



Lucas City Newsletter

May , 2006

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

City Council

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

Charles Fenner
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Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular

May 1

Planning & Zoning

May 8

City Council Workshop

May 15

Parks & Open Spaces

May 22

Municipal Court

May 31, 2:00 PM

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 22, 6:30 PM SEE INSERT FOR DETAILS



YOUR VOTE MATTERS

**By Councilmember Don Zriny
On behalf of Lucas City Council**

As a continuation of the ongoing commitment made by your city government to good communications, there will be two "Meet the Candidates" public forums for residents to ask questions of the city council candidates running for election on May 13. Residents who wish to ask questions will be asked to fill out forms stating those questions. Each candidate will give a brief opening speech, followed by a session during which an impartial moderator will direct the questions posed by the citizens to the candidates. At the end, brief closing remarks from each candidate will be allowed.

The sessions will be at the city annex on Sunday, April 30, from 3 PM to 5 PM, and Thursday, May 4, from 7 PM to 9 PM. This forum will allow residents to meet the candidates, hear their stances on both general and specific issues, and judge for themselves which candidates will be best for the city.

With the continuing growth we are experiencing in Lucas, many important issues are coming up in the next year or so, making this election especially critical. To add to that importance, a majority of council members (3 of 5) will be decided upon. Three incumbent council members and four new candidates are vying for your votes.

One of the most important issues facing the newly elected (or reelected) council members is the municipal budget. Very quickly after the election your officials must begin the budget planning process for the next fiscal year which starts on October 1.

The ballot will list the names of the 7 candidates in an order that was determined by an impartial drawing. Each registered voter can choose 1, 2, or 3 candidates to receive a vote. The 3 candidates with the most votes will be elected to office. New to this election are the state mandated electronic voting machines. They are very simple to use and are accessible by all persons, including persons with poor vision, poor dexterity, those in wheelchairs, or with other disabilities. Paper ballots will also be available. The new voting machines, (compliant with ADA requirements), our new paved, handicap accessible parking lots at city hall and the annex, as well as the new handicap accessible restroom in the annex makes this our first fully accessible election.

Some residents will say "my one vote won't matter".

I was elected by a 14 vote margin! ALL residents' votes matter.

ANIMAL CONTROL AGREEMENT APPROVED

The City of Lucas has entered into a animal control agreement with a private contractor, North Texas Animal Control Authority. NTACA will provide a variety of services, including answering stray animal calls, dead animal removal (when the owner is unknown), and emergency service calls. Emergencies include injured domestic animals when the owner is unknown, domestic animal bites when the owner is unknown or not present, or loose livestock in the roadway causing a hazard to motorists. They may also respond after a member of the sheriff's department has confirmed the need for intervention when a domestic animal has shown aggressive or dangerous tendencies. They will make incident reports and verify rabies vaccinations after dog bite reports, as well as oversee quarantine procedures mandated by law.

When a domestic animal is loose and in violation of either city ordinance or state law, NTACA will impound the animal. They will make every attempt to return the animal to the owner. They have the power to issue warnings or citations as warranted. All impounded animals will be held for at least 5 days prior to disposition, which may include releasing to a humane organization, placing for adoption, or humane euthanasia.

Owners will be required to pay impoundment and boarding fees for all animals that are impounded. The boarding facility is in Flower Mound. Owners may either pick up the pet or, for an added fee, arrange with NTACA to bring the animal back to Lucas.

Wildlife removal is not included in this agreement, although NTACA may provide this service at the expense of the homeowner.

NTACA will also handle pet registrations for the City of Lucas. A registration form is included in this newsletter or may be obtained at City Hall.

NTACA answers their phone 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. Their phone number is **214-513-8228**. Their web site is **WWW.NTACA.com**.

For complete information on this new service, contact city hall.

THE RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

By Councilmember Don Zriny



Pet owners have a responsibility. That responsibility is not only to their neighbors, but also to the pets themselves. Lucas ordinance requires that at all times, all pets, when outside, be on a leash or in a properly fenced area for their protection as well as other persons and animals nearby. Common courtesy is that you clean up after your pets when in public areas. Dogs & cats live a long time. Often pet/owner relationships last longer than some marriages. They require commitment, but return that dedication with enduring faithfulness.

With so many pets now in shelters, prospective pet owners don't need to buy from breeders. There is a surplus of healthy, well-behaved, appreciative pets ready to be adopted. Neutering and spaying not only contribute to a healthier, better behaved animal, they also control overpopulation. Even pets kept alone in a yard are not always completely safe. Fences can be breached, resulting in unwanted litters.

Pets are part of the family, and you should treat them as such. Give them proper food, always available clean water, exercise, and a clean, protected place to sleep. When the weather is particularly harsh, make sure they have a place inside, away from the elements. Get regular veterinary checkups. A scheduled appointment will be cheaper and more pleasant than going there with a serious illness that could have been prevented. Get vaccinations as needed depending on the pet and local and state laws.

Lost pets are a rampant problem. Getting the pet back to the owner is facilitated by proper identification. A tag with name and phone numbers, including the name and phone number of your vet, is the best way to ensure a quick return. The very best way to facilitate a safe return of your pet is to have an ID chip implanted by your vet. Although this method of identification may take a little longer as a vet or shelter must use a scanner to read the chip of the lost pet, it ensures that the owner may be found even if the pet's collar has come off, as often happens when a pet gets loose.

