



Dear Mesquite Resident,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community's volunteers, and share with you some of their accomplishments and value in our city.

I started serving as a volunteer in Mesquite 26 years ago, and I know from first hand experience that volunteering enriches all of our lives and the world around us. At some point we have all been the target of the work of a volunteer. You may not have even known it when it was happening to you. That's because volunteering takes many forms.

If you've enjoyed a special event like our recent Real. Texas. Festival., then your life was enriched by the work of volunteers. They are the silent, unheard group of people who work behind the scenes, and they rarely ever receive any of the recognition.

Last year we had 1,105 such people pull together to help create change by volunteering. They donated a combined 31,333 hours of time to help make this city a better place to live. Without them, we could not do so many things, and the lives they impact would be less blessed. In this edition of Mainstream there is information on how to become a volunteer. I hope you are able to consider becoming one of the many who help make things possible in our community.

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).

## JULY

**1-30 Texas Area Artists** will hold an exhibition, "Pigment of the Imagination 2009," in the Main and Chamber Galleries. Open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.

**12 Texas Area Artists** hosts its monthly open meeting at 2 p.m. featuring an artist demonstration. 214-566-8269

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

## AUGUST

**7-22 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *Belles* by Mark Dunn in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126

**24-26 Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions from 7 - 9 p.m. for *The Butler Did It* by Tim Kelly in the Black Box Theatre. 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

## Real. Texas. Festival. Largest. Turnout. EVER.

This year's Real. Texas. Festival. was another great success with festival attendance eclipsing 23,000 people, doubling last year's festival goers. "Given the challenges of this year's economy, our strategy was to provide a quality event that provided real value to families, and we seemed to hit the bull's-eye on that," said Daren Watkins, Festival Coordinator for the City of Mesquite. "We're incredibly fortunate to have been blessed with ideal weather, and people seemed to really turn out for this year's event, probably due to the strength and appeal of our entertainment line-up, and the tremendous value the festival provided."



### 2009 Real. Texas. Festival. highlights:

- A more than 25% increase in the "Taste of Mesquite" Barbecue Cook-Off presented by Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse and benefiting the Mesquite Service League. This year's Grand Champion was Tommy Joe Chandler (team name: Smok'n Joe's). He won \$500 and a trophy. Reserve Grand Champion Royce Williams (team name: Kingfish Kookers) received a pre-paid entry into next year's event.
- The "Cowboys & Chrome" Car Show presented by Hooters included more than 80 cars on exhibit.
- The festival's first "Battle of the Bands" competition included four talented young groups. The winners were "The Neckties," which received \$500 and a backstage pass to meet Los Lonely Boys.
- The festival's first-ever promotion to re-stock the food pantries of both Mesquite Social Services and Sharing Life Community Outreach was a huge success, and two donations of 1,600 pounds of needed food items were made and distributed to each organization.
- According to a festival marketing survey, attendance was distributed throughout the Metroplex and North Texas, and there were many respondents who traveled some distances (from the Valley and out-of-state) to specifically attend the event.

### COMMUNITY CALENDAR

#### JULY

**6, 20 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.

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

**25 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

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Door-to-Door Solicitors
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- 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.

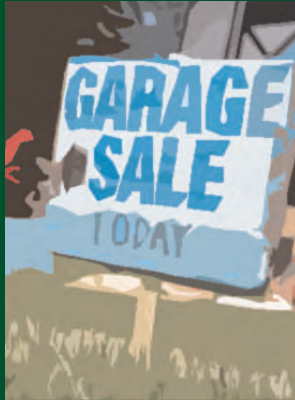
[www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## Garage Sale Restrictions

Many residents have called recently wondering about the limits on garage sales, and the City would like people to know there is a limit on how often you can hold such a sale on your personal property.

This is the time of year when people like to open up their front yard to sell their used items, and it causes some neighbors to get distressed if it happens too often.

According to City ordinance, it is unlawful for anyone at a residential property to



hold more than two garage sales during any calendar year or to hold a garage sale lasting more than three days.

The reason behind the ordinance is to stop street blocks from turning into weekend sales lots. Please think about your neighbors and community before you have a garage sale, and be aware of the law. Violations may be reported to the Environmental Code Division at 972-216-6276.

## Rain Harvesting

Rain is plentiful now, but did you know there's a way to save it for later when you need to water your plants during the summer? The way to do it is through harvesting rain!

Rain harvesting is growing in popularity across the country, and it is a cheap way to gather, store and then use rain water on your plants or landscaping while cutting down



on your water bill. It works by attaching a rain barrel to your home gutter system and collecting the rain water that travels down from your rooftop.

