



Dear Mesquite Resident,



I would like to once again take this opportunity to invite you to take part in our annual Real Texas Festival.

This is the fourth year now we have partnered with the Mesquite Championship Rodeo to put together a bash that brings music, food and fun, and I'm happy to tell you our Saturday night headliner is one you will want to enjoy. In fact, it should be an attraction for the entire region.

The festival will feature Cross Canadian Ragweed, as well as Kevin Fowler, Granger Smith, Stephanie Fix, The Neckties and more. Other entertainment includes a Selena contest on the community stage, as well as another Battle of the Bands event. People of any age will leave this festival with a smile on their faces. A few hours might not even be enough for some.



As always, the Real Texas Festival is designed to be family-friendly. Did you know that children 12 and under enjoy free admission? There

will be some great activities for younger people, and I am looking forward to taking my grandchildren to the festival again this year to enjoy the carnival rides, turkey legs and live music set for the two-day event. I am proud this is something we can offer them and you. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

John Monaco
Mayor

MESQUITE ARTS CENTER
ARTIVITIES

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.

APRIL

- 1 – 30 **Dean Corbitt** will hold an exhibition in the Main and Chamber Galleries. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and during performances. 972-216-6444
- 9 – 24 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams. This Pulitzer Prize-winning play has thrilled and captivated both stage and film audiences since its debut in 1954. Performances are Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 11, at 2:30 p.m.; Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, at 8 p.m.; Sunday, April 18, at 2:30 p.m.; and Thursday through Saturday, April 22 – 24, at 8 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets are \$15 Adults; \$12 Students/Seniors and \$8 children ages 2-6. 972-216-8126
- 12 – 13 **Mesquite Community Theatre** will hold auditions for *A Grand Night for Singing* from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. 972-216-8126
- 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



FREQUENTLY CALLED CITY PHONE NUMBERS

- Main Number.....972-288-7711
- Animal Services972-216-6283
- Building Inspection972-216-6212
- Environmental Code.....972-216-6276
- Parks and Recreation.....972-216-6260
- Planning and Zoning972-216-6216
- Trash Collection/Recycling.....972-216-6284
- Street/Alley Repair.....972-216-6282
- Water Billing972-216-6208
- Water Leaks/Sewer Back-ups972-216-6278



Real Texas Flavor.



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

MAINSTREAM

RED DIRT MEGA STARS HEADLINE REAL TEXAS FESTIVAL.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 5, 19 **APRIL 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.
- 9 – 24 **Mesquite Community Theatre** presents *A Streetcar Named Desire* (see Art Center Activities for more information). 972-216-8126
- various **Historic Florence Ranch Homestead** is located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road and is open from noon - 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, and every second Saturday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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
- 30 **Parks and Recreation** holds its *Mother-Son Dance* (see Parks and Recreation Corner for more information).

Last April's Real Texas Festival was a watershed mark for the City of Mesquite's young signature event. City residents, and even residents of the surrounding area, can be prepared for a round of "you haven't seen anything yet" where the fourth annual festival is concerned.

The 2010 festival is set for April 23 and 24 at Resistol Arena in Mesquite. This festival will continue to feature many of the same attractions that have everyone circling the final weekend of April on their calendars every year.



One of those attractions is the all-Texas music jam, anchored by two of the Red Dirt Music scene's biggest acts – Kevin Fowler and Cross Canadian Ragweed.

Fowler will headline the Friday concert series at 9:30 p.m. and Cross Canadian Ragweed takes the final performance slot of the festival at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.



Other performers slated to appear include Granger Smith, Stephanie Fix, Grupo Vida, Ram Herrera, Railhead, Zack King, Mark McKinney, Naked Lunch, Chaz Marie Band, The Neckties and more.

The festival also features the Taste of Mesquite Barbecue Cook-Off, the Cowboys and Chrome Car Show presented by Hooters, as well as a Bill Hames Amusements Carnival and expanded kid korral with bounce houses, pony rides, face painting and more.



Of course, the Real Texas Festival wouldn't be complete without the world famous Mesquite Championship Rodeo, entering its 53rd season with a renovated Resistol Arena now featuring remodeled suites, video production and the new Eight Second Club.

Furthermore, the Real Texas Festival is a Ticketmaster event. Tickets for the festival will go on sale to the general public March 19 through the Web site, realtexasfestival.com, or ticketmaster.com. They can also be purchased at the Municipal Center at 1515 N. Galloway or the Resistol Arena box office. Residents can take advantage of a special early bird ticket promotion by purchasing tickets through Ticketmaster before March 19 for \$9.95 by entering the special promotional code "Mainstream."

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- Bill Porter .. Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, Place 1
- Stan Pickett Councilmember, Place 3
- Shirley Roberts Councilmember, Place 4
- Vacant Place 5
- Dennis Tarpley Councilmember, Place 6



Real Texas Flavor.
www.cityofmesquite.com

Call For Volunteers



There is a sure fire way to get into the Real. Texas. Festival. for free this year – be a volunteer! Event organizers are seeking volunteers to help out in virtually all areas of the festival. For more information: volunteers@cityofmesquite.com or 972-329-8331.

R.T.F. Features Real Texas Heritage

The Real. Texas. Festival. is all about real Texas heritage. In fact, the festival is all-Texan all of the time. All of the entertainers are from Texas, or have ties here, and all vendors are from the state as well.



