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## **Smolinski probe turns to house in Seymour**

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By Michelle Tuccitto Sullo, Naugatuck Valley Bureau Chief

SEYMOUR — Police searched a Nichols Street residence Friday for clues in the disappearance of Waterbury resident William Smolinski Jr.

According to police, the search was conducted at 5 Nichols St.

Police refused to comment on whether they seized anything during the search.

No one currently living in the home is connected to the case, according to police.

Smolinski, who went by the nickname of “Billy,” was 31 years old and worked as an apprentice heating and air-conditioning technician and a part-time tow truck driver when he disappeared Aug. 24, 2004.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, before he vanished, Smolinski asked a neighbor to watch his dog for a few days. Smolinski indicated that he was going to look at a car that he was interested in buying, but he left behind his truck, wallet and keys, according to the FBI.

Police later received a tip that an acquaintance, a man who worked in the construction industry, may have been involved in Smolinski’s disappearance.

That same individual and his family once lived at 5 Nichols St., a police source said.

There has been an increased level of activity in the case in recent weeks.

Police in August searched a 21-acre tract, an open field at 160 Bungay Road, for Smolinski’s body, but came up empty. However, police have said they believe Smolinski is likely buried on that property.

According to a police source who spoke on condition of anonymity, police are awaiting test results before pursuing the Bungay Road search further.

State police have said the Bungay Road search was done with the cooperation of the property owner, who isn't involved in the investigation.

To give a tip in the Smolinski case, call state police in Bethany at 393-4200 or send tips confidentially from a personal electronic device by texting "TIP711" plus the message to CRIMES, or 274637.

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