

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 7/9/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/3/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

Architecture of planned church draws protests

A Greek Orthodox church's new building will have a Byzantine design.

By TERRY EVANS
 tevans@star-telegram.com

EULESS — St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church is bursting at the seams and has plans to build a new worship center.

The new building's architecture is Byzantine, a design style that originated in Greece, Turkey and Romania, said Joe Sullivan, building committee chairman.

"We're excited about being able to worship in a church that's the correct style of architecture," he said.

Greg DeGiovanni, office administrator, said construction should begin within the next couple of weeks.

"I'm kind of surprised we haven't seen them out there already," he said of construction crews.

But while the church's 100 or so families eagerly await the construction of the 8,300-square-foot edifice that will seat about 260, some neighbors aren't happy with the plans.

Sherry Brauchler isn't looking forward to the new church building in her Cullum Drive neighborhood.

"I'm not a curmudgeon," she said. "I just feel that there is a responsibility to the neighborhood."

The architect who developed the concept drawing, Mirela Tudora, is the wife of the parish priest, the Rev. Vasile Tudora. She's also schooled in the Byzantine style of architecture, Sullivan said.

That style is a burr under Brauchler's saddle. She had no problem with the church's first construction project, which in 1987 put an 8,000-square-foot

brick building on the back of the 303 Cullum Drive property. That building will become classrooms, offices and a fellowship hall when the new building is finished.

"The building they have now is nothing like what they're going to build, with turrets and that type of architecture," she said. "The neighborhood is a beautiful slice of country in the middle of the Metroplex. I don't have anything against the church, but that drastic architecture doesn't fit in."

Eules Mayor Mary Lib Saleh disagreed.

"The church is gorgeous," she said. "They put a lot of thought into the architecture. It will enhance the neighborhood, and we're going to see that it's not going to disrupt the neighborhood."

Saleh and the City Council approved the building's site plan at their June 8 meeting.

But its design wasn't the only subject of protest letters that Brauchler and another neighbor, Muhuntha Arumugam, filed with the city's planning and zoning committee.

Arumugam, who lives on Colonial Lane, said that the church's annual Mid-Cities Greek Food Festival makes him miserable.

"I'm a Christian," he said. "I'm not against church. I'm against having too much crowd all over the place. We cannot even enter our own house, and the music goes to 1 or 2 a.m."

Arumugam said he also fears that this expansion won't be the last.

"We are accommodating," he said of himself and his neighbors. "But we're like the farmer who let the camel put its head in the tent when it rained. The camel kept coming until the farmer had no

room for himself in his tent."

Arumugam said it's fine for the church to grow, but it should "go grow somewhere else."

He suggested that the festival be moved as well.

Sullivan said that festival — this year's, on Oct. 8-10, will be the 19th — is the church's primary fundraiser and draws guests from across the region. It's critical, considering the \$2.4 million cost for the new building and the 2,500-square-foot addition to the current one. The church, he added, has addressed neighbors' complaints.

"One of the things we've done is enact a parking plan that puts up parking barriers so nobody can park against their land," he said. "We have parking monitors and get as many folks as we can to park in an adjacent property we own to keep them off the street."

Sullivan said the church stakes highly visible marker tape along private property on Cullum Drive to warn drivers not to park there.

He said that illegally parked vehicles are towed away if owners don't respond to announcements over the PA system within a reasonable amount of time.

Saleh said the festival has become part of Eules, and she regrets that some neighbors find it intrusive.

"Yes, it is a big festival," she said. "They have a lot of people and music. Some people just don't like that."

The mayor urged tolerance. "Let's be accepting of one another," she said. "If there are true problems, call us and we'll come out and do what we can to help you."

