



# MAINSTREAM

[www.cityofmesquite.com](http://www.cityofmesquite.com)

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

December 2016	
5, 19	City Council meetings at 7 p.m. at City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Ave. 972-216-6244.
24, 26	City holidays. Many City facilities closed. For information on City services impacted during holidays, please visit <a href="http://www.cityofmesquite.com/holidays">www.cityofmesquite.com/holidays</a> .

## City expands government transparency platform

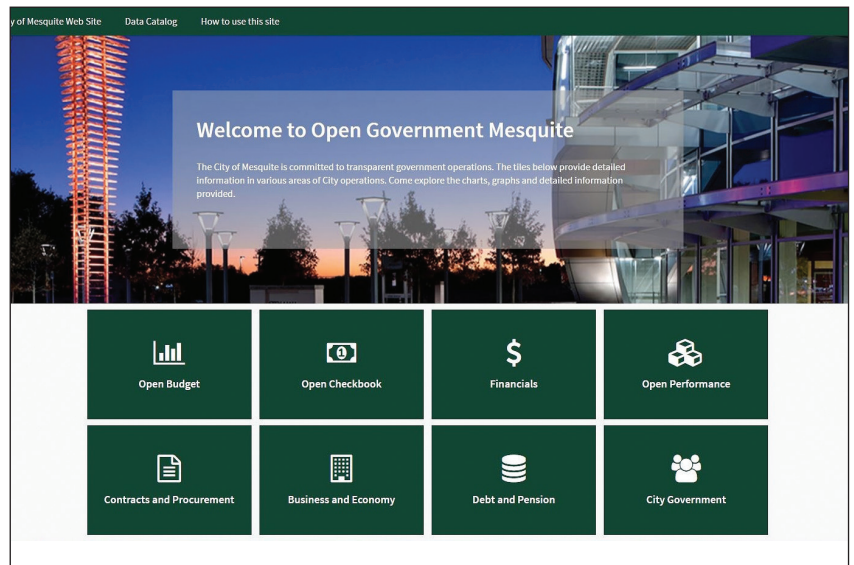
The City of Mesquite has expanded the financial information available to the public through its online transparency portal. The two new components include the budget compared to actual activity of expenditures and revenues as well as the City's check register information. The expanded financial data is available at [www.cityofmesquite.com/Transparency](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Transparency).

The new transparency portal provides tools for the public to view the City's financial information in different formats and to download the financial data from the portal in a variety of ways. The portal is updated weekly.

Mesquite Mayor Stan Pickett said, "This expansion of our government transparency platform is another example of the City's efforts to engage the public and become more accountable to the community we serve."

### 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
Main Library	972-216-6220
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.facebook.com/mesquitetexas](http://www.facebook.com/mesquitetexas)
-  [www.twitter.com/cityofmesquite](http://www.twitter.com/cityofmesquite)
-  [www.pinterest.com/cityofmesquite](http://www.pinterest.com/cityofmesquite)
-  [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com)
-  [www.instagram.com/cityofmesquite](http://www.instagram.com/cityofmesquite)
-  [www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas](http://www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas)



Stan Pickett  
Mayor



Bruce Archer  
Mayor Pro Tem  
Place 3



Jeff Casper  
Deputy Mayor Pro  
Tem, Place 2



Bill Porter  
Councilmember  
Place 1



Dan Aleman  
Councilmember  
Place 4



Greg Noschese  
Councilmember  
Place 5



Dennis Tarpley  
Councilmember  
Place 6



## MAYOR'S CORNER

Mesquite property owners who have received their 2016 Tax Statements may have noticed an increase in property taxes. This increase is the result of three factors: first, appraised property values have increased by an average of 9 percent for all properties; second, a 4.7 cent tax increase was approved by voters in November 2016 to fund residential street repairs; and third, a 5 cent tax rate increase was approved by voters in 2015 to fund capital improvements for the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD).

