



MAINSTREAM




www.cityofmesquite.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

5, 19 **March**
 City Council Meeting,
 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers,
 757 N. Galloway, 972-216-6244

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 |

-  www.twitter.com/cityofmesquite
-  www.facebook.com/cityofmesquite
-  www.youtube.com/cityofmesquitetexas

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COMPASS scheduled to start March 12



Citizens working in downtown Dallas will soon be able to avoid the hassles of traffic and parking, as well as save money on fuel and parking, by taking the COMPASS (City of Mesquite PASsenger Shuttle) nonstop shuttle to the DART (Dallas Area Rapid Transit) Green

Line Lawnview Station and riding the DART train into downtown. This service is scheduled to begin March 12.

Construction of the COMPASS shelter near Hanby Stadium is well underway. Both Albertson's and Tom Thumb grocery store chains have agreed to sell COMPASS passes at Mesquite stores. Passes are also available from the online DART store (www.dartstore.org) and may be purchased with \$7 exact change upon boarding the shuttle. Bicycle racks will be mounted on the front of shuttles and will be installed adjacent to the shelter for those who wish to ride their bikes to the shelter but not take them to work.



COMPASS will initially operate weekdays from 5:00 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 to 7:00 p.m., and will give passengers access to all of DART's transit services for just \$7 each day. For more information on COMPASS, visit www.cityofmesquite.com/compass.



John Monaco
Mayor



Dennis Tarpley
Mayor Pro Tem
Place 6



Brian Hutcheson
Deputy Mayor Pro
Tem, Place 5



Bill Porter
Councilmember
Place 1



Al Forsythe
Councilmember
Place 2



Stan Pickett
Councilmember
Place 3



Shirley Roberts
Councilmember
Place 4



MAYOR'S CORNER

As an active member of the U.S Conference of Mayors, I want to bring to your attention a national campaign which it has asked mayors across the country to promote within their communities. The 2012 Tax Credit Outreach Campaign is an effort to provide updated information and tools to help educate citizens about the tax credits and free filing assistance programs that are available. Moderate-income working families need to know about these opportunities during these difficult economic conditions. Many low-wage tax filers in 2012 may be eligible for an Earned Income Credit (EIC) worth up to \$5,751. In 2011 alone, more than 27 million eligible families and individuals claimed EIC worth \$59 million. Even if workers don't earn enough to owe income tax (although they pay federal and payroll taxes, as well as state and local taxes), they can qualify for these tax credits, but may not realize it. The America Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 made more workers eligible for larger refunds, and these provisions remain in effect for work in 2011. This opportunity to get tax relief and support is a great chance for working families to help pay their household bills, meet their children's needs and help endure salary cutbacks or periods of unemployment. For more information, please go to www.eitcoutreach.org and visit the Online Resources section of the website.



John Monaco
John Monaco, Mayor

Mesquite's 125th Celebration

This monthly column in 2012 will highlight Mesquite's 125th anniversary and history.

Now that the City's 125th anniversary year is fully underway, two scheduled events will kick off in March. On March 10, the Mesquite Geocache Challenge will get underway at the Florence Ranch Homestead, located at 1424 Barnes Bridge Road. Mesquite's Parks and Recreation Department, along with community geocachers and Historic Mesquite, Inc. (HMI) board directors, will release hints for finding 25 new caches hidden throughout Mesquite. The first five participants to complete the challenge will win a limited edition, 125th anniversary commemorative coin. On March 24, registration will be held for the first-ever Brothers of the Brush contest. For those wanting to enter this facial hair growing contest, the registration will be held at Opal Lawrence Historical Park, located at 701 E. Kearney Street. Participants will be asked to select a category to compete in and must be clean-shaven. For more details on these and other exciting events celebrating Mesquite's 125th anniversary, please contact Historic Mesquite, Inc. at 972-216-6468.



City needs volunteers for Real.Texas.Festival. set for April 27 - 28

Be a part of the volunteer force for one of the premier festivals in North Texas!

The Real.Texas.Festival., to be held in Mesquite on April 27 and 28, features a variety of music, entertainment, food and family fun. With the event attracting more than 25,000 attendees, the City of Mesquite uses volunteers to help with information booths and an array of other roles that are important to the success of the festival. Volunteers

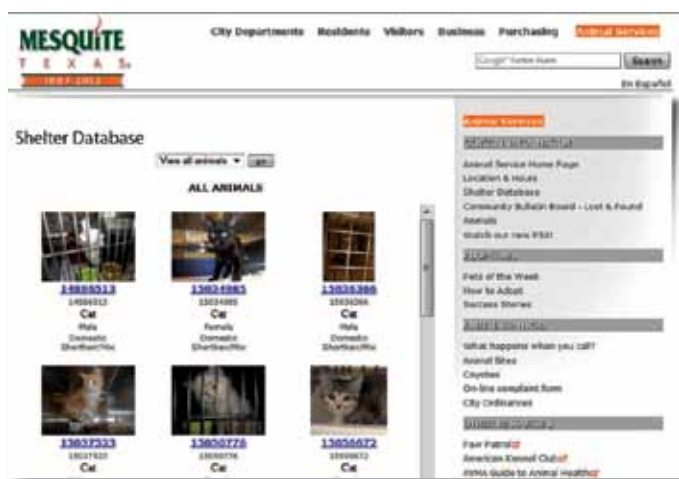


receive complimentary admission (\$20 value) on each day they work, a free volunteer t-shirt and access to the on-site volunteer hospitality area.

