

*Graffiti Task Force Newsletter
Chief of Police Troy Riggs
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Report Graffiti or Free Removal:
826-CITY or 826-2489



WHAT'S INSIDE?

**Father Sued for
Son's Vandalism Costs**

**Minors Sold Paint
Cashiers Cited**

**Business Owners Comply
With Graffiti Ordinance**

Volunteers Complete Mural

1ST STATE LAWSUIT FILED AGAINST GRAFFITI VANDAL'S PARENT

The son admitted in court to vandalizing several billboards in March 2008, now his father is being sued by the city in an effort to collect restitution for damages to a local business.

The lawsuit is filed against Eugene Munoz, the father of 17 year old Ronet Munoz.

The boy was 15 years old when he committed the crime.

City Attorney Carlos Valdez is seeking more than \$7,000 in damages, attorney fees, and court costs.

The legal action is believed to be the first of its kind in the state of Texas to be filed against the parent of a graffiti offender.

The city is filing the action on behalf of local business owner, Gordon Cooper, who owns, "Cooper Outdoor Advertising." Any money collected will go to Mr. Cooper.

A judge ordered the teenager to serve a year probation for the crime and to pay restitution in the case.

The boy was also ordered to serve probation and pay restitution in two other cases. In 2009, he admitted participating in a graffiti spree involving the spray painting of homes, apartments, vehicles, and fences along Ohio, Indiana, and Santa Fe streets. Earlier that same year, Munoz was arrested for vandalizing more than 30 traffic signs with graffiti in the Alameda and Everhart areas.

Juvenile prosecutor Clarissa Flores says just over a thousand dollars has been paid on all three cases that total more than \$12,000 combined.



Assistant City Attorney Alison Logan files lawsuit with employees of the Nueces County District Clerk's Office.



CASHIERS CITED FOR AEROSOL PAINT VIOLATIONS

Three cashiers who sold paint to minors are now facing hundreds of dollars in fines. Underage citizens assisted Graffiti Task Force detectives in an investigation.

The group went to five area home improvement and retail stores and attempted to purchase cans of spray paint which under the law is illegal unless you are 18 years old.

The cashiers who were cited are from Wal-Mart in the 3800 block of Highway 77, McCoy's in the 5900 block of Holly, and Home Depot in the 4000 block of S. Port.

The offense is a Class "C" misdemeanor, punishable by up to a \$500 fine.

All of the stores visited were in compliance with the city ordinance and Texas law which states aerosol paint must be inaccessible to the public without assistance from employees.

BUSINESS OWNERS COMPLY WITH ORDINANCE

It's been three months since the Graffiti Task Force began notifying business owners they are responsible for removing spray paint on levels above the first floor.

So far, all 10 property owners notified with certified letters have complied with the ordinance and no citations have been issued.

If you own a local business which has graffiti above the first floor you're responsible to remove it. Safety concerns prevents members of the Graffiti Eradication team from cleaning any vandalism from anything above the first level.

Under the city's graffiti ordinance, if an investigation determines a violation, it must be corrected in 15 days of receipt of the notice, or face a possible \$500 fine.

Business owners do have the right to ask for an administrative hearing to contest the city's graffiti removal request.



This shopping center is located in the 3200 block of South Alameda.

Since many of the stores are vacant, it has been a haven for graffiti vandals who climb up to the second level and spray paint walls and signs. This structure has already been painted over many times this year.

kspace
CONTEMPORARY

COOL OFF AT DOWNTOWN MURAL

If you're in the downtown area, drop by La Retama Park for a refreshing look at an underwater themed mural.

Lead teacher Patrick Richards worked with students from Kspace Contemporary's summer program.

The group spent hours in the hot sun drawing and painting children enjoying a summer swim.

Members of the juvenile probation department's, "Make Amends Program," or "M.A.P." also helped out.

According to Erika Kemm, President of Kspace Contemporary, the studio recently applied for and received a \$1,500 grant from the Texas Commission of the Arts, which will be used to paint more murals.





“SNOT”



“PUMA”



“SPEK”



“SKER”

Crime STOPPERS

**888-TIPS
(8477)**

If you have information about a graffiti crime, call the Crime Stoppers Tip Line at 888-TIPS (8477) or 1-800-827-TIPS.

The Tip Line is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Your information will be taken in strictest confidence.

Anonymity is protected and you never have to give your name.

When you call and provide a tip, you will be given a code number.

This should be kept to yourself in order to remain anonymous.

After several weeks, call the Crime Stoppers status line at 816-2360, giving your confidential tip code and you will receive an update on the status of the investigation.

Tips that lead to the arrest of suspects, as well as the recovery of stolen property and drugs, are eligible for cash rewards of up to \$1,000, which are paid to tipsters on an anonymous basis.

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