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Eules city manager aims to keep momentum going

By Elizabeth Campbellliz@star-telegram.com

02/10/2015

EULESS Newly appointed City Manager Loretta Getchell said she is ready to take on the challenges of overseeing the ongoing growth and development in the city as new business and residential projects are flourishing.

The City Council voted unanimously to appoint Getchell at a recent meeting.

Getchell, 47, replaces longtime City Manager Gary McKamie, who retired at the end of January. Her salary is \$175,000.

"We are at a point in Eules' history where we are reaping the benefits from the development that we've been working on for years," she said. "I want to continue providing an environment friendly to businesses and welcoming to residents."

Related Getchell said she wants to continue McKamie's legacy of forming community partnerships and working with cities and businesses including Hurst, Bedford and Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

Some employees have been with the city since the 1980s and 1990s — during a time when the city saw rapid growth and development — and they are reaching retirement age, she said.

Getchell said she asked department heads to help identify employees with leadership qualities so that the city can provide mentoring and training for them.

Getchell, who graduated from the University of North Alabama with a bachelor's degree in business administration, came to Eules in 1997 as director of fiscal and financial services. She is a certified public accountant and government financial officer.

In 2004, she was promoted to assistant city manager, and four years later, Getchell became deputy city manager.

Getchell supervised many departments and projects including the municipal court, finance, human resources, utility billing and fleet operations. She also was in charge of the library, Texas Star Golf Course and Conference Center, public works and engineering.

"These are exciting times for Eules with tremendous development opportunities for our city thanks to our current council and those who laid the foundation in the past," she said. "We are also fortunate to have dedicated employees who truly care for this city and work every day to make it better."

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Eyes on H-E-B: Eules historical mural to be unveiled Saturday

By Faye ReederSpecial to the Star-Telegram

02/10/2015

A celebration of historic proportions is planned for Saturday to unveil a beautiful new mural at Heritage Museum that depicts a historical timeline of Eules.

"The Eules Historical Preservation Committee is proud to be able to provide this timeline mural as another piece of history," said Chairwoman Barbara Collier. "The committee has put a lot of effort into seeing the mural come to life and being available for our community."

Other key committee members working on the project are Bill Golden and Helen Voss.

Primary artist for the project is Lisa McNamara, who said painting on a large canvas comes with both challenges and rewards. McNamara felt strongly that the collage — 22 feet long and 7 feet high — had to be oversized and done in oil paint to properly portray the story.

Related "As evidenced by the masterpieces exhibited on gallery walls in museums worldwide, the medium of oil has created the most significant impact on the development of painting as a visual art form. It seemed necessary to depict the wonderful history of this progressive city in the old style of the masters," said McNamara. Other artists working on the project are Carolyn Allen and John Misner.

Among the many notable features of the mural are such landmarks as Bird's Fort and Dallas/Fort Worth Airport along with noteworthy Eules homes and businesses. At Saturday's open house, from 1 to 5 p.m., docents will provide guided tours of the museum, and refreshments will be served.

Heritage Museum is at 201 Cullum Drive. Contact Suzanne Hendrickson at 817-685-1662 to inquire.

Mid-Cities Panhellenic to host college sorority forum

If joining a college sorority is all Greek to you, then the informational session on Feb. 22 to explain rush (now called recruitment) will give you the 411 on all things sorority.

The event, hosted by Mid-Cities Alumnae Panhellenic Association, invites high school seniors and their parents from 2 to 4 p.m. at First Colleyville, 5300 Colleyville Blvd.

Leaders will answer questions about sororities and offer interested girls a chance to register with the Panhellenic organization.

"We would encourage anyone who has even a slight interest to come and learn more about national sororities," said member Joy Donovan. "Mid-Cities Panhellenic hosts this event year after year because

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joining a national sorority has been such a rewarding experience for us [that] we want to ensure young women who want to be a sorority member get that opportunity."

Attendees will learn all about what to include in a résumé and enjoy a fashion show featuring ensembles appropriate to wear to rush parties.

Association President Laurel Dawson said, "Mid-Cities Panhellenic covers the [school] districts of Birdville, Carroll, Grapevine-Colleyville, H-E-B, Keller and Northwest. We want to assist young women with the recruitment process whether they attend universities in state or out of state."

The session is free and no commitment is required. To learn more, visit www.midcitiespanhellenic.com or www.facebook.com/midcities.panhellenic or call Donovan at 214-707-3724.

