


COLLIN COUNTY LIVESTOCK REGISTRATION




Owners of livestock can register their livestock with the Collin County Sheriff's Office Dispatch by providing the location, brand information, markings, and a contact number for the owner, including home, cell, or other numbers where the owner may be reached. This will enable owners of stray livestock to avoid the cost of animals being impounded should they get out and wander onto the roadway. Information can be forwarded to the Sheriff's Office at 972-547-5167. Tell the dispatch personnel that you would like to provide owner contact information to be used should your livestock ever stray off your property.

BURN BAN ISSUED

Due to the continuing drought conditions, effective 6/13 Collin County Commissioners' Court issued a ban on all outdoor burning for all parts of unincorporated areas of Collin County. City of Lucas follows the County lead and is also prohibiting all outdoor burning. On June 14th, the County also banned the discharge of all fireworks by individuals. (City of Lucas already has a permanent ban on fireworks.) Professional fireworks shows are exempted from this ban.

We hope you all have a safe and happy Fourth of July.



WATER BILL CHANGE

You may have noticed by now that your latest water bill appears to be for a longer billing period than usual. This is actually not the case. In the past the billing period was always shown as being from the 28th to the 28th. In reality, the meters are read much earlier in the month, around the 15th, and the change you see this month is the first step in changing the bills to read from the 15th to the 15th. The bill you just received still charges for only your normal monthly usage for around 30 days. The next bill, and those thereafter, will show the correct billing dates of the 15th to the 15th. To determine your actual monthly usage, add two zeros to the number shown under the **USAGE** column of your water bill. For example, if the number shown is 145, then your usage for the month was 14,500 gallons. If you have any questions about your water bill, call City Hall at 972-727-8999 and ask to speak with Delta.

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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

POSTAL PATRON



Lucas City Newsletter

July, 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)
- Bill Carmickle, Councilmember (bcarmickle@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember (kpeelee@lucastexas.us)
- Tonda Frazier, Councilmember (tfrazier@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember (dzriny@lucastexas.us)

City Administrator

Charles Fenner (cfenner@lucastexas.us)



COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN BY MAYOR

During the Council meeting of June 5th, Mayor Bob Sanders administered the oath of office to newly elected Council Member Kathleen Peele, and re-elected Council Members Debbie Fisher and Tonda Frazier. Mayor Sanders also presented outgoing Council Member and Mayor Pro-Tem Mike Marafine with a plaque honoring him for his long history of service to the City of Lucas and it's citizens. Council Member Debbie Fisher was elected by her fellow council members to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for the current term.



Mayor Bob Sanders, left, presents plaque of appreciation to outgoing Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem Mike Marafine.

Left to right:
Mayor Bob Sanders
Council Member Kathleen Peele
Council Member Tonda Frazier
Council Member Debbie Fisher



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

City Council Regular Thurs. July 6
Planning & Zoning July 10
City Council Workshop July 17
Parks & Open Spaces July 24
Municipal Court July 20, 2:00 PM



BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE ?

If this picture were seen in color, it would appear to be another pretty landscape with blue skies, green grass, and a faint view of water in the distance to the far right. In reality it is a bridge view of Lake Lavon. What you should be seeing is all rippling water below blue skies. As a result of the long drought, where there used to be only water, there is now a dry lake bed filled with flourishing weeds. For more about this serious situation, read the articles on Page 2 of this newsletter.

*At intersections, Look each way.
A harp sounds nice, But it's hard to play!*

Burma Shave

WATER WISE BEHAVIOR WILL PREVENT WATER WOES

By Council Member Tonda Frazier

A golf-course green lawn is usually the envy of your neighbors. This year it might invoke your neighbor's wrath and a fine from municipal court.

We are in the second year of a drought with no relief in sight. A drought in this region over 50 years ago lasted for 5 years, and weather forecasters are predicting this one could last another year if not more. Most cities in the region recently enacted Stage 3 water restrictions after North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) mandated it June 1, 2006. The City of Lucas enacted a Stage 3 Drought Contingency plan on May 22 to comply with that mandate. The restrictions include:

No watering with sprinklers or irrigation systems between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and **only once per week on your designated trash day**. Exceptions: foundations, new plantings (less than 1 year old) and established trees may be watered by hand-held hose, soaker hose or drip irrigation up to 1 hour on any day.

No new pool permits will be issued. Pools may not be drained and refilled, but may add water to maintain pool levels.

No new landscaping allowed.

No hosing of paved areas, buildings or windows.

No washing or rinsing of vehicles.

No use of water to allow runoff or waste.

No operation of outdoor ornamental fountains if they use treated water.

Penalties for failure to comply could result in a fine of up to \$2,000 for each offense.

In addition, Council is considering imposing an additional surcharge of \$2.50 per gallon of water on top of the established rate for every gallon over 15,000 per household. Those outside the city limits will pay an additional \$3.50 surcharge per gallon over that amount.

These restrictions are necessary to conserve the rapidly shrinking water in Lake Lavon. The lake is down by 10' and still dropping. It is possible that NTMWD will declare Stage 4 restrictions before long. Outside irrigation will be completely prohibited at that point in order to further conserve our water supply needed for essential use.

It is incumbent upon us all to comply with these restrictions to ensure that we don't run out of water for necessities. If everyone will substantially curtail their water use and participate in the conversation, we may delay or avoid the severity and problems that will come with Stage 4. If the drought continues for several years, we could all be facing water rationing.

