

**COMMUNITY
CALENDAR
DECEMBER 2023**

- 4, 18 **City Council meetings**, 7 p.m. at City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Ave. 972-216-6244.
- 4, 11 **Homeschool Hangout: STEM/LEGOS.** Homeschool groups can meet up at the Main Library, 300 West Grubb Drive, at noon and participate in a rotating schedule of different activities including a STEM program and LEGOS.
- 11 **Book Club for Adults:** Books with Happy Endings. Join a monthly themed book club at 2 p.m., North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive. Share your favorite novel or series and get recommendations for new books to read.
- 20 **Winter Crafts for all ages.** Celebrate the holidays with fun winter crafts, including making your own Christmas tree ornament at 4 p.m., Main Library, 300 West Grubb Drive.
- 22 **Christmas Eve (Observed).** All City offices and facilities closed with exception of the Mesquite Metro Airport, Recreation Centers, Solid Waste, the Compost Facility and Convenience Center. Trash will be collected, but recycling will not be collected. Collection will resume on residents' next scheduled collection day.
- 25 **Christmas Day.** All City offices and facilities closed with exception of the Mesquite Metro Airport and Recreation Centers. No trash or recycling collected. Collection will resume on residents' next scheduled collection day.

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

**FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY
PHONE NUMBERS**

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



**Mesquite earns highest level of
2023 Scenic City award designation**

Mesquite recently earned the highest designation from Scenic Texas certification program for the City's demonstrated commitment to high-quality scenic standards for public roadways and spaces.

City officials received the 2023 Platinum Scenic City Certification award in Dallas during the Texas Municipal League's Annual Conference on Oct. 5.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from Scenic Texas," said City Manager Cliff Keheley. Maintaining an attractive community has long been a strategic goal and objective of the City Council. A clean, attractive city helps to boost property values, economic development opportunities and the quality of life in a community."

The Scenic City program evaluates and recognizes Texas municipalities that implement standards that create a more scenic environment in their communities, which could include creating scenic roadways, preserving historic sites or improving parks and green spaces.

Mesquite is one of 23 cities in Texas to earn certifications in 2023. Certification is for five years and is awarded based on a comprehensive assessment of existing city ordinances for landscaping, tree planting, and sign regulation.

Mesquite has earned four consecutive certifications and has been a certified Scenic City since the program began in 2010.

"Scenic City Certification shines a light on Mesquite's strong commitment to high-quality municipal standards, scenic conservation, and public spaces," said Brenda Dees, executive director of Scenic Texas. "This recognition is intended to support cities that have a long-range vision, and high-quality municipal standards, and we hope it incentivizes other Texas cities to follow Mesquite's example."

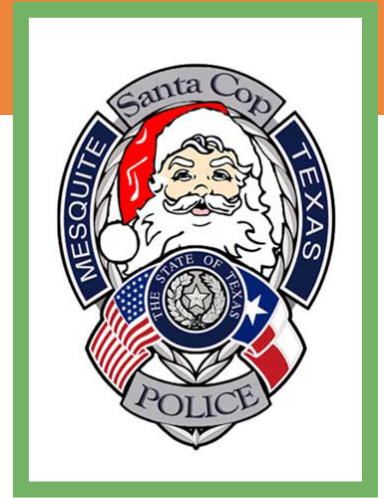
For more information about Scenic Texas, visit www.scenictexas.org.

Mesquite Police Department Santa Cop Program

The Mesquite Police Department Santa Cop Toy Program is an annual event that began more than 40 years ago. The mission and purpose of the Santa Cop Toy Program is to provide assistance during the Christmas season to disadvantaged children and families in Mesquite and the surrounding communities served by the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD).

Patrol officers and MISD school counselors select the families in need. Once they have been selected, they attend a Christmas holiday presentation involving Mesquite Police Officers, MISD school district personnel, Citizens Police Academy volunteers, students and many more community volunteers. Last year the program provided gifts for more than 1,200 children from over 380 different families.

To learn more and find out how you can help, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/SantaCop.



Largest dog park in Mesquite opens at Copeland Park Leash Free Zone

Dog owners and their canine companions have a new space to play at the City of Mesquite's largest dog park – the Leash Free Zone at Copeland Park.

