



# MAINSTREAM OCTOBER 2021

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

THESE EVENTS MAY BE IMPACTED BY COVID-19, FOR THE MOST UPDATED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT THE EVENT CALENDAR AT [WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM](http://WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM).

### NOVEMBER 2021

- 1, 15** City Council meetings, 7 p.m., City Hall, 757 N. Galloway Avenue, 972-216-6244.

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- 1, 8, 15, 22, 29** Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Mesquite North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive.

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- 2** Election Day, 214-819-6300, [www.cityofmesquite.com/Elections](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Elections)

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- 3, 10, 17, 24** Storytime, 10:30 a.m., Mesquite Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive

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- 6, 13, 20, 27** Downtown Mesquite Farmers Market, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Front Street Station, 100 W. Front Street

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- 13** Holiday Wreath Making Workshop, Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 711 E. Kearney Street, 1 p.m.

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- 18** Holiday Wreath Making Workshop, Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 711 E. Kearney Street, 6 p.m.

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- 25, 26** Thanksgiving Holiday, All City offices and facilities closed.

#### Jobseeker Support Initiative

Mesquite Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Drive, Call 972-216-6220 to schedule a support session or North Branch Library, 2600 Oates Drive, Call 972-681-0465 to schedule a support session

### 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



### Proposition A is on the ballot for more public safety, more street repair and more cybersecurity

The Mesquite City Council unanimously approved the fiscal year 2021-2022 budget, which keeps the City property tax rate the same as last year. The budget adds public safety, streets and cybersecurity resources to the City's operations and maintenance of the community. However, State law requires that Mesquite voters approve this year's no new revenue tax rate since City revenue will increase, by 3.5% or more, over last year due to higher property values.

Proposition A will be on the Nov. 2 Ballot for Mesquite voters to vote "FOR" or "AGAINST" the proposition. If Proposition A is approved by voters, the average homeowner would pay about \$10 more per month in City taxes based on the average property value in Mesquite. The tax rate would not impact property owners who have qualified for the Age 65 or Older Homestead Exemption with their property appraiser. Voter approval of Proposition A will provide revenue for the approved budget that allocates funds for:

- Five additional Mesquite Police Officer positions to increase neighborhood patrols.
- Ten additional Mesquite Fire Department positions for faster and safer response times for calls for service.
- Additional funding for repairs of city streets and alleys.
- Improved security from cyberattacks of City computers that have sensitive data and access to operations as well as the public's personal information.

Proposition A will read as follows on the Ballot:

#### CITY OF MESQUITE PROPOSITION A

*Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.70862 per \$100 valuation in the City of Mesquite, Texas, for the current year, a rate that is \$0.04302 higher per \$100 valuation than the voter-approval tax rate of the City of Mesquite, Texas, for the purpose of increasing fire and police staffing levels and competitive pay for fire and police personnel, and increasing funding for alley and street maintenance. Last year, the ad valorem tax rate in the City of Mesquite, Texas, was \$0.70862 per \$100 valuation.*

Early voting is Oct. 18 - 29. Election Day is Nov. 2. For more information, please visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/2021TaxElection](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/2021TaxElection).

## Water meter conversion project for all water utility customers



In October, the City of Mesquite began a meter conversion project for all its residential and commercial water utility customers. It is expected to take two years to replace all 42,000 meters throughout the City's water utility system. The City is working with the company Ameresco and their subcontractor Pedal Valve (PVI), to replace outdated manual meters with upgraded meters as part of an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project. This AMI water meter project will upgrade and modernize the City's water billing infrastructure. With this AMI water meter project, customers will have access to more frequent detailed information about water consumption, enabling them to have better control over their water usage and monthly bills. Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/MeterProject](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/MeterProject) to learn more about this AMI water meter project.

## Mesquite Police Department debuts new interview room for assault victims



At the end of August, the Mesquite Police Department debuted its new Soft Interview Room for victims of sexual assault and other violent crimes. The room features living-room style chairs, decorative lighting, a rug and artwork, all sponsored by Project Beloved - The Molly Jane Mission. The non-profit was started by Tracy Matheson, the mother of Molly Jane Matheson who was sexually assaulted and murdered in the DFW area in 2017. MPD becomes just the third city police department in DFW to have a Soft Interview Room installed and this is the 32nd Soft Interview Room installed by Project Beloved.

Mesquite Police Department Criminal Investigator Blake Stillwagoner said, "This room will be part of the first steps in getting sexual assault victims the justice they deserve. A lot of these types of crimes go unreported. This room will be calming for victims and help put them at ease as they share their traumatic experience with our investigators."

## Mesquite park named in honor of city's first African American police officer



Jon Latimore was hired in 1985 as the first African American Police Officer to serve in the Mesquite Police Department. On Sept. 7, the Mesquite City Council approved a resolution naming a future park to be located on North Bryan Avenue in his honor. For 28 years he made a lasting impression on the community receiving numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers. Latimore retired in 2013 and passed away in 2018.

