



MAINSTREAM

www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 2013

1, 15

City Council Meeting

3 p.m., Council Chambers,
757 N. Galloway, 972-216-6244

6

Landscape Basics Free Workshop,

Location/Time TBD,
Pre-register at 972-329-8300 or
kfonvill@cityofmesquite.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



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www.facebook.com/mesquitetexas



www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas

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Real. Texas. Festival. is scheduled for April 26 - 27

The City of Mesquite will host its annual event, the Real. Texas. Festival., on Friday, April 26 (5 p.m. - 11 p.m.) and Saturday, April 27 (10 a.m. - 11 p.m.) at Rodeo Center located at 1818 Rodeo Drive. Tickets are \$20 at the gate. Pre-sale tickets are \$10 and will be available March 22 - April 14. Parking is free.

This year's musical line-up will feature Pat Green on April 26 and Kevin Fowler on April 27, both performing at 9:30 p.m. There will also be the Cowboys and Chrome Car Show, BBQ Cook-off, Mesquite Championship Rodeo, youth basketball tournament featuring a free clinic by Nancy Lieberman, amusement rides and more. For more information, visit www.realtexasfestival.com.



Pat Green - April 26



Kevin Fowler - April 27



John Monaco
Mayor



Stan Pickett
Mayor Pro Tem
Place 3



Shirley Roberts
Deputy Mayor
Pro Tem, Place 4



Bill Porter
Councilmember
Place 1



Al Forsythe
Councilmember
Place 2



Greg Noschese
Councilmember
Place 5



Dennis Tarpley
Councilmember
Place 6



MAYOR'S CORNER

During my annual State of the City Address in February I was able to recognize our employees of the Year and the Pillar of the Community. Captain Doug Preston was honored as the Fire Officer of the Year, Officer Dustin Chautin was chosen as the Police Officer of the Year and Corina Stovall of the Community Development Department was named the General Government Employee of the Year. All three of these employees have displayed an unwavering commitment to our organization and service to our citizens. Jeann Wisenbaker was selected as the 2012 Pillar of the Community. Her tireless dedication as a volunteer to numerous community causes and organizations has truly helped make Mesquite a better place to work, live and play. I am honored to have had the unique privilege of recognizing all of these individuals and ask that you join me in once again congratulating all of them for their efforts and contributions to the City of Mesquite.

John Monaco, Mayor



Mayor Monaco presents the Pillar of the Community Award to Jeann Wisenbaker.

COMPASS celebrates first year of operation

COMPASS (City Of Mesquite Passenger Shuttle) will celebrate its first birthday this March. During its first year of operation, COMPASS connected nearly 30,000 passengers to the regional public transportation system via the DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) Lawnview Station. The number of Mesquite citizens that are using COMPASS to commute to work continues to steadily rise, especially because the fare (\$7/day) remains unchanged while fuel prices increase. Recent changes to the service include a later return trip and an option for overnight parking at the Hanby Park & Ride for those citizens who work a late evening shift. Residents who commute to employers near transit stops should consider trying COMPASS to reduce their commuting stress, save money and make new friends. For additional information on COMPASS, go to www.cityofmesquite.com/compass.



COMPASS was launched March 12, 2012.

Use of cell phones in school zones is illegal

Drivers are using cell phones in their vehicles more than ever before. Research of cell phone use while driving has revealed that 25 percent of all accidents are caused by drivers who were distracted by talking on their phones. People who text while driving also experience an increased risk of being involved in an automobile accident. Accidents involving texting while driving account for approximately 6,000 deaths and nearly half a million injuries each year. Texas lawmakers recognized the dangers associated with cell phone usage and distracted driving. In 2009 legislation was approved making it illegal to use cell phones (without hands-free devices) in an active school zone. The maximum fine for using a cell phone in an active school zone is \$200 plus court costs. To reduce the risk of a distraction-related crash, drivers are encouraged to only use a cell phone if it is in hands-free mode and to never text while driving. If it is necessary to read or respond to a text message, stop the vehicle in a safe location, respond to the text and then resume driving.



