

DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 1 OF 1

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN Y CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/67/09, DATE OF ARTICLE 7/18/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

CHEERS AND JEERS

Jeers: To the three bad girls who assaulted me on the 400 block of Freestone Drive in Euless on June 26. While trying to steal my purse, you purposely broke my glasses! Your mothers must have raised you better.

— Rudy Rios, Euless

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REFDATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/18/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

STIMULUS FUNDS

Tarrant cities getting \$3.4 million from HUD

Critics say they don't see any economic stimulus in buying passenger vans and sidewalks.

By **DARREN BARBEE**
dbarbee@star-telegram.com

Fort Worth, Arlington and several other Tarrant County cities are getting some spending money — about \$3.4 million total — courtesy of taxpayer dollars handed out by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department.

The money comes from President Barack Obama's stimulus plan, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The act is intended to create jobs, help stabilize and revive neighborhoods, rehabilitate affordable housing and improve key public facilities.

In Tarrant County, that translates into \$128,000 for two new 15-passenger vans in Arlington, \$1.59 million worth of Fort Worth sidewalks and, eventually, \$10,000 for a ramp at the North Richland Hills senior center, among many other projects.

Overall, 55 Texas cities and counties will receive about \$24.4 million from the Community Development Block Grant program.

"The president's recovery act allows us to invest in local solutions to the many challenges our cities and counties are confronting," HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in a news release.

Michael Quinn Sullivan, president of Texans for Fiscal Responsibility in Austin,

Local HUD grants

- Arlington, \$853,342
- Fort Worth, \$1,769,412
- Tarrant County, \$756,109, which includes money for Bedford, Crowley, Forest Hill, Kennedale and River Oaks

wasn't impressed.

"That's a heck of a nice sidewalk" in Fort Worth, he said, adding that the government is putting the projects on "our great-grandchildren's credit card."

"The money was going to be wasted somewhere, so well, heck, I guess let it be wasted here. It sure is troubling to see those kinds of projects. I'm not sure where I see the stimulus."

Patricia Ward, director of community development and housing for Tarrant County, said up to 70 percent of the county's annual block-grant funding goes toward streets and water and sewer projects.

"These are shovel-ready projects that address infrastructure replacement within low-income target areas," Ward said.

Here's a breakdown:

- Arlington received \$691,209 for infrastructure improvements, such as streets, sidewalks, storm drains and installation of streetlights in low-income areas.
- An additional \$128,000 will go toward buying two 15-passenger vans to take low- and moderate-income workers to employment centers. About \$34,000 will be spent on administrative costs.
- Fort Worth got \$1,592,471 to



PoliTex
Catch up on the latest political news from Fort Worth to Washington at star-telegram.com/blogs

improve sidewalks throughout the city. The project will install about 19 linear miles of sidewalk in areas eligible for the block grants. A construction contract is expected to be executed by November, with work completed in about three years.

■ The grant also allows for \$176,941 in administrative costs.

Tarrant County's grant was \$756,109. The projects will be spread throughout the county, including:

- \$150,000 for Bedford's sewer improvements, which can be completed within 30 days.
- \$106,370 for Crowley's reconstruction of North Texas Street between Mission and Mustang streets.
- \$150,000 for Forest Hill's replacement of water mains because of substandard waterlines and persistent leaks.
- \$144,801 for Kennedale's construction of a sewer collection system.
- \$129,327 for River Oaks' replacement or repair of sewer lines.

Within about a week, an additional \$170,675 will go to projects in Euless and North Richland Hills, HUD officials said. The projects include the North Richland Hills senior center and sewer and water improvements.

DARREN BARBEE, 817-390-7126

DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 1 OF 1

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/20/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

REAL ESTATE

DEVELOPMENT

■ **309 Byers Ave., Euless**
The Copper Shadow real estate firm has leased 800 square feet. Cody Payne and Justin Owen with Sperry Van Ness Dunn Commercial represented the landlord, Spooner Properties.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/28/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

TAD REPORT

Tarrant's valuations rise the least in 15 years

Some cities faced with declines in revenue may be forced to cut jobs or services, or to increase their property tax rate.

