

MAINSTREAM

Mayor's
Corner



Dear Mesquite Resident,

With 2008 coming to a close, it's time to look back on our achievements of the year. We've made tremendous strides in our Project Renewal efforts, and I feel that is a considerable accomplishment given the economic upheaval our nation and the rest of the world are enduring.

In September we broke ground on a new \$52 million development known as Peachtree Town Center, and next month Target in the Market East Shopping Center will shut its doors to be torn down and replaced with a new Super Target at the same location. The new store will be open in October 2009, which will be just in time for the next holiday shopping season. Best of all, I-635 will be fully opened in our part of the Metroplex, with construction wrapping up around July next year.

Our new police building will be occupied in February, and if you've driven by it on North Galloway, you know it stands to be one of the best-looking buildings in Mesquite. I think it will be a great home for the people who protect us, and who help protect our community.

We have also continued our efforts to update and maintain our City's infrastructure by investing in projects that enhance our image and transportation corridors. The new Tripp Road is now complete, and I would venture that many people will tell you it's the best road project our City has ever undertaken.

Earlier this year I also took part in the opening day festivities for our Parks and Recreation Department's new disc golf course, and since its opening, I dare say thousands of people have been out to play the courses and we've even hosted a tournament for the Metroplex right here in Mesquite.

These examples represent only a fraction of what we have accomplished this year. Nonetheless, it is clear that we have continued to improve and expand our programs and services in an effort to make Mesquite even better. I thank each of you for your interaction, concern and dedication to the community. My colleagues and I are proud to serve you, and we wish you a great holiday season.

Sincerely,

John Monaco
Mayor

MESQUITE ARTS CENTER

A R T I V I T I E S

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.

JANUARY

- 1 - 19 Cowgirls: Contemporary Portraits of the American West** features 30 photographs revealing the complex, unglamorous, yet inspiring reality of women in the modern West. Two very different kinds of cowgirls are depicted in the black and white photographs: women ranchers and rodeo contestants. The show is available for viewing in the exhibit hall Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 12 Texas Area Artists "Monthly Paint-In"** begins at 10 a.m. All artists are invited to bring their projects and share successes with others. Free! 214-566-8269
- 12 Mesquite Creative Arts Club** monthly meeting begins at 7 p.m. and features an artist demonstration. 972-463-6004
- 17 Create a MOLA!** Discover, admire and create a Mola, a colorful embroidered textile made by Kuna women who live on the San Blas island off the coast of Panama. The workshop costs \$5 and is limited to 20 people (adults only). 972-216-6444
- 20 - March 15 Mola Exhibit: Quilts of the Kuna Indians from Panama & Columbia.** The exhibit includes 47 pieces from two collectors, featuring indigenous handwork of the Kuna Indians from South America. Open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances.
- 31 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert with *Heather and the Rose* featuring music from Scotland and Ireland. Several collections will be performed including music from *Brigadoon*, *Braveheart* and a variety of traditional favorites. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall. 972-216-8127

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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Mainstream is an official publication of the City of Mesquite to inform and advise citizens of municipal activities.

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MAINSTREAM

Fowler to Headline R.T.F. Friday Night

The third annual Real.Texas.Festival welcomes back a familiar friend to its main stage. Kevin Fowler will headline the Friday evening concert series with rising southern and country artist James Otto as the opener.

Fowler headlined the Friday evening concert series in the festival's inaugural year, and continues to pack in the fans at venues all over the state. His latest release, "Bring it On" – featuring the smash single, "Lone Line of Losers" – continues to gain momentum and exposure on country radio stations such as festival presenting radio sponsor 99.5 The Wolf.



The festival line-up also includes Saturday night and festival headliners Los Lonely Boys with their bluesy "Texican" rock-n-roll, guitarslinger Johnny Cooper, southern country rockers No Justice and Bart Crow Band and country sweetheart Jolie Holliday. Also, the festival will feature a high school garage band battle of the bands featuring music from several different genres – alternative, metal, emo, thrash and others.

Mesquite's Real.Texas.Festival takes place April 24-26, 2009 at Resistol Arena in Mesquite and features a diverse concert line-up. Tickets go on sale in late February.

For more information, log on to www.realtexasmusic.com.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 5, 20 City Council Meeting** – All meetings are open to the public and start at 3 p.m. in the council chambers located at 711 N. Galloway Avenue
- 10, 24 Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is open every second and fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. 972-613-7547
- 24 Opal Lawrence Historical Park's S.D. Lawrence House**, open for tours, every fourth Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. 701 E. Kearney St. 972-216-6468
- 31 Mesquite Symphony Orchestra** is in concert featuring music from Scotland and Ireland. Several collections will be performed including music from *Brigadoon*, *Braveheart* and many traditional favorites. 972-216-8127

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Dennis Tarpley	Councilmember
Al Forsythe	Councilmember
Ted Barron	City Manager

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Recycling Nearly Doubles In Mesquite's Green Bin Pilot Program Neighborhoods

Recycling levels in neighborhoods chosen to receive free green recycling bins have produced a surprising result to Solid Waste workers. They've seen a near doubling in recycling.

During the last week of August, Mesquite Solid Waste Division workers distributed 10,000 bins to select neighborhoods in the city. The neighborhoods were chosen to represent several different cross sections of demographics.