The City is investigating various methods of reporting violators and issuing citations, which may include hiring additional personnel for that purpose. We also encourage citizens to report violations they observe to City Hall. NTMWD mandates that we reduce overall water consumption by 5% in Stage 3 and 10% in Stage 4. Possible repercussions for not doing so could include restricting the amount of water made available to Lucas, as well as doubling our water rates. Please do your part to conserve our tax dollars and our precious water.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS



There are a number of no or low cost ways that each of us can help cut down on water consumption. Some of these are as follows:

- Run your dishwasher only with a full load. Many dishwashers do not require pre-rinsing of dishes. Check your manufacturer's instructions.
- Adjust your washing machine's water level for the size of the load.
- After turning on your hot water faucet, run the cooler water that first comes out into watering containers for use on your potted plants.
- Don't leave the water running while brushing teeth.
- Take quick showers rather than long baths.
- Check all faucets, water line connections, and toilets for leaks. To check for toilet leaks, add a few drops of food coloring to the tank. If any of the color appears in the bowl, the toilet needs adjustments or repair.
- Set your lawnmower blade to cut grass at a height of 3 inches. This helps shade the soil, reduces water evaporation, and also allows the roots to grow deeper.
- Don't over water house or garden plants. Watering only to their individual needs will not only save water, you will also have healthier plants.
- For more information on ways to conserve water, check out www.WaterIQ.org. This is a public education and awareness campaign initiated by North Texas Municipal Water District.



KEEPING OUR STREETS SAFE

On a recent evening, one of our residents had a very frightening experience. As she was driving down one of our country roads after dark, two young children on go-carts with no lights came riding down the middle of the street toward her. She narrowly escaped hitting them, and was thoroughly shaken by the experience. It seems a good time to remind our residents of the laws regarding the operation of non-licensed power vehicles on our roads. In the absence of specific City of Lucas ordinances, state laws govern the operation of such vehicles inside our city limits. With very narrow exceptions, operation of non-licensed self powered vehicles is prohibited on public roadways.

Under no circumstances should children be allowed to use their scooters, go-carts, pocket bikes, etc. on public roads. Additionally, as a matter of safety, unsupervised younger children should never be allowed to operate their bicycles on public streets.

This is not just a matter of potentially breaking the law and having to pay a hefty fine. It is a matter of keeping our streets safe for all our citizens. Using common sense and supervising your kids at all times can help avert a tragic accident that would impact our entire community.

If you have any questions about a particular law that might apply, contact the Texas Department of Public Safety.

ALL STARS FROM LUCAS

Congratulations to Lucas students Matt Berryman and Trey Pool for making the 14-U All Star Baseball Traveling Team in Allen. The team consists of the top players from the 14-U League in Allen who played this last spring. Don Pool, father of Trey Pool, was selected as an assistant coach for the team. The team is practicing frequently to prepare for the All Star tournament in July in Brazoswood. They competed in the Coppell All Star Tournament in mid-June and won first place, defeating Southlake Carroll. They will be competing in the McKinney/Craig Ranch tournament at the end of June. These boys have worked very hard to achieve this goal, and we wish them the best of luck in their upcoming tournaments.



JUNE CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

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

City Council Meeting June 5, 2006

- Approved minutes for Council Meeting of 5/15/06 .
- Approved Ordinance to amend Ordinance #2004-12-00513 Comprehensive Plan to include Water Distribution and Master Plan.
- Appointed Council Member Debbie Fisher as Mayor Pro Tem.
- Approved Resolution to participate in Collin County Parks and Open Space Project Funding Assistance Program.
- Called for P&Z Commission to bring forth a proposed Accessory Building Ordinance.
- Approved letter of agreement between City of Lucas and BW2 Engineering, Inc. for engineering and surveying services for Stinson Road water line.
- Approved preliminary plat for Red Group Development for residential development of property described as +/-32.8 acres situated in the J. Thompson Survey, Abstract no. 893, Tract 42 and Tract 21, generally located at northeast intersection of Shady Lane and Snider Lane, known as Cameron Estates.
- Approved City Hall staff reorganization and restructuring of duties.

City Hall Meeting, June 19, 2006

- Approved minutes for 5/22/06 Special Joint Meeting of City Council and P&Z Commission, and 6/05/06 Regular City Council Meeting.
- Agreed not to rescind moratorium on pool permits, authorized city staff to hire code enforcement personnel for 40 hrs. per week and authorized overtime as necessary for enforcement of Stage 3 water restrictions, authorized warnings to be issued until 7/1/06, then citations will be issued, authorized Stage 3 notification signs to be purchased, and authorized Stage 3 notification to be placed on water bills.
- Approved awarding of 2006 Overlay Paving Project bid to Reynolds Paving.
- Approved resolution to assign City Secretary as a signatory on City banking and financial records.
- Approved resolution changing authorized representatives for Local Government Investment Cooperative.
- Approved resolution changing authorized representatives for American National Bank.
- Approved resolution changing authorized representatives for Lone Star Investment Pool.
- Appointed liaisons as follows: CM Peele to Board of Adjustments, CM Zriny to Parks and Open Spaces Board, Mayor Pro Tem Fisher to continue on North Texas Municipal Water District.
- Approved formation of Committee for Personnel Matters and appointed CM Carmickle, Mayor Pro Tem Fisher, and City Administrator or designee to serve on committee.