Because of its focus on all things Texas, the Festival has partnered with the Go Texan program of the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Go Texan is a marketing arm for the TDA and will be sending out the call for all of its members to attend and be a part of the Go Texan Marketplace. That's important, because Mesquite would not be able to host the Real. Texas. Festival. if it were not for a successful effort in finding sponsors.

The festival is promoted through \$300,000 worth of promotion and advertising. This allows organizers to put together a great show that features something for everyone.



Something For Everyone At The R.T.F.

The Real. Texas. Festival. has music scheduled on three stages, including the Mesquite Battle of the Bands event, as well as the community stage featuring groups and ensembles from the Mesquite Independent School District Fine Arts Department.

The Neckties from the Rockwall-Heath area won last year's Battle of the Bands at the festival and will be performing on the Hooters Stage this year. Eight Battle of the Bands performance slots are available and applications are being accepted. The format will mirror last year's event, which was patterned after the contest Mesquite Youth Services conducts every year at the Mesquite Girls Softball



Complex. The MYS event enjoyed a very successful run and the festival seeks to continue the tradition.

Speaking of unique attractions, festival organizers, in cooperation with Hispanic Forum of Mesquite, will be conducting a Selena contest on the community stage. The Tejano music world lost its Number One star and top ambassador, Selena Quintanilla Perez, to an assassin's bullet in the mid '90s. The festival will celebrate the life of Selena with the contest and perhaps make it an annual event.

Getting Around The R.T.F.

The Real. Texas. Festival. includes shuttle and three on-site parking areas. The best news is this year parking is included in the price of admission!

Advance tickets cost \$12, however, tickets bought at the gate cost \$15. So, if you buy early, parking is free!

Lots are located at Memorial Stadium and at three areas surrounding the festival. A shuttle will provide car-to-gate service from Memorial Stadium at 1000 Scyene Rd. Space is also available along Rodeo Dr. and a \$10 paved parking area is available along Neil Gay Dr.



Families At The Core Of Real. Texas. Value.

Granted, the All-Texas music jam at the Real. Texas. Festival. encourages attendees to take the advice of Kevin Fowler and get "loose, get loud and get crazy." But, families are a major part of the Real. Texas. Festival., and organizers continue to build on that strength to make the festival family-friendly.



The price of admission is one reason why families are at the core of Real. Texas. Value. First of all, all children 12 and under get in *free* both days. Furthermore, the ticket price - \$12 in advance and \$15 at the gate - includes all amenities at the festival: all concerts, the car show, the Taste of Mesquite Barbecue competition, the Real. Texas. Marketplace., performances of the Mesquite Championship Rodeo and even parking. There are free general admission parking areas as well as free shuttle service from Memorial Stadium and West Mesquite High School.

visit online at: www.cityofmesquite.com

R.T.F. Remains Great Value



Although the price of admission to the festival is rising this year, it still remains one of the most impressive entertainment values in the Metroplex.

Tickets are \$12 in advance through April 23 and \$15 at the gate. Children 12 and under get in free. However, the ticket is all-inclusive. It gets the festivalgoer admission for the day, admission into all concert venues, including the headliners Kevin Fowler and Cross Canadian Ragweed. It also includes all attractions, a seat inside Resistol Arena for a rodeo performance, access to the car show, the Real. Texas. Marketplace., and even parking in the general admission grass parking areas (weather permitting and while spaces last).

Also, festival patrons who participate in our Real. Texas. FoodDrive. will get \$3 off the festival admission. Attendees can bring a non-perishable food item to receive the discount. The food items donated will be delivered to food pantries at Sharing Life Community Outreach and Mesquite Social Services.



Free shuttle service from the overflow parking area at Memorial Stadium will be available.

Parks and Recreation Corner

Mother-Son Dance

Friday, April 30
6:30 to 9:30 p.m.
Evans Recreation Center
Moms and their sons ages 4 to 12 years



It is time for Mesquite Parks and Recreation's fourth annual Mother-Son Dance. This year's theme is "A Date with a Superhero." Guests will enjoy music, dancing, refreshments, and other activities and are encouraged to dress as their favorite superhero. Professional photos will

be available for an extra fee. Admission is \$10 per person and a limited number of tickets are available for purchase at any Mesquite recreation center, the Parks and Recreation Administrative Office, or online at www.cityofmesquite.com. 972-216-6260

Camp Rorie-Galloway Community Work Day

Saturday, April 10
3100 Lawson Rd.

The Mesquite Parks and Recreation department is orchestrating a work day at Camp Rorie-Galloway. The event includes the establishment of several amenities such as horse shoe pits, sand volleyball courts, an amphitheater and a new fire pit. The improvement day will rely heavily on the donations and assistance of volunteers from the community. 972-216-6260

Ballerina Birthday Party

On Demand
Dunford Recreation Center
\$150

Celebrate your little girl's birthday in an enchanted land filled with dancing ballerinas. She will be transformed into a ballerina princess and will receive a tutu in her favorite color. The party includes set-up and clean-up, decorations, thank you cards, group picture and crowns for all guests. Call to reserve your Ballerina Birthday Party and give your little girl an enchanted moment that every little princess dreams. 972-279-9285