By ANTHONY SPANGLER
aspangler@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — Tarrant County's net taxable property values increased the smallest amount in 15 years, igniting concern among many local government officials as they prepare their budgets for next year.

The data released Monday shows a 2 percent increase in the net taxable value, compared with year-after-year increases ranging from 6 to 11 percent since 1994. Unless local governments boost their tax rates, it could mean less money to spend.

The figures "look very ugly," said Randy Rogers, interim chief financial officer at JPS Health Network.

"We were expecting about \$16 million in net new monies next year," Rogers said. "Now it will be close to \$6 million. It is a pretty substantial hit for us. It will change the assumptions in this budget, and it is going to be a real busy week for us to figure out how we will deal with lower revenues."

On Monday, the Tarrant Appraisal District released the data to schools, cities and other taxing entities. It is typically due by July 25 to help local governments plan their budgets for next year, but the deadline was extended this year because it fell on a weekend.

In May, TAD estimated a 4.6 percent increase in appraised property values. Those differ from net taxable values, which take exemptions into account. Because TAD has yet to hear some protests, the estimated taxable values could drop even further by Sept. 1, the deadline used to calculate tax bills.

Bare-bones budgets

Government entities have several options when it comes to lower tax revenue: increase the tax rate applied to the appraised values, cut services or positions, or raise fees.

Tarrant County commissioners have already taken steps, such as adding no positions next year and trimming capital spending.

"We are glad that we're still in the positive range," Tarrant County Administrator G.K. Maenius said. "I think we're going to be OK this year. We intend to do business as usual with the number of employees that we currently have."

Some cities such as Fort Worth, Forest Hill and Everman are discussing cuts next year.

In Everman, which relies heavily on property taxes for operating expenses, property values fell 8.5 percent.

"I was surprised and very disappointed in the numbers," said Kathy Renshaw, Everman's finance director, who cited many foreclosures in the area for the declining property values.

Renshaw said no layoffs are planned. But she said "it is a bare-bones budget" with no

new projects or equipment purchases.

Foreclosures also contributed to Forest Hill's values plummeting by 12.7 percent from last year, City Manager David Miller said. He also said that because of the economy people were shopping and spending less.

He said city officials are looking at a budget of \$6 million, down from this year's \$6.6 million.

"Those types of declines are damaging to a city's budget; we are absolutely worried about it," Miller said.

No surprise

In Fort Worth, officials were predicting relatively flat property tax growth, and that's what they got.

Appraised values in Fort Worth — which lies in Tarrant, Denton and Wise counties — rose to \$41.8 billion, or a 2.4 percent increase, Chief Financial Officer Karen Montgomery said.

Fort Worth has been working for two years to cut spending, which has grown faster than the tax base. Earlier this year, officials predicted that they would have to cut spending by \$61 million. The property value figures mean those cuts are probably still coming.

In Euless, spokeswoman Betsy Deck said city officials are revising the budget downward to accommodate the expected drop in revenue.

"They [property values] were down more than we expected," she said.

Arlington's net taxable property value is \$18.1 billion,

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN Y CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/28/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

about a 4 percent drop, budget manager Mike Finley said.

Mayor Robert Cluck said the news isn't all bad. He said it could be worse.

"We did think at one time we might be down 5, 6 or 7 percent," he said.

The Arlington City Council will continue to tackle a projected \$13 million shortfall in next year's budget caused by lower sales tax and property tax collections.

School funding

The state's public school districts no longer have much stake in local property appraisals since Texas adopted its current funding formula in 2006.

Property tax rates are frozen at \$1.04 per \$100 of taxable value without local-option election approval, and districts are tied to their per-student target revenue for state aid. The state then chips in its share of funding, which goes down if property values rise.

"The only thing it affects is on our debt-service side, but it's not much of an impact at all," said Hank Johnson, chief financial officer for the Grapevine-Colleyville district. "Otherwise you've got a guaranteed \$1 [property tax] amount no matter what happens with the appraisals."

Over time, if appraisals remained low, the state might have difficulty meeting its portion of school funding, unlike the years the state benefited from soaring property appraisals that covered more of its share of school funding.

