



MAINSTREAM

www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 2015

- 1** Christmas on the Square, Historic Downtown Mesquite, 5 - 7 p.m. The tree will be lit at 5:30 p.m., Mesquite Parks and Recreation at 972-216-6260.
- 7, 21** City Council Meetings at City Hall, 7 p.m., 757 N. Galloway Avenue. 972-216-6244.
- 25** City Holiday, City facilities closed.

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

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 |

In this Issue

- Mayor's Column
- Did You Know?
- Community Snapshots

Christmas in the Park is scheduled for December 3 - 5 in Westlake Park

The City of Mesquite Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce the 29th Annual Christmas in the Park. The event will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday (December 3 - 5) at Westlake Park, 600 Gross Road. Kick-off festivities take place 6 - 9 p.m. on Thursday, highlighted by the tree lighting ceremony and the arrival of Santa Claus. Friday hours are 6 - 9 p.m. and Saturday hours are 3 - 9 p.m. Plan to bring your pets for pictures with Santa on Saturday, from 3 - 5 p.m. The park will be filled with festive lights, holiday cheer and fun for all ages. The event will include music and dance groups on the main stage, food vendors, a live nativity scene, hayrides, hot drinks, Mrs. Claus' cookies, letters to Santa, a Yule log and much more. There will also be costumed holiday characters greeting the crowd. And no Christmas celebration is complete without Santa Claus, who will make his appearance each evening of the event.



 www.facebook.com/mesquitetexas

 www.instagram.com/cityofmesquite

 www.twitter.com/cityofmesquite

 www.pinterest.com/cityofmesquite

 Nextdoor

 www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas



Stan Pickett
Mayor



Greg Noschese
Mayor Pro Tem,
Place 5



Bruce Archer
Deputy Mayor Pro
Tem, Place 3



Bill Porter
Councilmember
Place 1



Jeff Casper
Councilmember
Place 2



Shirley Roberts
Councilmember
Place 4



Dennis Tarpley
Councilmember
Place 6



MAYOR'S CORNER

On behalf of the entire City Council, I want to thank the community for their support of the 2015 Addressing Mesquite Day. Held on Saturday, October 10, more than 100 homeowners received help. City staff, along with non-profit groups, civic clubs, businesses and churches, volunteered their time to help those in need. The volunteers did minor home repairs, landscaping, painting and built wheelchair ramps. The recipients of these good deeds were the elderly, the disabled, single-parent homes and others in need of assistance. In addition to the volunteers, the business community was a tremendous supporter of the day with various kinds of donations and contributions. The 2015 Addressing Mesquite Day was a tremendous success and I applaud the community for their collective efforts.

Stan H. Pickett

Stan Pickett
Mayor



Members of the City Council and volunteers from Gospel Tabernacle Church celebrate the 100th home of Addressing Mesquite Day 2015 with homeowner and military veteran Sherica Redrick.

Mesquite Police Department shares tips from MADD: how to prevent someone from driving drunk

Many people enjoy alcoholic beverages around the Thanksgiving holidays, but if they over indulge and drive, the consequences can be deadly. If you are faced with a situation where someone who's impaired is trying to drive, here are some tips from Mothers Against Drunk Driving on how to stop them:

- Be as non-confrontational as possible.
- Suggest alternate ways of getting to their destination such as a cab or a sober driver.
- Remember the person you are talking to is impaired, so talk a bit more slowly and explain things more fully than if you were speaking to a sober person.
- Explain that you don't want them to drive because you care and you don't want them to hurt themselves or others.
- Suggest that they sleep over.
- Enlist a friend to help you or to act as moral support as it's more difficult to say "no" to two people than one.
- If possible, get the person's keys. It is far easier to persuade the potential driver when you hold this leverage.

Talkin' Turf with Travis

Here are landscaping tips from Travis E. Sales, the City's Manager of Park Services and Municipal Arborist. *If you have questions or concerns about your landscape, please feel free to contact Travis at tsales@cityofmesquite.com or check out more tips at www.cityofmesquite.com/travis.*

Q: Why is my tree turning brown in patches?

A: There are a variety of reasons for brown patches. The main cause, especially March through November, is our little friend the Gray Squirrel. Squirrels will go throughout the canopy of trees and strip the bark off the small tree limbs. The result is the limb dies from the point of damage to the tip of the branch. The cambium layer that provides nutrients to the leaves has been damaged. This is only an aesthetic problem. There are no short- or long term-impacts to the tree. Simply prune the damaged limb.



