler recently released a new single, "Beer Season," and continues to enjoy the success of his latest studio album, "Bring it On."

**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Recreation Center Changes
- Please Watch Where You Park
- Christmas Tree Recycling
- Mayor's Corner

- 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



T E X A S  
Real. Texas. Flavor.  
[www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## Keep Mesquite Beautiful's "Trash Bash" Hits Record Number!

It's a mixed blessing, but the Keep Mesquite Beautiful (KMB) annual fall "Trash Bash" had a record number of volunteers and, unfortunately, trash during its latest event.

More than 400 people showed up at City Lake Park to clean roadways, parks, creeks and a total of 3,500 lbs of trash was collected. That's a new record for KMB! Participants included several Cub Scout Packs, Girl Scouts, MISD Elementary and High Schools, KMB's Youth Environmental Leaders, the First United Methodist Church Youth Group and Eastfield College.

The event wrapped up with a pizza party, music and games from the fabulous staff of KEOM radio and a visit from Lucky the Ladybug (KMB's first lady of litter prevention). The next "Trash Bash" is scheduled for April 10, 2010 at 8 a.m. at City Lake Park.



## Residential Parking Codes

According to City ordinance, parking is prohibited on sidewalks and within 10 feet of a mailbox Monday through Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The ordinance is in place to keep neighborhood paths clear and to help postal workers access mailboxes, which may otherwise have to be bypassed until the next delivery day.

If you have a problem with a neighbor parking on the sidewalk, or in front of your mailbox, speak with the neighbor and try to resolve the issue. Hopefully the meeting will turn out to be a good opportunity to get acquainted while also stopping the problem, which the neighbor may not have known he/she was causing.

If all else fails, then please contact the City's Environmental Code Division at 972-329-8704 for assistance.

## New Hours for Recreation Centers

Beginning January 4, 2010, most of Mesquite's recreation centers will change the open-to-the-public operating hours to make improvements to the City's Recreation After School Program (RASP). The changes will close recreation centers which host RASP activities during times when the after-school event is being held in order to better provide councilors an opportunity to care for children in the program.



RASP provides an affordable option for child care to parents who have to work until later in the evening. However, none of the changes to the hours of operation will impact the senior centers at the Evans, Rutherford or Goodbar centers, and fitness room hours will still be maintained at certain sites.

Proposed recreation center hours to take effect January 4, 2010.

	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat	Sun
Dunford	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	1 – 6 p.m.
Evans	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	1 – 6 p.m.
Florence	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	Closed	Closed
Goodbar	Senior Center Only	Senior Center Only	Senior Center Only	Senior Center Only	Senior Center Only	Closed	Closed
Rutherford	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	6 – 10 p.m.	9 a.m. – 9 p.m.	Closed

## Please Watch Where You Park

*On a consistent basis at City Hall you will hear  
The complaints of a resident whose neighbors don't adhere  
To the parking regulations on the books which are designed  
To keep the community beautiful, clean and refined.*

*It is true that in Texas we all have our rights  
And, where property is concerned, we do not take light  
To people who tell us what to do  
On the land that's a castle for me – not for you.*

*But codes are in place because people understand  
That, without some regulation, things get out of hand.  
So the next time you park on your lawn or sidewalk  
Please rethink where you stop and pull on to your lot.*

*These simple steps will make it nicer for those  
Who live in the neighborhoods for whom these lines are composed,  
And will hopefully create some good neighborly love  
That will benefit everyone from this day and above.*

## Pet Adoptions Show Continued Success

In the past year, the City of Mesquite Animal Services Division has placed 1,515 dogs and cats for adoption, reunited 782 lost pets with their owners, placed 572 animals with rescue organizations and responded to 10,658 animal-related calls.

Of course, there is always a new family friend waiting to be adopted by you at the animal shelter. For more information, please visit the Mesquite Animal Shelter and Adoption Center located at 1650 Gross Road or call 972-216-6283.



## Winter Pet Precautions

This winter is anticipated to be colder and wetter than in the past, which is why Mesquite Animal Services would like to remind you of the following guidelines to keep your pets safe and healthy during the winter months:



- 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 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 cats.
- Outdoor dogs should have a draft-free doghouse 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 doghouse 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 and 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.

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

## Christmas Tree Recycling

Mesquite's Solid Waste Department will begin Christmas tree recycling service Wednesday December 30. To prepare your tree for recycling please follow these basic steps:

- Remove all stands, lights, tinsel and ornaments.
- Do not place your Christmas tree inside a plastic bag or container.
- Place your tree out for collection (curb or alley) starting the first Wednesday after Christmas and continuing every Wednesday through January 20.

Christmas trees can also be dropped off at the City's Convenience Center located at 3550 Lawson Road.



## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Therapeutic Body Connection

Tuesday and Thursday  
January 5 - 28  
5 to 6 p.m.  
Dunford Recreation Center  
Age 12+ / \$30

Have fun listening to great music with our low impact fitness class designed for those with special needs. The course focuses on increasing physical fitness, coordination and is a great opportunity to make new friends!  
972-279-9285



### Senior Exercise

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday  
Ongoing  
11 – 11:30 a.m.  
Evans Recreation Center  
55+ / Free

Limber up with a series of stretching and range-of-motion movements done seated and standing. This moderate exercise class utilizes exercise bands and is offered four days per week. This is a great program for individuals beginning an exercise regimen or to help maintain flexibility.  
972-285-4145

### Ballerina Birthday Party

On Demand  
Dunford Recreation Center  
\$150



Celebrate your little girl's birthday in an enchanted land filled with dancing ballerinas. She will be transformed into a ballerina princess and will receive a tutu in her favorite color. The party includes setup and cleanup, decorations, thank you cards, group picture and crowns for all guests. Call to reserve your Ballerina Birthday Party and give your little girl an enchanted moment that every little princess dreams.  
972-279-9285

### Recreation After School Program (RASP)

Monday through Friday  
3 to 6 p.m.  
Various Locations  
Ages 6 to 12 / \$80 per month or \$25 per week

Mesquite Parks and Recreation is pleased to announce a new and improved Recreation After School Program (RASP) at Dunford, Florence, Goodbar, and Rutherford Recreation Centers as well as Shaw and Thompson Gyms. For the first time, RASP will be able to utilize the entire facility and have a staff totally dedicated to a single after-school program. Our goal is to offer the best, most creative schedule of passive and active opportunities. Program begins January 5.  
972-216-6260