

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM HENNIG MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) BOYETT BROWN
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DATE DISTRIBUTED 2/23/07 DATE OF ARTICLE 2/15-3/15/07 NEWSPAPER N. E. Times

FROM THE LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Hope you all enjoyed the cold snap earlier in January...for those who got to stay home that was so special and rare in Texas. Looks like we will have an interesting year weather-wise in our area.

Wintertime is such an interesting time to walk our Trail System. There's so much to see that is not visible with the abundant flora later on. You can now walk the Trails from Bob Eden Park to the Villages of Bear Creek Park. There is a walking map on the back side of the winter edition of Eules Today magazine.

If you are not up to walking the Trails, try exercising at the Midway Recreation Center. The Center has just been renovated with a new walking path and other amenities.

The new Lowe's Home Improvement store on Glade Road is now open. It has a great garden department along with appliances and just about everything to keep your house and garden in order.

The Shops at Vineyard Village is coming along at a rapid pace. The new Chili's restaurant is open, others will be soon coming, and the center is filling up fast.



Mayor Saleh
Eules

EULESS

Our Town Hall series really had good attendance for the fourteenth straight year. It is a good opportunity for our citizens to come and talk one-on-one with council members and staff members. We do appreciate all who came out especially when the weather was cold and wet.

The Texas Legislature is in session now, and we encourage you to keep up with the proposed legislation and how it will affect you and your city. There are a lot of transportation issues that really need support this time, along with health insurance and education issues.

The Eules representatives are Representative Todd Smith, Senator Jane Nelson, Senator Kim Brimer and Senator Chris Harris. The Legislature meets from January until May every other year. Get to know your representatives and let them know how you feel on certain issues.

Enjoy each day!
 Mary Lib Saleh,
 Mayor of Eules

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CANDIDATE FILINGS

Candidates may file for a place on the May 12 council and school board ballots through March 12. Below are filings reported to the *Star-Telegram*: An incumbent seeking re-election is indicated by (i).

MUNICIPALITIES

Bedford

Municipal judge: Tim Murphy (i)
Place 3: Lori Nail (i)

Colleyville

Mayor: David Kelly (i)
Place 1: Carol Wollin
Place 2: Tony Licata (i)

Eules

Place 1: Tim Stinneford
Place 3: Linda Martin (i)
Place 6: Perry Bynum
Dr. Warren Wilson
Veva Lou Massey

Flower Mound

Place 3: Tim Trotter (i)

Grapevine

Place 3: Mike Lease
Tracy Wilkinson
Place 4: Darlene Freed (i)

Haltom City

Mayor: Bill Lanford (i)
Place 1: Jim Sutton (i)
Place 2: Chris Holcomb (i)

Haslet

Place 2: Lynnda J. McCoy (i)
Place 4: Harold Williams (i)

Hurst

Place 1: Charles Swearengen (i)
Place 2: Larry E. Kitchens (i)
Place 6: Henry E. Wilson (i)

Keller

Mayor: Julie Tandy (i)
Place 1: Steven Trine (i)

North Richland Hills

Place 1: John Lewis (i)
Place 3: Suzy Compton (i)
Place 5: David Whitson (i)
Place 7: Tim Welch (i)

Richland Hills

Place 1: Jeffrey Ritter (i)
Place 3: Phil Heinze (i)
Place 5: Michael Sloan (i)

Roanoke

Mayor: Carl "Scooter" Gierisch Jr. (i)

Ward 1: Kevin Stillwell (i)

Southlake

Place 3: John Terrell (i)

Place 5: Virginia Muzyka (i)

Trophy Club

Two at-large seats:

Greg Lamont (i)

Jim Moss

Kathleen Wilson

Watauga

Mayor: Harry Jeffries (i)

Place 3: Mike Steele (i)

Place 4: Pete Beierschmitt (i)

Westlake

Four at-large seats:

Don Redding (i)

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Birdville

Place 6: Ralph Kunkel (i)

Place 7: David Pokluda (i)

Carroll

Place 7: Sherri Williams (i)

Grapevine-Colleyville

Place 3: Nancy M. Coplen (i)

Place 4: Lisa Hall (i)

Hurst-Eules-Bedford

Place 3: Jim Schooler (i)

Place 4: Ellen Jones (i)

Place 5: Faye Beaulieu (i)

Keller

Place 1: Joseph Sandoval

Northwest

Place 4: Jeannette Leong (i)

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LEAHMON FRANK CHAMBERS 1933-2007

Bedford council member, 'man of principle'

By JESSICA DeLEÓN
STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

BEDFORD — City Councilman Leahmon Chambers, a longtime institution in Bedford, died Friday.