## Council Community Focus



The City of Mesquite is looking for new partners to serve on one of its boards or commissions. The City of Mesquite's Boards and Commissions are comprised of engaged citizens who volunteer their time, knowledge and expertise to make a difference in their community. Duties of boards and commissions may include serving in an advisory capacity to the City Council, examining in-depth plans on development, evaluating city services and projects and making decisions on various requests from citizens. By becoming a board or commission member you can have an active voice, be involved in your community and advise the City Council and staff on a wide range of services areas. Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/Boards](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Boards) to learn more.

# Parks and Recreation Corner



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

## TURKEY CAMP

Over Thanksgiving break, kids ages 6 - 12 can spend a day or the whole week playing games, creating holiday crafts and experiencing other fun activities. Turkey Camp will be available at Dunford Recreation Center, 1015 Grand Canyon Drive from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Nov. 22 - 24 and Nov. 26. There will be no camp on Thursday, Nov. 25. The fee is \$20 per day, per resident and \$30 per day for non-residents. Register online at [www.cityofmesquite.com/HolidayCamps](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/HolidayCamps).



## VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Come to City Lake Park, 403 S. Galloway Avenue, on Saturday, Nov. 6, starting at 11 a.m. for a celebration to honor all veterans. For more information about the celebration, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/VeteransDayCelebration](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/VeteransDayCelebration).



## ADULTS 50+

Mesquite has three active Adult 50+ programs at Evans, Goodbar and Rutherford Recreation Centers. Activities include crafts, day trips, exercise classes and more.

### *Dallas Arboretum*

Wrap yourself in the surroundings of the season with the 12 Days of Christmas at the Gazebos at the Dallas Arboretum. The fee is \$15 per person plus the cost of lunch at the Garden or bring a brown bag lunch. The bus departs Goodbar Recreation Center, 3000 Concord Drive, at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 17. Registration opens Nov. 3.



## Properly dispose of fats, oils and grease during the holidays



Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) is the residue left over from cooking meat, butter, sauces, oil and dairy products. FOG and debris poured down drains can cause expensive sewer backups to homeowners. The City's Utilities Division is providing free grease disposal bags during the month of November to Mesquite residents at the Water Billing Office, while supplies last. Also, used holiday cooking oil may be recycled for free at the Dallas County Home Chemical Collection Center, 11234 Plano Road, or at a drop-off location listed on the Defend Your Drains website at [www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com](http://www.defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com).

## Mesquite collects over 1,000 jars of PB&J

The City of Mesquite held a successful Spread the Love campaign this year, collecting over 1,000 jars of peanut butter and jelly for Sharing Life Community Outreach. The Mesquite Fire Department collected over 700 jars of peanut butter and jelly alone. Spread the Love is an annual campaign held April - August that encourages the donation of peanut butter and jelly as well as financial contributions to help feed children in Mesquite during the summer who live in food insecure environments. These children receive free or reduced lunch during the school year but need assistance for nutritious lunches during the summer break.



## Mesquite Fire Department takes part in Dallas Stair Climb

The Mesquite Fire Department (MFD) participated in the Dallas 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb on Saturday, Sept. 4. MFD had 25 firefighters participating this year, the most out of the 101 fire departments represented. Ten different EMS departments and 40 different law enforcement departments also participated.



*Real. Texas. Roads. is the program name for the road repairs funded by the \$125 million bond sale approved by voters in November 2015. Repairs under this program are for residential, two-lane roadways. Funds were made available by the 2015 Street Bond Election, began in 2016, and are expected to continue funding street repairs through 2024. For details and to view the current construction status of streets selected for the program, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasRoads](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasRoads).*

## MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

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



Nov. 1 – Dec. 17, **JM Rizzi: In Bloom**, Main Gallery, Free Admission

Nov. 1 – Dec. 17, **Cathy Drennan: ReShape, Recolor, Rework**, Chamber Gallery, Free Admission

Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, **Tote and Go Program**, Every Monday project kits will be available for pick-up starting at 12 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center Lobby, First-come, first-served



Nov. 3, **Fall String Art Tutorial**, 4 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center YouTube Channel



Nov. 10, **Tote Bag Painting Tutorial**, 4 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center YouTube Channel

Nov. 24, **MAC Doodles: Turkey Day**, 4 p.m., Mesquite Arts Center YouTube Channel

[www.facebook.com/MesqArtsCenter/](https://www.facebook.com/MesqArtsCenter/)  
[www.instagram.com/MesqArtsCenter/](https://www.instagram.com/MesqArtsCenter/)  
[www.twitter.com/MesqArtsCenter/](https://www.twitter.com/MesqArtsCenter/)

CITY OF MESQUITE  
1515 N. GALLOWAY AVENUE  
MESQUITE, TX 75149  
972-288-7711



## CITY COUNCIL

Bruce Archer, Mayor

Sherry Wisdom, District 1

Kenny Green, District 2

Robert Miklos, Mayor Pro Tem, District 3

Tandy Boroughs, District 4

B.W. Smith, District 5

Daniel Aleman, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, District 6

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

THE MAINSTREAM IS AVAILABLE IN SPANISH AT  
[WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM/MAINSTREAMESPANOL](http://WWW.CITYOFMESQUITE.COM/MAINSTREAMESPANOL)