The 2.5-acre space is designed to take advantage of the natural landscape and trees at Copeland Park. The Leash Free Zone is divided into two separate spaces for large and small dogs and offers restrooms, a shaded seating area, dog washing station and dog training agility equipment.

Opening the Leash Free Zone is the first phase of development for Copeland Park, located at 2250 Creek Crossing Road. The next phase will include a playground, picnic pavilion, and nature walking trails. Copeland Park will be 11 acres total when completed.

Plans for Copeland Park began almost 10 years ago. In 2014, siblings Buddy Copeland and Ruth Ann Copeland Buchanan donated 40 acres of the family's land to the City. Twenty acres was set aside for future park development. The land had been in the Copeland family for more than 100 years.

"Thank you to the Copeland family and to the citizens who pushed for this park. We are excited that the dreams and plans for Copeland Park are becoming a reality," said Councilmember Debbie Anderson. New residents coming to the City are looking for quality amenities like dog parks and splash pads. Both of which – I'm proud to say – have opened in Creek Crossing this year."

Mesquite is home to two other dog parks, the Leash Free Zone at Town East Park and the Leash Free Zone at Alcott Station Park. To learn more about the rules for humans and pets at Mesquite's Leash Free Zones, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/LeashFreeZone.



Real. Texas. Holidays.

Real. Texas. Holidays. is a round-up of the City of Mesquite's festive family-friendly events. Get in the holiday spirit with celebrations including everything from historic events with Father Christmas to a straight-out-of-a-movie tree lighting on the downtown square complete with gazebo. Experience Christmas in the Park with hot cocoa, free pictures with Santa, and savor the sights and sounds of the season at the Mesquite Arts Center with holiday plays and music from our local symphony and band. Enjoy a hometown holiday like none other in the Rodeo Capitol of Texas with Real. Texas. Holidays. Featured events are as follows.



Christmas on the Square Tree Lighting

Time: 5 to 8 p.m.

Date: Nov. 28

Location: Heritage Square, 100 Broad Street

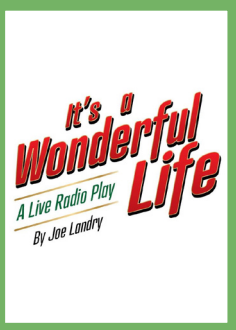


Christmas at the Ranch

Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Date: Dec. 9

Location: Florence Ranch Homestead, 1424 Barnes Bridge Road



It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show

Time: 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Date: Dec. 1 – 17 (Friday, Saturday, and Sunday performances)

Location: Black Box Theatre at the Mesquite Arts Center



Mesquite Community Band: The Sounds of the Season

Time: 7 to 8 p.m.

Date: Dec. 9

Location: Concert Hall at the Mesquite Arts Center



Christmas in the Park

Time: 2 to 7 p.m.

Date: Dec. 2 and 3

Location: Westlake Park, 600 Gross Road



Mesquite Symphony Orchestra: A Winter Celebration

Time: 5 to 6:30 p.m., and 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Date: Dec. 16

Location: Concert Hall at Mesquite Arts Center

VISIT

www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasHolidays

for more information on all events.

Community Snapshots:

On Oct. 21, the City hosted its annual PumpkinFest at Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Road. The free event featured a new hay maze and hay ride this year as well as traditional favorites such as music and dance performances, a magic show, a Children's Costume Contest, Pumpkin Pie Eating Contest, inflatables, carnival rides, and more.



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.



Now - Dec. 17 Playground in Terlingua exhibition. The works of Winter Rusiloski and Angel Fernandez explore space and play through sculptures, paintings, photographs, and video, all generated in the context of their remote studio playground in the high desert of Big Bend. Free admission.

It's a Wonderful Life
A Live Radio Play
By Joe Landry

Dec. 1 - 17 It's a Wonderful Life Radio Show. Please join the Mesquite Arts Theatre as they present their Christmas season performance inside the Mesquite Arts Center's Black Box Theatre. Tickets are available at www.mesquiteartstheatre.org.



Facility Rental. The Mesquite Arts Center is the perfect location for any event you might want to host. Select the setting that works best for you including the Concert Hall, Rehearsal Hall, Black Box Theatre, Library, or Conference Room. Please contact us at arts@cityofmesquite.com for more details.



@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