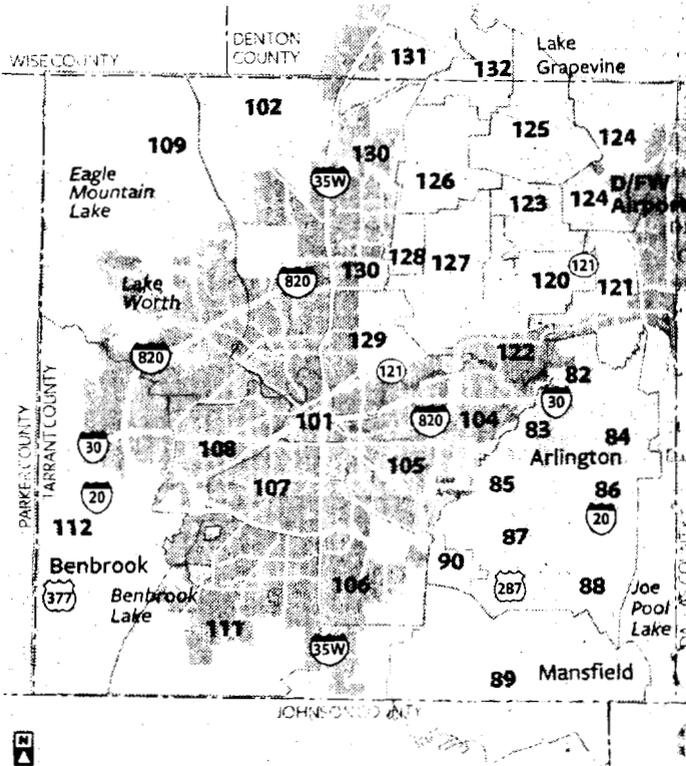


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Map Area	Sales	Change	Median price	Change
82 NE Arlington	23	+35%	\$172,000	-3%
83 Central west Arlington	30	+20%	\$119,900	-11%
84 Central east Arlington	12	-52%	\$55,010	-2%
85 Arlington, Pantego, Dalworthington Gardens	58	+23%	\$133,500	-12%
86 SE Arlington	29	+53%	\$87,200	+3%
87 Far SW Arlington	54	+38%	\$142,700	+16%
88 Far SE Arlington	113	+24%	\$120,000	0%
89 Mansfield	110	+53%	\$176,000	+12%
90 Kennedale	8	+14%	\$152,500	+30%
101 Downtown FW	4	na	\$316,700	na
102 Saginaw, north FW	140	+77%	\$126,200	0%
104 East Fort Worth	53	+13%	\$83,840	+7%
105 Southeast FW	20	+43%	\$23,950	+22%
106 South Fort Worth, Everman, Forest Hill	26	+8%	\$72,000	+18%
107 Central west and southwest Fort Worth (TCU)	52	+11%	\$158,000	-12%
108 Central west FW	69	+35%	\$221,320	+12%
109 NW Fort Worth, Eagle Mountain Lake, River Oaks, Azle	94	-3%	\$117,000	+8%
111 Far south Fort Worth, Crowley	132	+6%	\$119,900	-3%
112 Far west Fort Worth, Benbrook, White Settlement	89	+41%	\$105,200	-3%
120 Bedford	54	+32%	\$155,000	+7%
121 Euless	56	+60%	\$152,450	0%
122 Hurst	41	+8%	\$144,000	+8%
123 Colleyville	34	+55%	\$475,000	-8%
124 Grapevine	44	+47%	\$240,000	-8%
125 Southlake	42	+91%	\$480,000	-2%
126 Keller	54	+2%	\$280,000	0%
127 North Richland Hills, Richland Hills	74	+28%	\$125,000	-3%
128 Watauga	30	+30%	\$105,000	+21%
129 Haltom City, Riverside	23	+28%	\$51,250	-27%
130 Summerfields, Park Glen	191	+52%	\$142,000	-5%
131 Roanoke	13	-19%	\$169,680	+1%
132 Trophy Club, Westlake	20	+54%	\$242,500	-41%

Tarrant County home sales for April



Changes are from one year earlier. Source: Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University.

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FAITH & SPIRIT

Garden of Eatin' helps to feed those in need

Half of the produce from the church's raised beds is donated to local charities.

By **TERRY EVANS**
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EULESS — When Peter assures Jesus in John 21:17 that he loves him, Jesus tells Peter to “feed my sheep.”

