

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 6/2/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/25-7/23/10 NEWSPAPER The Times

From The Local Leadership



**Mayor Saleh
Euless**

THE CITY OF
EULESS

Are you looking for ways to entertain your kiddos this summer? Euless has the answer! Catch the Summer Reading Express at the Euless Public Library. There are a number of free events at the Euless Library during June and July. In addition to weekly programs, the Library will have prizes for completing and turning in your reading log. Special events include a Carnival, The Little Engine that Could, Wildlife on the Move and lots, lots more exciting programs and activities. Call the Library for more details at (817) 685-1480.

There are many great Camps & Clinics through the Parks Department throughout the summer. Children ages 3 through 12 can find something to suit them. There are camps

for art, summer dance, music, outdoor adventures as well as sports camps for volleyball, soccer, tennis, basketball and ice skating just to name a few. For more information, please call the Rec Center at 817-685-1666.

Don't forget the best freebie of all! There will be free watermelon at the Euless Pools on Independence Day.

Together we are all working to make our city the FABLELESS community we live and work in. Have a great summer!

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 6/2/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/25/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY

With tax revenue lower, cities study pooling resources

Items on the table include emergency services, local courts and animal control.

By AMAN BATHEJA
 abatheja@star-telegram.com

Keller and Southlake merged their police dispatch centers three years ago and began using the same jail. Next month, Colleyville's City Council will decide whether to join in on the agreement.

For the cities, three's company, not a crowd. The move is expected to save each municipality at least \$100,000 a year, according to local officials.

Around the country, shrinking tax revenue because of the economic downturn has served as a catalyst for local governments to start talking about pooling resources with neighbors. Police and fire services are often at the top of the list.

"Certainly we're seeing more cooperation and more thought being put into what cities and counties can work on together, and I

would guess the economy has something to do with it," said Elna Christopher with the Texas Association of Counties.

The North Central Texas Council of Governments is also seeing a greater willingness among local cities to pursue partnerships, said Executive Director Mike Eastland.

"I'm expecting we're going to see even more as budgets get tighter," he said.

Across Northeast Tarrant County, with about a dozen cities, everything from emergency services and local courts to animal control is on the table, according to city officials.

Last month, police departments in Keller, Colleyville, Roanoke, Southlake and Watauga launched the North Tarrant Regional Special Weapons and Tactics team to respond to high-risk incidents and develop the skills of officers in all of the cities. Only Keller already had a SWAT team. The new team will cover 71 square miles and serve 121,000 people, according to Keller police officials. The joint operation is expected to save the cities money for training and equipment as well as make them eligible for more grants.

The concept of Northeast Tarrant cities working together isn't new. Local cities have other cooperative arrangements in place. The Northeast Fire Department Association, a cooperative training and emergency response effort among more than a dozen local communities, has existed since 1967.

But the pace of new partnerships may be ready to pick up. Several cities are in early talks about sharing a wide range of services, according to city officials.

Keller Police Chief Mark Hafner said he has heard from local police chiefs who are discussing merging certain law enforcement services with neighboring cities. "You're going to see a lot of these popping up in the Metroplex because it makes so much sense," he said.

The merging of Southlake's and Keller's dispatch and jail operations has been a huge success, according to both cities.

"It's been one of the high points of my career here in making this work," Hafner said.

Along with reducing costs, the partnership has also reduced turnover and improved service, according to city officials. Southlake law enforcement officers now spend far less time booking a person who has been arrested under the merged system, city spokeswoman Pilar Schank said.

"It has allowed our officers to get back on the street that much sooner," Schank said.

Several Colleyville officials expressed support for joining the partnership at a meeting this month.

"The people on the street are not going to see a difference," Councilman Mike Taylor said. "This is a common-sense issue for cost efficiency. . . . It makes sense at every angle."

Colleyville Police Chief Steve Dye told the council that some residents remain wary of such arrangements.

"I've had several community members come up to me with concern," Dye said, adding that he assuaged their worries by explaining the program's benefits.

Lots on the table

Keller City Manager Dan O'Leary said regionalizing other aspects of city services is being discussed with renewed interest.