On April 17 all volunteers will be treated to a complimentary buffet dinner during the required orientation session at the Rodeo Arena barbecue pavilion. During orientation, volunteers will receive their t-shirt, credentials and instructions from festival staff. To become a volunteer, visit www.realtexasfestival.com/volunteers.php. For more information, please contact Festival Volunteer Coordinator Crystal Cooksey at 972-285-4145 or ccooksey@cityofmesquite.com.

Mesquite Animal Shelter offers online database to find lost pets

Oops! The front door was left open accidentally and your pet seized the opportunity for an adventure through the neighborhood. You searched for hours but couldn't find the pet. What do you do now? Well, pet owners in Mesquite can visit the Mesquite Animal Shelter online database at www.cityofmesquite.com/animal to view pets that have been found. Pet owners may contact the shelter at 972-216-6283 to make arrangements to pick up their pet the next business day. In addition, pet owners are encouraged to be proactive by placing the required City registration tag on each animal's collar and implanting an identification microchip under the animal's skin. Using the microchip information, shelter staff can contact the owner of a lost pet directly. The Mesquite Animal Shelter and Adoption Center is located at 1650 Gross Road, and it is open to the public Monday through Friday from 11:00 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturday from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.



Parks and Recreation Corner

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

Breakfast with the Bunny March 24

Breakfast with the Bunny will be hosted at Evans Recreation Center, located at 1116 Hillcrest Street. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 24, 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. There will be an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast for \$5. Also, photos with the bunny will be available for \$3. An egg hunt for ages one to nine will begin at 10:30 a.m.



3D Easter Eggs March 31

Learn how to make three-dimensional Easter eggs out of chocolate that can be filled with assorted treats for a truly wonderful and different Easter surprise. All supplies are provided and participants will get to take home their yummy creations. Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Ages 12+, \$35 per person. Evans Recreation Center, 1116 Hillcrest Street

Evans Dance Party

This program for children with disabilities and their siblings is complete with music and refreshments, in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Pre-registration is encouraged. Friday, March 16, 6 to 8:00 p.m. Ages 6-18, \$10 per person. Evans Recreation Center, 1116 Hillcrest Street

Library offers spring break activities

The Mesquite Public Library System is hosting a variety of programs at its two branches during spring break. Each program starts at 4:00 p.m.

Main Library

(300 W. Grubb Dr.)

March 12: Movie Time

March 13: Wii Time

March 14: Princess Fairy Tea Party

March 15: Movie Time

March 16: St. Patrick's Day Craft

For more information on these programs, contact Chris Thomson at the Main Library at 972-216-6226 or Christi Mones at the North Branch Library at 972-681-0465.

North Branch Library

(2600 Oates Dr.)

March 12: Games & Gab

March 13: Spring Craft

March 14: Get in the Game
(grades 6-12)

March 15: St. Patrick's Day Craft

March 16: Library Land



Mesquite Arts Center Activities

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, or call 972-216-6444.

March

- 10 **Mesquite Arts Council** presents cellist Yuri Anshelevich at 7:30 p.m. in a free concert. The Russian-born cello virtuoso won acceptance at the early age of 14 to the famed Moscow State Conservatory. After graduation and study with Mstislav Rostropovich, Mr. Anshelevich won critical acclaim for concert and recital performances the world over. Currently serving as associate principal with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Anshelevich is often described as a performer of power, imagination and vitality. The program includes the music of Boccherini, Beethoven and Mendelssohn.
- 16,17 **Black Box Actors** will perform "The Dixie Swim Club", about five Southern women who forged their friendship on a championship college swim team, and reunite each summer to catch up and recharge their relationships with raucous repartee, meddling advice and genuine fondness. Performances are Friday, March 16 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 17 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., Friday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 24th at 7:00 p.m.
- 24 **Dallas Symphony Orchestra Brass Quintet** performs a free concert at 7:30 p.m. The quintet features Ryan Anthony and Kevin Finamore, trumpet; Gregory Hustis, horn; John Kitzman, trombone and Matt Good, tuba. The musical sensitivity of the ensemble is unmatched, with conversational asides both informative and entertaining.



Pat Green to perform at Mesquite's Real.Texas.Festival.



Grammy nominee recording artist Pat Green will headline the sixth annual Mesquite Real.Texas.

Festival. set for April 27 and 28 at Rodeo Center. The event will also feature a wide

variety of other music, family-oriented fun, great food and more. Green is widely regarded as being the breakthrough artist of the Texas country explosion, taking the genre to a nationwide audience with his smash album "Wave on Wave", featuring the number one single of the same name. Green will perform Saturday, April 28 at 9:30 p.m. Tickets for the Real.Texas. Festival. go on sale Friday, March 23. For more information, visit www.realtexasfestival.com.

Stage 3 water restrictions are still in effect



Despite the rainfall during the month of January, the lake level at Lake Lavon (Mesquite's primary water source) still remains critically low. Currently, the City of Mesquite

and all member cities of the North Texas Municipal Water District have implemented Stage 3 water restrictions. There is a possibility Stage 4 restrictions could be implemented in the coming months. During winter months, watering lawns or landscapes is not necessary; the City is requesting all automatic sprinkler systems be turned off. Saving water now while the demand is lower will help extend our current water supply in the coming months. For a complete list of restrictions visit: www.cityofmesquite.com/utilities. For questions or to report violations, call 972-329-8533 or email stage3@cityofmesquite.com.

Community Snapshots

Please help us in celebrating our recent Quarterly Employee Service Champion Award winners:



Chad Krajca, District Park Supervisor



Fred Jackson, Assistant Manager of Solid Waste



Nancy Rogers, Engineering Plan Review and Records Specialist



Ian Purdue, Police Officer