



MAINSTREAM

www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

March 2016

- 7, 21** City Council Meetings at City Hall, 7 p.m., 757 N. Galloway Avenue. 972-216-6244.
 - 12** The Florence Ranch Homestead is open every second Saturday of the month (except November, December and January) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 972-216-6468.
 - 26** Opal Lawrence Historical Park is open every fourth Saturday of the month (except November and December) from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 972-216-6468.
- For information on City services impacted during holidays, please visit www.cityofmesquite.com/holidays.

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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Mesquite launches webpage to keep the community updated on residential street repairs

The City of Mesquite has created the webpage www.cityofmesquite.com/RealTexasRoads to keep the public informed on the progress of the residential street repairs to be funded by the \$125 million in tax bonds approved by voters.

The first set of residential streets approved by the Mesquite City Council for repair were selected due to their poor condition, the close proximity to other streets in poor condition and the quality of existing utilities. A map and a list of the first set of streets is available on the new webpage.

The city anticipates the street repairs to begin in early March. The repairs will also include sidewalk and curb repairs where needed.



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www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas

www.nextdoor.com



Stan Pickett
Mayor



Greg Noschese
Mayor Pro Tem,
Place 5



Bruce Archer
Deputy Mayor Pro
Tem, Place 3



Bill Porter
Councilmember
Place 1



Jeff Casper
Councilmember
Place 2



Shirley Roberts
Councilmember
Place 4



Dennis Tarpley
Councilmember
Place 6



MAYOR'S CORNER

This month, our community kicked off the Mesquite Go Red campaign to promote February as American Heart Month. I want to take this opportunity to encourage everyone in our community to take their health more seriously, and thank those that work so diligently to raise heart health awareness.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of American men and women. Every single day 2,200 Americans die of heart disease - one death every 39 seconds. Know the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, such as obesity, Tabaco use, inactivity, and diabetes. Many of these deaths can be prevented through early detection, diet, and lifestyle changes.

Don't become another statistic! Schedule a doctor's appointment today, and learn more from the American Heart Association at www.heart.org.

Stan Pickett
Mayor

Payday Lending Ordinance Increases Regulation

The City Council passed an ordinance recently to provide new registration requirements and guidelines for payday lending businesses in Mesquite beginning April 18, 2016. Mesquite joins 29 other Texas cities who have passed ordinances regulating the payday lending industry in their communities.



The new requirements include a \$75 city registration fee, maintaining a record of all loans made in the previous three years and enhanced financial education/assistance programs for customers. Key features of the new guidelines include payday loans not exceeding 20 percent of the customer's gross monthly income and restrictions on auto loans.

The ordinance also regulates the repayment procedures which payday lending business can implement and refines the agreement processes to enact stronger transparency and protection for the customer. The full ordinance may be viewed at www.cityofmesquite.com/PaydayLending.

The City Attorney's Office will review all customer complaints and possible violations of the new ordinance.

Animal Services Offers Microchips

Mesquite Animal Services is now offering pet microchips to residents as a walk-in service at the Animal Shelter. The cost of the chip and initial registration is \$10. This service is available during regular public hours of Monday – Friday, 11 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and Saturday 1 - 5:30 p.m.



A microchip is a device about the size of a grain of rice that is implanted between the shoulder blades of an animal. Each microchip has a unique number that appears when scanned. This identifying number is used to retrieve owner contact information. The benefit of a microchip, as opposed to a traditional ID tag, is that a chip cannot fall or be taken off. Owner information can be updated or even transferred to a new owner if necessary.

For more information, please contact Animal Services at 972-216-6283.

Open Carry Law Becomes Effective

On January 1, 2016, the Texas Open Carry law became effective, giving citizens possessing a Concealed Handgun License (CHL) or License to Carry (LTC) the legal right to carry handguns openly in belt or shoulder holsters in public spaces. The City of Mesquite has joined other Texas cities in preparation for this new law originally known as State of Texas House Bill 910.

Here are a few points of clarification for the Mesquite community:

- In order to carry a handgun under the new law, a CHL or LTC is required.
- The new law still allows private businesses, private property owners, hospitals, nursing homes and churches to exclude handguns from their property.
- Handguns are still not allowed in businesses that derive 51 percent or more of their income from alcohol sales and may not be carried while the holder is intoxicated.
- Handguns are still not allowed at schools or at school sponsored activities.
- Handguns are not allowed at Mesquite Municipal Court, 211 Municipal Way.
- Handguns are not allowed in rooms which are hosting open public meetings where signs are posted, including City Council meetings and City Board/Commission meetings.
- Handguns are not allowed at polling places on the day of an election or during early voting.

