

MAINSTREAM

Mayor's
Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

I am happy to be able to tell you today that work on I-635 in Mesquite is finally complete, or will be at the end of this month, and much more is in the works for our future.

The completion of the I-635 corridor near Town East Boulevard has been a long time coming. People tell me how much easier it is to travel to the mall and surrounding shopping areas, and those of you who use it as part of your daily commute will notice how much easier it is to traverse traffic.

The next big step I would like to see in our region is the arrival of light rail. I am working aggressively to make that a reality, and I have high hopes it will be here by 2020. We are also nearing completion of the City's Traffic Management System. This high-tech system will link intersections and provide traffic engineers the ability to monitor traffic conditions and patterns and implement improvements in real time.

As work on these major long-term initiatives continues, we have maintained our focus on local road maintenance and traffic management. Earlier this year we completed improvements to the Tripp Road corridor, and we've brought many repaving projects to other neighborhoods. I hope you join me in recognizing we have some of the best roads in the region, and I congratulate our Public Works personnel on doing such a wonderful job.

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.

SEPTEMBER

- 1- 30** The photography of *Ben Espey* will be exhibited in the Main Gallery.
- 5** The **Mesquite Arts Council** hosts an artist reception for *Ben Espey* in the Main Gallery from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- 11** The **Mesquite Arts Council** hosts *Art@Lunch* at the Meadows Museum: Diego Rivera *The Cubist Portraits* 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$20 and includes transportation, admission into the museum, docent-led tour and lunch. Reservations required. 972-216-6444.
- 12** **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** *Membership Gala and Concert* begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 adults, \$8 seniors and \$6 students. 972-216-8127
- 14** **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



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.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 7** City offices closed for the Labor Day Holiday – No residential garbage collection.
- 8, 21** **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.
- Various** **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** **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

Mesquite Benefits From 2010 Census

The U.S. Census Bureau will be spending more than a billion dollars to count the number of people in the United States next year, and the investment is providing jobs in Mesquite and throughout the rest of the Metroplex.

The Census started its count work in Mesquite last March when workers began canvassing neighborhoods to confirm mailing addresses. That work employed around 200 people in the area, and for the 2010 Census next April, nearly 3,000 people are expected to be hired. In all, 8,000 people will be brought on board to count people in the entire Metroplex, and most of those jobs will pay between \$9 and \$15 per hour.

Many people will be hired to help reach different social groups, and, in Mesquite, locals are being sought since they know the neighborhoods better than anyone else. Bilingual people are also being recruited to ensure communication with our non-English-speaking residents.

Census counts are critical for deciding district lines for representation in Congress, and determining the distribution of more than \$300 billion per year in federal resources which are awarded to communities to support projects like road building or law enforcement and education grants.

In order to receive its fair share, Mesquite has created a Complete Count Committee to help coordinate efforts with the Census so outreach efforts can be made to reach minority and other hard-to-reach populations.

Census results are kept confidential, and not even the FBI or CIA have access to the forms which are submitted. The only information released is statistical information regarding widespread areas.

For more information about the Census visit www.census.gov.



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

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Preparedness At The Park

Mark Saturday, September 12, as the day to bring the kids out to see Mesquite's Fire and Police Department equipment, bomb robots and other gadgets that will be on display as part of this year's third annual Preparedness at the Park event. Preparedness at the Park is part of National Preparedness Month and Mesquite's Emergency Management Division hopes to use this time to help you and your family "KnoWhat2Do®" in case disaster should strike.

From threatening severe weather, flooding and tornadoes to terrorist threats, Mesquite citizens are all too familiar with how rapidly events can change. What can citizens do to be prepared for such weather and unexpected events? Simply sitting down with your family and making an emergency evacuation plan, making sure everyone has a list of emergency phone numbers and assembling an emergency supply kit is a great start.

Join us on **September 12 at 5 p.m. at Travis Williams Athletic Complex**, located at 1005 New Market Rd. across from Paschall Park. You will learn about what you can do to be prepared, and the kids can play games and take part in activities such as Disaster Jeopardy! Preparedness at the Park will be followed by a free Movie In the Park. We hope to see you there for the fun family event!



The Smartest Card. Get It. Use It @ Your Library!

September is Library Card Sign-Up Month and the Mesquite Public Library System wants to make sure you are carrying the smartest card of all – a Mesquite Public Library card.

The library offers books, DVDs, video and audio tapes, and other multimedia materials for loan. All you need is a Mesquite Public Library card.



Librarians are always on hand to help recommend materials suitable for various ages and interests.

