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Holiday Open House

Holiday Open House



Lucas City Newsletter

January 2006

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

Happy New Years

"Happy New Year!" These are the words that you will be greeted with for the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1. In the years around 2000 B.C. the New Year began with the First Moon after the first day of Spring. The beginning of spring was a logical time to start a new year because it is the season of rebirth, of planting crops, and of blossoming.



NEW YEAR TRADITIONS

I think the most common new year tradition that I can remember is the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the years around 2000 B.C. where the resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The Tournament of Roses Parade dates back to 1886. In that year, members of the Valley Hunt Club decorated their carriages with flowers. It celebrated the ripening of the orange crop in California. Although the Rose Bowl football game was first played as a part of the Tournament of Roses in 1902, it was replaced by Roman chariot races the following year. In 1916, the football game returned as the sports centerpiece of the festival. So don't forget to watch the Rose bowl Parade On Monday January 2, 2006 "Never on Sunday" tradition at 8 a.m. (PST), millions of spectators from around the world will celebrate with the 117th Rose Parade themed "It's Magical."

FOR LUCK IN THE NEW YEAR

It was thought that one could affect the luck they would have throughout the coming year by what they did or ate on the first day of the year. For that reason, it has become common for folks to celebrate the first few minutes of a brand new year in the company of family and friends. Parties often last into the middle of the night after the ringing in of a new year. It was once believed that the first visitor on New Year's Day would bring either good luck or bad luck the rest of the year. It was particularly lucky if that visitor happened to be a tall dark-haired man. Traditional new year foods are also thought to bring luck. Many parts of the U.S. celebrate the new year by consuming black-eyed peas. These legumes are typically accompanied by either hog jowls or ham. Black-eyed peas and other legumes have been considered good luck in many cultures. The hog, and thus its meat, is considered lucky because it symbolizes prosperity. Cabbage is another "good luck" vegetable that is consumed on New Year's Day by many. Cabbage leaves are also considered a sign of prosperity, being representative of paper currency.



So enjoy your own New Years Traditions with family and friends. Be safe , responsible and may the New Year bring you happiness.

A Note From Your Municipal Court

Failure to maintain financial responsibility can get your car towed in Collin County. In addition to the cost to get your car from impound our fine in Lucas is \$287 and up depending on the number of times cited for this violation in the past.



City Council

- Bob Sanders, Mayor
- Mike Marafine, Mayor Pro Tem
- Bill Carmickle, Councilmember
- Debbie Fisher, Councilmember
- Tonda Frazier, Councilmember
- Don Zriny, Councilmember

City Administrator

Charles Fenner

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the

Home Rule Charter Commission
January 5

City Council Regular

Planning & Zoning

City Council Workshop

Parks & Open Spaces

Municipal Court
January 18, 2:00 PM

VOLUNTEERS FOR BOARD MEMBERS and COMMISSIONERS

The City is still accepting applications for volunteers to serve on our boards. If you are interested in serving please come by City Hall and sign up or go on our web at <http://www.lucastexas.us/forms/volunteer.html> and fill our community volunteer form.

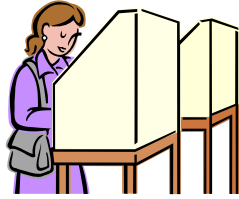


CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002
PERMIT 157

POSTAL PATRON

May 13, 2006 - Uniform Election Date



February 11, 2006 - First Day to file for Place on Ballot

March 13, 2006 - Last Day to file for place on Ballot

March 13, 2006 - Last Day to Order General Election

March 14, 2006 - First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

April 13, 2006 - Last Day to Register to Vote

May 1, 2006 - First Day of Early Voting

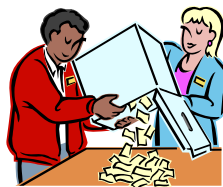
May 2, 2006 6a.m. - 6p.m. - First 12 hour Early Voting Day

May 5, 2006 (May 6th is the 7th day, but deadline moves to preceding business day, Friday) - Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (received not Postmarked)

May 9, 2006 6:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m. - Second 12 hour Early Voting Day

May 9, 2006 - Last Day of Early Voting

May 13, 2006 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Election Day



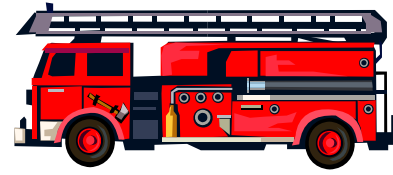
"The strength of the Constitution lies entirely in the determination of each citizen to defend it. Only if every single citizen feels duty bound to do his share in this defense are the constitutional rights secure."... Albert Einstein

City Quick Notes

- Recycling pick-up dates in January 6th and 20th
- Put trash in bags no heavier than **35** pounds and have them out by **7:00 AM**.
- Outdoor burning is still prohibited. Call 972-424-1460 x4799 to check the status.

Lucas VFD Goes High Tech

by David Leonard, Captain / EMT-B, LVFD



Consider crawling through a building you have never been in under conditions that include high heat and zero visibility. This is the situation that firefighters of the Lucas VFD have experienced since the department was established. But due to the recent addition of a high tech tool, the firefighters can "see through smoke and dark".