Fix a Leak Week Plumbing Workshop

Being handy around the house does not have to be difficult. Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking hose bids. These types of leaks are often easily correctable, requiring only a few tools and hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings.

Residents are encouraged to attend a DIY plumbing workshop on Saturday, March 19 at Home Depot in Mesquite, 18855 Lyndon B. Johnson Freeway. Two workshops will be offered at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Attendees will receive free toilet flappers and low flow shower heads while supplies last. For more information, please contact the Water Conservation Office at 972-329-8300.



Parks and Recreation Corner

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

Spring Break Camps

The Parks and Recreation Department is pleased to offer the following camps during Spring Break. Note: Payment is due the Thursday before all camps or a \$10 late fee will be applied. Participants must also bring a water bottle to all camps and a sack lunch to all day camps. Visit www.CityofMesquite.com/SpringBreak for more information.



RASP Spring Break Camp

Monday - Friday, March 7 - 11
Dunford, Rutherford &
Camp Rorie-Galloway

Kindergarten - Sixth Grade:
7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Take a break from school for a fun week of camp. Go on a field trip, ride the zip line, do crafts, play and make new friends.

\$16 per day or \$75 per week

Archery Camp

Monday - Friday, March 7 - 11

Westlake Sports Center, 601 Gross Road

Kindergarten - Sixth Grade: 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Test your archery shooting abilities with cards, balloons, cups and more. Friday will feature a tournament! No prior knowledge required. All equipment provided.

\$75 per camper

Tennis Camp

Monday - Thursday, March 7 - 10

Westlake Sports Center,
601 Gross Road

Ages 10 and under: 8 - 10 a.m.

Ages 11 - 16: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Beginner to intermediate players will learn to improve their game through organized group instruction, drills and games.

\$35 per person.



Breakfast with the Bunny

Join the Easter Bunny for breakfast, an egg hunt, pictures and more Saturday, March 19 from 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Evans Recreation Center, 1116 Hillcrest Street. Breakfast is \$5 per person, children 2 and under are free. The egg hunt begins at 11 a.m. for children 9 and under. Some activities will have an additional fee.

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



Russian-born cello virtuoso **Yuri Anshelevich** performs March 18 from 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Just for Kids: **Peeler and Rose Marionette Show** on Saturday, March 19 at 10 a.m. in the Mesquite Arts Center Black Box Theatre. Admission is free.

Council Connection Improves Communication

The City of Mesquite has introduced the Council Connection newsletter to enhance communication with Mesquite residents about ongoing projects, activities and upcoming events. To view the publication, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/CouncilConnection.



Talkin' Turf With Travis

Red Imported Fire Ant



The red imported fire ant is an insect we love to hate and for good reason. First, they have a very painful sting that can be serious to infants and the elderly. Second, they build unsightly mounds when it is cold or after rain. This occurs because they are cleaning out their underground tunnel network after a rain and regulating temperature by bringing the colony above ground on cool days.

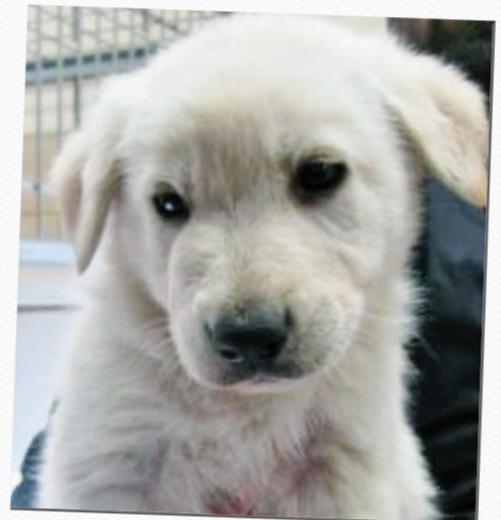
We will probably never eradicate the red imported fire ant, but we can keep populations under control with concerted efforts. The best control method is called the Texas Two Step. Step one is to apply baits in the spring and fall each year. Baits contain insect growth regulators that reduce the amount of viable eggs, reducing the ant population over time. Step two is to individually treat mounds as they appear by drenching the mounds with an insecticide with at least a gallon of water to deeply penetrate the colony.

Remember to use all pesticides responsibly and thoroughly read the label, or contact a Certified Applicator licensed by the Texas Department of Agriculture. For more landscaping tips, go to www.cityofmesquite.com/travis.

Community Snapshots



On January 6, the City Council expressed their gratitude to employees at the Employee Service Awards where 186 employees were recognized with a combined 2,705 years of public service to our community.



In December, Mesquite Animal Services offered an Urgent Adoption Special due to increased intakes after the outbreak of tornadoes. This Special resulted in 40 animal adoptions!