He likely died of congestive heart failure, his daughter René Mikeska said.

Mr. Chambers, 74, served on the Bedford City Council starting in 1993, being re-elected most recently, to a third term, in 2004.

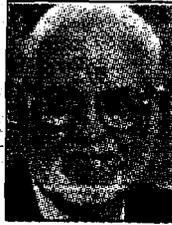
"He wanted things to be better around him," Mikeska said of how he got into politics. "He didn't like the way things were going, and he didn't like certain facets in his neighborhood.

He decided to do something about it."

Mr. Chambers grew up in Abilene and received an associate's degree in 1967 from Ranger Junior College. He worked in facilities maintenance — air conditioning, heating, plumbing and more — for 28 years at American Airlines.

He was a major player in Bedford politics, best-known for his efforts to control spending and cut taxes. His election in 2004 made him the deciding vote in the adoption of a property tax freeze for seniors. In 2005, he was one of three council members to vote against a 27 percent tax rate increase, which passed. That increase led to a divisive, voter-initiated property tax rollback.

"He served the constituents of Bedford very well," said Dorothy McWhorter, who helped work for Chambers' 2004 victory as part of the Bedford Citizens for Responsive Government political action committee. "He was a man of principle."



CHAMBERS

■ A major player in Bedford politics, he was known for his efforts to control spending and cut taxes.

His daughter said, "I know he made lots of people mad sometimes. But he stuck with what he thought was right."

Mr. Chambers' seat is up for election in May. A special election will not be needed because the vacancy occurred within 90 days of the scheduled municipal election.

He also served on Bedford's Zoning Board of Adjustment, Park Board and Planning and Zoning Commission.

Mr. Chambers belonged to the Mid-Cities Optimist Club, Hurst Masonic Lodge and Hurst Amateur Radio Club.

Mayor Jim Story said Mr. Chambers was out in the

Services

Visitation will be from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Road, Hurst. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Harwood Terrace Baptist Church, 3420 Brown Trail in Bedford. Burial will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Abilene.

community almost every day.

"He was always driving around, talking to people," Story said. "He was probably the most active [of the council members] to attending functions. He didn't want to miss a banquet or an awards ceremony."

Mikeska said, "He couldn't stand not being busy, not being around friends."

Mr. Chambers faced health problems throughout his life. He had several heart attacks and triple and quadruple bypasses.

He did not attend Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Mr. Chambers was in the hospital several times in the past year, and Story often visited him.

"Of course, he would criticize me over some of my votes," Story said, adding that Mr. Chambers also complimented him. "He never held a grudge."

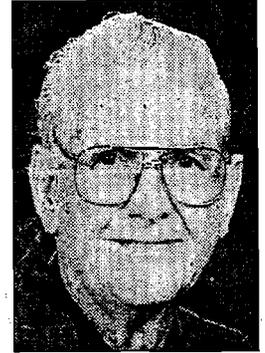
Mr. Chambers' wife, Pat Chambers, died in 1995. He was also preceded in death by the couple's son, Leahmon Ray, in 1960.

Besides Mikeska, he is survived by daughters Michele Ward and Charisse Stapp; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.

Jessica DeLeón, 817-685-3932
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Leahmon Frank Chambers



BEDFORD — Leahmon Frank Chambers, 74, a retired facility maintenance employee of American Airlines, passed away Friday, Feb. 16, 2007, in Arlington.

Funeral: 10:30 a.m. Monday at Harwood Terrace Baptist Church. Burial: Leahmon will be laid to rest next to his wife, Pat, at 10 a.m. Tuesday in Cedar Hill Cemetery, Abilene. Visitation: The family will receive friends from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at Lucas Funeral Home, 1321 Precinct Line Rd., Hurst, with additional visitation 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home, 542 Hickory St., Abilene.

Leahmon Frank Chambers was a member of the Hurst Amateur Radio Club, a past master of Estelle Lodge #582 A.F.&A.M. and a current member of Hurst Masonic Lodge. Leahmon served the city of Bedford as a city councilman from 1993 through 1997 and again from 2004 through 2007. He also served on several boards and commissions throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Survivors: Daughters, Rene Mikeska and her husband, Malcolm, Michele Ward and her husband, Greg, and Charisse Stapp and her husband, Tony Mathis; grandchildren, Jeremy and Jenni Mikeska, Shane and Lindsay Mikeska, Desiree Mikeska, Collier Ward and Landry Ward; and great-grandchildren, Keaton, Gavin and Gracy Mikeska.

