

COMMUNITY CALENDAR OCTOBER 2023

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 **Homeschool Hangout.** Homeschool groups can meet up at the Main Library, 300 W. Grubb, every Monday at noon and participate in a rotating schedule of different activities including a STEM program, LEGOS, family games, and more.
- 7, 14, 21, 28 **Farmers Market,** Downtown Mesquite, Front Street Station, 100 W. Front St., every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy live music, produce and more.
- 2, 16 **City Council meetings,** 7 p.m. at City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Ave. 972-216-6244.
- 9 **Adult Book Club:** Thrillers. Join us for a monthly themed book club at 2 p.m. at the North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive. October's theme is Thrillers. Share your favorite novel or series in October at 2 p.m. and get recommendations of new books to read.
- 14 **Partial Eclipse STEM Party.** Join us as we watch the partial solar eclipse at 10:30 a.m., North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive.
- 19 **Halloween Happenings.** Come to the Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive, for some Halloween Fun. Enjoy a glow room, Halloween crafts and more. Kids can come in their costumes. For ages 12 and under.

For details on City services impacted during holidays, please visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Holidays.

FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

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|----------------------------|--------------|
| Mesquite Municipal Center | 972-288-7711 |
| Animal Services | 972-216-6283 |
| Building Inspection | 972-216-6212 |
| Employment | 972-216-6218 |
| Environmental Code Hotline | 972-216-6276 |
| Main Library | 972-216-6220 |
| Parks and Recreation | 972-216-6260 |
| Planning and Zoning | 972-216-6216 |
| Police Non-Emergency | 972-285-6336 |
| 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 |



STREETS, COMMUNITY CARE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

Tax Rate Election 2023

City Council Election and Proposition A will be held on Nov. 7

The Mesquite City Council unanimously approved the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget on Aug. 21 to add more public safety personnel, more funding for street repairs and reconstruction and for additional services to serve the growing community. The current budget increases the tax rate to 0.69000 per \$100 of ad valorem value. Because of the need for additional revenues to accomplish the goals of the community, state law requires Mesquite voters to approve the tax rate since City revenue will increase by 3.5% or more over last year.

Proposition A will be on the Nov. 7 Ballot for Mesquite voters to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the proposition. If Proposition A is approved by voters, the average homeowner will pay about \$16 more per month in City taxes based on the average property value in Mesquite. The tax rate will not impact property owners who have qualified for the Age 65 or Older Homestead Exemption with their property appraiser. Voter approval of Proposition A will provide revenue for the approved budget that allocates funds for:

- **Streets:** Additional funding for repairs of city streets and alleys and road reconstruction.
- **Community Care:** Funding to establish a Behavioral Health Division to continue funding of the Community Care Team and address homeless, youth programs and other community concerns.
- **Public Safety:** 4 additional Police Officer positions.
- **Public Safety:** 14 additional Fire Department positions for staffing a new fire station (Station No.8) in the Trinity Pointe area of Mesquite.

Proposition A will read as follows on the Ballot:

CITY OF MESQUITE PROPOSITION A

Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.69000 per \$100 valuation in the City of Mesquite, Texas, for the current year, a rate that is \$0.05189 higher per \$100 valuation than the voter-approval tax rate of the City of Mesquite, Texas, for the purpose of increasing staff for the police department, increasing funding for equipment, construction and staffing for the fire department to open Station No. 8 Trinity Pointe, increasing funding for roadway construction and maintenance, establishing a Behavioral Health Division, enhancing city-wide services and competitive pay for public safety personnel. Last year, the ad valorem tax rate in the City of Mesquite, Texas was \$0.65814 per \$100 valuation.