Code enforcement – the public’s tool

Mesquite Code Enforcement Officers are on the front line striving to help maintain property values and curb appeal in area neighborhoods. Here are a few tips to help as high grass season is right around the corner:

- Height for grass/weeds cannot exceed 8 inches.
- Be sure that high grass around fence lines, air conditioning units and structures is maintained.
- If you are a landlord, be sure your tenant(s) understand the importance of yard maintenance.
- If yards are not maintained, the City of Mesquite can, after proper notice has been given, have necessary work performed by a Property Maintenance Contractor. The contractor cost and administrative fee will be billed to the property owner and an instant lien is placed on the property. If the invoice is not paid in 30 days, interest starts to accrue.
- Please contact the Environmental Code Division at 972-216-6276 with any questions or complaints.



Before



After

Animal Services asks for public’s help with stray animals

Keeping pets on a leash is a simple way to improve a pet’s behavior, help them stay healthy and stay in compliance with City ordinances. Dogs that are leash-trained and walked regularly benefit from that exercise in several ways. Burning off extra energy reduces nervous behaviors like chewing or barking and keeps the dog at a healthy weight. Cats, while not traditionally trained on a leash, can also benefit. Using a long tether connected to a body harness allows the cat to enjoy being outside while not violating City ordinance by running at large. Animals allowed to roam the city are at risk for being struck by cars, attacked by other animals or trapped by Mesquite Animal Services. Also, feeding or harboring stray animals leads to scattered garbage and noise disturbances. Residents who feed or harbor stray animals can be ticketed for doing so. If you have any questions about tethering pets or trapping stray animals, please call Mesquite Animal Services at 972-216-6283.



Parks and Recreation Corner

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

Lifeguard Positions Available

The department is now seeking lifeguards for the 2013 summer season. Applicants must be 16 years of age. All applicants must pass CPR and Lifeguarding classes. No previous experience is required. For more information, contact Rachael Burks at 972-288-2331.



Successful Weight Management

Join registered dietitian Karla Whitley for a series of six one-hour classes. While the topics each week are general, the specific goals of each individual will be addressed. The classes provide structure, support and accountability along with an opportunity to learn new skills and strategies.

Dunford Recreation Center

Tuesdays 7 - 8 p.m.

Ages 13+

\$40 for a six-week session

April 23, 30; May 7, 14, 21 and 28

Mesquite Arts Center Activities

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.

April 2013

- 2- **The Mesquite Arts Council** presents "18x18x18," the work of Buzz
- 5/2 **Baldwin in the Main Gallery.**
- 5 - 20 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents "Almost, Maine." For tickets, call 972-216-8126 or visit www.mctweb.org.
- 6 **Mesquite Symphonic Band** in concert. 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 972-216-8125.
- 8 **Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration.



Be prepared for extreme weather

Severe weather season is mid-March through mid-July. This time is dedicated to helping prepare residents to deal with extreme weather events that can occur in Texas such as tornadoes, floods, hail and straight-line winds. It is also an excellent time to encourage residents to update their emergency plans and check emergency supply kits. The Office of Emergency Management provides information and links to vital resources at www.cityofmesquite.com/oem. If you have any questions, please contact the Mesquite Office of Emergency Management at oem@mesquitefire.org or 972-329-8377. Preparedness is no laughing matter, but for a fun look at what can happen if severe weather is not taken seriously, watch our "Mr. Disaster" video PSA at www.cityofmesquite.com/weatherpsa.

Did You Know?

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

Did you know Mesquite remains in Stage 2 water restrictions?

Until further notice, please follow these restrictions:

- Lawn/landscape is only allowed twice weekly based on customer's address:

**Addresses ending
in these numbers:**

0, 1, 6, 7

2, 3, 8, 9

4, 5

**Water on these
days of the week:**

Monday and Thursday

Tuesday and Friday

Wednesday and Saturday

Foundations, trees and new landscaping may be watered up to two hours any day with a handheld or soaker hose before 10 a.m. and after 6 p.m. This does not include watering lawns.

- Operation of malfunctioning sprinkler system, excessive runoff or any waste of water is prohibited.
- Outdoor watering is not allowed 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information on how best to care for your lawn/landscape with limited watering, please visit the City's website at www.cityofmesquite.com/utilities.

Community Snapshots



In February, City employees gathered to show support for the American Heart Association's "Go Red" campaign to raise awareness about the risk of heart disease in women.

On February 5, Mayor Pro Tem Stan Pickett participated in National Pancake Day festivities at the Mesquite IHOP to raise awareness of the restaurant's charity of choice, Shriners Hospital for Children.



At the February 18 City Council meeting, participants of the Recreation After School Program led the Pledge of Allegiance.