



MAINSTREAM DECEMBER 2020

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THESE EVENTS MAY BE IMPACTED BY COVID-19, FOR THE MOST UPDATED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE EVENT CALENDAR AT WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM.

January 2021

- 1** New Year's Day, City services and programs impacted. For complete details, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Holidays.
- 4, 19** City Council meetings, 7 p.m., City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Avenue, 972-216-6244.
- 18** Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, City services and programs impacted. For complete details, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/Holidays.



STAY UPDATED ON THE LATEST LOCAL MESQUITE NEWS ABOUT THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AT www.cityofmesquite.com/Coronavirus

FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

Mesquite Municipal Center	972-288-7711
Animal Services	972-216-6283
Building Inspection	972-216-6212
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



Shop Mesquite this holiday season

The City of Mesquite is encouraging citizens to shop local and shop Mesquite during the holiday season. Shopping at businesses and eating at restaurants in Mesquite helps business owners and the local economy. As residents shop in Mesquite, their money goes to work in Mesquite. Sales tax revenue makes up more than 25% of the City's general fund. That fund provides the financial resources for most City services provided to residents and their families. The largest portion of the general fund is public safety, which includes the Mesquite Police Department, Mesquite Fire Department and 911 Dispatch. The fund also supports Mesquite Animal Services, the Parks and Recreation Department and a variety of quality of life programs.

The City launched a new online business rolodex www.ShopMesquiteTX.com to help promote businesses, services and restaurants located in Mesquite as part of an overall campaign to encourage local shopping during the holiday season. The new site offers various categories to select, a mapping feature to businesses and links to the website of each restaurant and business. Additionally, the City continues to promote alternate driving directions to shoppers for key destinations in Mesquite, such as Town East Mall, with the www.cityofmesquite.com/ShoppingRoutes webpage. The page offers ways to shop more and drive less by using different roads to travel and avoid traffic.

City offers water utility customers payment plan options



On Jan. 5, 2021, the City of Mesquite will resume water disconnections if there is a past due balance. Longer term payment plans are available to help residents who are struggling to pay their City water bills due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City can offer a payment plan that fits their unique situation. Call the Utility Billing Office at 972-216-6208 (press 0) to discuss your options.

Mesquite sees decreases in crime



Mesquite announced an 11% drop in overall crime and significant reductions in certain types of crimes, highlighted by a 54% reduction in robbery, and nearly 300 less crimes committed during July to September as compared to the same time period in 2019.

Police Chief Charles Cato stated, "The reduction in crime is the result of hard work by our police officers, community partners and volunteers such as our Mesquite Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association. These are substantial decreases in crime, but we are just getting started and are hopeful to be able to report more decreases as we move forward." The public is reminded to say something when they see unusual activity by calling the MPD's non-emergency phone number at 972-285-6336 or 911.

Detra Hill sworn in as new Municipal Court Judge



On Nov. 13, the City of Mesquite held a swearing in ceremony for new Municipal Court Judge Detra Hill. Judge Hill becomes the first female presiding municipal court judge in the history of Mesquite. Hill was appointed on Oct. 19 by the Mesquite City Council. She has served as Assistant City Attorney since 2014. Former Municipal Court Judge Steve Crane announced his retirement in October.

Judge Hill said, "I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve the Mesquite community in this role. It will be an honor and privilege, and a responsibility I will not take lightly. I want to thank Judge Crane for his leadership and guidance that led me to this day."

Mesquite dedicates the new Mesquite Veterans Memorial



In November, the City of Mesquite held a small, private ceremony to dedicate the new Mesquite Veterans Memorial. The memorial is located near City Lake Park at 425 S. Galloway Avenue. It features two 14-foot wide walls with six medallions of veteran's groups on the front side and six history panels of modern-era wars facing the park. A center column is 7-feet wide and lists the names of all the military veterans from the Mesquite community who have lost their lives while in service.

Council Community Focus



The City of Mesquite has announced it is offering its residents access to free mental health counseling and referral services. One of the City Council's strategic goals is creating a safe community. Through a new partnership with the AZAR Foundation, the City is taking the first step that's part of a larger, comprehensive plan to address the mental health concerns for public safety responding to calls for service. The AZAR Foundation will prioritize services to those residents referred by the Mesquite Police Department. The City's comprehensive plan will include training for personnel, the addition of personnel with expertise in mental health and working with community partners to ensure a multifaceted approach is in place when responding to calls for service that require a mental health professional. Residents can call 833-298-9111 to schedule a virtual or in-person session for individuals, couples and groups.