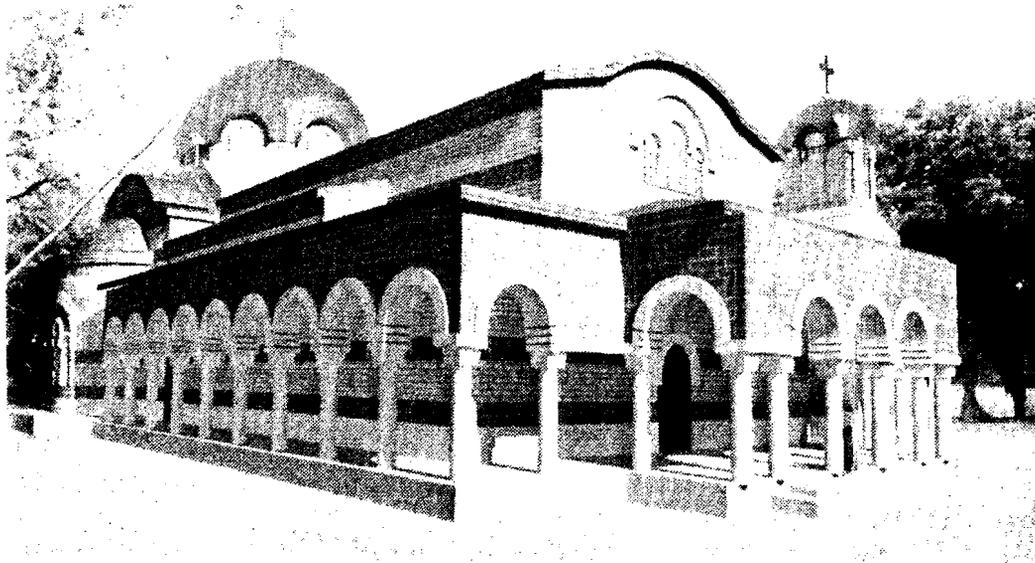
DISTRIBUTED TO:

PAGE 2 OF 2

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 7/9/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/3/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

EULESS



A concept drawing by architect and parishioner Mirela Tudora shows the Byzantine style of St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church's planned worship center. Construction is expected to begin this month.

MIRELA TUDORA

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 7/9/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/6/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

GOVERNMENT

Eules seeks to lure retirees to the city to boost economy

The first step is earning a state designation.

By TERRY EVANS tevans@star-telegram.com

EULESS — City officials are targeting retirees in an effort to boost their population and strengthen the economy.

Linking up with a state website designed to pull in people who are planning retirement would increase exposure for Eules, said Betsy Deck, a city spokeswoman.

"Potential retirees looking for a place to retire might look on this website and see Eules as a destination," she said.

The basic motivation is economic, said Kay Godbey, special projects manager.

"It's all tied to economics in theory," she said. "We hope that attracting retirees to Eules will help the city's economy."

The first step is earning a Texas Certified Retirement Community designation.

Godbey sent an application package last week to the Texas Department of Agriculture. The application includes support letters from people who know what Eules has to offer.

One of those letters is from Mayor Mary Lib Saleh, who said she hopes to share the life she has in Eules with people who are approaching her level of experience.

The mayor said that she's tired of reporters telling her age, but said she has "passed the diamond jubilee."

"I don't consider myself retired," she said. "I'm busy every day and every evening. Retirement means you get to go out in the garden and finish that little patch you started two weeks ago."

The retirement-community certification would be an economic-development vehicle, Saleh said.

"If you get it and are designated senior citizens-worthy, it goes up with other awards we've won that say Eules is a great place to live," she said. "The [package] that Kay put together is fantastic. It's a book we ought to print and sell to our citizens, because it has so much up-to-date information about what's avail-

able in the city and the community."

One of the city's centerpieces is the Texas Star Golf Course, considered one of the top public courses in the state. And the city's Arbor Daze festival has long been popular in Northeast Tarrant County.

But the city's most attractive facet may have nothing to do with facilities and activities, Saleh said. Instead, she cited such community service opportunities as the 3-year-old Eules Revitalization Program.

"If people ask me what's best about Eules, I have to say it's the volunteers," she said. "We had 600 volunteers show up for two days to revitalize 15 homes from top to bottom back in March. We'll do another one this fall."

Saying that practically her whole life has been one volunteer job after another, Saleh said the payoff is the satisfaction of serving others.

"That's what's important to me as mayor of a city like ours, people who are willing to volunteer their time and talent to help other people," she said.