On Monday, TAD sent government entities the certified

values for about 93 percent of the county's taxable properties. In previous years, TAD has provided the taxing entities a certified value for 95 percent of the properties. A recent change in Texas law allows counties with populations greater than 1 million to certify at least 90 percent of the properties by July 25.

Protests continue

Because of a record number of valuation protests this year, TAD expects to provide a supplemental report in early to mid-August. Protests increased about 15 percent this year, largely because of rising foreclosures, the lagging housing market and the recession, tax officials say.

"I only have 10 rooms to hold protests. That number was the same last year, but I have 13,000 more protests to hear this year," said Jeff Law, TAD's chief appraiser.

Budget officials with cities and other taxing entities remain cautious going into their budget planning this year because the remaining protests could mean a steeper decline in property values by Sept. 1.

"We haven't seen quite the problems that some of our neighboring municipalities have seen," said Debbie Schneider, Tarrant County's budget director. "The appraisals follow the market; they don't make the market."

Staff writers Elizabeth Campbell, Dianna Hunt, Shirley Jenkins, Mike Lee and Susan Schrock, and correspondent Robert Cadwallader contributed to this report.

ANTHONY SPANGLER, 817-390-7420

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
 McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/29/09 NEWSPAPER PRWEB

PRWeb®

ServiceMaster Expands Operation Management Team

Dan and Amy Fry, owners of ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations (www.servicemasterdfw.com) of Euless, Texas, announce the expansion of the company's management team with the promotion of Tony Brodie to Production Manager. Brodie will share responsibilities with current Production Manager, Brian Clayton. Both Brodie and Clayton will work under the direction of General Manager, Max Kuntz.

Euless, TX (PRWEB) July 29, 2009 – The designation of Brian Clayton and Tony Brodie as co-Production Managers is necessary for company growth. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations is a well respected disaster restoration company specializing in Fire and Water Restoration, Mold Remediation, as well as, Carpet and Duct cleaning. Just 8 years old, the company added a construction division at the end of 2008 that has proven to be very successful.

Charles Arthur is the general manager of the construction division. The company's intent is to be a "one call does it all" entity. Already a multi-million dollar company, the expansion of the operations management staff ensures a strengthening of the infrastructure that will ensure the continuing capability of attentive and efficient response to all types of emergency and service needs. ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations handles both residential and commercial losses.

Brodie, along with Clayton, hold IICRC certification in Water Damage Restoration, Odor Control and Fire and Smoke Restoration. Brodie also holds a certification in Carpet Cleaning and Clayton a certification in Upholstery and Fabric Cleaning. Clayton has also reached "Journeyman" status in Fire Restoration. Both are experienced in the industry and have demonstrated proficiency in all types of restoration. Brodie and Clayton work well with people and supervise 10 technicians. As Production Managers they will oversee and review each job and work directly with insurance companies and adjusters. They can also oversee large loss both locally and nationally.

ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations, which is a designated ServiceMaster Clean Regional Account Manager, or RAM, is located at 1205 Texas Star Parkway in Euless, Texas, just across from Texas Star Golf Course. The main phone number, which is answered 24 hours a day throughout the year, is 817-267-5555. Please direct any questions to Director of Marketing, Terry Sutton.

###

Contact Information

Terry Sutton
 ServiceMaster Advanced Restorations
<http://www.servicemasterdfw.com>
 817-267-5555

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
MCDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/29/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

FEDERAL FUNDING

Eules, N. Richland Hills get HUD money

Partial funding for a proposed 20,000-square-foot Eules senior center is included in the grants.

By **DARREN BARBEE**
dbarbee@star-telegram.com

Federal funding keeps rolling in: \$5.2 million will help rehabilitate housing in North Richland Hills, help pay for a senior center in Eules and provide water and sewer line improvements in low-income areas of 24 cities.

Overall, Texas received \$74.7 million from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department to support community development and produce more affordable housing. Money also will be used to provide down-payment assistance to first-time home buyers, help individuals and families who might otherwise be living on the streets and offer housing solutions for people with HIV/AIDS.

