



# MAINSTREAM

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

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### April 2016

- 2** Enjoy the 59th annual Mesquite Rodeo Parade beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/RodeoParade](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/RodeoParade)
  - 2** The Mesquite Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Dr., is hosting a free computer class called "Researching Your Family History Online," from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call 972-216-6220 to reserve a seat.
  - 4, 18** City Council Meetings at City Hall, 7 p.m., 757 N. Galloway Avenue. 972-216-6244.
  - 9** The Water Conservation Office will offer two free workshops at the Mesquite ISD Planetarium, 2501 Memorial Blvd. Part 1 of "Water Efficient Landscaping," 9 - 10:30 a.m. and Part 2, 10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Register online at <https://dallas.tamu.edu/courses> or call 972-329-8300.
  - 9** Florence Ranch Homestead Tours, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. Also open each Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. 972-216-6468.
  - 19** The Mesquite Main Library, 300 W. Grubb Dr., "Reading Buddies" program begins Tuesday and Thursday 4:30 - 5 p.m. Children, preschool through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, will partner with a volunteer on reading activities. 972-216-6220.
  - 23** Opal Lawrence Historical Park Tours, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., 701 E. Kearney Street. Also open each Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. 972-216-6468.
- For information on City services impacted during holidays, please visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/holidays](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/holidays).

## City selects Charles Cato as Police Chief

The City of Mesquite has chosen Charles Cato as its new Police Chief.

Mayor Stan Pickett said, "Improving public safety in Mesquite is one of the City Council's top policy areas. Charles has the background and experiences we need to help lead us in new proactive efforts to make our community safer."



Cato has served the City of Dallas in various capacities since 1988. These include First Assistant Chief of Police, Interim Assistant City Manager, Assistant Chief of Police, Deputy Chief of Police, Interim Chief of Police, Lieutenant, Sergeant, Senior Corporal and Police Officer.

Some of Cato's accomplishments include directing the daily operations of the Dallas Police Department which achieved a 52 percent reduction in crime since 2004, the most of any major city in the United States and the most in Texas.

Cato has a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a graduate of the National Executive Institute conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Integrated Emergency Management program conducted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Cato replaces Derek Rohde who retired as Mesquite's Police Chief in January.

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[www.nextdoor.com](http://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

In January, I was asked by the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce to deliver a State of the City Address during their Annual Banquet. This opportunity provided me the forum to share all the great programs and projects the City of Mesquite achieved in 2015. I was also able to share the plans the city has for 2016 to address the various policy areas the City Council has identified. These policy areas include public safety and public infrastructure. During the presentation, I was honored to recognize some outstanding city employees: Police Officer of the Year Marvin Franklin, Fire Officer of the Year Captain Keith Hopkins, and General Government Employee of the Year Mark Hodges.

The city has a special State of the City webpage at [www.cityofmesquite.com/SOC](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/SOC). The page has a video and text version of the presentation, as well as details on the employees recognized at the event. I encourage you to check it out and learn more about the city.

Stan Pickett  
Mayor

## City Council moves forward with Thomasson Square Project

After careful consideration of citizen input and the merits and benefits of the project to the city, the Mesquite City Council reached a consensus at the February 1 Pre-Meeting to move forward with current plans for the Thomasson Square Project, including the lane reduction and construction of two roundabouts. Foremost in the Council's deliberation was the desire to create a unique sense of place attractive to commercial redevelopment. The webpage [www.cityofmesquite.com/ThomassonSquare](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/ThomassonSquare) features project details, presentations, the results of a community survey and a video of the January 28 Thomasson Square Public Meeting.

The Thomasson Square Project is a public-private revitalization effort of a three-block area located on Gus Thomasson Rd., between Moon Drive and Karla Drive, north of Interstate Highway 30. It includes a mixture of retail and commercial properties as well as a park and surrounding neighborhoods.

The first step in the revitalization effort is to improve the areas of the corridor that are under public control. This includes the streets, sidewalks, landscaping and other amenities that will serve as a "front door" for the businesses and visitors to the area. With an attractive "front door" and consistent rules on how property can be redeveloped, the City is protecting new private-side investment. Thomasson Square is expected to generate \$558 million in private reinvestment (retail, office, restaurant, and housing) over a twenty-year period.



## Municipal Election to be held May 7

The Annual Municipal Election is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2016, to elect Councilmembers for Places 3, 4 and 5. Early voting will be conducted in Mesquite at Lakeside Activity Center, 101 Holley Park Dr., as follows:

Monday, April 25 - Friday, April 29, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 1, from 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Monday, May 2 - Tuesday, May 3, from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Applications for ballots by mail shall be submitted by mail, carrier delivery, fax or email (scanned application containing an original signature) to Toni Pippins-Poole, Early Voting Clerk, at Dallas County Elections Department, 2377 N. Stemmons Freeway, Ste 820, Dallas, Texas, 75207; e-mail at [evapplications@dallascounty.org](mailto:evapplications@dallascounty.org); or fax 214-819-6303. All applications for ballots by mail must be received by Dallas County Elections Department no later than the close of business on Tuesday, April 26.