Vendors wanted for Arbor Daze in April

Do you want more customers? Want more people to see your products? Are you an artisan with lovely creations to sell? Do you have a restaurant that wants to branch out to festivals? If you said yes, then you need to investigate becoming an exhibitor at the biggest city event in Euless.

The 26th annual Arbor Daze is set for April 24-25, and families from across the area will flock to the festival to visit the booths, play games and enjoy a variety of foods.

"Currently we are looking for business and arts and crafts vendors. We are really trying to expand from the past years and get some really great vendors," said Jordan Peterson from Euless Parks and Community Services Department.

Get a vendor application at www.ArborDaze.org or call Peterson at 817-685-1828.

Girls Style & Beauty workshops available at North East Mall

One of the area's leading fashion, beauty and etiquette experts, Susan Huston, is offering a workshop series for girls ages 8-16 that teaches grooming, etiquette and modeling skills.

The series begins Saturday at North East Mall in Hurst. Huston offers classes for girls 8 to 12 years old from 10 a.m. until noon and for girls 13 to 16 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. An advanced modeling workshop for girls 12 to 17 is offered from 3 to 5 p.m.

Huston says the series teaches girls etiquette for today as well as life skills ranging from wardrobe coordination, hair and skin care, nutrition, restaurant and table manners to modeling techniques.

Make arrangements at www.susanhuston.com or call 817-265-5404.

Exhibit space still available for chamber Expo

The HEB Chamber of Commerce is planning its annual Expo for March 6 at Hurst Conference Center. Popular with attendees, the event is also a home run for exhibitors because of the brand exposure and awareness participants gain.

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Chamber CEO Mary Frazier says a few spots are still open for vendors. Prices begin at \$250 for an 8-foot by 8-foot booth.

Restaurants that participate and provide food samplings to Expo guests get a booth at no charge other than the small fee for a health permit.

“Expo is an excellent opportunity for local businesses and restaurants to promote their products and services. More than 600 people attend to find out what is available in their own back yard,” said Frazier.

To apply for space, call the chamber at 817-283-1521 or visit www.HEB.org.

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HEB TIMES

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Eules

Feb. 13 - Daddy/Daughter Valentine's Dance, 6:30 p.m., Eules Family Life Center, 300 Midway Dr. Tickets \$10 per couple (each additional sibling is \$5) available at the Eules Family Life Center beginning January 15. Contact 817-685-1666.

Feb. 14 - Mother/Son Valentine's Brunch, 10:30 a.m., Eules Family Life Center, 300 Midway Dr. Tickets \$10 per couple (each additional sibling is \$5) available at the Eules Family Life Center beginning January 15. Contact 817-685-1666.

Feb. 17 - AARP tax help, 4-7:30 p.m., Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Dr. Contact 817-685-1480.

Feb. 17 - Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, 5:30 p.m., Eules City Hall, 201 N. Ector Dr. Contact 817-685-1623.

Ongoing - Free tours of historic Heritage Park are offered on the second Saturday of every month between 1 - 5 p.m. Visit the all-new Eules Heritage Museum at the Ruth Millican Center, as well as the Himes Log

House, the Fuller House and the McCormick Barn. Contact Mary at ofaiva-siale@eulesstx.gov or 817-685-1649. Group tours are available on different days depending on staff availability.

Ongoing - Lapsit Storytime, 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday, Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Dr. Contact 817-685-1480.

Ongoing - Amateur Radio Eules meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Operations Center at the Eules Police Department, 1102 W. Eules Blvd. Whether you are already a licensed operator looking for a local club or someone just interested in becoming involved in the hobby, you are welcome. To attend a club meeting or for additional information, contact Joe Kraft with the Eules Office of Emergency Management at 817-685-3144 or eulesinfo@eules-texas.gov.

Ongoing - ESL Conversation Club, 7 p.m. each Tuesday, Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Dr. ESL Conversation Club requires no registration. Adults 18 and older are welcome to come in and practice their speaking and listening skills. This class is for the Intermediate to Advanced student (ESL levels 2-4). Students must be able to hold a conversation in English in order to participate. No childcare is provided. Contact 817-685-1480.

Ongoing - Toddler Storytime, 10:30 a.m. each Thursday, Eules Public Library, 201 N. Ector Dr. Contact 817-685-1480.

