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# Watauga, Euless touted by 'Money' magazine as top places to live

Both cities have struggled with their image over the years but are now in the national spotlight.

By BILL TEETER

bteeter@star-telegram.com

WATAUGA — After years of being overlooked in "best places to live" lists, Watauga and Euless have been catapulted to national prominence by *Money* magazine.

And that's good news to two cities that have sometimes struggled with their images.

Watauga ranks second on a list of 25 U.S. cities with the most affordable houses, according to the magazine's August issue. Nicholasville, Ky., is No. 1.

Euless, meanwhile, is 34th among the 100 best small cities overall to call home. Plymouth, Minn., was No. 1.

Cities in Northeast Tarrant County often get showered with praise. Colleyville, North Richland Hills, Keller, Southlake and others have all been called wonderful places to live by various magazines. Now Euless and Watauga can brag, too.

The magazine published several lists. For the overall best places to live list, the magazine reported that it chose cities with populations between 50,000 and 300,000.

Other factors include job growth, income increases, cost of living, housing affordability, school quality, arts and leisure options, safety and medical care.

Euless, which has a population of 52,000, was touted for its central location, which makes it easy to enjoy the Metroplex's acclaimed dining and shopping options.

## Euless recognized

*Money* magazine has listed Euless as among the 100 best small U.S. cities to live in.

### Population:

52,000

### Median home price:

\$70,179

### Median family income:

\$154,280

### Money magazine Top 10

1. Plymouth, Minn.
2. Fort Collins, Colo.
3. Naperville, Ill.
4. Irvine, Calif.
5. Franklin Township, N.J.
6. Norman, Okla.
7. Round Rock
8. Columbia/Ellicott City Md.
9. Overland Park, Kan.
10. Fishers, Ind.
34. Euless

Source: Money.cnn.com

Watauga, with 23,600 people, did not make the overall list. It landed on the affordability list because of its low median home price of \$117,040, second only to the Kentucky city's median price of \$70,000.

Watauga was also touted for the regional Barnett Shale energy rush. Companies are eager to tap into the North Texas natural gas field.

Magazine representatives did not return phone calls seeking an explanation for other criteria that might have been considered.

## Euless

Officials from the two cities say the recognition is long overdue.

In the mid-1990s, Euless was often called "useless" by

around in the 13 years he's been on the council.

And the city still has land to expand, he said.

"We went from a little sleepy bedroom city to what I think is going to be a very vibrant city in the Metroplex," he said.

Just don't say "useless" around Hogg.

"I let them know right quick they don't know what they're talking about," he said.

## Watauga

Watauga, meanwhile, had to contend with turmoil in its former Department of Public Safety. Three DPS directors resigned in as many years.

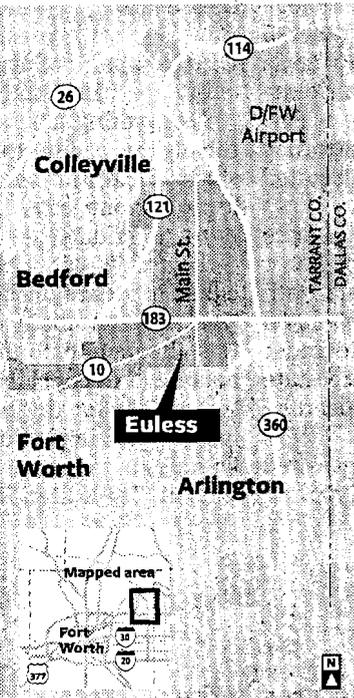
Last year, the city divided the department into separate police and fire departments. But Watauga, too, has seen progress with business growth along Denton Highway and new homes.

Mayor Harry Jeffries said his city has been a well-kept secret, and he wouldn't dream of living anywhere else.

Watauga's home stock isn't fancy, but it offers good values, Coldwell Banker real estate agent Rod Baker said.

"They're bread-and-butter homes: They're not brand-new; they're not terribly old," he said. "They're typically in good condition and well-kept. There's a lot of pride in ownership."

There are other reasons than home prices to choose Watauga, real estate agent Lorraine Miller said. Watauga represents a way to get children into the highly regarded Birdville or Keller school districts at a good price, she said.



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The Money list has already had an effect on Watauga.

"I'm getting [relocation] calls," she said. "Everybody reads that."

**Other cities**

Eules and Watauga are not alone.

Southlake, a perennial favorite of best places to live lists, is No. 12 on the latest list of top 25 cities to live in based on median family income.

Southlake has a median family income of \$166,878 with a median home value of \$542,640, according to the magazine.

Tops on the list is New Canaan, Conn., with a median income of \$231,138 and a median home value of more than \$1 million.

BILL TEETER, 817-685-3801

**Watauga recognized**

Money magazine lists Watauga as one of the best affordable small cities to live in the U.S.

