



# Lucas City Newsletter

August, 2006

newsletter@lucastexas.us

151 Country Club Road, Lucas TX 75002 • 972/727-8999 • www.lucastexas.us

## City Council

- Bob Sanders, Mayor  
(bsanders@lucastexas.us)
- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem  
(dfisher@lucastexas.us)
- Tonda Frazier, Councilmember  
(tfrazier@lucastexas.us)
- Bill Carmickle, Councilmember  
(bcarmickle@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember  
(dzriny@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember  
(kpeele@lucastexas.us)

## City Administrator

Charles Fenner  
(cfenner@lucastexas.us)

## Meeting Schedule

**All meetings begin at 7:00 in the City Annex unless otherwise specified.**

City Council Regular

August 7

Planning & Zoning

August 14

City Council Workshop

August 21

Parks & Open Spaces

August 28

Municipal Court

August 23, 2:00 PM

## WATER SURCHARGE FINALIZED

In July's newsletter the proposal to impose an additional surcharge for water use over a certain number of gallons was discussed. This surcharge is intended to help discourage excessive water consumption in light of the serious drought conditions and the current Stage 3 water restrictions.

Initially a surcharge of \$2.50 per 1000 gallons was proposed for City residents, and a surcharge of \$3.50 per 1000 gallons for customers outside of city limits for all usage over 15,000 gallons per month.

After discussion and consideration of the needs of our citizens, including the many in Lucas who keep livestock, Council decided at their July 6 council meeting to establish a surcharge of \$1.50 per 1000 gallons for City residents and \$3.50 per 1000 gallons for customers outside City limits. This surcharge will be imposed for all usage over 25,000 gallons per month rather than the previously proposed 15,000 gallons. This surcharge will be effective with water usage beginning August 10, and will continue as long as water restrictions are in Stage 3 or 4 status. The surcharge applies in addition to the current water rates.

Water rates are as follows for Lucas city residents. The rates shown for usage levels above 25,000 gallons include the new surcharge.

0	-2,000 Gal	\$18.00 per month (minimum bill)
2001	-5000 Gal	4.00 per 1000 gal
5001	-10000 Gal	4.25 per 1000 gal
10001	-25000 Gal	4.45 per 1000 gal
25001	-30000 Gal	5.95 per 1000 gal
30001	-50000 Gal	6.15 per 1000 gal
50000+		6.50 per 1000 gal

Rates are different for customers who do not live inside Lucas city limits. For information on those rates, or for any other questions regarding your water bill, contact City Hall. The rates shown above do not include the monthly charge for trash service, which is shown as a separate item on your water bill. Please remember that we all must work toward reducing our overall water consumption. The water levels at Lake Lavon, our main water source, continue to drop, moving us closer to the declaration of a Stage 4 Drought Contingency Plan. Prudent use of this most valuable natural resource now will help avoid or delay possible water rationing in the future.

Don't knock the weather. If it didn't change once in a while, nine out of ten people couldn't start a conversation.

## LIFE IN THE COUNTRY-WITH COYOTES

By Council Member Kathleen Peele



The coyote is a major character in North and Central America's folklore. Many stories testify to this ever-present predator as a trickster *par excellence*. An example is the Looney Tunes Wile E. Coyote. The luckless Wile E. who continued to come up with increasingly elaborate and seemingly foolproof schemes to capture Road Runner using assorted ACME tools for his inventions. While the stories and cartoon are entertaining, they also convey a truth about this opportunistic predator: they are extremely adaptable and persistent.

Coyotes can change their breeding habits, diet and social dynamics to survive both in the wild, suburbia and even large cities. I was familiar with coyotes that roamed the plains of Colorado where I grew up. I knew a family of coyotes lived along the creek that ran through my neighborhood when I lived in Plano. There is a family or small pack of coyotes that often run past my home in Lucas waking me with their yelps and howls in the very early morning hours. In March 2006 one was captured in Central Park – the heart of New York!

However, a coyote is not your average dog. They are smart, they learn quickly, and they can be dangerous – especially to our small pet dogs and cats! According to the A&M Agricultural Service the coyote, in spite of being hunted and trapped for more than 200 years, is more prevalent today than when the U.S. Constitution was signed. This is a testimony to their intelligence and adaptability but also means that because they are resilient to forces aimed at their control we must learn how to cope with them.

Take the following precautions to safeguard your pets and to make life for coyotes in your area more difficult.