Tax dollars will help state and local communities make needed improvements and produce more affordable housing, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said in a news release.

"This funding represents HUD's continuing investment in helping our local partners improve their communities," Donovan said. "If we hope to lay the groundwork for sustainable growth and prosperity in the future, it's critical that we help state and local communities to make the needed improvements and to produce more affordable housing."

Some of the money is part of an annual entitlement known as a Community Development Block Grant, said Patricia Ward, director of community development and housing for Tarrant County. The program helps rehabili-

Grant money

Tarrant County grants from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department:

Community Development Block Grant	\$3,533,900
Emergency Shelter Grant	\$123,941
HOME Grant	\$1,506,759
Total	\$5,164,600

tate affordable housing and improve public facilities, among other activities.

"The flexibility of the ... program allows the cities of Tarrant County to address critical infrastructure needs of low-income residential neighborhoods," Ward said. "Public works activities such as water and sewer line replacement and street reconstruction continue to be one of our top priorities, and can have a great impact on the livability as well as the sustainability of a neighborhood."

While cities are not required to provide matching funds, most put in substantial amounts of their own funds, Ward said.

The programs, which stretch across the county, include:

- \$1,085,350 for street and drainage improvements
- \$792,309 for water and sewer improvements
- \$261,692 for housing rehabilitation

Additionally, the county received \$1.5 million in a HOME grant, according to HUD. About \$125,000 will be used for homebuyer assistance and \$1.3 million for owner-occu-

pied housing rehabilitation, typically for the elderly, according to Ward. Remaining funds will be spent on administration costs and by a non-profit housing development organization selected through a bidding process, Ward said.

The county also received \$123,941 for Emergency Shelter Grants, according to HUD. The grants provide the homeless with basic shelter and supportive services.

The proposed Eules senior center is estimated to cost about \$3.9 million, said City Manager Gary McKamie. About \$303,000 from the HUD money will go to the project, according to the county.

"It's a senior center designed to be flexible in the future for the changing lifestyle of today's and tomorrow's senior citizens," McKamie said.

The approximately 20,000-square-foot center will include a kitchen and a 5,000-square-foot multipurpose room, which can be used for a large dance or divided for crafts and games, McKamie said.

DARREN BARBEE, 817-390-7126

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
 McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE _____ NEWSPAPER CBS.com

Tarrant County Reports First 2009 West Nile Death

TARRANT COUNTY (CBS 11 / TXA 21) —

(5/29/2008)

Friday morning officials with Tarrant County Public Health announced its first 2009 death related to the West Nile virus.

The victim was an elderly Euless resident who also had other medical problems. "West Nile virus was not the cause of death, but it likely contributed because the person had underlying medical issues," Dr. Sandra Parker, the medical director of Tarrant County Public Health, said in a press release.

Officials say while West Nile can affect anyone, those over age 50 are at a higher risk for infection.

The death of the Euless resident is also the second case of West Nile virus reported for the season in Tarrant County and the first West Nile related death since 2006.

West Nile was detected in the United States in 1999 in New York. Mosquitoes spread the virus by contracting it from infected birds and then biting other birds or animals. Among mammals, humans and horses are the most commonly sickened. The virus spread across the lower 48 states by 2005.

West Nile virus symptoms include flu-like illness, with moderate to high fever (102 degrees or more), severe headache, severe muscle ache or joint pain, severe eye pain, mental changes, fatigue, nausea and respiratory symptoms. People with symptoms should see a doctor.

To combat the likelihood of being bitten by an infected mosquito, officials recommend that people use an insect repellent, preferably one with DEET; cover arms and legs when outdoors; limit time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn; and drain stand water in outdoor areas.

(© MMIX, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE _____ NEWSPAPER Associated Press

Court gives Santeria priest OK to sacrifice goats

By LINDA STEWART BALL (AP) —

DALLAS — A federal appeals court reversed a lower court's ruling on Friday that barred a Santeria priest from sacrificing goats in his Texas home, saying a city's decision to prohibit the ritual violated the man's religious rights.