Since then, those neighborhoods have been monitored to gauge the level of recycling, and the results in the first month of the pilot program reveal the amount of recyclable material from each of the pilot program neighborhoods has almost doubled.

Mesquite Solid Waste will continue to monitor the Pilot Program areas during the next several months to measure the continued level of participation, and will investigate funding options to expand the program if proven successful.



Mesquite bought the bins utilizing grant funds from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and provided them for free to encourage citizens to take part in recycling.

The "Green" Shopping Bag

Mesquite is promoting a new option to recycling – re-usable shopping bags.

On November 15, 500 cloth shopping bags were handed out during Mesquite Recycles Day at Potteet High School in the hopes they will give people a new option to getting paper or plastic.

Disposable bags have long-term ecological effects and consume a great amount of energy to create. Here are a few of the facts and figures:

- A plastic bag can take anywhere from 15 to 1,000 years to decompose.
- It takes more than 12



million barrels of oil to produce the amount of plastic bags the U.S. uses per year.

- Think paper bags are better? The U.S. cuts down 14 million trees each year to supply the demand for paper bags. The creation of one paper bag also requires water and uses 13% more energy than that needed to produce two plastic bags.

Re-usable shopping bags are available online or at many retailers, and can be bought for as little as \$1 per bag. Solid Waste workers hope you think of the re-usable option the next time you go to the grocery store.

Visit www.cityofmesquite.com

We Need You

Open positions in the City of Mesquite:

Position	Salary
Police Officer	\$51,060
Public Safety Dispatcher	\$14 / hour
Detention Officer	\$13.94 / hour

All positions are open until filled. Information on all employment opportunities in the City is available at www.cityofmesquite.com/hr/positions.php.

Building Report



Major commercial projects recently permitted in the city:

Project	Location	Size	Value
Super Target (New)	1629 N. Town East Blvd.	184,502 Sq. Ft.	\$8,000,000
Workforce Development Center (New)	3737 Motley Dr.	31,000 Sq. Ft.	\$6,100,000
Buckner Retail Crossing Shell Bldg. (New)	5620 South Buckner Blvd.	79,079 Sq. Ft.	\$5,000,000
BJ's Restaurant (New)	1106 Town East Mall	4,192 Sq. Ft.	\$750,000

Cell Phone Signs In Place

City traffic workers have completed the installation of the Cell Phone Restriction signs in all MISD school zones.

place the signs in Mesquite's 40 school zones.



People caught using cell phones in active school zones can now face a maximum fine of up to \$200 for each offense. The ordinance does include text messaging and use of e-mail, but the use of hands-free devices is allowed.

The new ordinance took effect in October to give time for City work crews to construct and

Mesquite Residents Alerted To Coyote Activity

Recent reports of increased coyote sightings in less populated areas of Mesquite are prompting the City to urge residents to take precautions in order to protect their pets.

Mesquite residents, especially those who live near creeks or wooded areas, are advised to keep their pets inside fences or in the house at night. Coyotes are generally active between sunset and sunrise, but those more acclimated to suburban neighborhoods may venture out in the early afternoon.

City officials advise residents can help deter coyotes by placing their garbage out on the morning of their scheduled pick up day. Also, do not leave food out for dogs or cats overnight, and trim and clean shrubbery or areas near your home where coyotes may hide for cover.



Coyotes are rarely aggressive towards people. Any resident observing a coyote attack on a small animal is advised to contact the Animal Services Division immediately at 972-216-6907.

Cooking Grease Can Cost You

Now that winter's getting closer you will probably start moving your outdoor barbecuing to your indoor grill and, as you do, water quality engineers ask you to please remember to keep your leftover grease and food scraps out of the drain.

Cooking oil and grease poured down drains can build up in pipes causing backups at your home, into streets and even into the storm drainage system.

Proper disposal of your cooking oil and other greases and fats helps prevent a backup.

The best way to get rid of cooking grease is to pour it into a container and throw the grease away in the trash when the container is full. Following this simple process could save you hundreds of dollars, or more, in plumbing bills down the road.



Parks and Recreation Corner

Daddy-Daughter Dance

Friday, February 6
Mesquite Convention Center
\$10/person/session
Session 1: 4 - 8 years old, 6 - 8 p.m.
Session 2: 9 - 12 years old, 8:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Your special little sweetheart will be on top of the world at the ninth annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. An evening filled with fabulous music, light refreshments, fun and dancing waits. Professional photographers will be available for an additional fee starting at 5:30 p.m. A limited number of tickets are available. Buy yours at any recreation center, the Parks and Recreation administrative offices or online at www.cityofmesquite.com starting January 5. 972-216-6260

Youth Motivational Workout

Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 6 - 27
6 - 7 p.m.
Ages 7 - 12; \$50/person
Dunford Recreation Center

The class teaches the importance of eating right and exercising in order to be healthy now and later in life. The course offers education sessions as well as workouts. Instructor: Elizabeth Jones, Former Oklahoma State University Basketball Player 972-279-9285

Recreation After School Program (R.A.S.P.)

All City recreation centers
\$100 / month; registration limited

The City of Mesquite Recreation After School Program is designed to include supervised activities, arts/crafts, snacks and homework time for kids needing a place to stay after school.

The program operates with the MISD calendar, and offers programs for school holidays and teacher in-service days. 972-216-6260 www.cityofmesquite.com