The benefits of these voter-approved tax rate increases can be seen throughout the city. To date, 54 residential streets have been approved to be repaired in our Real. Texas. Roads. program with many repairs completed or near completion. The City also recently expanded the financial information available to the public through its online transparency portal. Actual expenditures and revenues as well as the City's check register information may now be viewed at [www.cityofmesquite.com/Transparency](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Transparency). More tax rate information and available exemptions is also available online at [www.cityofmesquite.com/PropertyTax](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/PropertyTax).

Stan Pickett

Mayor

## Mesquite Public Library offers online eCard

The Mesquite Public Library is now offering an online eCard to any Texas resident 14 years or older. The eCard is a virtual library card that allows access to all online library services including eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and other electronic resources. However, the eCard does not allow users to check out books or other physical items from the Mesquite Library System. A traditional library card is required to access all library services. For more information or to apply for an eCard online, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/LibraryCards](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/LibraryCards).



## Real. Texas. Business. news

*Real. Texas. Business. news* is a monthly feature of the *Mainstream* highlighting new development activity in Mesquite. For more information, contact Kim Buttram, Assistant Manager of Economic Development, at [kbuttram@cityofmesquite.com](mailto:kbuttram@cityofmesquite.com).

What is better than bacon on a burger? A burger with bacon in the burger! Bubba's 33, a family sports-centered restaurant, is coming to Mesquite and bringing its #1 selling burger made from 33 percent bacon to their new location at the Marketplace at Towne Centre. Mesquite is the first site chosen in the Dallas-Fort Worth area to debut the new concept. Bubba's 33 currently operates 12 successful other locations throughout the country. At the time of publication, an early November grand opening was planned along with the hiring of 150 employees.

For more information on economic development in Mesquite, view the New Quarterly Development Activity Reports at [www.cityofmesquite.com/DevelopmentActivity](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/DevelopmentActivity).



## Santa Cop

MESQUITE POLICE DEPARTMENT  
SANTA COP TOY PROGRAM



This year's Mesquite Police Santa Cop Toy Program will be held from November 7 - December 14. The annual program began in 1975 to provide assistance to disadvantaged children and families served by the Mesquite Independent School District (MISD) during the Christmas season. Families are selected by MISD counselors and Mesquite patrol officers. In 2015, the program provided gifts for over 600 children from over 200 families.

The Santa Cop Toy Program is entirely funded by community donations. Anyone wishing to make a donation can drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Mesquite Police Department lobby located at 777 N. Galloway Avenue, or send a monetary donation by mail to the Mesquite Police Department, c/o Santa Cop, P.O. Box 850137, Mesquite, TX 75185-0137. Donations can also be made online at [www.cityofmesquite.com/Donations](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Donations).

For more information or to volunteer to help with the program, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/SantaCop](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/SantaCop).

## Real. Texas. Roads. update



Repairs to the first set of residential streets selected for the Real. Texas. Roads. program continue with several streets nearing the final phase of repairs and five streets completed. At the time of the Mainstream's publication, only two streets were in the first phase of repairs, pavement lifting: Rosemont Street and Belmont Street. The following streets were in the second phase of repairs, localized concrete repair: Diane Drive, Crest Park Drive, Royal Crest Drive, Demaret Drive, Caracus Drive and Sandra Lynn Drive. Streets in the third phase of repairs, surface reconstruction, include: Hillcrest Street, Crestridge Drive, Tam o Shanter Drive, Strayhorn Drive, Antilles Drive and Sarazan Drive. Juanita Street, Richard Street, Northridge Drive, Kiamesha Way, Nabholtz Lane, Hogan Drive and Caribbean Drive were all nearing completion with only miscellaneous repairs and clean up remaining. Five streets have been completed: Barbara Street, Andrew Street, Highland Street, Valley View Street and Midway Street.

In addition, the second list of residential streets to be repaired with bond funds has been approved with repairs expected to begin November 2016. For more information, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasRoads](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasRoads). This webpage offers an Interactive Road Map with real-time status updates as well as contact information for project inspectors when you click on a street being repaired. If you have any questions or notice a problem with a street, please contact the inspector.



