MAiNSTREAM

Mayor's Corner

Dear Residents,

The national economy has presented challenging times for some of our residents. There may be a few of your neighbors, family or friends who are in need of some financial guidance. In this month's column, I want to provide a variety of helpful national, regional and local resources.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has many resources on avoiding home foreclosure, mortgage assistance and other related topics. To contact the Dallas Field Office, call 214-767-8300, e-mail TX_Webmanager@hud.gov or visit their website at http://portal.hud.gov/portal/page/portal/HUD/states/texas. The National Contact Center provides answers to questions about the federal government and everyday consumer issues. They can be reached at 1-800-FED-INFO (1-800-333-4636).

Sharing Life Community Outreach, Inc. is an organization which provides benevolent support for those individuals and families in crisis living in Mesquite and Southeast Dallas County. You can contact them at 972-285-5819 or sharinglife@aol.com. Their website is www.sharinglifeoutreach.org.

Mesquite Social Services currently provides crisis relief assistance through the provision of utility assistance, rental/mortgage assistance, food pantry, information referral and holiday assistance to families residing in Mesquite, Balch Springs, Sunnyvale and Seagoville. You can reach them at 972-285-3000 or through their website at www.mesquitesocialservices.org.

Finally, the City's Community Services Department can help you find the appropriate resources as well. The department is located at 1616 N. Galloway Avenue and is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Their phone number is 972-329-8330.

I encourage you to share these resources with any friends or family who have fallen upon difficult financial times, and help them find solutions.

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, or call 972-216-6444.

SEPTEMBER

11 **Mesquite Symphony Orchestra Membership Gala & Concert** featuring the music of Tucker, Still, Beethoven with soloists and chorus of Brookhaven College and Lovers Lane United Methodist Church. Performance begins at 7:30 p.m.

12 **Texas Area Artists** will host their monthly meeting and artist demonstration at 2:00 p.m. in the Rehearsal Hall.

13 **Monthly Paint-In** begins at 10:00 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others.

18 **Mesquite Arts Council** will host a reception for the artists exhibiting in *"Handwoven Fabric: American Tradition / Contemporary Art"* in the Main Gallery from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm.

Get your library card today

September is Library Card Sign-up Month and the Mesquite Public Library System wants to make sure that all children in Mesquite have the smartest card of all – a library card. Public library programming and books for children make a difference in the lives of students. By providing school-age children with engaging programs and amazing collections, students from all backgrounds become excited and enthusiastic readers. "A library card has always been the most important school supply of all. There's a lot happening at Mesquite Public Library. The best part for both children and parents is that in these tough economic times the library's services and programs are free with a library card," says Jeannie Johnson, Library Director.

Getting a library card is easy. Fill out the application at the checkout desk, show your driver's license or state-issued picture ID with your current address and begin using your library card. If you do not have one of these documents, call the Library for other acceptable documentation. Children under 14 must have a parent's signature to obtain a card.

Observed since 1987, Library Card Sign-up Month is a time when the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country remind parents that a library card is the most important school supply of all. For more information on how to sign up for a library card, visit the Mesquite Public Library at 300 West Grubb Drive or call 972-216-6220.

New veterans center opens in Mesquite

Mesquite is home to a new Dallas County Veterans Center. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs opened the center at 502 West Kearney, Suite 300. The center offers an array of support services to military veterans. Normal working hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. However, in an effort to better serve the veteran and family members, the Vet Center will provide services after normal work hours or on weekends upon request.

For more information, call 972-288-8030.

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MAiNSTREAM

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

7, 20	City Council Meeting, 3:00 pm., Council Chambers, 711 N. Galloway Ave.
11	Disaster Movie in the Park, "The Incredibles", 5:00 p.m., Travis Williams Athletic Complex, 1005 New Market Road
13	Mesquite Creative Arts Club monthly meeting, 7:00 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center, 1527 N. Galloway

IN THIS ISSUE

City announces employee recognitions

Get your library card today

Mesquite earns scenic designation

Register your neighborhood watch program

September is National Preparedness Month

During September, the City of Mesquite is recognizing the importance of National Preparedness Month. The goal is to increase public awareness about emergency situations.

Emergencies can occur at anytime. Severe weather, a house fire or major power outages can disrupt a family's daily routines. In the 2009 Citizen Corps National Survey, only 36% of people believed disasters could ever occur in their community. Follow these three simple steps to ensure your family is prepared:

Get a Kit: In a disaster, first responders may not be readily available. It is suggested your emergency kit has enough supplies to sustain you for 72 hours. A personalized kit can aid you in this. Some things to consider for the kit to make it your own:

- Non-perishable food and water for three days
- Battery powered radio and NOAA weather radio
- Local maps
- Medication

Make a Plan: When a disaster occurs, your family may not be at the same location. A plan should be in place for how you will get back together. Planning for different situations can aid you when something actually occurs.

- Identify an out of town contact that everyone calls if something happens
- Printable comprehensive emergency plans can be found online at www.ready.gov

Be Informed: Learn about different disasters that could affect you and your family and make sure that you know how to respond to them.

National Preparedness Month is a great time to start taking steps towards getting prepared. There is protection through preparedness. Let's get ready Mesquite! For more details, call the City Emergency Management Office at 972-329-8532.

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

MESQUITE
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Mesquite asks residents to stay code compliant

Whether you are a homeowner or a renter, understanding and complying with local housing and property maintenance codes can be a daunting task. The City of Mesquite's Environmental Code Division is reminding residents to do their part to keep property values from declining. As the Code Enforcement Officers are conducting their daily inspections, they make note of not only how the overall property looks, but how the house looks as well. Some of the main items they inspect:

1. Painting – Exterior wood or metal surfaces shall be protected from the elements with paint or other protective covering or treatment.