"The resistance we usually find when we start talking about these things is people think their city is losing a measure of identity," O'Leary said.

That appears to be less of a concern in a tough economy.

"What draws a lot of cooperation is to see if there are economies of scale that can be achieved and cost-effectiveness," Westlake Town Manager Thomas Brymer said. "These get heightened during an economic downturn. Cities can't do everything they want to on their own."

Brymer said he sees the most potential in cities agreeing to cover fire and EMS calls based on which emergency workers are the closest rather than which city the emergency is taking place in. In many cases, a neighboring city can respond faster where time is critical, he said.

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 6/2/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/28/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

Brymer sent a draft memorandum of understanding to city managers of neighboring cities last year focusing on creating a way to make it easier for cities to pool some resources.

"There's much more discussion we would have to have on it," Brymer said. "But approaching some services from a regional perspective makes sense."

Hurst recently joined a revitalization program operated by Euless and a local nonprofit ministry, 6 Stones Mission Network, said Michelle Lazo, Hurst's assistant planning director. The partnership will allow Hurst and Euless to expand the scale of their efforts to revive aging neighborhoods.

"We all have the same aging housing stock. We all kind of run together," Lazo said. "We're hoping Bedford gets on board so it's a true H-E-B thing."

In recent discussions regarding the construction of a new animal shelter, Keller officials have debated whether to partner with North Richland Hills or Southlake or go it alone.

Keller has also talked with Southlake about someday consolidating their municipal courts, O'Leary said. "I think because of the economy, it certainly makes it a lot easier to sell these ideas to everybody," he said.

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 6/2/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/28/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

Copper theft leaves Euless church sweating

Monday, Jun. 28, 2010

mitchmitchell@star-telegram.com

EULESS -- It was not a fire-and-brimstone sermon that had congregants at Sheppard Drive Baptist Church all hot and bothered.

It was the heat -- and the bother.

Thieves scaled locked gates and fencing Friday night and gutted five air conditioning units and disabled a sixth for the copper parts.

"They cut the lines and got spooked and left the sixth one," Pastor James Schoenrock said. "They probably did \$50,000 in damage to get \$50."

The church's insurance carrier, Guidance One, is working to lower the temperature at this church and some others, a spokeswoman said.

"We are starting to see this a lot more," said Carol Curtis, a claims adjuster for Guidance One. "Being a church has not protected these institutions. I've not seen any measures that have deterred these thieves. Some churches put cages around their units, and the thieves have cut through those, too."

Copper prices peaked at about \$9,000 per metric ton between April and June 2008, according to a report from the National Insurance Crime Bureau. During that period, insurance claims for metal thefts were most numerous, totaling 2,052, the report said.

By comparison, claims totaled only 483 for the same three months in 2006, when the price of copper was just starting to rise from about \$5,000 per metric ton, the report said.

Police officers in Euless also say they have seen an increase in copper thefts from churches, but neither police nor insurance companies could provide statistics on the number of church copper thefts.

Typically, copper thieves hit strip shopping centers and new housing developments, said Senior Cpl. Brenda Buske, Euless police spokeswoman.

"Copper is real difficult to track," Buske said. "It does not have a serial number. You cannot take what someone sold and compare it with what has been stolen. Some companies are trying to mark their copper so it can be tracked."

No arrests have been made in this case, Buske said.

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 6/2/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 6/28/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

Schoenrock hopes to open the sanctuary for regular services Sunday, but with air conditioner companies going into their busy season, he said that seems like a tall order.

"We did Sunday's service in the heat," Schoenrock said. "It was an abbreviated service. We held Sunday school and a 35-minute worship service. Our worship services usually last an hour." His office and the day-care center are the only air-conditioned parts of the building now.

Schoenrock had a special message for those who ruined his congregation's cool: "I would like to say that you stole from God, and there is a price to be paid."

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Euless Police Department investigative unit at 817-685-1531.



STAR-TELEGRAM/RON JENKINS

Pastor James Schoenrock with one of six destroyed air conditioning units at Sheppard Drive Baptist Church in Euless. Thieves stripped copper from five of the 5-ton units and disabled the sixth.