Parks and Recreation Corner

PROGRAMS AND CLASSES MAY BE IMPACTED BY COVID-19. FOR THE MOST UPDATED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM/PARD OR CALL 972-216-6260.



DADDY DAUGHTER DANCE

Dads and daughters can spend a fun and memorable evening together at the annual Daddy Daughter Dance, Saturday, Feb. 13. Ticket sales begin Wednesday, Jan. 9 and may be purchased online at www.cityofmesquite.com/DaddyDaughterDance, at any recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1515 N. Galloway Avenue. The dance will be held at the Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Drive. Tickets are limited and will not be sold at the door. Advanced ticket purchase is required.

Tickets: \$15 per person, per session

Session 1: 4 – 6 p.m.

Session 2: 6 – 8 p.m.



PLAY DAY

Looking for a fun and safe place for your kids when school is out? Mesquite Parks and Recreation offers two great options for kids to have fun during MISD closures on Monday, Jan. 18 and Monday, Feb. 15.

Play Day is available at Dunford Recreation Center, 1015 Green Canyon Drive, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kids will have a day of fun doing crafts, playing games and other activities. The fee is \$20 per child.

Pre-registration is required and space is limited. Participants will need a lunch, snack and water bottle. For more information or to register online, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/PARD.



LITTLE ROOKIES GOLF

Little Rookies instructional program will teach kids, ages 5 - 6, the basics of golf. This five-week class begins Saturday, Feb. 27 and will be held at Dunford Recreation Center, 1015 Green Canyon Drive. Registration begins Jan. 27 and runs through Feb. 23. Two sessions are available at 9 or 10 a.m. The fee is \$35 per participant. Parent participation is required.



Celebrate safely on New Year's Eve

The possession and use of fireworks in Mesquite is illegal, as is discharging firearms into the air. The penalties for fireworks and gunfire can be costly, with as much as a \$4,000 fine and the possibility of up to one year in jail for the illegal discharge of a firearm, City fines and court costs up to \$835 for the discharge of fireworks or \$585 for the possession of illegal fireworks. Driving while intoxicated can lead up to \$17,000 in fines, possible jail time and loss of a driver's license. Report illegal activity by calling non-emergency dispatch at 972-285-6336. You also can report fireworks violations by emailing fireworks@mesquitelocalpolice.org. Please do not call 911 unless there is a life-threatening emergency and immediate help is required from police, fire or paramedics.



Mesquite announces new water rate structure with North Texas Municipal Water District

After nearly four years of negotiations, Mesquite residents can anticipate a better water rate structure in the future from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). Mesquite, joined by the cities of Plano, Garland and Richardson, petitioned the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUCT) in 2016 to evaluate the methodology the NTMWD used to establish its rates. The cities were purchasing water through what was known as the “take-or-pay” system, which used the year of highest usage to establish how much water to bill the cities. In the case of the four cities, that rate was set back in 2002. The new contract will have a significant impact on Mesquite water customers over the next few decades.



Downtown Mesquite honored with two statewide honors

In October, Downtown Mesquite earned two awards from the Texas Downtown Association (TDA), including the prominent TDA’s Best Traditional Promotion Event Award for the Front Street Station groundbreaking celebration as well as the People’s Choice Award. The groundbreaking was held in August 2019. Organizers designed the event to reflect how the project area would function once completed. Volunteers used spray chalk to outline every major feature of the entire project area.



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

These events may be impacted by COVID-19. For the most updated information, please visit the event calendar at www.mesquiteartscenter.org/.



Jan. 11 – March 27,
**Lanny Quarles Exhibition:
Collage Series/ Ink Series,**
Main Gallery, Free Admission



Jan. 11 – March 27,
**Paige Lehmann Exhibition:
Freedom from Grieving,**
Chamber Gallery, Free Admission

Please note the Mesquite Arts Center will be taking a break from Tote-and-Go Services and Virtual Programming in January. Programs will resume in February 2021.

 www.facebook.com/MesqArtsCenter/

 www.instagram.com/MesqArtsCenter/

 www.twitter.com/MesqArtsCenter/

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1515 N. GALLOWAY AVENUE
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www.cityofmesquite.com/CityCouncil

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