Jose Merced, 46, accuses the city of Euless, Texas, of trampling on his constitutional right to religious exercise. The city claims the sacrifices jeopardize public health and violate its slaughterhouse and animal cruelty ordinances.

Last year, U.S. District Judge John McBryde sided with the Fort Worth suburb and dismissed the Puerto Rico native's claims. Merced appealed.

In its ruling, the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans said the Euless ordinance placed a substantial burden on Merced's "free exercise of religion without advancing a compelling governmental interest using the least restrictive means."

"It's a great day for religious freedom in Texas," said Eric Rassbach, Merced's lawyer, in response to the three-judge panel's ruling.

Merced said by practicing his faith in the privacy of his own home, he didn't harm anyone.

"Now Santeros can practice their religion at home without being afraid of being fined, arrested or taken to court," Merced said.

Euless city attorney, William McKamie, said he plans to file a motion for a rehearing.

"We respectfully believe that it's an incorrect finding on the purpose of application of the Texas Religious Freedom Act," McKamie said.

In court papers, Rassbach described Santeria as an Afro-Cuban religion with a complex ritual for ordaining priests, including the sacrifice of up to nine four-legged animals, such as lambs or goats, up to 20 chickens or other fowl and a turtle.

Merced said police officers interrupted a ceremony at his home in September 2004 and told him to stop slaughtering animals. Police warned him again in May 2006 after a neighbor complained about a gathering at the house.

Merced asked the city for a permit to slaughter animals at his home but was told the practice was prohibited. He said he hasn't been able to initiate any new priests in the past three years.

DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 2 OF 2

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE _____ NEWSPAPER Associated Press

Eules attorneys have said the ordinances outlawing animal sacrifices were passed before Merced's arrival in 1990 and don't discriminate against any individual or group. McKamie also said Merced isn't equipped to handle many animals on his property or dispose of them in a sanitary way.

Associated Press Writer Anabelle Garay contributed to this report.

Copyright © 2009 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
MCDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/1/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

EULESS | SANTERIA

Court says priest can sacrifice goats

Euless officials have said animal sacrifices jeopardize public health.

From staff and wire reports

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has overturned a district court's ruling, paving the way for a Santeria priest in Euless to resume goat sacrifices as part of religious ceremonies.

City officials had attempted to ban the sacrifices, an action that Jose Merced, a Santeria priest and Puerto Rico native, challenged in federal court as a restriction on his constitutional right to free exercise of religion.

U.S. District Judge John McBryde sided with the city last year and dismissed Merced's claims. The case went to the federal appeals court in New Orleans in April.

Merced's lawyer, Eric Rassbach, said it was a great day for religious freedom in Texas. But Euless' attorney, William "Mick" McKamie, said he plans to file a motion for a re-



Jose Merced has said he hasn't been able to properly practice his religion for fear of being arrested. He refuses to leave Euless, he said. "This is a land of religious freedom."

STAR-TELEGRAM ARCHIVES

hearing.

City officials have said animal sacrifices jeopardize public health and violate Euless' slaughterhouse and animal-cruelty ordinances.

"It's repulsive, and it has no business in an urban environment," McKamie said after the

April hearing in New Orleans.

No goat, no deal

In May 2006, Merced and 10 church members were preparing for religious ceremony that included an animal sacrifice when Euless police arrived at his home to investigate a

neighbor's tip. They told Merced he could not proceed with the sacrifice.

Subsequently, the city declined to issue a permit for Merced to conduct future ceremonies, citing rules against cruelty to animals, keeping livestock and disposing of animal waste.

In 2007, officials offered Merced a compromise: He could sacrifice chickens, which the city ordinance allows, but not goats, as he wanted. The city would continue to enforce its animal cruelty ordinance and its ban on killing livestock.

Merced declined the deal.

Ever since, Merced has said, he hasn't been able to properly practice his religion for fear of being arrested.

He refuses to leave Euless, he said.

"I don't think that's up to a city," Merced said. "This is a land of religious freedom."