Election for City Council to be held on Nov. 7

The City of Mesquite election, for the purpose of electing a Mayor and Councilmembers for Places 1 – 6, is held in odd-numbered years on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. The next election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023. The following candidates are on the ballot:

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| Mayor – Daniel Alemán, Jr. (Unopposed) | District 4 – Tandy Boroughs (Unopposed) |
| District 1 – Jeff Casper (Unopposed) | District 5 – B.W. Smith Deb Moses |
| District 2 – Kenny Green (Unopposed) | District 6 – Brandon Murden Debbie Anderson Carrie Bruce |
| District 3 – Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross Jennifer Vidler | |



Early voting for the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and the Tax Rate Election begins on Oct. 23. Election day is Nov. 7. Visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Elections for more information.

Lawson Road safety improvements complete

Construction is complete on safety improvements to Lawson Road, part of a larger plan to improve the roadway in the City of Mesquite's southern sector.

The City was awarded a Highway Safety Improvement Program grant of \$400,000 for improvements, adding three feet of shoulder and a safety guardrail on both sides of Lawson Road between East Cartwright Road and Milam Road. The total cost for the project, which began in Dec. 2022, was \$959,480.

The recently completed project is part of the City's planned improvements for Lawson Road. The City performed a preliminary route study to determine options to widen Lawson Road from two to four lanes from Interstate 20 to U.S. Highway 80. The study will guide selection and prioritization of construction projects in the future.



240+ kids read hundreds of thousands of pages in Mesquite Mayor's summer challenge

Mesquite kids read hundreds of thousands of pages this summer thanks to a reading contest started by Mayor Daniel Alemán, Jr.

In June, Mayor Alemán launched the inaugural Mesquite Mayor 1,000-Page Reading Challenge program for readers ages 5-12. The contest, which ran through July 31, was accessible even to the city's youngest readers as participants could read independently or have pages read to them. Attendance at the Mesquite Public Library System's weekly Story Time also counted toward pages read.

Out of the 775 readers who participated in the Library's Summer Reading Club, more than 240 participants qualified by reading at least 1,000 pages to attend a celebratory pizza party on Aug. 5 at Mesquite's Main Library.

"I'm so excited that this many kids rose to the challenge," Mayor Alemán said. "Our goal was for families to be involved together to keep kids reading over the summer. Our kids are ready to be successful this school year because they kept their minds engaged and read all summer long."

In addition to the challenge wrap party, readers were rewarded for every 250 pages they completed and logged using the Library's READsquared tracker program. Smaller prizes included choosing and keeping a book from the library, a beach ball, games, and coupons to Raising Cain's, Whataburger and Texas Roadhouse restaurants.

The Mesquite Public Library System offers year-round programs for readers of all ages. To learn more, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Library.





After School Adventures

After School Adventures (ASA) is an after-school program for children in kindergarten through sixth grade offered at seven different locations. New this year at Dunford Recreation Center is Hang Time for teens in sixth to eighth grade from 3:40-6 p.m. The ASA program operates in conjunction with the Mesquite Independent School System calendar and is managed by trained staff. It offers a range of fun and engaging activities, including arts and crafts, snacks, and dedicated homework time, Monday through Friday, 3-6 p.m. The monthly cost is \$100 for residents and \$110 for non-residents. For more information, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/ASA.



Youth Basketball League

Aspiring basketball players, ages five to 14, are invited to dribble their way into the Youth Basketball Winter League. The cost is \$70 per player. Registration is open through Sunday, Oct. 22 and games begin Saturday, Dec. 9. The league consists of seven league games and teams will participate in an end of season tournament. Player fees include a jersey and player card for both divisions. Winter League is split into two divisions: Division 1 (Competitive) and Division 2 (Recreational). Registration is available online at www.cityofmesquite.com/Basketball or in person at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1515 N. Galloway Ave.



PumpkinFest

The City's annual PumpkinFest event will be held on Oct. 21, from noon to 5 p.m. at Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road. There will be activities for all ages to enjoy including inflatables, food vendors, face painting, costume contest for people and pets, Pumpkin Pie eating contest, a hay maze and hayride. The event is free to enter, however, some activities will have a small fee. For more information about the event, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/PumpkinFest.