You can get a library card at the Main Library at 300 W. Grubb Drive or the North Branch Library at 2600 Oates Drive. For more information about library services visit the library's Web site at www.cityofmesquite.com/library.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

KMB Needs Student Volunteers

KMB is currently accepting applications for its 2009-10 student advisory board. Meetings are held once a month in addition to special events throughout the year, and all volunteer hours are eligible to satisfy requirements for National Honor Society, Student Council and other organizations.

The volunteer time also makes students eligible for a scholarship to help with college expenses. This year Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. (KMB) awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating MISD seniors. Landon Gregory (Horn H.S.), Kristina Card (Mesquite H.S.) and Daniel Lee (Mesquite H.S.) were all



Pictured Left: Brandee Vasquez (KMB), Landon Gregory (Scholarship Winner), Amy McDonald (KMB Chair), Jessa Thomas (KMB Executive Director)

honored for their commitment to the mission of Keep Mesquite Beautiful.

Each year high school students that participate in KMB's Student Advisory Board have the opportunity to educate the public about environmental issues. This year's events included environmental bingo at Christian Care Center, a recycling tour with the City of Mesquite, Trash Bash, Mesquite Recycles Day and Christmas in the Park.

For more information visit www.KeepMesquiteBeautiful.org or call Jessa Thomas at 972-329-8331.



Pictured Right: Brandee Vasquez (KMB), Kristina Card (Scholarship Winner), Amy McDonald (KMB Chair), Jessa Thomas (KMB Executive Director)

Keep Mesquite Beautiful Awarded \$5K Grant From Union Pacific

Union Pacific's Railroad Foundation awarded Keep Mesquite Beautiful \$5,000 to create a nature trail at the Opal Lawrence Historical Park. The improvement will be part of the Lawrence Family Homestead Outdoor Classroom Project, which is a partnership between Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. and Historic Mesquite, Inc.

The money will help create hands-on learning experiences which will help visitors better understand what it was like to live on the property many generations ago. The nature trail is anticipated to begin in an open meadow on the property and will showcase native grasses and prairie views.



(Pictured left to right: Mayor John Monaco, Jessa Thomas with Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Union Pacific Public Affairs Director Clint Schelbitzki, Historic Preservation Officer Charlene Orr, and City Manager Ted Barron)

Models And Design Artists Needed

It's not Calvin Klein or Dolce and Gabbana, but the fashion of recycling is definitely en vogue, and Keep Mesquite Beautiful is hosting its first-ever Recycling Fashion Show to get in line with the latest trend!

The show will be held next month and is intended to help everyone better understand the many different forms of recycling. In the industrial world, glass and other materials are being reused to create new playground equipment and even high-end counter tops.

In September students from the

Mesquite Independent School District and local colleges will learn how modern clothing is also being made with reused materials, and they'll have a chance to design their own outfits and model them in a runway-style fashion show.



The event will be held on September 12 at West Mesquite High School. The cost is free and cash prizes will be awarded. Students can apply as late as

the day before the event. To download an application packet visit: www.KeepMesquiteBeautiful.org or www.cityofmesquite.com/volunteer.

Parks and Recreation Corner

Texas Free Style Karate

Thursdays
Evans Recreation Center
Ages 4 and up
\$10/class



Having a proven success record in helping conquer issues such as drugs, gangs and violence, students will be educated with a blend of martial art disciplines (Aikido, Jujitsu, and Tae Kwon-Do) for practical self-defense purposes. Classes range from the novice to experienced.

Recreation After School Program (RASP)

Registration for the 2009 fall session begins August 1. The Recreation After School Program (RASP) offers structured recreation activities from 2:45 to 6 p.m. each school day. Activities include snacks, homework time, crafts, games and physical activities. Each site maintains a 1:15 instructor-to-child ratio. The cost is \$100 per month.

For more information call your local recreation center:

Achziger Elementary School, 972-285-4145
Dunford Recreation Center, 972-279-9285
Goodbar Recreation and Senior Center, 972-279-6881
Florence Recreation Center, 972-216-7790
Rutherford Recreation Center, 972-216-7790
Shaw Gymnasium, 972-288-6293
Thompson Gymnasium and Activity Center, 972-882-7200

Registration for all fall activities and programs is at any recreation center, the Parks and Recreation administrative offices or online at www.cityofmesquite.com. 972-216-6260

Youth Basketball

Boys and girls ages 4 - 12
Begins September 28
\$65



Registration for youth basketball leagues begins September 28. Entry fees are \$65 for Mesquite residents and \$80 for non-residents (fee includes cost of uniform jersey). Volunteers are needed to help coach for the 2009 - 10 season. 972-279-9285 or www.cityofmesquite.com