Lucas Funeral Home
Hurst, 817-284-7271
View and sign guestbook at
www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

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COMMUNICATION

10-4 no more

Police drop radio codes to speak same language

By MARK AGEE

STAR-TELEGRAM STAFF WRITER

"Signal 16" means a sexual assault to police in Southlake, but in Hurst it means a dog bite.

The code "10-12" means "No one is around and I can talk freely" in Hurst, but in several other Tarrant County cities it means the exact opposite: "The subject is near and I can't talk freely."

Fearing mass confusion and miscommunication in the event of a large-scale disaster requiring several departments to work together, federal officials are encouraging police departments to drop codes in favor of plain English.

Many agencies in the area are complying, including Hurst, which will begin changing to plain talk in the next few weeks.

"It's going to be a gradual thing," police spokesman Sgt. Craig Teague said. "It's kind of like training old dogs. We've got officers here who have been talking in the same codes for 25 years. It's going to take a while for them."

As part of its disaster preparedness plans, the federal government requires local agencies to use plain language instead of "10" and "signal" codes during events involving multiple jurisdictions as a condition of receiving

Police codes

Federal officials are encouraging police to drop the use of codes because they vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. Here are some examples of codes, some of which have already been dropped.

Signal 5

- Sexual assault in Fort Worth, Hurst, Keller and North Richland Hills
- Burglar alarm in Southlake

Signal 28

- Drive-by shooting in North Richland Hills
- Meet ambulance in Hurst and Fort Worth
- Found property in Keller
- Criminal mischief in Southlake

SOURCES: Police departments

Homeland Security grant money.

Federal officials are recommending, but not requiring, that police begin using plain language in their day-to-day internal communications as well.

"We believe that it is important to practice every day the terminology and procedures that will be used in emergency incidents and disasters," said Ashley Small, a Federal Emergency Management Agency spokeswoman in Washington.

"There needs to be no misinterpretation, no one looking up codes and no second-guessing," said Brian Ellis, a coordinator for the National Incident Management System.

Relic from another era

Codes were devised to save time on the radio when channels were scarce, said Fred Keithley, an emergency preparedness coordinator with the North Central Texas Council of Governments.

"Technology has sort of remedied that, for the most part, and clear communications are the priority," Keithley said.

The problem with codes is that they vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and across the country.

Some examples are trivial, but others could cost lives. A "10-13" means "weather information" in North Richland Hills, but "officer down" in many jurisdictions.

The use of codes has persisted for two reasons: habit, and the desire to keep communications secure from criminals who could be listening to a scanner.

"If you listen for a while you can figure them out anyway," Southlake police spokeswoman Lt. Rhonda Moore said. "It's more important to know what each other are talking about. A breakdown in communication would cause much more of a security hazard than people listening to a scanner."

North Richland Hills police made the switch to plain talk in August because of the federal recommendations, police spokesman Larry Irving said.

A communication from North Richland Hills dispatch that used to sound like "10-3 the Signal 2" is now "Disregard the major accident."

"There needs to be no misinterpretation, no one looking up codes and no second-guessing."

— Brian Ellis, coordinator, National Incident Management System

A welcome change

Some agencies across the nation have resisted the switch, but police in the area — especially in Northeast Tarrant County, where the small cities have mutual-aid agreements — are embracing it.

Irving, Haltom City and Grapevine have officially used plain language for some time. Arlington has been using it since the 1980s. Euless also made the switch about 20 years ago, Assistant Police Chief Harland Westmoreland said.

"When we went to it, there wasn't a whole lot of talk about interoperability like there is today," he said.

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"We went to it because it was easier. It gets tough trying to remember 60 or 70 different signal codes. So when they started recommending that we change things, we were already there."

Keller police switched to plain talk last month because the department is merging communication operations with Southlake's, Keller Lt. Brenda Slovák said.

Others, such as Southlake, still have some codes, but they aren't used much.

"We use a few codes for simple things that everyone understands, but plain talk is really the best way to go," Moore said. "So much of our stuff is interagency anyway. A lot of us don't have the resources to handle a major incident by ourselves. We all help each other out, and we've learned how to talk to each other."

In Fort Worth, officers are trained in federal protocols but still use many codes, police spokesman Lt. Dean Sullivan said.