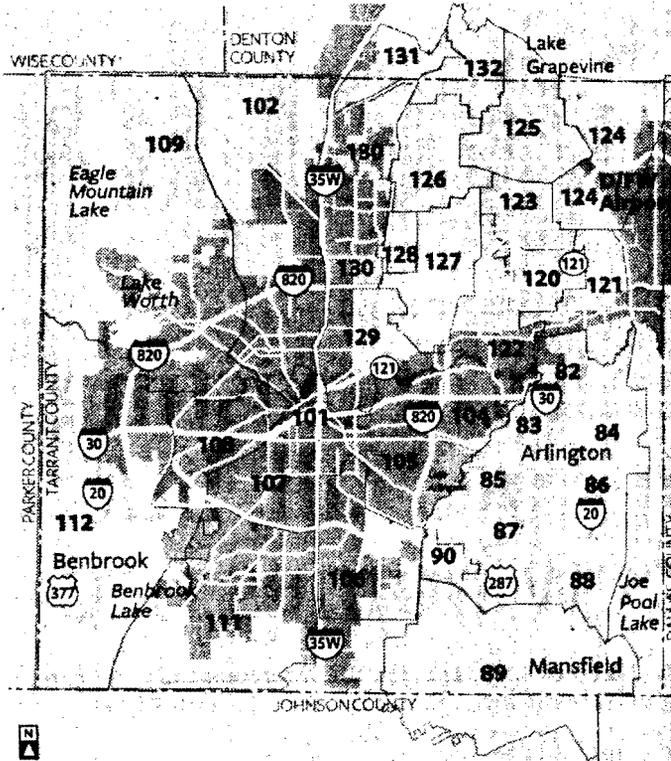
Godbey said she doesn't know how long Texas will take to decide whether to approve Eules' request.

TERRY EVANS, 817-390-7620

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

DATE DISTRIBUTED 7/9/10 DATE OF ARTICLE 7/8/10 NEWSPAPER FWST

Home sales by area in North Texas



Area	Sales	Change from year ago	Median price	Change from year ago
82 NE Arlington	19	-32%	\$202,000	15%
83 Central west Arlington	24	-17%	\$119,000	-1%
84 Central east Arlington	26	63%	\$48,000	-24%
85 Arlington, Dalworthington Gardens, Pantego	34	-36%	\$135,900	-11%
86 SE Arlington	13	18%	\$75,250	0%
87 Far SW Arlington	44	-36%	\$166,500	16%
88 Far SE Arlington	92	-13%	\$123,900	-1%
89 Mansfield	89	6%	\$187,450	7%
90 Kennedale	8	60%	\$115,000	-39%
101 FW, downtown	3	50%	\$150,000	-56%
102 Saginaw/north side	115	6%	\$128,500	0%
104 FW, east	47	-16%	\$87,750	-9%
105 SE Fort Worth (Rosedale)	20	-5%	\$25,150	-16%
106 FW south (Everman/Forest Hill)	21	0%	\$70,000	11%
107 FW central west & southwest (TCU)	62	-16%	\$163,500	-23%
108 FW central west	79	27%	\$221,300	10%
109 FW NW (Eagle Mtn. Lake/River Oaks/Azle)	85	-15%	\$125,000	-4%
111 FW (south of I-20 /Crowley)	122	0%	\$101,750	-7%
112 FW far west (Benbrook /White Settlement)	72	-3%	\$105,000	-12%
120 Bedford	36	-10%	\$173,250	3%
121 Euless	33	-25%	\$149,450	5%
122 Hurst	46	7%	\$142,150	-2%
123 Colleyville	36	9%	\$443,500	6%
124 Grapevine	34	-13%	\$219,000	-5%
125 Southlake	59	13%	\$600,000	23%
126 Keller	73	-20%	\$284,000	-5%
127 N. Richland Hills/ Richland Hills	63	2%	\$124,900	-14%
128 Watauga	21	-28%	\$110,000	15%
129 Haltom City/Riverside	31	15%	\$67,500	2%
130 FW Summerfields/ Park Glen	183	-9%	\$147,000	0%
131 Roanoke	17	21%	\$173,000	14%
132 Trophy Club/Westlake	23	77%	\$334,600	17%

Source: Real Estate Center, Texas A&M University