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HEB TIMES

Contested races loom in Hurst, H-E-B school district

Filing for city council and school board seats in Hurst, Euless and Bedford runs through Feb. 27. Election day is May 9. Here is who has filed to run, through Monday:

Bedford

Term: three years.
Mayor
 Jim Griffin (incumbent).
Place 1
 Rusty Sartor
Place 2
 Dave Gebhart

Hurst

Term: two years.
Place 1
 David Boe (I)
Place 2
 Larry Kitchens (I)
Place 6
 Henry Wilson (I), Joel Downs

Euless

Term: three years.
Place 5
 Harry Zimmer (I)
Place 6
 Perry Bynum (I)

Hurst-Euless-Bedford school board

Term: four years.
Place 1
 Julie Cole
Place 6
 Andy Cargile (I)
Place 7
 Mark Cyrier (I), Fred Campos

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H-E-B BUSINESS PROFILE

Euless Gun and Ammo expands to meet its customers' many needs

Its owner says treating people the right way is the key to success.

By Terry Evans
 Special to the H-E-B News

EULESS - Ed Lewis believes that most of the problems bothering people these days could be resolved if everyone focused on a simple concept: respect.

Take the arguments over open carry, for instance, said Lewis, owner of Euless Guns and Ammo. Lewis prefers to conceal any handgun he carries. But, he believes others with permits to carry should be allowed to wear them openly if they wish. He also believes they should respect the sensibilities of, say, restaurant patrons who are uncomfortable seeing a holstered firearm on the hip of someone who's not obviously in law enforcement.

"We should be considerate of everyone's feelings," Lewis, 58, said.

He credits that determination to treat people with respect for the loyal customer base that has helped him, his brother, Larry Lewis, 63, and his son, Nicholas Lewis, 35, succeed in a challenging business.

The gun shop has thrived since its 1987 opening, growing from 1,000 square feet in a building at Euless Main Street and Texas 10, to 2,100 square feet in 2001 when the family renovated an old Texaco station at 1200 W. Euless Blvd.. That building's expansion to 3,800 square feet will be finished later this month.

"This will double the retail space and triple the space for the machine shop," Lewis said. "Including me, there are four gunsmiths here, and this is one of few stores in the area that offers real gunsmithing."

Lewis became a gunsmith out of love, he said.

"I fell in love with guns when I was a kid, maybe 7 or 8, and I got my first BB gun," he said. "I took it apart as much as I could to see how it worked."

Today, Lewis and the other gunsmiths in his shop can take apart, clean and repair virtually any gun up to a .50-caliber.

Five of the store's six employees are fluent in firearm, but none of them will make someone feel dumb for knowing less than they do about guns.

It's that respect thing again, said a customer, Mike Dilworth, 52.

"They don't talk down to you; don't make you feel like you asked a stupid question," said Dilworth,



Ed Lewis is a fortnight away from opening the expansion of Euless Guns and Ammo, a store that's built a loyal customer base.

who rediscovered the shop last week. "I used to come here when it was a hole-in-the-wall on Main Street. I was on this side of town today and saw the building, so I pulled in."

Dilworth was looking for .22-caliber magnum ammo, and was delighted when Lewis pulled out two 50-round boxes.

Though .22-caliber regular and long-rifle bullets

Euless Gun and Ammo

■ The store, at 1200 W. Euless Blvd., also known as Texas 10, is open 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.
 ■ Call 817-267-6947, or go to eulessgunsandammo.com.

are common, the much longer magnum rounds have become harder to find, said Ken Hill, 60, of North Richland Hills.

"Most Americans who own a weapon have a .22," he said. "In recent years, the .22-magnum ammo has been sucked up."

Hill said he's been a Euless Guns customer for 30 years not only because of its impressive inventory, but also because the staff is knowledgeable and service-oriented.

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Seth Colten works the counter at the end of a long line of long guns at Eules Guns and Ammo. Special to the H-E-B News/Terry Evans

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Texas Health H-E-B announces ICU expansion

By Elizabeth Campbell
 liz@star-telegram.com

BEDFORD - Construction is underway on a \$25 million expansion of the intensive care unit at Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital H-E-B that will improve care to critically ill patients in Northeast Tarrant County.

Hospital officials described the expansion as a game-changer for the community.

"I think it's a huge step for the whole community;

we've been pretty proud of our ICU here. We've given pretty extraordinary care," said Dr. Gary Jones, a pulmonary and critical care physician at Texas Health H-E-B, 1600 Hospital Parkway in Bedford.

Hospital President Deborah Paganelli said planning for the expansion began several years ago when the hospital began treating more critically ill patients.