It's easy to do, and takes only a small investment of your time and money to install. You can learn more about rain harvesting at [www.cityofmesquite.com/utilities](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/utilities).

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

## Door-To-Door Solicitors

Door-to-door soliciting is a form of commerce not uncommon in Mesquite. As a solicitor, it is imperative to know Mesquite's ordinance for legal purposes; but as a potential customer, it is important to know the City's regulations for safety purposes.

Specific times are designated for door-to-door sales - Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. It is prohibited to solicit outside of these assigned hours or on Sundays, New Year's Day, Labor Day, July 4, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. However, this does not include sales from volunteer or religious organizations such as Boys Scouts, Girl Scouts or school groups. If a solicitor comes during prohibited times it would be best to not answer the door or to ask the salesperson to leave immediately.

When a solicitor comes to the door, be cautious and ask for

identification. The City ordinance on door-to-door sales says a solicitor's permit must be visible on anyone engaged in door-to-door sales. Permits are available through the City Police Department.

If you become suspicious of, or uncomfortable with, the person, or if the salesperson does not have proper identification or fails to show it when asked, then report the solicitor to the police. An officer will be sent to verify the person's legitimacy. Safety is the primary concern, so protect yourself from possible dangers.



## Volunteering in Mesquite



If you are ever looking for something to do then Mesquite

has a volunteer program that can help keep you busy and get you involved in the community.

There are a wide variety of opportunities, such as helping out at the animal shelter, a public library, one of the City's historic sites or serving at a local senior center. The Police and Fire Departments also have citizen corps that provide specialized training. Members have been called upon to help during major events, such as the hurricane evacuations from

the Texas and Louisiana coasts. Citizen police academy members help during the holiday shopping season driving a plate scan vehicle and manning security posts to keep parking areas safe.

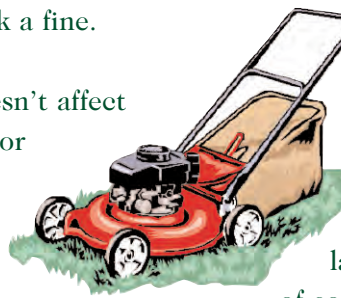
To find out about all the opportunities which may be available contact Mesquite's Volunteer Coordinator Jessa Thomas at 972-329-8331 or [jthomas@ci.mesquite.tx.us](mailto:jthomas@ci.mesquite.tx.us). Last year 1,105 volunteers gave 34,789 combined hours of their time. They help provide services which the City wouldn't be able to afford without the help from all of its volunteers.

## Lawn Maintenance Guidelines

City code enforcement workers would like to remind everyone about the revised ordinance governing grass height. The law says the grass on your lawn should not grow higher than 8 inches, and if it does you could risk a fine.

The ordinance doesn't affect plants like shrubs or trees, but is designed to try to keep yards trim to make neighborhoods clean and attractive. People found in violation of the ordinance governing lawn height have up to seven days to take care of the problem. If they don't, the City could opt to mow the lawn for them at a

cost. The average charge is \$30 whenever the City is forced to mow people's lawns and a \$100 administrative fee is also added. The charge varies based on the size of the lawn. Last year the City of Mesquite spent nearly \$250,000 mowing lawns which were out of compliance with City code.



The lawn ordinance guidelines are part of the City's "Project Renewal" initiative. Please do your part to Keep Mesquite Beautiful.

## Parks and Recreation Corner

### Movies in the Park - Madagascar 2

Friday, July 10  
At dusk  
City Lake Park



It's movie madness with Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department!

Come experience the joy of FREE movie watching in the great outdoors. Bring your picnic basket, lawn chairs, blankets and enjoy!  
972-216-6260

### Junior Players Summer Camp

July 6 - 18  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. / 2 - 4 p.m.  
Florence Recreation Center /  
Evans Recreation Center  
Ages 7 - 15



Junior Players uses the performing arts to develop self-esteem, communication skills and teach basic drama techniques. The program ends with a small skit at the Festival of Plays at the end of camp. The program is FREE but enrollment is limited.  
972-216-6260

### First Start Sports - Soccer

Tuesdays / July 7 - 28  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Goodbar Recreation Center  
Ages 4 & 5  
\$15



Kids learn the basics of kicking, dribbling, goal-tending, and passing. The first two classes will concentrate on skill development; the last two weeks will be dedicated to competition.  
972-279-7969

### Power Stroller

Mondays and Wednesdays  
9 - 10:30 a.m.  
Rutherford Recreation Center  
18+  
\$60

For moms who want to improve their fitness but can't find time away from their babies to get in a challenging workout, Power Stroller is a great and unique opportunity! The 90 minute class focuses on getting your heart rate up to improve your cardiovascular endurance while exercising with your baby in a stroller.  
972-216-7790