- Do NOT Feed coyotes - Secure garbage containers. Feed your dogs and cats in-doors or pickup leftovers if feeding outdoors. Put birdfeeders up where coyotes can't get the feed.
- Dispose of especially attractive food wastes, like meat, cheese, and eggs by adding a small amount of ammonia to the bag.
- When composting, use enclosed bins rather than exposed piles. Avoid adding dog or cat waste, meat, milk or eggs, and food containing these products to compost.
- If you have fruit trees, pick the ripe fruit and keep fallen fruit off the ground. Coyotes are fond of ripe fruit.
- Outdoor lighting triggered by motion sensors may keep coyotes

from coming too close to your house at night.

- Fence your yard – they prefer to crawl under fencing so extend the fencing 6 inches below ground level for best results. Wire fencing, if used, should be no larger than 6" square. Electric fencing, including an electric wire at the bottom fence line, is an effective barrier.
- Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Don't let small dogs and cats out at night or in the early morning or evening hours.
- Keep your animals up-to-date with their vaccinations
- Spay or neuter your dogs. Coyotes are attracted to, and can mate with domestic dogs.
- Use guard animals, such as large dogs, donkeys, and Llamas, to protect livestock.

Following these guidelines will increase the likelihood that coyotes will go somewhere else and also discourage them from becoming comfortable around humans.

## CITY OF LUCAS WELCOMES NEW FINANCE/HR SPECIALIST

Our City staff is pleased to welcome our new Finance/HR Specialist, Vivian Leverington, CGFO. After a background in construction accounting Vivian has worked in various city government finance positions since November of 2000. She held positions at both the City of Allen and the City of Azle before joining the City of Lucas in June. Vivian earned her BA in accounting as well as an MBA, also in accounting, from Dallas Baptist University.

Vivian earned the professional designation of CGFO (Certified Government Finance Officer) in 2005, and is an active member of GFOAT (Government Finance Officers Association of Texas). Her GFOAT service includes serving as a member of the Ethics Committee 2003-2006.

Vivian lives in Carrollton. She has a grown son and daughter, one grandson, and two cats. She enjoys the outdoors, especially gardening.

Vivian brings a wealth of background, experience, and knowledge to her new position. We welcome her to our City, and invite you to say hello to her next time you are at City Hall.

**JULY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS**

(Complete texts of all resolutions and ordinances are on the city website)

**City Council Meeting July 6, 2006**

- Approved an ordinance of the City of Lucas, TX, amending and codifying the Subdivision and Development Ordinance of the City of Lucas, heretofore amended, as Chapter 6 of the Code of Ordinances; providing regulation governing plats and subdivisions of land within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city; providing definitions; providing for plat approval. (Ordinance #2006-07-00567)
- Approved amended Special Use Permit located at 905 E. Lucas Rd. to allow movement of historical house currently located at 630 Estelle Lane onto the property to become part of 905 E. Lucas Rd. (Applicant Wendy Hunter of Trinity Hill Ranch)
- Approved amended plat for street name change and lot line between lots 6 & 7 for the applicant Lucas Forest Grove LTD regarding 40± acres out of the Fitzhugh Survey ABST No. 318 J. Kerby Survey ABST No. 506 existing 31 tracts zoned R-1 generally located on the north side of Forest Grove. (Amherst Estates).
- Approved preliminary plat for applicant Gregg Blaylock regarding 62.9 ± acre tract out of the Benjamin Sparks Survey ABST No. 813, Collin County, TX generally located south side of Estelle Lane approx. 1500 feet east of FM 1378 (Edgewood Estates).
- Accepted final plat for applicant Eric Benavides regarding 14.344 ± acres of the William Snyder ABST No. 0821, Collin County, TX, currently zoned R-1, generally located 1300 feet east of FM 2551 on south side of McGarity Ln. (Fox Glen Addition) with stipulation that secondary access be concrete.
- Approved amendment to Ordinance # 2006-04-00563, Master Thoroughfare Plan removing designation of McGarity Ln. as a minor collector road.
- Approved amendments to Ordinance # 2005-12-00546, Code of Conduct, Section 2-103, sub-section H regarding an inclusion to prohibit the use of the City Logo. (Ordinance #2006-7-00568)
- Approved ordinance amending Ordinance #2006-04-00564 Water Rates, to include a surcharge in the amount of \$1.50 per 1000 gallons (in-city accounts), and \$3.50 per 1000 gallons (out- of-city accounts) for water usage in excess of 25,000 gallons per month during Stages 3 or 4 Drought Contingency Plans. Effective date of August 10,2006. (Ordinance 2006-07-00569)
- Accepted Staff recommendation to award a bid for pavement maintenance for Winningkoff Rd. and Snider Ln. to Wopac Construction not to exceed \$25,000, and the inclusion of the county bid for Winningkoff and Snider with the monies coming from bonds.
- Repealed Resolution #2006-06-00275 regarding Collin County Grant to purchase land expanding the Community Park .

