



Dear Mesquite Resident,

On behalf of the City Council, it is my pleasure to report to you that for the second year in a row your property taxes for City services will not go up, and, due to property re-evaluations, most of you will pay less in City taxes than you paid last year. In other words, you will receive the same bang in City services for fewer bucks.

Due to the economy it was especially important to me to support a budget this year that did not include a tax increase or impact the services you expect. As you can imagine, that was a particularly difficult goal given the financial challenges we are all facing. Many other cities in the Metroplex have announced scale backs in service, taxes hikes or both in order to make ends meet. Fortunately, we will be able to avert that here in Mesquite due to our continued dedication to supporting sound fiscal policies.

The 2009 - 10 proposed budget maintains the council's goal of balancing revenues and expenses while providing the quality community programs and services you have come to enjoy, such as the Real. Texas. Festival., Movies in the Park, and recreational programming for all ages at our local recreation centers and at the Mesquite Arts Center. We are able to do this because this council, and the ones before it, have adhered to a sensible fiscal policy that is constantly aware of changes in the economy and budgets accordingly. This foresight enables us to ensure a balanced budget during tight economic times.

Of course, none of this would be possible if it were not for the support of the community and the people who work for the City. I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank the public safety and general government employees for forgoing pay increases last year to help us build our financial strength this year. That has helped keep the bottom line intact and, without them, Mesquite wouldn't have the Real. Texas. Service. that it does.

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.

OCTOBER

- 2-30 Accentuating the Positive and Negative**, the work of *Terri Stone* will be presented in the Main Gallery. Hours are Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.
- 3 The Mesquite Arts Council** hosts an artist reception for *Terri Stone* in the Main Gallery from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- 9 The Mesquite Arts Council** hosts *Art@Lunch* at the Mesquite Arts Center from noon to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 and includes presentation and lunch. Reservations required. 972-216-6444.
- 12 Texas Area Artist "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
- 17 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** in concert with *MSO POPS!* 972-216-8127.
- 18 Mesquite Symphonic Band** concert begins at 3 p.m. in the concert hall. Tickets are \$5 adults and \$2 students. 972-216-8125.
- 23-11/7 Mesquite Community Theatre** presents, *The Butler Did It* in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets range from \$8 to \$12. 972-216-8126.
- 25 Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas** performs at 4 p.m. Free! Reservations required. 972-216-6444.

FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

- Main Number.....972-288-7711
- Animal Services.....972-216-6283
- Building Inspection972-216-6212
- Environmental Code.....972-216-6276
- Parks and Recreation972-216-6260
- 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

2009-10 City Budget



The figures are in, and they show the 2009 - 10 City budget includes no proposed tax increases.

Mesquite will spend an estimated \$96.8 million during the next fiscal year, which begins October 1. That amount is 4.1 percent less than compared to last year's budget. The

cuts come as a result of decreasing property values brought on by poor demand in the housing market, and flat sales taxes which the City is experiencing due to the poor economy. Fortunately, Mesquite sales taxes are flat, and not down, allowing the City to maintain its current services without layoffs. However, many vacant City jobs will remain unfilled until economic conditions improve.

Budget and financial analysts with the City saw signs of the economic downturn early last year, which helped Mesquite make early preparations for the current financial crisis. At that time, the City froze hiring for more than 30 vacant positions and asked employees to forgo pay increases. Those actions, plus efficiencies found in City departments, allowed Mesquite to meet the \$5 million budget shortfall projected for this year.

Water and wastewater rates will be going up, but consideration was given for seniors and others living on fixed incomes. Because of that, residents who use 1,000 gallons of water or less will see no increase in their water rates, while people who use more than that will see modest increases.

The increased rates for water use are due to many factors including costs passed down from the North Texas Municipal Water District, which is using the money to expand water resources in the region. Money will also be used to continue with Project Renewal's goal of upgrading water lines in the city.

The City's property tax rate is 64 cents per \$100 of property value. Even though the rate is staying the same, many people should notice a decrease in the amount they pay for City taxes since property values in the Dallas area are being adjusted downward.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 5, 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.
- Var. 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.
- 24 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

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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 TarpleyCouncilmember, Place 6



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www.cityofmesquite.com

Prescription Pick-Up Service

Parkland Hospital customers can get prescription drug delivery service through a volunteer program sponsored by the City of Mesquite.

The service is called the Mesquite Special Transportation Program, and every Thursday volunteers drive to the Parkland Hospital Pharmacy to pick up prescriptions and deliver them to residents.



The program has been in operation for more than 10 years, and has served hundreds of seniors in need during that time.

If you would like to take advantage of this service call 972-681-1890, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to register. Only Parkland Hospital patients are eligible for this service.

No Cell Phones in School Zones

As the school year begins, safety workers would like to remind you of the cell phone restriction in place for all MISD school zones.

