



The City of Lucas Newsletter

December 2015

665 Country Club Road - Lucas Texas - 75002 • 972.727.8999 • www.lucastexas.us

Mayor's Message on Drainage

By Jim Olk



After several years of drought conditions, the North Texas area experienced the third wettest May in a 117 year history of keeping weather-related data. Rain fell for 24 out of 31 days in May, and we were 0.68 inches away from being the wettest month on record. As a result, there were road closures, drainage system failures and houses that were damaged by high water. Some Lucas citizens raised concerns with their elected officials regarding the responsibility of the City to maintain drainage systems.

A water drainage policy (a flowchart) was approved by the Lucas City Council in September 1998. The flowchart reflects a variety of potential drainage issues through a series of factors in determining whether or not a drainage issue can be addressed by the City. In early June of 2015, a group of residents expressed concerns about drainage during the heavy May rains. City Council discussed the history of drainage issues in a few specific subdivisions, and drainage and storm water run-off in the City as a whole during the June 18, 2015, City Council meeting. Because drainage is not something that can be addressed in one specific neighborhood and should be evaluated throughout the City, the Comprehensive Plan adopted in 2004 discusses drainage and includes an inventory that was completed in April of 2004. The City is currently in the process of updating its comprehensive plan. During some recent public meetings regarding updating the Comprehensive Plan and regarding the neighborhood connector street projects, citizens have been fairly consistent in expressing their desire for a small local government that provides limited services to retain the rural atmosphere. The City Council has made the first step in addressing drainage-related issues by obtaining a legal opinion from the City Attorney clarifying what the City can and cannot do to address various drainage situations. To complicate the issue, in many areas of the city there are no drainage easements, and most of the older plats do not clearly designate rights-of-way or easements that would allow access to private property. Also there are significant financial impacts to a municipal budget once a city decides to proactively or reactively address stormwater drainage on a citywide basis.

The next step in evaluating drainage management will be to include it as a discussion topic at the City's strategic planning session scheduled for January 2016. From that discussion, the City Council will determine its long-term strategy, examine whether or not to update its policy on drainage, and determine whether the City should conduct a comprehensive drainage study. The City will need to evaluate whether this study will be city-wide or just in specific flood-prone areas, how to finance the study, and whether the subsequent cost of improvements would be feasible.

In the meantime, it is currently the private property owner's responsibility to maintain drainage culverts and bar ditches. Property owners may also make drainage improvements as long as it is consistent with the "natural flow" and does not increase the flow or rate of flow onto neighboring properties. Below are some helpful tips in maintaining our drainage system:

- In general, culverts and ditches should be cleaned, repaired or replaced only during periods of low water flow and not during intense rainfall events.
- Evaluate and modify, where feasible and appropriate, existing ditch slopes to trap sediments and support development of vegetation. All efforts should be made to retain existing vegetation, especially along the ditch slopes to maintain slope stability.
- Keep culverts and drainage ditches open and free of obstruction or debris. Do not deposit leaves, grass, lawn clippings, limbs, etc. in drainage areas.
- If there is standing water in a drainage ditch, the ditch is not working properly. Water should not sit in culverts under driveways or roadways. If something is blocking the ditch, it should be removed and the ditch should be dry within 24 hours after the rainfall stops.
- Within the drainage ditches, the high areas that block flow should be removed and the low areas that hold water should be filled.
- Do not fill in the flood plain. A flood plain is an area of land that is prone to flooding. A flood plain is usually a flat area with areas of higher elevation on both sides. The City's Flood Plain Manager is Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn, and he is available to assist you and may be reached by telephone at 972-912-1207 or by email at jhilbourn@lucastexas.us.

The City Council is committed to the ongoing evaluation of this complex issue and encourages public feedback at any of its regular meetings, by mail or by email.

Meeting Reminders for December

Date	Time	Description	Notes
Dec 3	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
Dec 10	7:00 pm	Planning & Zoning	City Hall
Dec 17	6:00 pm	City Council Water Workshop	City Hall
Dec 24-25		City Hall Closed for Christmas	

City Council Action Highlights

- City Council declared December as Lucas History Month. Various historical information will be on display in the City Hall Council Chambers during the month of December.
- City Council set the date for their Strategic Planning Session for January 23, 2016 to discuss the City's vision for the future and establish long-term goals.
- City Council awarded the Wendy Lane Culvert construction project to Four Star Excavation. Construction will begin in December.
- City Council has asked that Verizon repaint the McGarity Water Tower so that the entire word "Lucas" is visible.
- City Council adopted an Ordinance prohibiting parking along Estates Parkway to ensure safety of its residents and visitors.
- City Council reappointed the following members:
 - Peggy Rusterholtz, Planning and Zoning Commission
 - David Keer, Planning and Zoning Commission
 - Scott Sperling, Planning and Zoning Commission
 - Valerie Turnbow, Parks and Open Space Board
 - Amber Patteson, Parks and Open Space Board
 - Ken Patterson, Parks and Open Space Board
 - Chris Bierman, Board of Adjustment
 - Craig Williams, Board of Adjustment
 - Tommy Tolson and Adam Sussman were new members appointed to the Board of Adjustment