Mesquite Animal Services hosts Angel Tree program

As the holiday season approaches, Mesquite Animal Services would like to give the community an opportunity to give a unique gift. Consider giving the gift of a happy home to a shelter pet. The Animal Services Angel Tree provides a way for residents to sponsor the adoption fee to a pet of their choice. Sponsorships range from \$35 - \$100. The program will run from November 28 - December 31. For more information please visit www.cityofmesquite.com/animal or call 972-216-6283.

Mesquite adds 16 new police officers

The Mesquite Police Department recently announced the addition of 16 new police officer recruits. These additional police officers will bring the total number of sworn officers to 231. These 16 additional officers will continue to put the department above its authorized strength of 1.5 police officers per 1,000 residents as outlined in the City Charter. The 16 recruits began the department's police academy in October and are scheduled to graduate in the spring of 2016.



Prevent clogged pipes and sewer backups

The City of Mesquite reminds residents to keep leftover grease and food scraps out of the drain. Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) is the residue left over from cooking meats, butters, lard, food scraps, sauces, dressings, dairy products and cooking oil. FOG and debris poured down drains can build up in pipes and cause backups in both private and the City-maintained sewer system. To avoid expensive plumbing repairs and damage to the sewer system:

- Scrape or wipe cooled grease or fat from all dishware and cookware and place in the trash.
- Pour or scrape grease into a sturdy closed-lid container, such as a coffee can and dispose of it in the trash.
- Recycle large amounts of cooking oil or grease at the Dallas County Household Hazardous Waste facility located at 11234 Plano Road.



Parks and Recreation Corner

For more information on any of these programs, please call 972-216-6260 or visit www.cityofmesquite.com/pard.

Geocaching

Join the World's largest treasure hunt. Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor treasure hunting game using GPS-enabled devices. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache (container) hidden at that location. To find hidden treasures here in Mesquite, visit www.CityofMesquite.com/geo.

Winter Camp

During winter break, send your kids to Dunford or Rutherford Recreation Center for a day or week of fun. Session 1 is December 21 - 24 and Session 2 is December 28 - 31. Camp is open each day 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The fee is \$16 per day or \$60 per week. Payment is due the Thursday before camp or a \$10 late fee is applied. Participants must bring a water bottle and sack lunch.



Ice Camp

If the Mesquite Independent School District is closed for inclement weather, please remember Dunford Recreation Center will be open for elementary aged children from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. for \$16 per day.

Little Rookies Basketball



Registration for Little Rookies Basketball for children ages 3 - 4 is from December 7 - January 9. Sessions will begin January 9 at Dunford Recreation Center. Three session times are available: 9, 10 or 11 a.m. The fee is \$35 per player. Parent participation is required.

Mesquite 50+ Dance

Scot over to Evans Recreation Center on December 11 for the Mesquite 50+ Dance with live music from Lone Star Express. Free dance lessons begin at 6 p.m. The dance will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$6 per person at the door.



Mesquite Arts Center Activities

The Mesquite Arts Center is located at 1527 N. Galloway.

For details on events, programs and facility reservations, call 972-216-6444 or visit www.mesquiteartscenter.org

Mesquite Community Theatre presents *“Inspecting Carol”* - A “Christmas Carol” meets “The Government Inspector” meets “Noises Off” in this hilarious hit from Seattle.

November 20, 21 and December 4, 5, 11, 12 at 8 p.m.

November 22 and December 6 at 2:30 p.m.

Please visit www.mesquitecommunitytheatre.com to purchase tickets.

Mesquite Arts Council presents *Kraig Parker: World Premier Elvis Tribute*

December 17 at 7 p.m. in the Mesquite Arts Center Concert Hall.

Tickets are \$15 and sold at the door.

Mesquite Police Department supports Santa Cop Toy Drive

The community is invited to support the annual Santa Cop Toy Drive on Saturday, December 5, at Agape Home Health and Hospice, 18770 LBJ Freeway, by donating an unwrapped toy for children in need. The event will be held from 1 - 4 p.m. and features a variety of activities.



www.agapehomehealth.com

18770 LBJ FWY
Mesquite, TX 75150
972-681-5959

Saturday, December 5th
1pm to 4pm

Bring an unwrapped toy to Agape Home Healthcare and help support the Mesquite Police Department Santa Cop Toy Drive.

Sponsored by:





*See Santa *Cookies *Entertainment *Hot Chocolate *Football Toss

Community Snapshots



On October 2, Mayor Stan Pickett stopped by Pirrung Elementary to show the City of Mesquite's support for National Walk to School Day.



On October 3, local Eagle Scouts volunteered their time to install new crushed granite on the walking trail at the cemetery located at City Lake Park.



In October, a 94-year-old Mesquite resident Vivian Martin rode the zip line at Camp Rorie-Galloway during the Adults 50+ program Adventure Camp.