An aging population and reforms to the health-

care system mean that the hospital is caring for more people who are critically ill, she said.

The three-story building will tie in to the hospital's existing tower, and features will include: a new 18-bed high-acuity intensive care unit, an interventional radiology suite and room for expansion.

The radiology suite will allow doctors to perform minimally invasive imaging-guided procedures to treat chronic illnesses such

as kidney disease and conditions such as unusual blood clotting.

The new unit will also have private rooms so that patients won't have to be moved as their condition changes from when they are admitted to when they are released.

Other features include four rooms dedicated to bariatric care with ceiling lifts to help move patients from the bed to the bathroom and two isolation rooms for patients with

contagious or infectious diseases

Paganelli said funding for the expansion will come from Texas Health Resources, and the hospital will also launch a \$2 million capital campaign.

The new facility should be completed by July 2016, freeing up more space in the hospital to treat patients who don't need intensive care.

"When you get sick enough to go to an intensive care unit, it is one of

the most physical and emotional experiences the patient and family will go through," Jones said.

Jones added that the most recent ICU expansion was 15 years ago and that doctors nowadays are using more tools to treat patients and that ICU rooms are getting crowded.

Margaret Markey, H-E-B's nursing manager of critical care, said that the expansion will provide a more natural setting for patients and their families.

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Euless battalion chief switches tools for a firefighting career

By Domingo Ramirez Jr. ramirez@star-telegram.com

02/17/2015 8:15 AM 02/17/2015 8:15 AM



EULESS As a youngster, John O'Brien didn't dream of becoming a firefighter.

Thirty-five years ago, O'Brien was happy being a mechanic in the city's fleet department, tinkering with all the city vehicles from police cars to fire trucks.

But a city official tipped him to another job.

"They were having tests for firefighters and she told me I should give it a try," O'Brien said. "I passed it, and I've never regretted taking that test."

Related This year, the 53-year-old Arlington resident will complete his 34rd year with the Euless Fire Department, the last 18 years as battalion chief.

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"I wasn't that kid that grew up wanting to be a firefighter," O'Brien said, pointing out now that that he couldn't estimate the number of fires or emergency medical calls he has been on since he started in the fire department in September 1981.

In 1981, Eules had just two fire stations and no ambulance service.

Times have changed. The city now has three fire stations and the fire department operates its own ambulance service, accounting for a majority of the calls that the firefighters make each year. In 2013, firefighters made 4,375 service calls, paramedics/firefighters responded to 3,076 medical calls and fought 156 fires in the city.

"From day one, it has been very interesting to me," O'Brien said.

O'Brien and the fire department were a perfect match. Within five years after he was hired, O'Brien was a driver, then promoted to lieutenant and later captain. By 1996, fire officials named him as battalion chief.

O'Brien has seen the changes in equipment and fire trucks through the years, but for him, the medical service calls have been the biggest change in his firefighting career..

"We went from a couple of paramedics on the department to all paramedics," O'Brien said. "And statistics show that the emergency medical calls make up the majority of our calls now in this city."

O'Brien should know Eules — he grew up in the city and attended Trinity High School, graduating in 1980.

"He has held every shift position in the Eules Fire Department allowing him to have a unique perspective on how the job gets done," said Fire Chief Wes Rhodes, who has been head of the department since 2011. "And what it takes to get the job done."

The fire chief noted that O'Brien's experience has been a resource for the department and adjacent fire units.

"John O'Brien is extremely intelligent and has a high attention to detail," Rhodes said. "He is often asked to work on projects that require research or are very technical. John takes care of his personnel and looks out for what is best for the department and the community."

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Affordable housing for seniors is goal of effort in Euless

By Elizabeth Campbell
 liz@star-telegram.com

EULESS – The city is working with a developer to build more affordable housing for senior citizens as the population of aging baby boomers is rapidly increasing.

Gardner Capital Texas Development LLC plans to build an apartment complex with 140 to 150 units at the southwest corner of Dickey Road and Euless Boulevard, also known as Texas10, an area already designated as a revitalization zone. The proposed complex is called Gala at Oak Crest Estates.

The need for affordable, age-restricted housing is critical, and it is outpacing the supply, said Gary McKamie, who retired last week as city manager.

“In this case, the affordable housing is age-restricted. It is not what most people think of with Section 8 housing. It is nice, safe housing for our more vulnerable residents,” McKamie said.

Safety and security are important considerations, McKamie said, and the complex is designed so that residents can get to their apartments by going through a lobby area.