The department recently purchased a Thermal Imaging Camera, which is commonly called a TIC (like the small insect). Instead of taking many valuable minutes searching a room for victims or the seat of the fire, a firefighter can scan an area the size of a normal bedroom in a matter of seconds. Previously, in order to find a fire in a wall, the Lucas firefighters had to tear out the wall or call for help from the Parker or Wylie Departments who have had the technology. The device is invaluable in locating "hot" spots from lightning strikes or smoldering fires inside a location not visible to the naked eye. About the size of a small video camera, the unit is easy enough to carry with one hand but rugged enough to handle rough use.

This new device will greatly assist the firefighters in quickly and safely locating a person in a fire situation. In the case of a victim in a room, their body will show up as a white image against a black background. Fire will show up as a blue or red image depending upon the temperature.

With a price tag of around \$10,000 the camera is a costly investment. But since purchasing the TIC, the department has saved citizens over \$200,000 in property losses. The Lucas VFD has only one device in service at this time. The desire is for all Lucas VFD vehicles to be equipped with the technology.



application at the station or at the department's web site, <http://www.lucasfire.com/>.

If you are interested, come by the station & the firefighters will be happy to demonstrate the latest tool in our arsenal to aid the citizens of Lucas.

Note: The department is always looking for people who wish to serve the community. If you are interested, pick up an

Ordinances and Resolutions

The new resolutions and ordinances adopted by the City Council may be found on our website.

- Ordinance 2005-12-00541 Correcting Scrivener Errors in Chapter 3, "General Building Regulations".
- Ordinance 2005-12-00542 Amending Section 2-24 of Article 3 of the Code of Ordinances to provide that the City Secretary shall report directly to the City Administrator.
- Ordinance 2005-12-00543 Amending Chapter 7 "Water System Regulations" of the Code of Ordinances by adding a new Article 10 to adopt regulations for the drilling of water wells.
- Ordinance 2005-12-00544 Amending Chapter 9 "Comprehensive Zoning" of the Code of Ordinances repealing Article 10B "Commercial Business District" adding a new Article 11 "Commercial Business District".
- Ordinance 2005-12-00545 zoning change from OS to R1 for 14.344 acres, generally located on the Southwest Quadrant of FM 2551 and McGarity Lane.
- Ordinance 2005-12-00546 Amending Chapter 2 to include a "Code of Conduct" for public officials.

Planning and Zoning—11/2005

HOME RULE COMMISSION UPDATE

The commission members continue to meet on most Thursday evenings for work on the proposed Home Rule Charter. A number of important issues have been reviewed and are recommended to be included in the charter. The following summarizes some of these provisions.

- *Form of Government to remain Council-Mayor-City Administrator*
- *Number of Council members to remain at 5*
- *Council members and Mayor will continue to serve for 2 year terms.*
- *Establishment of Code of Ethics mandated by Charter.*

After a break for the holidays, meetings will resume January 5th at 7:00 PM. We will be discussing provisions relating to **sewers, recall, initiative and referendum** on that date. As a reminder, all meeting times are posted in this newsletter, on the city website, on your monthly water bill, and on signs outside City Hall/Annex. We welcome and urge citizen input, and all meetings begin with a citizen input session.

City Council Actions —12/05/2005

Other than Ordinances and Resolutions

- Approved the minutes from the November 7, 2005 City Council Special Meeting and the November 21, 2005 City Council Workshop Meeting.
- Held a public hearing for a zoning change from AO to R-1.5 located East of the Estates at Austin Trail Phase II and South of West Lucas Road (Rockland Phase 1B) (Discussion only)
- Held a public hearing for a zoning LI to CB located at the Northeast corner of FM 2551 and West Lucas Road (Crumpton)
- Held a public hearing for a zoning AO to CB located at the Northeast quadrant of FM 2551 and West Lucas Road (Alexander)
- Council denied the final plat for applicant Skorburg Company for Claremont Springs Addition known as the Cunningham Tract and Fowler Tract located South of Estates Parkway FM2170 and West of Ingram Lane (Claremont Springs)
- Approved the amended facilities agreement with Cornerstone Baptist Church and authorize the Mayor & City Administrator to set a price for the cost difference between an 8" and 12" water line, with construction to begin on or before January 15, 2006 and completion date to be on or before July 15, 2006.
- Approved the preliminary plat for Rockland Farms Phase 1B for 7.93± acres located East of the Estate at Austin Trails Phase II and South of West Lucas Road.
- Discussion only for the City of Princeton's application for CCNs with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to provide water & sewer utility service in Collin County.
- Approval of an Interlocal Agreement authorizing the City Administrator to execute said agreement between the City of Lucas and Collin County Governmental Purchasers Forum.
- Council discussed the appointment of Board Member to the various Boards. There will be interviews held at the January 3rd Regular Council Meeting during the Executive Session.
- Council discussed Founders' Day Event and determined that Mayor Pro Tem Marafine will co-chair this event with a volunteer from the City.
- Council discussed the improvement and construction of the City Hall and Annex parking lots. This item was tabled and will be discussed at the January 3rd Regular Council Meeting.
- Council denied the request to amend the Development Agreement between the City of Lucas and Lucas Forest Grove, LTD regarding off-site water line improvements.
- Council directed Staff to request bids for alarm systems, outside lighting and CCTV for the City Hall, Annex and Public Works Facility.
- Council authorized the Mayor to execute an Employment Agreement with the City Administrator to become effective February 15, 2006.