- Appointed Parks and Open Spaces alternate board member Rebecca Mark to regular POS member, and appointed Tricia Millsap as alternate POS member.

**City Council Meeting, July 17, 2006**

- Approved minutes for the July 6,2006 City Council Regular Meeting.
- Approved awarding of contract for 8 inch Highland Circle water line (Brockdale Road) and water meter upgrade.
- Approved awarding of contract for asphalt level on Winningkoff Rd. to Wopac Construction, Inc. in amount of \$23,520.
- Approved change order of up to 25% off the Reynolds overlay paving contract (not to exceed \$29,636.63) for pavement maintenance to Snider Lane.
- Approved Interlocal Agreement between City of Lucas and Collin County regarding recycling program.
- Approved Interlocal Agreement between City of Lucas and Lovejoy ISD regarding recycling program container to be located at Hart Elementary.

**NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS**

The goal of this newsletter is to keep our citizens up to date on our city government, and also give information about events and issues in our community. Submissions for articles about residents of Lucas and their accomplishments are always welcomed as long as they are not commercial in nature. Ideas for articles may be submitted by emailing to [newsletter@lucastexas.us](mailto:newsletter@lucastexas.us) or dropping off at City Hall. Monthly submission deadline is the 15th.

It is very important that any requests for articles include the name of the person submitting the request as well as a contact phone number or email address. Due to privacy concerns I may want to verify the information before including in our newsletter. If I am unable to reach the person requesting the article, I may be unable to accept the submission. This is particularly true when the article will be about children. If you have a photo that you believe will enhance the article, you may send it to me digitally or drop off at city hall (if you would like returned, please include a SASE). I will make every effort to include all acceptable articles in the newsletter as soon as practicable. It may be necessary for me to edit for length in some cases.

Articles about non-profit community group events may be accepted as space permits. Please send an email or call me at 972-390-9177 if you have any questions.

Rebecca Mark, Editor

**SCHOOL NEWS**

Joshua Tilford graduated May 20th, Magna Cum Laude from Columbia International University with a BA in Pastoral Studies and Bible. He plans on attending law school in 2007.

**WHAT'S THAT FUNNY ODOR?**

We're beginning to get the annual calls at City Hall about the "funny" odor and taste of our water. This change in taste and odor is caused by a natural occurrence in all surface water supplies called "algal bloom" that usually occurs in late July and early August. The water is safe to drink. The taste and odor is a palatability issue, and there are no health hazards created by this naturally occurring condition. Although North Texas Water Municipal Water District (NTMWD) does take various steps to control the effects of the algal blooms, it is difficult to completely remove all of its effects from the water supply. To learn more about algal bloom go to [www.ntmwd.com](http://www.ntmwd.com) and click on the header marked "Water Quality". Under that header, go to "Taste & Odor".



**ROAD WORK UPDATE**

Work has begun on a number of roads around town using the double chip seal process. After the road is prepared, a thin layer of liquid asphalt is sprayed onto the road followed by a machine that spreads a layer of approx. 3/4" gravel (aggregate). It is sprayed again with liquid asphalt, then topped with another layer of smaller gravel, and rolled with a compactor. Over time, as traffic moves over the road, the top layer continues to be pushed down and compacts into a smoother, durable surface. Unfortunately, there is a lot of dust produced by the top layer initially. If we were not in the midst of such a severe drought, rain would help alleviate the problem. Due to the water restrictions at this time, it is also not feasible to spray with water as a dust control measure. Our public works department is working diligently with the road contractors to get our roads in better condition. They ask that all residents be patient with the process. Slowing down will solve a lot of the problems that are associated with dusty roads and loose gravel. Remember, drive safely.



**LOST AND FOUND**

Found: Ladies or child's western style belt with silver buckle at Trinity Trails Park on June 29.

Found: Set of keys at Forest Creek Park around May 20.

Contact City Hall to claim

CITY OF LUCAS  
151 COUNTRY CLUB  
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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POSTAL PATRON