



December 23, 2016



## Mesquite City Council approves police lateral transfer program

The Mesquite City Council has approved the addition of a lateral transfer program to the Mesquite Police Department. The program is intended to help recruit experienced police officers by granting service credit from other Texas and out of state agencies, raising the starting salary for experienced new hires. Current police officers who would like to sit for the January 7, 2017 Mesquite Police entrance exam may apply through December 29, 2016. Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/Recruiting](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Recruiting) for more information.

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## Mesquite firefighters featured on NBC 5 for assisting Israel

In late November, four Mesquite firefighters answered Israel's requests for aid through the Emergency Volunteers Project (EVP) and traveled to Israel to fight wildfires ravaging the country. On December 20, multiple media outlets including NBC 5 and Fox 4 news interviewed two of these firefighters at Fire Station No. 5. Deputy Fire Chief Jeff Miller and Fire Captain Jason Eddy both gave on-camera interviews and the story was featured on NBC 5. A video of this news story can be viewed at [Local Firefighters Answer Call Half a World Away](#). Deputy Fire Chief Miller was also featured in a news story produced by the United States Embassy in Tel Aviv. This video may be watched online at [U.S. Firefighters Deploy to Israel](#).

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## Mesquite offers holiday message and recap of 2016 community programs

City Manager Cliff Keheley offers a holiday message on behalf of the City of Mesquite and thanks the Mesquite community for their significant contributions during the year. To watch the holiday message and a recap of many community programs provided in 2016, visit [Happy Holidays from the City of Mesquite](#).

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## Mesquite urges citizens to celebrate safely this holiday season

Each year, fireworks and the discharge of guns into the air cause severe injuries and even death. Residents are reminded that it is illegal to possess or use fireworks, or discharge firearms within city limits. Punishment ranges from \$500 to \$4,000 depending on the offense, with the illegal discharge of a firearm even carrying the possible penalty of up to one year of jail time. Non-emergency calls related to fireworks and the illegal discharge of guns also overload 911 call centers, interfering with emergency assistance. Please do not call 911 unless there is a life-threatening emergency. To learn more, watch the online video [Celebrate Safely and Legally](#). Report violations by calling non-emergency police dispatch at 972-285-6336.

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## Mesquite to launch new Housing Division Homelessness Program

The Mesquite City Council has approved revisions to the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program to create a new Homelessness Program. The revisions strengthen the current rental assistance program. They will convert 12 of the existing housing vouchers for the specific use to assist families at risk of homelessness. The HCV program is funded and governed by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. To receive the vouchers, applicants must be referred by the Mesquite Independent School District and certified as homeless by the City's Housing Division. The program becomes effective January 1, 2017. For more information, visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/Housing](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Housing) or call 972-216-6424.

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## Code enforcement officers sworn into service

On December 20, three City of Mesquite Code Enforcement Officers were sworn into service after completing their training and education requirements: Ashley Anderson, Elsa Rodriguez and Heath Weese. Code enforcement officers are responsible for investigating violations of the City's Code of Ordinances that impact the quality of life of Mesquite residents and business owners. All Mesquite Code Enforcement Officers are licensed by the State of Texas. To become licensed, individuals must complete a required State course, pass a written examination and complete one year of training.

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## Mesquite employees honored as Real. Texas. Service. Champions

Mesquite honored four City employees with Real. Texas. Service. Champion awards during the City Council meeting on December 19. Congratulations to Keith Chilton, Sergeant Cameron MacKay, Ron Prentice and Detention Officer William Nichols. The Real. Texas. Service. Champions program celebrates employees who provide exemplary customer service and achieve accomplishments that merit special recognition. Visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/ServiceChampions](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/ServiceChampions) for more information or to view a video of the employees recognized.

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## Mesquite to host Special Olympics Texas Polar Plunge

The City of Mesquite will once again support Special Olympics Texas by hosting the Polar Plunge on Saturday, January 21 at City Lake Aquatic Center. As part of the event, participants who raise a minimum of \$60 in donations (\$30 if under 18) will have the opportunity to take a plunge into the frigid waters of City Lake Aquatic Center. All money raised will go toward providing year-round sports training, competitions, health, and inclusion programs for local individuals with intellectual disabilities. This event supports our local Mesquite Special Olympics Texas athletes. For more information on the event, visit [Mesquite Polar Plunge](http://Mesquite Polar Plunge).

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## City of Mesquite and STAR Transit holiday closures

Many City of Mesquite offices and facilities will be closed December 24, 26 and 31 as well as January 2 in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. Please visit [www.cityofmesquite.com/Holidays](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/Holidays) for a complete list of closures and service impacts. For those trash and recycling collection days missed, collection will occur on the residents' next scheduled collection day.

STAR Transit's offices will be closed on December 23 and 26 as well as January 2. This includes On Demand Service and the Kaufman Trolley. STAR Transit will operate regular schedules for the DART Express Bus Route 282 (COMPASS), the Balch Springs Midtown Express and the Seagoville Express on December 23. STAR Transit will not operate the DART Express Bus Route 282 (COMPASS), the Balch Springs Midtown Express and the Seagoville Express on December 26 or January 2. For more information, call 877-631-5278 or visit [www.STARtransit.org](http://www.STARtransit.org).



## Streets Division utilizes new paving equipment

The Streets Division recently utilized new paving equipment called a roller screed on New Market Road. This piece of equipment improves the efficiency of street repair and paving performance in the City's pavement preservation program.



## Contact Us

Let us hear from you. If you have a concern or are experiencing an issue, please contact the City of Mesquite at 972-288-7711 or visit the City's website at [www.cityofmesquite.com/CitizenRequest](http://www.cityofmesquite.com/CitizenRequest) for assistance.

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