Website Redesign

The new website is under development and we are still in the process of adding content and evaluating its functionality. This is a very dynamic process with staff still reviewing and uploading content at the same time our new website is being critiqued by our evaluation team consisting of Debbie Fisher, Reese Jackson, Craig Zale and Brenda Rizos during the month of November. Citizen Christine Churchill is also lending her expertise in helping the City improve our new website. Our goal is to complete work with our evaluation team by January and then we will focus on incorporating photographs that uniquely represent Lucas and finish the final touches on the design.

24 Hour Fire Station Access

The City of Lucas Fire Rescue administration and crew recently moved into the new addition of the Fire Station at 165 Country Club Road. The main entrance to the building is located on the north side of the Fire Station, and provides the public with 24-hour access to a staff member, and/or the 911 emergency telephone. Located side-by-side just inside the doors is an intercom system, and an emergency telephone.

If the interior lobby doors to the administration offices are locked, you can push the button on the intercom system to call the on-duty staff for assistance.

The emergency telephone is only for 911 use, and will automatically connect to the Collin County Sheriff's dispatch services when the handset is lifted off the base.

If you have any questions please feel free to stop by the station, or contact the Lucas Fire Rescue at 972-727-1242.



A Big Thank You to our Founders Day Sponsors

Although the rain in late October was a welcome relief to our dry landscapes, it was also the reason for cancelling our annual Founders Day event.

The entire Lucas City Council and City Staff would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following sponsors for their generous donations:

- Dr. Scott & Amy Corcoran
- Craig's Car Care
- GCEC
- M Christopher Custom Homes and Pools
- Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP
- BW2 Engineers
- Michael & Deborah Burge
- Lucas Heating and Air Conditioning
- Mark & Jennifer McLiney
- Barnes Waste Disposal
- Linebarger, Goggan, Blair, & Sampson, LLP
- JCBR Holdings
- Metropolitan Infrastructure, PLLC
- Wal-Mart

Cornerstone Baptist Welcomes New Pastor

We are very pleased to announce our NEW friend and Pastor, Brother Darrell Edwards to the Lucas community and to Cornerstone Baptist Church. Come fellowship with us as we welcome his family during his Christmas sermon series: "Personalities of the Nativity" through December. It promises to be a blessing to all as you discover why your family matters to us, but more importantly to Christ!

Our Kids Christmas program is December 13th at 6:30 followed by a cookie fellowship and you are invited to share in the Christmas Candlelight Communion on December 23 at 7:00pm. Bring your kid's for AWANA's every Sunday at 6:00pm throughout the school year! Services are Sunday mornings at 10:30am, Sunday evenings at 6:30pm and Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm. Come visit Cornerstone Baptist Church at 2242 W. Lucas Road or visit us at cbclucas.com.

Lucas Service Awards

The LUCAS Service Award is given to a staff member who has demonstrated the LUCAS principles by providing extraordinary public service. This award celebrates the honorable role of the public servant.



Congratulations to Purchasing Coordinator Linezka Maduro Recipient of the 2015 LUCAS Service Award

When you think of Purchasing Coordinator Linezka Maduro, one word comes to mind and that is PASSION! She has transformed the manner in which the City acquires its goods and services and has implemented an account practice to improve our ability to manage departmental budgets. She has a unique combination of analytical skills and creativity that serves the organization well. Her creativity allows us to be in a state of continuous improvement as demonstrated by her CAFR cover design. She is a continuous learner, and has a broad foundation of municipal expertise in Court Administration, Finance, Purchasing and now Utility Billing. She has also begun her new responsibilities in acting as a liaison for information technology. Regardless of what you ask her to do, her response is always the same “Yes, I can do that” and Linezka we know that you can!



Congratulations to the Public Works Department Recipient of the 2015 LUCAS Service Team Award

The Public Works Department, consisting of Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster, Supervisor Jesse Corpus, Crew Chiefs Jeremy Bogle and John Alexander, Specialists Aaron Rector, Marco Ramirez, Pedro Ovalle and Shane Kreymer are being recognized for their dedication to the community. This Team puts the needs of others first and provides extraordinary service to the citizens as demonstrated during the May flooding. They have been diligent in the implementation of water register replacement efforts, and through their hard work, the City has a renewed confidence in its ability to manage water consumption and billing. Their commitment goes beyond their daily responsibilities as demonstrated by their commitment to the logistical requirements of Founder’s Day. They are being recognized for the “can-do” spirit and attitude in sustaining a high quality of life for our citizens.