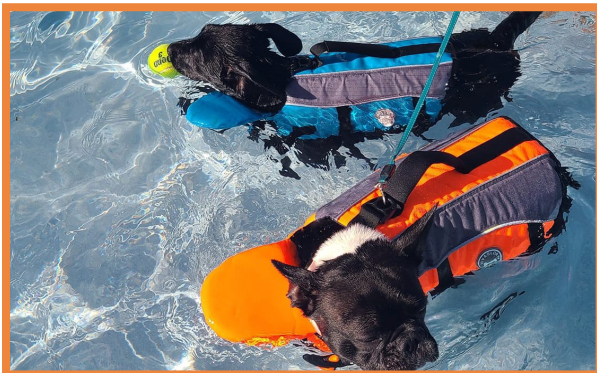
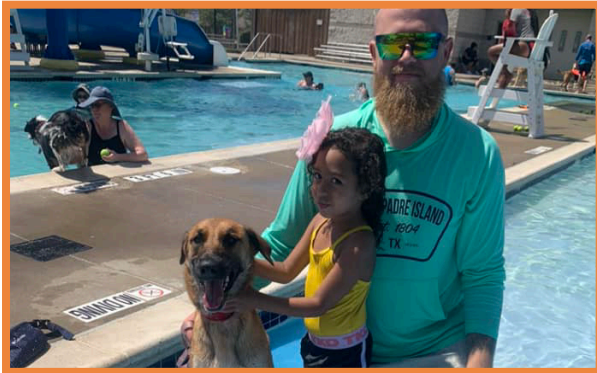


Westlake Sports Center

A variety of sports programs for all ages are offered throughout the fall season at Westlake Sports Center, 601 Gross Road, including pickleball, archery, soccer tennis and tennis. Try Couples Archery, an introductory class for ages 17+ that runs Oct. 7-28 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. A free Pickleball Social Night with refreshments will also be offered on Oct. 10 from 6-9 p.m. or try out the new Soccer Tennis Leagues for ages 5+ from Sept. 24-Nov. 12. Visit www.cityofmesquite.com/WestlakeSportsCenter for a complete list of programs.

Community Snapshots:

On Aug. 5, the City of Mesquite's 17th Annual Doggie Splash Day was held from 9 a.m. to noon at Vanston Pool. Doggie swimmers had access to the wading pool and lap pool. Dogs also got to compete for prizes in the pet swimsuit contest, diving contest, paddle race, and a trick or talent contest.



MESQUITE
ARTS
CENTER

The Mesquite Arts Center is located at 1527 N. Galloway Ave. For more information on any of these events, please call 972-216-8132 or visit www.mesquiteartscenter.org.



Oct. 15 The Mesquite Community Band will present "Things That Go Bump in the Night" at 4 p.m. in the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. This is a free event.



Oct. 28 Enjoy an evening with the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra as they perform "The Adventures of Youth" at 7:30 p.m. in the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall. Tickets available for purchase at www.mesquitesymphony.org.



Oct. 28 Join the Mesquite Arts Council as they celebrate Dia de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) from 4-7 p.m. A variety of kid's activities, cultural entertainment, and visual experiences will be offered to educate the public on this Mexican holiday. This event is free and will be located on the perimeter of the Mesquite Arts Center's outside space and inside the facility.



Oct. 30 Tote-and-Go Services. Free pick-up at noon inside the Mesquite Arts Center lobby. First-come, first-served. Providing 100 kits per week.



@MesqArtsCenter

CITY COUNCIL

www.cityofmesquite.com/citycouncil

Daniel Alemán Jr., Mayor

Jeff Casper, District 1
Jennifer Vidler, District 3
B.W. Smith, District 5

Kenny Green, District 2
Tandy Boroughs, District 4
Debbie Anderson, District 6