"We definitely have interoperability; that's not an issue," Sullivan said. "Our computer dispatch system is based on signal codes, so I don't see us going away from it completely any time soon. But, if you listen to our radio chatter, there's a lot of plain talk anyway because it's easier."

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Police form child abduction team

Tarrant: Response crew will have officers from 12 regional departments

By **BRANDON FORMBY**
Staff Writer
bformby@dallasnews.com

Twelve northeast Tarrant County police departments are banding together to form the first Child Abduction Response Team in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The team will be composed of one officer from each department who has specialized child abduction case

training.

The team will immediately respond to and assist the lead agency in child abduction cases.

Grapevine police Sgt. Bob Murphy said he loves the idea. The department spokesman said child abduction cases require about 10 to 15 officers immediately focusing solely on that case, something not always easy for suburban departments.

"This is what gives the smaller agencies the ability to do that," Sgt. Murphy said.

The police chiefs from the 12 participating departments are ex-

pected to detail the program at a news conference at 11 a.m. today at the Colleyville Justice Center. Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine, Haltom City, Hurst, Keller, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Rowanoke, Southlake and Watauga police departments are participating in the regional response team.

The model for the CART program was created in Florida after the highly publicized rape and murder of 11-year-old Carlie Brucia, whose kidnapping was caught on a car wash security camera. As of 2006, 12 children have been recovered in the 14 times Florida's CART

program has been activated.

According to the National District Attorneys Association, more than 354,000 children are abducted annually. More than 350,000 of those children are taken by a parent.

Sgt. Murphy said he believes teaming officers with experience in child abduction cases will give the lead agency a much-needed boost in assistance.

"You need huge manpower right now and you need experienced investigators," he said. "In my opinion it will really help with the immediate investigations."

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Small police forces make bold move to fight child abductions

Once again, Tarrant County is in the crime-fighting vanguard.

Lest we forget, the nationwide Amber Alert is rooted in the county's second-largest city, Arlington.

And front-running Fort Worth was the first city in Texas to create a Crime Control and Prevention District that dedicates a special half-cent sales tax to pay for crime initiatives.

Now, a dozen northeast Tarrant County police departments are flexing their muscles by joining forces to combat child abductions.

Brilliant, I must say.

They're not the first in the country to create a Child Abduction Response Team, but they've taken the lead in North Texas, if not the whole state.

"To the best of my knowledge, this is the first in the state," said Sgt. Bob Murphy of the Grapevine Police Department, part of the 12-member team.

The initial program was launched two years ago in Florida, about a year after 11-year-old girl Carlie Brucia was raped and murdered in a case that shocked the nation.

Carlie's kidnapping in 2004 was captured on a carwash security system, which enabled law enforcement agencies to quickly nab her abductor.

The genius in the new Child

Abduction Response Team effort is that it affords smaller cities with limited funds, equipment and expertise a means to systematically pool their resources.

They can move swiftly and decisively in a focused, concerted way.

That's critical, because when a child is abducted, small police departments usually find themselves scrambling to get enough trained investigators on the case.

"It's impossible," said Sgt. Murphy, a 35-year veteran who worked in Houston and Ohio before coming to Grapevine 15 years ago. "You cannot do it. You just don't have the manpower that's required. The onslaught is tremendous."

And then when the tips and leads start coming in, he said, an already difficult job gets that much tougher. "You better have a well-oiled machine to handle all that when it starts, or you're going to get buried."

Lt. Dean Sullivan, a Fort Worth police spokesman, said that while Fort Worth is not a part of the new CART project, the department stands ready to help in any way that it can. He, too, said it's smart for smaller departments to figure out ways they can share limited expertise and manpower.

If the departments combined can pull together 10 to 15 officers trained in child abduction cases, he said, that would put them on par with bigger cities. "That's about the size of our Child Abduction Response Team anyway," he said.

As I told Sgt. Murphy, I hope

there's never a need to mobilize the team. But the reality is that we both know it probably won't be too long before the CART members are called to duty.

"I'd like to think it won't be needed anytime soon, but it's going to happen in one of these 12 cities," Sgt. Murphy said.

But if you live in northeast Tarrant County, you have to be pleased to see Colleyville, Bedford, Euless, Haltom City, Hurst, Keller, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Roanoke, Southlake, Watauga and Grapevine getting out front on this issue.

I hope law enforcement agencies in Dallas County and across the state are paying serious attention.

More than that, I strongly hope they'll follow Tarrant County's lead.

It's a textbook example of smart, sophisticated policing.