**Population:**  
24,000

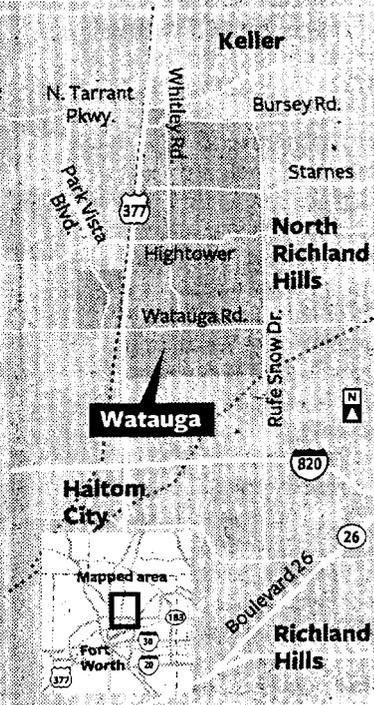
**Median home price:**  
\$117,040

**Median family income:**  
\$73,203

**Money magazine Top 10**

1. Nicholasville, Ky.
2. **Watauga**
3. Redan, Ga.
4. Franklin, Ind.
5. Clay, N.Y.
6. Plainfield, Ind.
7. Marion, Iowa
8. Omaha, Neb.
9. Bellevue, Neb.
10. Mission Bend

Source: Money.cnn.com



STAR-TELEGRAM/TIM BEDISON

**Star-Telegram**  
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

**Corrections**

■ Money magazine reports in its August issue that Eules' median home price is \$154,280 and median family income is \$70,179. The numbers were mislabeled in a graphic Saturday accompanying an article about Money's list of the best small U.S. cities to live in.

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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## AREA BRIEFS

### Man dies after fracturing neck in pool

**EULESS** — A 56-year-old Illinois man died Sunday from injuries he suffered after diving into shallow water in a residential pool, according to the Tarrant County medical examiner's office. Police responded to a call of a possible pool injury at about 2:45 p.m. Friday in the 700 block of Commerce Street. Theodore Seifert was taken to Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital, officials said. Seifert had fractured his neck and died at 1 p.m. Sunday from complications, according to the medical examiner. — Candace Carlisle

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## MYSTERY



A reporter found this sculpture in a park, and police are searching for its owner. But there's more to him than meets the eye. S-T/LAURIE L. WARD

## Euless police get heads-up on sculpture

By **TERRY LEE GOODRICH**  
 tgoodrich@star-telegram.com

**EULESS** — Somebody lost his head.

A black sculpture — the bust of a bearded, crinkly-eyed fellow with a bumpy nose — was found lying face-down near a parking lot at McCormick Park last week.

A *Star-Telegram* reporter, who stumbled across the statue, toted it to her Bedford office and gave a heads-up to the Euless Police Department.

Sgt. Joe Foran took mug shots, noting

a resemblance to singer Kenny Rogers. *Star-Telegram* employees speculated that the sculpture, which has a curved mustache, might be that of a Confederate general and perhaps had been stolen.

No headway has been made on the case, though, Lt. John Williams said Monday.

If a headhunter calls to demand the sculpture's return, the claim of ownership will not be taken at face value, Williams said.

"They would have to identify it, give us some description," he said. "Otherwise, it's like in a theater, with somebody saying, 'Anybody found \$50 wrapped in a rubber band?' And someone says, 'No, but I have the rubber band.'

"Old joke."

If its owners are reunited with the sculpture, they might consider writing a book. Suggested title: *How to Get a Head*.

TERRY LEE GOODRICH, 817-685-3812

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PAGE 1 OF 1

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# Work & Money & Classifieds 5c

Star-Telegram Tuesday, July 22, 2008



## BRIEFLY

### **OC Burgers location to open in Eules**

Watauga-based OC Burgers is opening a second location in Eules in September, owner Mike French said. The hamburger restaurant is moving into the former Grandy's restaurant near the southwest corner of Airport Freeway and Farm Road 157, and more locations are planned for 2009. French said his goal is to offer large servings of food while keeping the price low.

— *Andrea Jares*

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**NORTHEAST CLICK**



Geoff Graham, Mary Lib Saleh, Bob Dahdaleh and Suzanne Goldman



Kristal Evans, Anne Power, Philip Power and John Lattiviere



Debby Hein, Karen Gilleland, David Medina and Chris Bodzise

**HEB hosts reception for Suzanne Goldman**

The HEB Chamber reception for Suzanne Goldman was held at the chamber office on Martin Drive.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MINYON LEVELS

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# Eules will repave part of North Main Street

By JESSICA DeLEÓN  
 jdeleon@star-telegram.com

**EULESS** — The northern portion of Main Street is getting a makeover.

Crews are putting new asphalt on the section from Little Bear Creek to Harwood Road. Work on one lane on the east side is completed; work on the other four lanes will begin today.

Construction should take less than a week.

"It was starting to show some signs of deterioration, and it is a major roadway and we want to catch it before it got into bad shape," Public Works Director Ron Young said. "It will provide a smoother riding surface and extend the life of it."

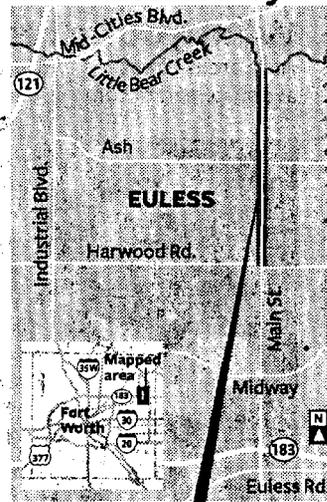
The city will pay \$250,000 for materials. Tarrant County will provide labor and equipment.

The portion of Main Street south of Texas 10 was repaved a couple of years ago. The stretch north of Little Bear Creek is concrete and does not need to be repaved, officials said. The portion from Harwood to Texas 10 is also concrete and was repaved four years ago.

JESSICA DeLEÓN, 817-685-3932

## ROAD WORK

### Main Street overlay



The northern portion of Main Street is being repaved with asphalt this week.

STAR-TELEGRAM