



MAINSTREAM

www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

November 2014

3, 17

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall, Council Chambers, 757 N. Galloway, 972-216-6244

28 - 29

Texas Motorsports Expo and Texas Longhorn Shootout, Rodeo Center's Expo Hall and Mesquite Arena, 1818 Rodeo Dr., will host the 25th Texas Motorsport Expo and the 5th Annual Longhorn Shootout, featuring go karts and mini-sprints. www.texasmotorsportexpo.com

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

www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas

www.pinterest.com/cityofmesquite

www.twitter.com/cityofmesquite

www.facebook.com/mesquitetexas

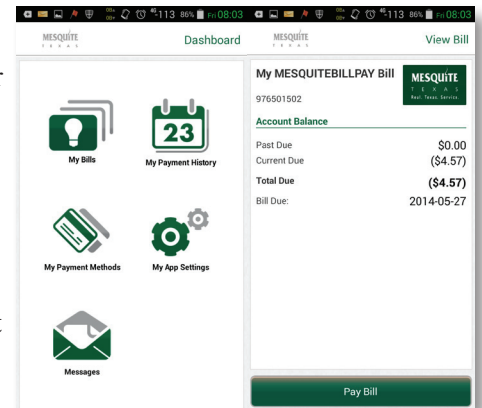
www.instagram.com/cityofmesquite

New water rates and utility bills will start in November

In November, the City of Mesquite will launch new tiered water rates and a new look for water bills sent to utility bill customers. The new rates will be used to encourage water conservation during extreme drought conditions like what North Texas has been experiencing the past few years. The more water a customer uses, the more they will pay for the water. On average, the typical Mesquite homeowner could see a decline in their water bill as the tiered rates are higher for larger consumption customers.

Also, the City will implement a new utility billing system in November. Water and sewer customers should be on the lookout for these enhancements:

- New bill format
- Improved online payment options
- New smart phone app for bill payment
- New customer account number format



In this Issue

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



John Monaco
Mayor



Al Forsythe
Mayor Pro Tem,
Place 2



Greg Noschese
Deputy Mayor Pro
Tem, Place 5



Bill Porter
Councilmember
Place 1



Bruce Archer
Councilmember
Place 3



Shirley Roberts
Councilmember
Place 4



Dennis Tarpley
Councilmember
Place 6



MAYOR'S CORNER

I am happy to announce Mesquite's expanded transit options have begun! Starting October 1, the City and STAR Transit began offering transit service to all residents of Mesquite.

I also want to thank all the staff at STAR Transit for the tremendous effort they have put forth in helping us transition from MTED (Mesquite Transportation for the Elderly and Disabled) to the expanded service now available. STAR Transit partnered with City staff to host public information meetings last month and have truly embraced the needs of our citizens. Furthermore, STAR Transit has offered the services of Client Advocates to address any questions and special requests of our Mesquite passengers.

Moving forward, I truly encourage our citizens to give STAR Transit a try. And, do not forget, we are still providing COMPASS (City of Mesquite Passenger Shuttle) service to Dallas Area Rapid Transit's Lawnview station. You can learn more about both STAR and COMPASS services at www.cityofmesquite.com/star.

John Monaco, Mayor



Bennye Rice is one of the STAR Transit Client Advocates available to assist passengers.

Mesquite Metro Airport employees earn unique certification

Recently, the Mesquite Metro Airport staff earned Line Service Training Certification through the aviation fuel company, AVFUEL. The training included fuel testing and safety as well as the operation of large tanker trucks in an airport environment. The employees had to successfully pass both written and field testing. This certification assures pilots the airport is committed to safety.



City Manager Ted Barron and Assistant City Manager Jerry Dittman (far right) congratulate Airport employees James Mitchell, Juan Gonzalez, Jason Hays, Jimmy Bronson and Gary Harris on their certifications.

Technical Assistance Available at the Mesquite Library

Whether it is showing customers how to download an eBook, setting up an account to read digital magazines or demonstrating the new streaming movies, "Tech Thursdays" offer Mesquite Library visitors the chance for individual instruction with Technical Services Librarian Susan Harding. The

program will be held at the North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive, on the second Thursday of the month and at the Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive, on the third Thursday of the month. Sessions will be held on those days from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m.

Mesquite Recycles Day - November 8

The Mesquite Recycles Day will be held on Saturday, November 8, 8 a.m. - noon in the front parking lot of Poteet High School, 3300 Poteet Drive. This free service is provided to Mesquite residents. The following list of items will be accepted: gently used eye glasses, gently used books, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, and books on tape, used cellular phones, cellular phone batteries and accessories, used laser and ink jet printer cartridges, and used rechargeable batteries, gently used clothing, handbags, linens, towels, gently used toys and household items, tires and used appliances, e-waste (computers, monitors, televisions, printers, any electronic device) and documents for shredding (shredding will be done off-site). Paint, oil and chemicals will NOT be accepted.