People caught using cell phones in active school zones can now face a maximum fine of up to \$200 for each offense. The ordinance does include text messaging and use of e-mail, but the use of hands-free devices is allowed.



Legal Placement of Garage Sale Signs

Every weekend you see on the side of the road a sign that points to a sale at some abode.

It's the call of the wild for the father of three Who has filled the adjoining room where his cars used to be.

He takes to some cleaning and thinks in his head, "Why throw this stuff out when I can sell it instead?"

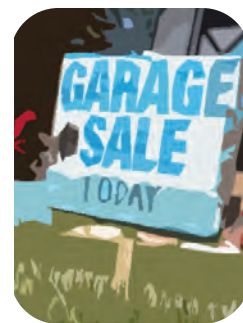
So he goes to the Wal-Mart and buys a new sign. It sells in the utility aisles for \$3.99.

Then he trudges back home to take to the streets To find the best place to advertise his old treats.

But, "No, no, no," says the code enforcement man, Who sees the illegal signs and warns of street spam.

He says, "There are only a few places where your signs ought to be. Just sit right down and listen to me."

You can have it on the premises where the sale is conducted, But not in the median where my view is obstructed.



There's also a limit to the size of the sign, It can be no larger than five square feet or there will be a fine.

There are, of course, other laws and stipulations. We've included them for you below with the correct punctuation.

So please, follow these rules and then you will see A cleaner community for both you and me.

Garage Sale Sign Regulations

1. One sign announcing a garage sale may be displayed on the premises where the sale is being conducted.
2. A maximum of 6 signs giving the location of or direction to a garage sale shall be allowed to be displayed on private property other than the premises where the sale is being conducted.
3. Signs shall not be placed in such a way as to create a traffic hazard. The edge of signs shall be placed no closer than 3 feet from the street curb or edge of the pavement.
4. Signs may be a maximum size of 5 square feet and a maximum height of 40 inches.
5. Signs must be securely anchored and may not be mounted on or placed on vehicles.
6. Signs are prohibited on overpasses, utility poles, trees, medians, signs or other such public property.
7. Garage sales are limited to 2 per year and should not last longer than 3 consecutive days.

Serial Number Registry



A City Web site designed to help Mesquite residents keep track of their property is proving to be a useful tool for people here at home and abroad.

The Web site is called Serial Number Central. It allows people to create a database of the serial numbers from electronics and other equipment in their homes, and archives the information for them in case the property should ever get stolen.

Lt. David Faaborg in the Mesquite Police Department came up with the idea, and the Mesquite Information Technology staff built the site as a community service. Though the program started out as something for Mesquite citizens to use, it has since captured users from across the United States and even from other countries.

The information entered is made available to patrol officers in the field through in-vehicle mobile data computers. If an officer stops a suspicious person and locates property he has reason to believe may have been recently stolen, he can check the serial numbers immediately against the information citizens have entered at Serial Number Central. The rightful owner can then be contacted to determine if the property was indeed taken without consent.

Examples of items whose serial numbers people may want to register are television sets, stereo equipment, lawn equipment, gaming systems, car stereo equipment, cell phones, guns, computers, bicycles, etc.

The service is located on the City's Web site (www.cityofmesquite.com) under the Online Services link. It is free and available regardless of whether or not you live in Mesquite.

Building Report



Major commercial projects recently permitted in the city:

Project	Location	Size	Value
Market East Shopping Ctr (Remodel)	1515 N. Town East Blvd.	338,870 Sq.Ft.	\$4,000,460
Aldi's Grocery (Remodel)	3635 Gus Thomasson Rd.	17,157 Sq.Ft.	\$1,500,000
AMC 30 Theatre (Remodel)	19919 I-635	1,200 Sq.Ft.	\$725,000
Mesquite Rodeo (Remodel)	1818 Rodeo Drive	Not Available	\$600,000

Parks and Recreation Corner

Pumpkin Fest
Saturday, October 17
2 - 10 p.m.
City Lake Park



All ages will enjoy this annual fall festival with crafts, games, rides, costume contests, live music entertainment, a "scary" movie to end the night and great festival food! There will be a small fee for some activities and concessions.
972-216-6260

Haunted Trail Fest
Friday and Saturday, October 23 - 24
7 - 9 p.m.
Camp Rorie-Galloway



Do you dare venture into the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway on a moonlit Halloween's Eve? Gather all of your courage and wear your costumes

for a scary fun time. There will be a small fee for some activities and concessions.

Haunted Family Campout
Saturday, October 24
5 p.m. Saturday-Noon Sunday
Camp Rorie-Galloway
\$25 per family of four
(\$5 per additional family member)

Sure you've got the courage to make it through the haunted woods of Camp Rorie-Galloway, but are you brave enough to last the entire night? The Third Annual Haunted Family Campout will take place at a ghostly Camp Rorie-Galloway. We'll have prizes for the spookiest campsite, not-so-scary stories around the campfire, and smores for all! Breakfast will be served for those that survive!