## Parks and Recreation Corner

For more information on any of these programs, please call 972-216-6260 or visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/Pard](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Pard).

### Christmas in the Park

Come celebrate the 30th annual Christmas in the Park with a new daytime schedule on Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday, December 4 from 1 - 6 p.m. at Westlake Park, 421 Gross Road. Festivities will include pictures with Santa, Mrs. Claus' story time and cookies, hot cocoa, a live manger, concessionaires and many new surprises such as the "Here Comes Christmas" parade. Admission and parking are free. However, some activities will have a small fee.



### Winter Camp

Send your kids to Dunford or Rutherford Recreation Centers for a day or week of fun at Winter Camp. Session 1 is Monday - Friday, December 19 - 23 from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Session 2 is Monday - Friday, December 26 - 30 from 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. The fee is \$16 per day or \$75 per week. Payment is due the Thursday before camp or a \$10 late fee will be applied. Participants must bring a water bottle and sack lunch.

### Little Rookies Basketball

Registration for Little Rookies basketball for children ages 3 - 4 is from December 5 - 30. Sessions will begin Saturday, January 7 at Dunford Recreation Center. Two sessions are available at 9 or 10 a.m. The fee is \$35 per player. Parent participation is required.

### Adults 50+

Mesquite has three active Adults 50+ programs at Evans, Goodbar and Rutherford Senior Centers. Activities include crafts, day trips, celebrations and more.

A few highlights in December include a trip to the Bath House Cultural Center for the show "Uh-Oh, Here Comes Christmas" on Thursday, December 8, and a New Year's Eve Game Day on Friday, December 30. For full details and a list of all activities offered, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/FunGuide](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/FunGuide).



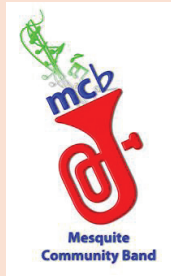
## Mesquite Arts Center Activities

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](http://www.mesquiteartscenter.org).

The Mesquite Community Band will host a free Christmas concert on Saturday, December 3 at 4 p.m. in the Concert Hall. For tickets and more information, visit [www.mesquitecommunityband.com](http://www.mesquitecommunityband.com).

The Mesquite Symphony Orchestra performs "A Christmas to Remember" on Saturday, December 17 at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Tickets available at [www.mesquitesymphony.org](http://www.mesquitesymphony.org).



## City implements necessary water utility rate increase

City of Mesquite water utility customers will notice an increase in their utility bills beginning the fall of 2016. On October 1, City water and sewer rates increased by eight percent to cover costs charged by the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) and for City maintenance of water distribution lines. The full amount of the increase is needed for the additional costs placed upon the City by the NTMWD. The NTMWD is the City's supplier for water and wastewater services.

Mesquite is one of 13 member cities of NTMWD. The majority of the water utility customers from the member cities are experiencing higher bills. The rate increases from NTMWD cover their capital costs to expand the current water and wastewater system to accommodate population growth in the North Texas region as well as the City's maintenance costs for water distribution facilities and lines.

More information is available at NTMWD's special website [www.ntmwd.com/water-rates/](http://www.ntmwd.com/water-rates/) which provides answers to frequently asked questions about these higher bills. For additional questions or concerns, please contact the NTMWD via email at [publicrelations.info@ntmwd.com](mailto:publicrelations.info@ntmwd.com) or by phone at 972-442-5405.

## Community Snapshots



On October 8, approximately 1,200 volunteers assisted 115 Mesquite homeowners with exterior home improvements and repairs. Police Chief Charles Cato and the Mesquite Police Explorers performed landscape improvements on this year's 100th home.



On October 10, participants of Goodbar Adults 50+ program were recognized by the Mesquite Independent School District Board for their support of the district's #ReadPlayTalk Early Reading Initiative.



On October 17, Deja Young, a 2014 John Horn High School graduate, and Josh Smith, a 2005 North Mesquite High School graduate, were recognized by the City Council for competing in the 2016 Paralympic Games.