2. Windows, Skylights and Doors – Every window, skylight and door shall be kept in sound condition, good repair and weather tight. This also includes garage doors.

3. Roofs and Gutters – The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions.

4. Decorative Features – If your home has shutters or similar decorative features, they shall be maintained, in good repair with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.

5. Accessory Structures – All accessory structures, including detached garages, storage sheds, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

Taking care of your house not only adds to the curb appeal of your neighborhood, but also adds to the value of the house and property. For more information, please contact the Environmental Code Division at 972-216-6276.

Before

After

Mesquite is a Scenic City

PROUD TO BE
A Certified *Scenic* City

The City of Mesquite has earned Silver Level Scenic City Certification. The Scenic City Certification Program was created by Scenic Texas in partnership with several organizations including the American Planning Association, Texas Municipal League and Urban Land Institute. The program recognizes cities that implements high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and public spaces, with the long-term goal of improving the image of the community.

Cities are evaluated on elements such as their parks and trails, sign regulations, utility line program, design standards and incorporation of trees and landscaping techniques along roadways and parking areas. Mesquite also earned bonus points for its youth education and public awareness programs, the Lawrence Homestead Outdoor Classroom, Butterfly Trail Beautification Project and Historic Tree Preservation Plan.

KMB wins award and will host a fashion show

Keep Mesquite Beautiful

Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. (KMB) was awarded the Sustained Excellence Award during the 2010 Keep Texas Beautiful Conference in Austin, Texas. In order to receive the Sustained Excellence Award, an organization must be in good standing with Keep Texas Beautiful and have achieved a score of 95 or higher on the Governor's Community Achievement Award (GCAA) application.

In other KMB news, the organization will offer the 2nd Annual Recycling Fashion Show on Saturday, September 11, at West Mesquite High School. The show will kick-off at 11:30 a.m. This event is intended to educate the general public about recycling in a fun and interactive environment. Mesquite students of all ages (K - College) are invited to show their created fashion made from recycled materials. Cash prizes will be awarded. To download a registration packet, please visit www.KeepMesquiteBeautiful.org or call KMB at 972-329-8331.

City recognizes employees with special honors

Here are the quarterly Employee Service Champions for Summer 2010. Their dedication to customer service and the community of Mesquite has been recognized by their departments and the City management as exceptional. For more information about each of the winners, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/communications-division/servicechampions.php.

Araseli Vasquez
Streets Secretary

Kevin Curry
Mesquite Police Officer

Mike Ehrlich
Park Planner

Arthur Branch and Brent Gates
Solid Waste

Mesquite neighborhood watch program grows

The Mesquite Police Department has recently seen a rise in the interest by homeowners and subdivisions to participate in the department's Neighborhood Watch Program. The program is a community driven crime prevention tool. It is not designed as a substitute for police protection. Its purpose is to fight crime by actively joining citizens and law enforcement in creating the best crime fighting team possible.

Here are some tips from the Mesquite Police Department on how to start a Neighborhood Watch:

Step 1

- Talk with neighbors and friends.
- Explain you would like to start a group and ask for their participation.
- Define boundaries of the area. (One block captain can effectively oversee 10 - 30 houses or one block.)
- Enlist others to help with the original neighborhood meeting. This will help motivate others.

Step 2

- Contact the Crime Prevention Office at 972-329-8781 or 972-329-8757.
- Coordinate a date, time and location (recreation facility, church or school) with the officer for your first meeting.

Step 3

- Plan your first meeting.
- Try to meet in a convenient place.
- Design a simple flyer and deliver them to every home in the area. DO NOT PLACE NOTICES IN THE MAIL BOXES; without proper postage it is against the law.
- Neighborhood Watch does not require frequent meetings, but we do encourage one meeting each quarter.

Step 4

- Conduct your first meeting.
- Have attendees sign in as they arrive on a Neighborhood Watch log with name, address, contact information and e-mail.
- Refreshments and nametags also create a relaxed atmosphere.
- Have a meeting agenda.

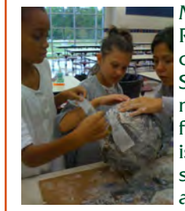
Visit us online at www.cityofmesquite.com

Free movie in the park

As part of National Preparedness Month, the City of Mesquite is offering a free movie-in-the-park event. The City will hold its fourth annual Preparedness at the Park event on Saturday, September 11, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. followed by the movie starting at dusk. It will be held at Travis Williams Athletic Complex, located at 1005 New Market Road. The free event will feature the disaster movie *"The Incredibles"* and will be highlighted by education booths, emergency vehicle displays and other family-friendly activities. It is a great way to get informed about how residents can be prepared for disasters. For details, please call 972-329-8532.

Parks and Recreation Corner

R.A.S.P.



Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department offers a Recreation After School Program (R.A.S.P.) managed by trained and friendly staff. R.A.S.P. is designed to include supervised activities, arts and crafts, snacks and homework time. The program operates in harmony with the MISD calendar and is offered at seven different MISD elementary schools:

- Achziger Elementary School
- Beasley Elementary School
- J.H. Florence Elementary School
- McKenzie Elementary School
- Rutherford Elementary School
- Shaw Elementary School
- Thompson Elementary School

Program hours are from 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. during regular school days and the fees are $80 per month for each student. During MISD school holidays and teacher in-service days, an all-day R.A.S.P. program will be provided. The program will be from 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and the fee is $15 per child for each day.

If you are interested in these programs, please contact the City at 972-216-6260 for further information.