

Missing person investigation in Seymour



By News Channel 8's Sara Welch
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Seymour (WTNH) -- The case of a Waterbury man that went missing in August of 2004 has now led investigators to a farm in Seymour.

The Connecticut State Police are working with the FBI to find Billy Smolinski. Police say they have uncovered new leads in the case and have been searching private land in Seymour for evidence related to Smolinski's disappearance.

Excavation crews began searching the land on Bungay Road on Friday and resumed work today. Police stress that the land owner has been very cooperative with the investigation and does not have any involvement in the case.

"At this point in time, we have been digging since early Friday," Lieutenant J. Paul Vance, of the CT State Police, said. "Did some digging Saturday and have not located any evidence that is pertinent to the case."

Smolinski's parents are hoping this latest development might give them the answers they've been longing for. Their son disappeared in Waterbury four years ago.

"It's heartbreaking and it's really hard to function, but we know we have to go on," Janice Smolinski, Billy's mom, said.

Through the years, police have followed several leads. But, they now say its the latest tip that have investigators searching in Seymour that is the most significant yet.

Over the years the Smolinski's have put up posters, held vigils and displayed billboards to keep their sons memory alive. They even pushed for a new state law improving how police investigate missing person cases. For the Smolinski's, the waiting and wondering is the hardest part.

"It's hard to put into words how it is for us, for the past 4 years," Bill Smolinski, Billy's dad, said. "We have been working every day to get some answers and I hope within the next couple of days we do get them."

Last May, investigators dug up a yard in Shelton looking for clues.