## New Neighborhood Services Department Director announced

Emergency Management Coordinator Raymond Rivas was recently selected to serve as Neighborhood Services Director. The new Neighborhood Services Department was launched in November 2015. It oversees environmental code enforcement, the program called H.O.M.E. (Helping Others in Mesquite Everyday) and other future neighborhood integrity plans. For details on the department call 972-329-8704 or visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/NeighborhoodServices](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/NeighborhoodServices).



Rivas has previous management experience with the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He has a Masters of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Dallas and a Bachelor of Science in Emergency Administration and Planning from the University of North Texas. Rivas is active in the Mesquite community through his service in the Friends of Scouting efforts and Rotary Club International.

## Drug Take Back Event

On Saturday, April 30, the Mesquite Police Department will take part in a nation-wide collaborative effort to allow residents to dispose of unused medication. Residents may bring their expired, unwanted or unused medications to the lobby of the Mesquite Police Department, 777 N. Galloway Ave., from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and deposit them for destruction. This is a voluntary program and allows people to anonymously dispose of these medications safely.

Controlled, non-controlled and over the counter medication will be collected. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in the original container. Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will NOT be accepted due to the potential hazard posed by blood-borne pathogens. Illegal substances are not part of this program and should not be placed in the collection containers. For more information, call the Solid Waste Division at 972-216-6285.



**Got Drugs?**  
Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal  
April 30, 2016



## 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).

### Mother Son Dance

“A Starry Night” Mother Son Dance will be held Friday, April 8, from 7 - 9 p.m. at the Mesquite Convention Center, 1700 Rodeo Dr. Presale tickets are \$15 per person or \$20 per person at the door.



### Hero Run

Be a hero to athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities and lace up your running shoes for the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Hero Run on Saturday, April 23. Registration begins at 7 a.m. at Paschall Park, 1001 New Market Rd. Preregister for the three-mile Hero Run for \$25, or \$30 registration for day of event. Families and kids may join the 1-mile Kid Run for \$15.



### Spring Camp Out

Breathe in fresh air under the stars at Camp Rorie-Galloway, 3100 Lawson Rd., during the Spring Camp Out on Saturday, April 30. Arrive at 1 p.m. on Saturday and head home on Sunday at 10 a.m. The \$35 per family of four fee includes dinner and breakfast. An additional \$5 fee is added for each additional camper.

### Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Celebrate Cinco de Mayo on Saturday, April 30, at City Lake Park, 403 S. Galloway Ave., 12 - 6 p.m. The event will feature authentic Mexican food, folklorico dancers and much more.

## Saturday Code Enforcement Inspections

In January, the City began Saturday environmental code inspections in neighborhoods and high businesses-traffic areas. These additional hours spent by code enforcement officers will further the City's goal to enhance the appearance of its neighborhoods. The two code enforcement officers will be on-duty Saturdays from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. For questions, please contact Neighborhood Services at 972-329-8704.

## 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 Symphony Orchestra** presents *Growin' Up, Dreamin' Big* on April 2 at 5 p.m. in the Concert Hall. Please visit [www.mesquitesymphony.org](http://www.mesquitesymphony.org) to purchase tickets.

The **Outdoor Concert Series** will be held every Thursday night in April at 7 p.m. A different band will be featured each night and all concerts are free.

- April 7 – Jason Elmore and Hoodoo Witch, blues band
- April 14 – The Music People Luv Band, 70's cover band
- April 21 – Josh Knight and Art Greenhaw, blues and country music
- April 28 – The JamWows!, popular music cover band

The **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs* in the Black Box Theater, April 15 - May 1. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [www.mesquitecommunitytheatre.com](http://www.mesquitecommunitytheatre.com).

## 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

## Talkin' Turf with Travis

Here are landscaping tips from Travis E. Sales, the City's Manager of Park Services and Municipal Arborist. If you have questions or concerns about your landscape, please feel free to contact Travis at [tsales@cityofmesquite.com](mailto:tsales@cityofmesquite.com) or check out more tips at [www.cityofmesquite.com/Travis](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Travis).



### Turfgrass and Landscape Fertilization Tips

March and April are the most important months of the year to get your landscape and turfgrass ready for the long hot Texas summers. The first application should be applied when your yard is starting to turn green in late March. The following are the recommended slow release fertilization rates for this first application.

- Hybrid or Common Bermuda grass: 15-5-10 NPK (6.67 pounds, per 1,000 square feet)
- St. Augustine: 20-5-10 NPK (5.0 pounds, per 1,000 square feet)
- Shrubs/Groundcovers: 13-13-13 NPK
- Flowering Shrubs: 15-25-10 NPK

Fertilizer should be applied in March, June, July and October. Remember, do not over apply the fertilizer as this can cause turfgrass disease, excessive growth, and can pollute ground water with excessive water runoff.

Nitrogen (N) should be applied at a rate of 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet for the entire year, which falls in the recommended rate of 4-6 pounds of Nitrogen per year on most turfgrass species. Keep Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K) applications as low as possible, if not at 0% on all applications with the exception of the first application of the year due to high rates already existing in the soil. For more landscaping tips, go to [www.cityofmesquite.com/Travis](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Travis).

## Community Snapshots

In January, Mayor Stan Pickett announced Officer Marvin Franklin as Police Officer of the Year, Fire Captain Keith Hopkins as Fire Officer of the Year and Mark Hodges as General Government Employee of the Year at the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce Banquet.



Police Officer Marvin Franklin



Fire Captain Keith Hopkins



Mark Hodges