Members of United Memorial Christian Church take that scripture to heart with their Garden of Eatin', a cluster of raised-bed gardens that will provide fresh produce to those in need.

Pastor Mary Lou Dillon said that the name of the first community garden in Euless is obviously tied to Genesis but that Christ's mandate to care for people is the driving force behind the garden.

“There are many homeless and hungry people in our area,” she said. “We have available land and can grow vegetables.”

Half of everything produced in the Garden of Eatin' is donated to North East Emergency Distribution and 6 Stones Mission Network, Dillon said. Gardeners keep the rest of their bounty.

“We hope that when people see how easy it is to do that they'll have gardens everywhere,” Dillon said.

John Bobo, vice president of the distribution group, echoed the hope that gardeners across Hurst, Euless and Bedford will follow United Memorial's lead.

“There's nutritional value in fresh vegetables that people benefit from,” he said. “Most of the time at our facility and at 6 Stones, most of the donat-



STAR-TELEGRAM/MAX FAULKNER

Sherry Ward harvests a tomato from her bed at the Garden of Eatin'. Gardeners donate half of their bounty to North East Emergency Distribution and 6 Stones Mission Network and keep the rest.

How to help

To request a garden at United Memorial Christian Church, call 817-571-0231 or go to unitedmemorial.org.

More on gardening

Euless will host a Square Foot Gardening class from 9:30 to 11 a.m. July 10 at Midway Recreation Center, 300 W. Midway Drive. Cost is \$20; register at www.euless.tx.gov or 817-685-1666.

“We hope that when people see how easy it is to do that they'll have gardens everywhere.”

Pastor Mary Lou Dillon

ed food is canned. [Gardening] is a good use of land and also is going to benefit young people, getting them back into things that their grandparents

did years ago.”

Dillon, who grew up on a farm in Donna in South Texas, followed a gardening method developed by Mel Bartholomew, a civil engineer in Utah. The church planted a prototype garden in the fall, which produced a variety of vegetables, including radishes, lettuce and tomatoes. That effort has been expanded to 16 individual beds.

“All are adopted by some church members and a lot of community folk who heard what we're doing,” Dillon said.

Gardeners use 2-by-6-inch lumber to frame 4-by-4-foot squares that are gridded into 16 sections. Bartholomew suggests planting a different vegetable in each section, but that's up to the gardener.

The church devoted a corner of its five acres to the Garden of Eatin'. It gets full sun all day, so it's great for crops.

Dillon said that some of the gardens are on stilts.

“We have three that are elevated so that they're wheelchair accessible,” she said.

Dillon said she works in her garden every day, and that one garden easily feeds a couple people all summer.

“We've harvested radishes we planted three weeks ago,” she said. “I'm surprised at how quickly things are ready to harvest.”

Dillon said the church plans to expand the garden because so many people have asked to join.

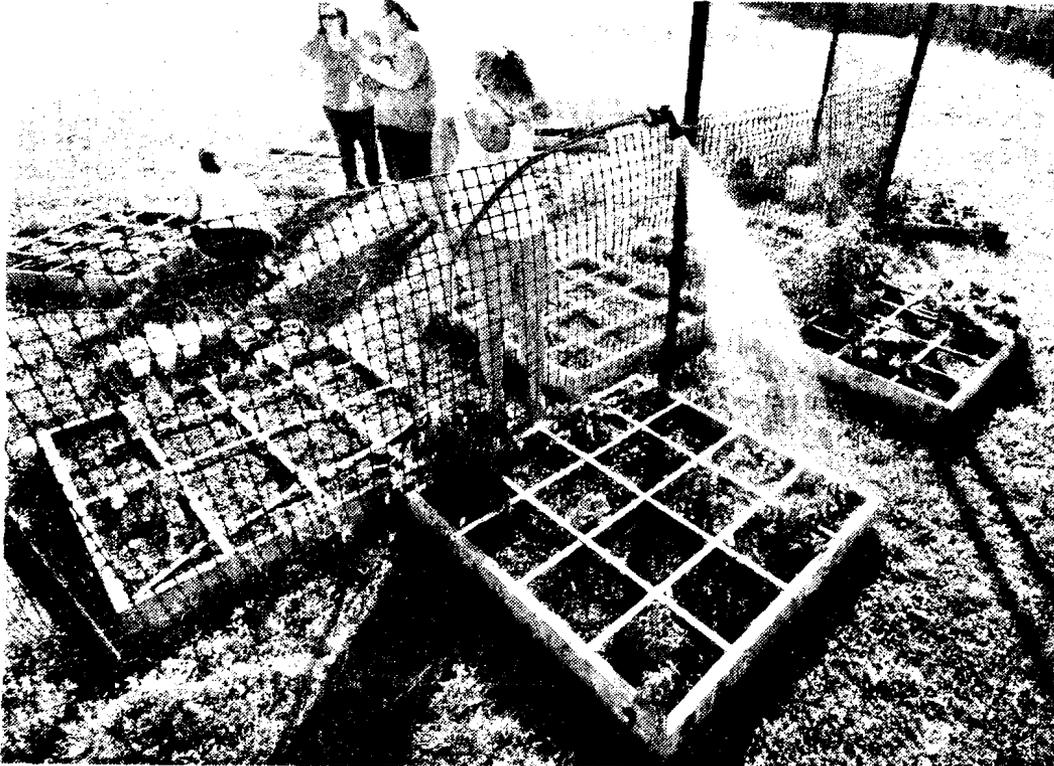
“We've got at least an acre or so that's good for this gardening method,” she said. “People call and ask for one and if they're willing to do the farming and take care of it we sign them up.”