December is Lucas History Month

December will be celebrated as Lucas History Month. During the Country Christmas Celebration on December 4th a display of Lucas history and the people who have made our city great will be available to view in the Council Chambers at City Hall. This presentation will remain for you to enjoy throughout the entire month of December during business hours. It is even possible there will be a local resident present who can answer questions about our great city or will try to find an answer!

Join us for food, fun, and a little trip down history’s trail. Discover how “Lucas” got its name. Read how Suzanne Christian Calton rode to school in bad weather. Learn about the families behind the street names you see every day. Help us complete a timeline of events that have been important in the progress our city has made since its humble beginnings in the 1800s.

See you at the Country Christmas Celebration!

Lucas Country Christmas

Join Us for a Country Christmas in Lucas

Friday, December 4th at 7:00 pm in the Community Park

Please attend our first “Country Christmas” event and join us in honoring the following service tree award recipients:

FIRST CITY COUNCIL OF LUCAS

Mayor Gene Biggs,
Town Secretary and Treasurer O.E. Spurgin,
Constable Dale Spurgin, Joe Siler
H.E. Moore, Sr., and Kenneth Lewis
for their contributions to the City of Lucas

REBECCA MARK

for her outstanding community service and commitment to the City of Lucas

CHARLIE GAINES

for the quality of life he has given to the City of Lucas through the preservation of the Trinity Trail and his many years of service to the community

SUZANNE CHRISTIAN CALTON and

SHIRLEY BIGGS PARKER

for preserving the history of the Lucas community through the Lucas Community School

No need to cook! We will be serving hot dogs and hamburgers for dinner cooked by our Public Works Cooking Team. Your elected officials light our beautiful new Christmas tree to officially start the holiday season in Lucas. We will be entertained by the Lovejoy Elementary Choir so bring the family and enjoy an evening with your neighbors as we all celebrate the many blessings associated with being part of the Lucas Community.

Don’t forget Santa and his Elf will be attending too!



Family Promise of Collin County Food/Toy Drive

Family Promise of Collin County, Inc. (FPOCC) is the local affiliate of a national organization that has helped families in need since 1986. FPOCC utilizes an existing resource model to mobilize community resources. The Collin County program operates with the support of the local faith community.

The City of Lucas is hosting a food and toy drive benefitting Family Promise of Collin County. New unwrapped toys and non-perishable food items can be dropped off at City Hall.

Where: 665 Country Club Rd., Lucas, TX 75002

When: Nov 23 – Dec 11

Time: M-F 8:00-5:00

Tis the Season of Giving

Please stop by City Hall and visit the Senior *Angel Tree* beginning November 23 through December 14. Adopt an angel from our tree and return your new unwrapped gifts to City Hall by December 14. Santa and his elves will make the extra special delivery to our two assisted living homes; *Loving Care and The Agape Home* on December 17.

Lucas Veterinary Hospital Hosts Food Drive

As family and friends come together for celebration, food and snacks will certainly be an important part of any gathering this holiday season. Unfortunately, for many families in our community, providing food for their families will be one of the hardest struggles over these holidays. Food insecurity remains a major problem for many families in our area. In North Texas 1 in 6 people are food insecure and that includes over 300,000 children in our communities, according to North Texas Food Bank. The statistics continue to be overwhelming.

The Lucas Veterinary Hospital is hosting their third annual food drive benefitting *The North Texas Food Bank*. Non-perishable food items can be dropped off at The Lucas Veterinary Hospital located at 800 Country Club Road November 10 through December 30. NTFB is in need of these types of items (no glass containers please):

- Soup, Stew, or Chili (low sodium)
- Canned Vegetables (low sodium)
- Beans (canned or dry)
- Canned Tuna or Chicken
- Brown Rice
- Lightly Salted Trail Mix
- Whole Grain Crackers or Granola Bars
- Peanut or Almond Butter

For more on **The North Texas Food Bank**, please visit their website at <http://web.ntfb.org>

Scarecrow Contest a Big Success!

Founders Day 2015 may have been canceled due to weather, but the Scarecrow Contest wasn't! Parks and Open Space Board Chairman, David Rhodes expressed his delight with the response by Lucas residents to the first annual Scarecrow Contest. A total of sixteen (16) entries were received, and a lot of folks took the time to drive by and admire the clever and crafty handiwork of the residents, schools, and businesses who submitted entries. All entries received a participation award. The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in both categories are shown below.

Organization Participant Winners:

- 1st: Work Crow Holic - Legacy 4H
2nd: Daisy the Digging Diva - Good Shepherd United Methodist
3rd: Pride of Lucas Texas - Willow Springs Middle School Theater Department



Individual Participant Winners:

- 1st: Caw Me - Donna Bruner - 985 Scarlett Drive
2nd: Mr. Bones - Nick Strain - 820 O'Hara Drive
3rd: Happy Fall Y'All - Amber Patteson - 10 Janna Way