For more information, visit www.keepmesquitebeautiful.org or call 972-329-8331.

Did You Know?

This is a monthly section to offer readers a brief insight into the City's operations, service and programs.

Did you know FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease) and debris poured down drains can build up in pipes and cause backups in both private and the City-maintained sewer system? FOG is the residue left over from cooking meats, butters, lard, food scraps, sauces, dressings, dairy products and cooking oil. To avoid expensive plumbing repairs and damage to the sewer system, consider these tips:

- scrape or wipe cooled grease or fat from all dishware/ cookware and place in the trash.
- pour or scrape grease into a sturdy closed-lid container, like 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 Rd, Dallas.

Talkin' Turf with Travis

An Apple Oak Gall is caused by an egg being laid in the leaf of an Oak by a wasp. The resulting gall is the tree's reaction to the chemical that was injected. The gall causes no harm and can be pulled off easily by hand. A tiny hole will appear where the adult wasp emerges. For more yard tips or landscaping questions, contact City of Mesquite Certified Arborist Travis Sales at 972-216-8121 or tsales@cityofmesquite.com.



Proper Tree Planting and Care November 15

The City of Mesquite and Keep Mesquite Beautiful, Inc. will begin their free Environmental Workshop series with Proper Tree Planting and Care on Saturday, November 15, from 9:30 - 11 a.m. at the Dr. Richard R. Russell Planetarium, 2501 Memorial Boulevard. Municipal Arborist Travis Sales will teach proper tree selection and planting for North Texas, as well as proper watering, pruning, common insect issues and diseases. A tree list will be provided. To register, call 972-329-8331 or email pswiney@cityofmesquite.com. For more information, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/utilities.



Parks and Recreation Corner

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

Recreation After School Program (RASP)



RASP is an after school program for children in grades K – 6th. During school holidays and teacher in-service days, an all-day RASP program is provided from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. at Dunford and Rutherford Recreation Centers. The fee is \$16 per child, per day. Camps are \$60 per week. Participants must bring a water bottle and sack lunch.

Fall All-Day RASP Date: October 27

Fall RASP Camp: Turkey Camp: November 24 - 26 and 28

Adults 50+ Dance

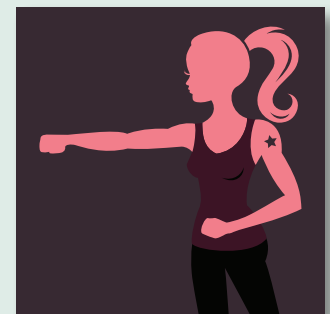
Join us for "The Gold River Band," dancing, friendship and light refreshments. Dress is casual and the music is country. Cost is \$6 per person. It will be held Friday, November 14, 7 - 9 p.m. at Evans Recreation Center, 1116 Hillcrest. Free waltz lessons are taught from 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Insanity

A new class has come to Florence Recreation Center, 2501 Whitson Way, on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 - 8 p.m. Insanity is a high-intensity interval class made up of cardio, strength and endurance training. Fees are \$25 per month or \$5 drop-in.

Women's Basic Self-Defense Class

Women learn self-defense moves to deal with physical threats in today's world. It addresses mental, physical and emotional challenges.



This course is offered for ages 14+ at Florence Recreation Center, 2501 Whitson Way, on Mondays from 6 - 7 p.m. for \$30 per month.

Community Snapshots

Mesquite Arts Center Activities

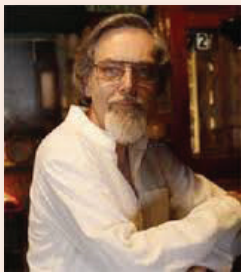
The Mesquite Arts Center is located at
1527 N. Galloway.

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

Mesquite Symphony Orchestra,
Pops Concert, November 8, 7:30 p.m.,
Concert Hall

A pops concert presenting Americana
and military-themed works, including
marches and fanfares.

Mesquite Arts Council presents Johnny
Case and the Texas Swingtet, November
14, 7:30 p.m., Concert Hall. The Texas
Swingtet performs unique southwestern-
style dance music.



Mesquite Community Theater presents
“A Tuna Christmas” November 7 - 23
and December 4 - 6
8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays;
2:30 p.m. Sundays, Black Box Theater.
It’s Christmas in the third smallest town
in Texas. Join in the holiday fun with this
laugh-filled evening.



During September, STAR Transit and the City held a series of public information meetings on the expanded transit services available in Mesquite.



On September 11, the Mesquite Fire Department and Mesquite Police Department co-hosted a 9/11 Memorial ceremony at Fire Station No. 1.



On September 2, the City Council recognized the Parks and Recreation Department with the 2014 Playful City Award which was presented by KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit dedicated to creating great play spaces through the participation and leadership of communities.