

Mesquite TODAY

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Mayor's Community Update

As we enter the spring season, we are reminded of the renewal and rebirth of nature—flowers and leaves are sprouting, the ducks and birds flock to our lakes and ponds and our neighbors are outside more. It is a beautiful time of year to be in Mesquite. While others are shoveling snow, we are playing golf, taking leisure walks throughout town or other outdoor activities.



In response to citizens wishing to have more detailed responses to questions they have about City government, a special feature was created as a spotlight on our website (www.MesquiteNV.gov),

called "From the Mayor's Desk."

While there will always be differences of opinion, many of the misunderstandings come from a simple lack of communication or from information being difficult to obtain. For example, to follow are some of the questions answered and issues we address at the From the Mayor's Desk:

What is the RDA? Mesquite's Redevelopment Agency (RDA), was created in 1995. At that time property owners had the one-time right to "opt" into a program for what were considered "blighted areas of Mesquite." A base tax rate for the property was established with the understanding that any increased appraisal value which occurred between 1995 and the ensuing years would generate direct tax dollars for Mesquite.

What can RDA funds be used for? RDA funds can only be collected and spent in the Mesquite RDA for a set period of time. Mesquite has approximately 15 years remaining on its Redevelopment Agency time frame. RDA funds must be spent within the 30-year time frame or it will be disbursed back to the State for apportionment to schools, roads, etc. These monies are used to fund projects critical to the Redevelopment District that cannot be financed through the private sector. They are also used to acquire vital properties that are instrumental to the renewal of downtown.

What areas of the City are in the RDA? When we talk about a Redevelopment area, it is important to realize that **not all parts of Mesquite are within the RDA.** An example might be the

furniture store on Mesquite Blvd., which is within the RDA, but the single family home immediately adjacent is not. Additionally, not all of the RDA designated areas are within the downtown corridor and in fact, much of the Falcon Ridge Planned Unit Development (PUD) is within the RDA. (The Falcon Ridge PUD encompasses the housing development around Falcon Ridge Golf Course, Falcon Crossing Shopping Center and the Mesquite Auto Mall).

Another important caveat is that RDA funds **cannot be comingled with General Funds:** meaning RDA funds cannot go for the payment of salaries or benefits that are not specific to management or operation of the Redevelopment Agency. These funds are to be used for the betterment of the community at large and only certain projects qualify for the use of such funds. Of late interestingly, the Legislature has looked closely at acquiring any non-committed RDA funds, particularly given the State's budget shortfall.

In the coming months we will continue to look at the issues facing Mesquite and our region and provide you information on the website and in this newsletter.

Best Wishes,

Mayor Susan Holecheck

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City highlighted on national TV again

The Outdoor Channel featured Mesquite's picturesque ATV rides on a show called *Destination Polaris* on March 15 (to be rebroadcast on June 14).



The show's producers will be coming back soon to tape additional episodes of Mesquite-based trips. As a result of the first airing of the show, ATV ridership is becoming a growing tourist activity in the area.

In the past six months, Mesquite received prominent TV coverage of the RE/MAX World Long Drive Championships on ESPN HD (worldwide) and TSN (Canada); and the *Smokin' in Mesquite* contest aired on TLC's *B BQ Pitmasters* show.



Census brings funding and representation opportunities

A 10-question Census form was mailed in March to every address in Mesquite to return to the Census Bureau by April 1. It is important that everyone living in Mesquite be counted since it was estimated that each person represents nearly \$1,000 in lost funding per person, per year for 10 years.

So if a Mesquite family of four is missed, over the next decade almost \$40,000 in federal funding is missed.

These dollars fund education, transportation infrastructure, flood control facilities, social services such as the recent addition to the Senior Center. These funds were allocated based on Census data. Not only is funding at stake, but political representation as well. According to an independent analysis, Nevada is close to receiving a fourth Congressional seat depending upon a sufficient count by the 2010 Census.

March 24-May 9

Senior Games brings Olympic-style events



Athletes over 50 years of age can compete for the Gold in the 9th Annual Mesquite Senior Games which takes place from March 24 to May 9. Events are held at local venues for archery, bowling, basketball skills, golf,

pickleball, sporting clays, target pistol, softball, track & field and tennis. The standard registration fee is \$20, plus nominal entry fee. Men and women divisions are by skill level in some sports, or in five-year increments, such as 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69 and 70+. Info: www.MesquiteSeniorGames.com

May 31-June 1

Golfers compete in Mesquite Amateur

Entering its eighth year of competition, the Mesquite Amateur is one of the largest handicapped amateur tournaments in the nation with a maximum of 800 golfers playing three courses. Info: www.mesquiteamateur.com



April 17-24

Celebrating Mesquite Days

Mesquite celebrates its 26th anniversary with a parade on April 24, a carnival April 22-25, historic tours and more. (See schedule of events in italics at right).



A pair of prominent State conventions coming in 2011

Mesquite will host two prestigious State conventions next year giving the City an opportunity to introduce the city to influential Nevada leaders. To be held in the CasaBlanca Conference Center, the Rural Roundup will be held on April 6-8, 2011 and the Nevada League of Cities will visit on Oct. 5-7, 2011.

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With the hospitality industry being a vital economic driver to Nevada, the Rural Roundup brings executives from the Nevada Commission on Tourism, national tourism experts, industry professionals representing regions, cities and convention authorities as well as Chamber of Commerce and economic development directors.

The Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities annual conference brings together Nevada Mayors, City Council members, City managers, attorneys and clerks.

Mesquite Spring 2010 Events

APRIL

- 5-7 Pickleball – Mesquite Senior Games
- 9..... Bowling – Mesquite Senior Games
- 10..... Archery – Mesquite Senior Games
- Sporting Clays - Mesquite Senior Games
- 11..... Target Pistols – Mesquite Senior Games
- 9-11 Triple Crown Baseball
- 12-18 World Championship Motocross
- 13 Strings of Fire (Virgin Valley High School Theater), 7 PM
- 13..... Golf – Mesquite Senior Games at CasaBlanca Course
- 16..... Basketball Skills – Mesquite Senior Games
- 17..... Track & Field – Mesquite Senior Games
- *Historical Properties Clean-Up Day (Mesquite Days)*
- 17..... Fly In – Free Airplane Rides for Kids (Airport), 9 AM – Noon
- 17..... Celebrities Gone Wild (Community Theatre), 7 PM
- 21..... Chamber Golf Tournament (The Palms), 1:30 PM
- 22-25 Carnival (Virgin River Convention Center Parking Lot)
- 22..... Mesquite Days Bake Off (Sr. Center), 7 PM
- 22..... Dance Spectacular (Community Theatre) 1PM & 7PM
- 23-24 Dance Spectacular (Community Theatre), 7PM
- 22-25 *Mesquite Days Carnival (Convention Center Parking lot)*
- 23..... *Founder's Forum (City Council Chambers), 7 PM*
- 24..... *Mesquite Days Parade (Mesquite Blvd.), 10:30 AM*
- *Historic Properties Tour (Virgin Valley Museum), after parade*
- 28..... Concert on the Grass (City Hall), 6 PM

MAY-JUNE

- 5-9 Softball – Mesquite Senior Games
- 31-June 4..... Mesquite Amateur Golf Tournament

Events in boldface are Mesquite Senior Games Events
Mesquite Days Events in Italics