This report includes material from The Associated Press and Star-Telegram archives.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
 McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/1/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

PUBLIC HEALTH

Tarrant County reports first West Nile-related death in '09

By JAN JARVIS
 jjarvis@star-telegram.com

A Euless man in his 80s is the first person in Tarrant County to die this year from complications related to the West Nile virus, according to public health officials.

"West Nile was not the cause of death, but it likely contributed because the person had underlying medical issues," said Dr. Sandra Parker, Tarrant County Public Health's medical director/health authority.

This is the second case of West Nile virus this season and the first death related to the virus since 2006, when seven people died. A Bedford man in his 60s was Tarrant County's

first confirmed case this season.

Euless plans to spray for mosquitoes south of Texas 183 today, weather permitting, said Betsy Deck, a city spokeswoman. Euless sprayed the entire city in May and sprayed half of the city — north of Texas 183 — in July.

The city also uses mosquito-eating minnows to reduce the risk of West Nile virus.

Bedford does not spray for mosquitoes but adds a larvicide treatment to creeks and drainage areas.

Creek channels are also stocked with minnows known for eating lots of mosquito larvae.

Although the virus can af-

fect anyone, people 50 and older are more likely to develop severe complications, health officials said. West Nile virus can cause flulike symptoms with a fever, severe headache, muscle aches or joint pain, eye pain, mental changes, fatigue, nausea, and respiratory problems.

Tarrant County Public Health recommends that people use an insect repellent, preferably one with DEET; cover their arms and legs when outdoors; limit the amount of time spent outdoors at dusk and dawn; and drain standing water.

JAN JARVIS, 817-390-7664

DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 1 OF 1

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/07/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/1/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

CHEERS AND JEERS

Cheers: To Brad at AutoZone on Euless North Main. On July 13, after my car battery failed twice, he drove to my house, jump-started my car so I could get to his store and stayed past quitting time to replace my warranted battery himself, for free. What service!

— Audrey Morrison, Euless

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN Y CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REFDATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/4/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

Police sirens spook ATM thieves, foil Euless heist

EULESS — The crooks who stole heavy machinery turned out to be lightweights.

Thieves used a stolen front-end loader to knock an ATM off its base early Sunday but were likely scared off by sirens from a nearby police chase, police said.

The attempted theft happened about 2:20 a.m. in the parking lot of the Omni American Credit Union in the 2300 block of West Euless Boulevard, also known as Texas 10.

The front-end loader had been parked about a block away, Euless police Lt. John Williams said Monday. The thieves drove it to the credit union, knocked the ATM off its base and moved it about 25 feet, according to a police report.

At about that time, police were chasing a suspected drunken driver.

When police arrived at the credit union, the thieves had fled and left behind the front-end loader and dismantled ATM, police said.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/4/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

COLD CASE

Ohio man gets 3 years in '93 Eulesless slaying

By DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.
ramirez@star-telegram.com

FORT WORTH — An Ohio man has been sentenced to three years in prison for his part in the killing of a Eulesless man in 1993 during a drug deal.



Smith
Timothy Willis, 28, was fatally shot over a pound of marijuana, according to an arrest warrant affidavit.

The killing had been a mystery until 2007, when two Eulesless detectives working on the cold case tracked down two suspects.

Vincent Smith, 40, pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter Thursday in Criminal District Court No. 2 in Fort Worth. He received three years in prison as part of a plea agreement.

In December, Roderick Jamison, 34, of Fort Worth was sentenced to five years in prison after he pleaded guilty to murder.

Jamison and Smith were the gunmen, Eulesless police said Monday.

The shooting

Willis moved into Lighthouse Motor Inn on Jan. 15, 1993. His mother told police that she last saw him Jan. 30, when he visited her about his tax returns. Relatives said that Willis used cocaine and marijuana and that he owed people money, according to the affidavit.

Eulesless police were dispatched to the motel shortly

before 2 a.m. Jan. 31 on a report of a possible shooting. Officers found Willis lying facedown near the front door of his room. He died at a hospital.

Witnesses told police that they had heard several gunshots and had seen several men running away.

Within hours of the shooting, according to the affidavit, police had information that Willis had planned to sell marijuana to a group of men that morning. Investigators contacted the man they be-

lieved had set up the drug deal but could not link him or anyone else to the shooting.

