

# community news

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## News

### 50K attend 'Celebration of Freedom' July 2-3 in downtown Mesa

More than 50,000 people attended the inaugural Southwest Ambulance Arizona Celebration of Freedom, held July 2 and 3 in downtown Mesa. The event, featuring patriotic displays, music, games, food and so much more, was capped off by a Salute to America program Saturday night and fireworks, including pyrotechnics fired from the roofs of Mesa City Plaza and Mesa Arts Center.

"The Arizona Celebration of Freedom in Mesa was an unqualified success. On Saturday night, the crowd was so deep on Main Street that I couldn't see the end of it from the stage," Mesa Mayor Scott Smith said. "I want to thank everyone involved in planning the event and the tens of thousands of people who came out to celebrate in downtown Mesa."

Mayor Smith also attributed the event's success to the help of hundreds of volunteers as well as dozens of sponsoring companies and organizations. He thanked Southwest Ambulance, Chicago Cubs, ROKC, FBI Southern Club, Heritage Academy, Downtown Mesa Association, Downtown Events, Downtown Merchants, Mesa Veteran's Parade Association, NEDCO, Mesa Convention and Visitors Bureau, Entertainment Solutions, along with other community groups, veterans groups and sponsors who came together to make Arizona Celebration of Freedom a reality.

The city of Mesa received tremendous feedback from residents who attended the event.

Southeast Ambulance Arizona Celebration of Freedom is scheduled to be held Friday, July 2 and Saturday, July 3, 2011 in downtown Mesa.

For more information, visit <http://www.azcelebrationoffreedom.org>.

Editor's note: The above was submitted by Steven Wright, public information and communications director for the city of Mesa.

## Online

More news can be found online at [www.mesaindependent.com](http://www.mesaindependent.com)

Visit the Mesa Home Page and click on "Post Your News" to see the latest posted items news. Among the items posted this week:

Fire Safety checks accelerated despite program summer heat can be deadly for children

Fire Subways at Heart Returns

A massive safety message from the City of Mesa's Emergency Department

## Fire Calls

For the period of June 16-29, Mesa Fire Department units responded to 1,278 Emergency Medical Service calls (with 1,299 patients) and 626 fire-related calls. There were no calls where patients were transported by medical helicopters to area hospitals.

### 1) Brake blaze

A brake fire caused \$250 in damages June 16 in the 6500 block of East U.S. 90 (Separation: Hoover). Firefighter-paramedics were called at 5:33 a.m.

### 2) Pizza fire

A fire caused by a pizza in an oven caused \$3 in damages June 19 in the 4700 block of East Greenway Street. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 2:05 a.m.

### 3) Stove blaze

A fire on a stove caused smoke and \$2,000 in damages June 20 in the 2500 block of East University Drive. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 5:04 p.m.

### 4) Motorcycle fire

Tuning carburetors on a \$3,000 motor cycle caused a fire and caused \$1,000 in damages June 20 in the 900 block of West Orange Avenue. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 8:29 p.m.

### 5) Benz blaze

An engine-room fire in a Mercedes Benz caused \$90,000 in damages June 21 in the 1000 block of South Longmore. The cause was not determined after an investigation. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 6:27 p.m.

### 6) Vehicle fire

Equipment failure caused a fire and \$1,000 in damages June 21 in the 7500 block of East University Drive. A hybrid car got the fire out with an extinguisher. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 2:55 p.m.

### 7) Attic blaze

A fire in an attic caused \$190,000 in dam-

ages to a \$150,000 vacant 1,500-square-foot house June 24 in the 3100 block of East Delta Avenue. The cause is under investigation. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 8:09 a.m.

### 8) Silverado fire

Smalight ignited flammable liquids and caused a fire in a 2004 Chevrolet Silverado and \$5,000 in damages June 24 in the 1900 block of North Power Road. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 2:50 p.m.

### 9) Chrysler fire

An engine-room fire caused \$3,000 in damages to an \$4,000 Chrysler vehicle June 24 in the 2700 block of South County Club Drive. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 8:52 p.m.

### 10) Exhaust fan fire

A flash fire in a grease-exhaust fan caused \$600 in damages to a \$250,000 restaurant June 25 in the 20 block of South Signal Base Road. Activated sprinklers controlled the fire. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 3:15 p.m.

### 11) Attic blaze

A fire in an attic caused \$75,000 in damages June 25 to a \$160,000 structure in the 7200 block of East Hygiea Street. The cause is under investigation. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 11:35 a.m.

### 12) Lexus fire

An engine-room fire caused \$500 in damages to a Lexus vehicle June 27 in the 10700 block of East Main Street. It was put out with a fire extinguisher. Firefighter-paramedics, who were called at 8:14 a.m., took care of smoldering items.

### 13) Pool equipment blaze

Swimming pool equipment failure caused a fire and \$16,000 in damages June 28 in the 3800 block of East Hygiea Street. Firefighter-paramedics were called at 1:09 p.m.

### File photo

Forty-four years ago this week the top news stories for the July 15, 1966, *Apache Sentinel*, the precursor to the Mesa Independent newspaper, included: A total of 21 kindergarten students graduated from a six-week session at Jefferson Elementary School.

### Mesa Fire Department Connector Program looking for volunteers

The Mesa Fire Department Connector Program is accepting applications in August.

Connectors are Mesa Fire Department volunteers who perform a variety of non-emergency duties, in support of the department's mission. Activities include but are not limited to: fire crew support, crisis support, material needs, social service referrals, and inspections.

Applications are being taken Aug. 9-27. No experience is necessary and all training and equipment is provided. To be part of this award winning program, visit the website at [www.mesaindependent.com/volunteer](http://www.mesaindependent.com/volunteer). Complete the online application and download an applicant packet from the Connector Program page. If you don't have internet access, call 480.644.5642 to request an applicant packet.

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