“There are lots of places people can go that are secure, but our seniors don’t have the income as we are not a high-income community,” McKamie said.

There are many people who aren’t ready for an assisted living facility, but they want to move out of their homes and need an affordable place to live, McKamie said.

The developer is applying for low-income housing tax credits from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, which is a highly competitive process. The tax credits help direct more capital toward the affordable housing project. In order to qualify for the tax credits, the developer must have permission from the city and a commitment of local funds.

During a recent council meeting, the council members approved lending Gardner Capital approximately \$1.1 million and the developer will pay the money back to the city.

City Manager Loretta Getchell said Euless will borrow the money for the project, and no tax dollars will be used. Euless has been trying to attract this type of development for several years, McKamie said.

The city wanted to find a company that would build and manage the facility, and Euless wanted a company that would manage the complex on a long-term basis.

Elizabeth Campbell, 817-390-7696
 Twitter: @fwstliz

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EULESS

A long and colorful history



Euleless council member Jeremy Tompkins looks over the Euleless Timeline Mural during its unveiling Saturday.

Special to the Star-Telegram/Bob Booth

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A mural three years in the making is now on display at Eules Heritage Museum

By Terry Evans
 Special to the Star-Telegram

EULESS - Lost heritage returned to Eules Saturday with the unveiling of a long-anticipated mural.

A work begun three years ago by art teachers John Misner and Carolyn Allen was finished by Fort Worth artist Lisa McNamara and hangs in

the entryway of Eules Heritage Museum. The 22-foot-long, 64-inch-tall oil-on-canvas painting was designed and executed as an artistic story board, officials said. In brilliant colors it tells the town's history from its origin near Bird's Fort to the event that ensured Eules' health far into the

future: the opening of Dallas/Fort Worth Airport.

"There are businesses and houses on the mural that bring back memories," said Bill Golden, immediate past-president of Eules Historical Preservation Committee and a resident since 1955.



Lisa McNamara, one of the three artists, points out parts of the mural to past Eules Mayor Mary Lib Saleh.

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"Most of the buildings are gone. We didn't have a town square, so our history was scattered out over what used to be the Eules community, which was larger than what the city is now."

The woman who succeeded Golden, Barbara Collier, said that the mural "is absolutely beautiful. I was amazed at having a history depicted on one canvas. The colors are bright and it's one big, vivid history lesson of Eules."

The first thing visitors see as they enter the 6,300-square-foot former church on Cullum Drive, the mural illustrates "how Eules evolved, what were the important businesses, homes and churches," Collier said. "It carries the history right up to D/FW Airport."

Collier credited Allen and Misner for digging up images to go on the mural and outlining many of the elements.

McNamara said about 20 percent of the work was done and a couple of serious challenges popped up when the canvas arrived in her studio a couple of years after circumstances caused the art teachers to backburner the mural.

"I first had to condition it with linseed oil, because the primer was starting to crack," McNamara said. "I have a 10-by-10-foot studio. It wasn't the best condition to paint in. I had to roll up one end as I paid out the other, and wait for each



Eules' first postmaster, Robert Nail, looks over notes at the mural. Special to the Star-Telegram/Bob Booth



Mayor Linda Martin addresses the crowd at the unveiling.

day's work to dry, because I used oils. I have about 100 hours invested in this mural."

The city paid significantly less than what that 100-hour job was worth, McNamara said. But the multi-media professional said the difference will work out in the wash, and she had an emotional investment as well.

"We need to be surrounded by art, and I didn't want this project to be unfinished," she said. "The city of Eules has been really good to me on another project I've been working on for two years, and I felt the city deserved a really good deal. Also, they're bringing me back to add to the mural."

Indeed, as people who

If you go

Eules Heritage Museum is open 1 to 5 p.m. each Saturday at 201 Cullum Drive in Eules. It is adjacent to Heritage Park, where three historic structures — the 1932 Fuller House, the 1850 Himes Log House and the 1919 McCormick Barn, built with wood salvaged from a Camp Bowie Army barracks — are preserved.

are pillars of Eules society got previews of the mural they began asking "Where's this, where's that?" Collier said.

McNamara will return Feb. 21 to paint more buildings onto it. With those additions, Golden said the canvas will serve residents well.

"It's quite a bit of nostalgia for those of us who were here [to see the lost buildings]," Golden said. "For the people who weren't here then it's a glimpse of how things used to be that gives them something of an anchor."

This report includes material from the Star-Telegram archives.