The case lay dormant until January 2006, when Detectives Brett Morgan and John Haecker were asked to reinvestigate.

Smith and Jamison were arrested in 2007, Eulesless police said Monday.

Four other men involved in the case were in prison on unrelated charges.

DOMINGO RAMIREZ JR.,
817-390-7763

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTNY CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/6/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

BRIEFS

Worker killed by steel plate

EULESS — A worker at Camtech Precision Manufacturing was killed Tuesday night when a 2 1/2-ton steel plate that he was cleaning fell on him, police reported. Royce Bunkley, 53, of Arlington was pronounced dead about 9 p.m. at the plant in the 1400 block of Westpark Way, according to the Tarrant County medical examiner's office. The suspended steel plate was 13 feet long and 8 feet wide and weighed 5,000 pounds, according to the police report. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration will investigate the death, police said. The company was cited in 2007 for four safety violations, one of them classified as serious. The issues were resolved, according to OSHA records. The plant makes aircraft engines and engine parts, records show.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN Y CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/11/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

2005 DISAPPEARANCE

A quest for justice or an unfair witch hunt?

On behalf of their missing daughter, a family campaigns against a man.

By **TIM MADIGAN**
tmadigan@star-telegram.com

Nearly every day, Monica Charbonneau heads to the post office and mails 30 more fliers to random addresses in Arlington.

It's the return address that grabs attention.

"Hunters for Justice for a Killer in Your Neighborhood," it says, followed by Charbonneau's home address in Irving.

The flier directs residents to Charbonneau's Web site, where she openly accuses an Arlington man of kidnapping and killing her daughter. Kris-



Kristen Charbonneau

ten Charbonneau was 25 when, four years ago today, she disappeared from her job as an exotic dancer in Fort Worth. The missing woman, who lived in Euless, hasn't

been seen since and is presumed dead by authorities. The man her mother is targeting, a married businessman with two children, has been questioned by Euless police but never charged in connection with the disappearance.

"He was there at the club [the day of Kristen Charbon-



Lt. John Williams says Euless police are frustrated, but they discourage the family's campaign. "It hasn't helped," he said. S-T/KELLEY CHINN

neau's disappearance] but that was the extent of it," said the man's lawyer, Jeffrey Hansen of Arlington. His client declined to be interviewed for this report and has not been publicly identified by police.

"He didn't have anything to do with her disappearance," Hansen said. "I mean, he's been forthcoming with his wife and his neighbors and he's done the best he could to try and explain the situation to them. This is a woman with a broken heart. It's distressing to think that somebody can go around and say these things, and there is little remedy available to him to stop it."

Monica Charbonneau remains unapologetic. To her, the man's reluctance to take legal action against her is further proof of his guilt. She said she plans to persist with her campaign until every home in Arlington receives a flier.

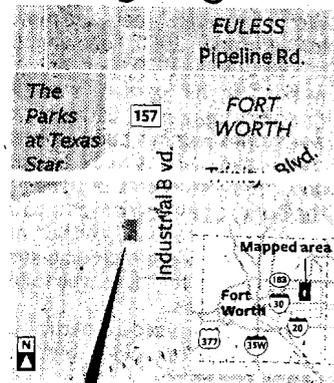
"I'll keep mailing them out and eventually, I'll find somebody that knows something, or maybe [the man] will walk into the police station and say, 'I'm here to clear my name,'" Monica Charbonneau said. If he is later proven innocent, she said, "I would send out as many letters as I'm sending out now saying he's not guilty. I'll make a public apology to him. I don't believe that's going to happen. I do believe he murdered by daughter, and this is the only way I can get her case out there."

Today, on the anniversary of Kristen Charbonneau's disappearance, Euless police are releasing a statement summarizing their investigation. The Arlington man is described by police as "a person of interest" in the case; he was interviewed by detectives four years ago but has declined to talk since. Investigators are otherwise stymied and ask that anyone

with information about the disappearance come forward.