Then, they start feeding sheep.

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EULESS CHURCH PROJECT



STAR-TELEGRAM/MAX FAULKNER

Linda Eilenfeldt waters the Garden of Eatin' on Wednesday at United Memorial Christian Church in Euleless. The garden with 16 4-by-4-foot beds is tended by members of the church and the community. The church plans to expand the garden because so many people have asked to join.

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SALES TAX RECEIPTS

Tarrant cities encouraged by increase in sales taxes

However, officials say, a rebound must be prolonged to truly help.

By **MIKE LEE**
 and **SUSAN SCHROCK**
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 sschrock@star-telegram.com

It will take a few more months before most local cities are ready to declare that the economy has turned around.

Sales tax figures released Wednesday show that retail sales are increasing in Texas for the first time in 14 months. In Tarrant County, 30 of 34 cities saw an increase in their April sales tax payments from

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the state.

But even with the increases, most of those cities still collected less in the first three months of 2010 than during the same period in 2009.

The April numbers cover sales taxes collected in March and offer a glimpse of how the economy performed during the first three months of 2010. State Comptroller Susan Combs said they "may be the

beginning of a recovery," but local budget officials weren't as enthusiastic.

"We're encouraged that the slump appears to be receding," said Horatio Porter, Fort Worth's budget officer. "The challenge is that ... we're behind on our overall collections."

Most cities rely on sales and property taxes for the bulk of their income. The economic downturn has cut into both sources dramatically, forcing many of them to discuss layoffs and cuts in services. Meanwhile, expenses in some cities continue to increase.

Fort Worth's sales tax collections rose only slightly in March — 0.15 percent — and the city has lost 2.7 percent in the first three months of the year compared with the first three months of 2009.

Porter said he doesn't expect sales taxes to recover until the unemployment rate improves. Statewide unemployment is 8.2 percent; Tarrant County's is 8.3 percent.

In Arlington, sales taxes collected in March surged 11.5 percent compared with March 2009. The \$8.6 million check, which includes sales tax collections that some businesses pay every three months instead of monthly, was the biggest "quarterly" payment — excluding the December checks that are always higher because of holiday shopping — that the city has seen in five years, Budget Manager Mike Finley said.

However, last March's check was the lowest the city had seen since 2006, Finley said.

"You are comparing the best check to the worst check. Things were just much more dismal last March compared to this March," Finley said. "As people get more confident, they are spending more."

Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck said he was astonished by the double-digit increase.

"I wasn't prepared for that much of a jump," Cluck said. "In the face of decreased [property values], this really is a nice thing."

The March sales tax check puts Arlington \$121,000 higher in collections than it had projected at this point in the year, but city officials aren't ready to start earmarking the money for new expenditures.

"If this trend continues for a couple months, we'll be able to raise our sales tax projects. It will mean we will be able to continue to provide services or provide additional services," Finley said. "We are not quite ready to raise our estimate yet because we want to see more activity."

Other cities similarly had gains for one month, but not enough to offset the losses in previous months. North Richland Hills and Euless gained a little more than 11 percent compared with last March, but Euless' year-to-date collections were still down 6.4 percent. North Richland Hills' year-to-date receipts were 1.17 percent higher than the same period in 2009.

"One good month is not a trend," said Mark Mills, the North Richland Hills budget director.