"Basically, we've run all the leads down," Euless Police Lt. John Williams said. "This year we re-interviewed everybody and came up with about the same thing we did last time. We don't have a body, and real-

Last sighting



Kristen Charbonneau, 25, of Euless was last seen on the afternoon of Aug. 11, 2005, after leaving Baby Dolls, the club in far east Fort Worth where she worked.

ly don't have any forensics to hang our hat on. We have a person of interest, but he has kept his mouth shut. We're kind of at a standstill."

Kristen Charbonneau was last seen on the afternoon of Aug. 11, 2005, after leaving Baby Dolls, the club in far east Fort Worth where she worked.

"Anyone who was at the club that day and recalls anything, we'd sure like to hear from them," Williams said.

A cab driver who was called to take Kristen Charbonneau home said he waited outside the club but never saw her come out. Witnesses told police that the Arlington man was a regular patron, walked her to the door and offered to carry her purse. He left the club himself about the same time and returned later.

"He was the last person seen with her, and he hasn't said anything," Williams said.

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
 McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/11/09 NEWSPAPER FWST

"He hasn't been cooperating; then again he's not required to. Some of his statements he made at the time didn't match the facts, so we'd certainly like to talk to him again, but he's invoking his right not to talk. Until somebody cooperates and give us more information, we don't have a lot to go on."

Despite their frustrations, Williams said, police do not encourage Monica Charbonneau's private campaign.

"It might be cathartic for her, but thus far it hasn't helped anything," he said.

Monica Charbonneau, an accountant in Dallas, began her campaign against the Arlington man about two years ago, with fliers placed on cars close to his neighborhood. She also posted yard signs and contacted his wife's employer. Charbonneau created her Web site last summer and started the mass mailing campaign a few months ago. The site has had more than 3,000 visitors.

"When you don't have news reporters on your lawn, you've got to do something," Monica Charbonneau said. "This is my search party. I'm hoping [the man] will say, 'Enough is enough.'"

Legal experts say Charbonneau's campaign is unusual in its ardor, even as personal attacks have become more common online. The Internet can be used to promulgate accusations almost with impunity, said Michael Fertik, founder of ReputationDefender, a California company that fights Internet defamation.

"This kind of possible harassment [on the Internet] is pervasive," Fertik said. "This is a story in which anyone can put a scarlet letter on anyone else at any time. The unusual thing is that she's not hiding that she's doing it. . . . We appoint law enforcement for a reason. They're supposed to tell us if the guy is guilty or not. If he wasn't arrested, we have to assume he's not."

Hansen, the man's lawyer, said Charbonneau is trying to bait his client into a lawsuit and "make his life as miserable as possible." To recover damages for libel or slander, the man would have to prove that Monica Charbonneau's accusations are false.

"I mean if he gets a civil judgment against them, and I definitely feel that he would, he would never collect any damages because I just don't think they have any assets," Hansen said. "I've advised my client that it doesn't make any economic sense to try and engage them in litigation."

"There's absolutely no guilt in what he's done. It's a very unfortunate thing."

TIM MADIGAN, 817-390-7544

DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 1 OF 1

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE BROWN YOUNG ANIMAL CNTR
McDONALD COLLINS C. BARKER GETCHELL LIBRARY ADMIN LIBRARY REF

DATE DISTRIBUTED 8/7/09 DATE OF ARTICLE 8/10/09 NEWSPAPER Associated Press

City of Euless asks for rehearing

© 2009 The Associated Press

Aug. 10, 2009

EULESS, Texas — Euless will ask a federal court to rehear the case of a Santeria priest who wants to sacrifice goats in his home after a judicial panel determined that the city's decision to prohibit the ritual violated his religious rights.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in July reversed a lower court's ruling that barred Jose Merced, 46, from sacrificing the animals.

The decision was made by a three-judge panel. Euless City Attorney William McKamie told The Dallas Morning News, in a story Monday, that he will file a motion for a rehearing by the full court.

Santeria is an Afro-Cuban religion with a ritual for ordaining priests that includes the sacrifice of up to nine four-legged animals.

Euless is between Fort Worth and Dallas.

Information from: The Dallas Morning News, <http://www.dallasnews.com>