“Live with your new pet several days before you name it. The right name will come to you.”

From: Life's Little Instruction Book Vol.II

TRINITY TRAIL PRESERVATION ASSN. HORSE SHOW TO BE HELD MAY 20TH.

A Fun Horse Show benefiting the Trinity Trail Preservation Association will be held May 20th at the Double B Equestrian Center, 2300 McMillen Road, Wylie, TX on May 20, 2006. Registration will begin at 8 AM followed by classes starting at 9 AM. Participants need not wear fancy show attire, but all participants must wear long pants, and everyone in the English classes must wear helmets. Entry fees will be \$6 per class. A special feature of this show will be classes for gaited horses and for driving (mini-horses, donkeys and larger horses.) For a complete list of classes and events, contact an event coordinator shown below..

In addition to raising money for the 501(c) 3 non-profit organization TTPA for use in maintaining Trinity Trail, the show is intended to raise awareness of the existence of Trinity Trail among regular show participants. Current original Coggins certificates will be checked at the entry gate. Food will be available on the grounds. All dogs must be on a leash.

Further information and directions may be obtained from Event Coordinators Bonnie Guimarin at 972-727-4496 (home) or at 972-742-1544 (cell) or via Email at clancyhollow@aol.com or Debbie Bourgeois at 214-383-0164 (home) or at 972-839-6670 (cell) or via Email at dgbourgeois@dfwair.net. Check out the TTPA website at www.trinitytrailriders.org.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS APPLICANTS NEEDED

It is time for the City to seat a new Board of Adjustments. This board consists of five members and two alternates who meet on an as needed basis to consider applications for variances to zoning ordinance regulations. The board hears appeals and considers action concerning non-conforming uses. They may grant variances only if they pose a hardship not based on financial concerns, and they cannot grant variances to land use.

Persons interested in applying to serve on this board should complete a volunteer application and submit to the City Secretary. Forms may be found on the City Website or at City Hall. Applicants, including current members wishing to reapply, will be notified when the interview process is to begin.

LUCAS VFD GOES "BACK TO THE FUTURE"

By Captain David Leonard, EMT-B



The Lucas VFD is currently replacing the ISI Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) with the Scott NxG2. The old air packs are notoriously unreliable and problems are encountered at every fire or training exercise. Replacement parts are difficult to find which put many units out of service. There is a great deal of concern that a member could become terribly injured due to the poor performance of the units. The new SCBA are the most up to date units available on the market. Total replacement of the ISI has not occurred yet, but as budget allows we hope to be completed before the end of the year.

Leading edge technology and reliability are the reasons we chose the Scott Air-Pak NxG2 SCBA and the majority of neighboring departments already use them. The Scott Air-Pak has cutting edge respiratory protection and Time-tested record of reliable performance and rugged dependability. The packs are 4500 PSI operating pressures and the cylinder duration is 45 minutes. A lightweight, ergonomically designed harness system places the bulk of weight on the hips instead of the shoulders.

The department is also transitioning to the Bullard UST6B Traditional Helmets. The very early fire helmets were made of leather and although they were rugged, their weight was a burden. Modern materials have made the fire helmet significantly lighter but because firefighters are a traditional group, the old style was favored. The Bullard Corporation recently put the new UST6B Traditional Helmets on the market and they met the requirements of lightweight and durability demanded by firefighters. Most of the helmets are being donated by businesses at only a minimal cost to the department.

The next time you see a Lucas firefighter notice that they are using the most modern but also traditional equipment available to serve the citizens of the city.

WATER PRESSURE UPDATE

The City has been receiving reports of low water pressure in an area off Country Club Road, north of Blondy Jhune Road. These reports began about the time when the weather began warming up and consumption increased

The Public Works Department staff has made some adjustments between the two pressure planes, which separates the two elevated water ser. These adjustments should increase the pressure in the affected areas. The situation will be continuously monitored to insure the best service possible.

A MONTH FOR REMEMBERANCE

This month we celebrate two holidays that share a somewhat common origin as both were conceived as a result of the Civil War. Memorial Day was established after the Civil War to honor those on both sides who gave their lives during the conflict. First officially celebrated on May 30, 1868, it was later moved to the last Monday in May and honors all those who have lost their lives in service of our country.

In 1870, Julia Ward Howe, who wrote the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" wrote the original Mother's Day Proclamation as a call for peace and disarmament. Although she failed in her attempt to get formal recognition for a Mother's Day of Peace, a young woman named Anna Jarvis successfully crusaded in later years for the establishment of a memorial day for women. The first such Mother's Day was celebrated on May 10, 1908. President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day in 1914 to be celebrated on the second Sunday of each May.

ROAD WORK UPDATE

Our street and road crews have completed "zipper" work, which grinds and compacts existing pavement to prepare it for asphalt overlay on several roads in the Kirkland subdivision (Chisholm, Santa Fe, Cimarron, and Indian Trails). The overlay process will be done in May or June. The crews will continue to "zipper" other roads, including Lynn Lane, Wendy Lane and McMillan Lane, to also be overlaid with asphalt.

Contract bids for a major project to chip seal approximately 8 miles of roads were to be opened the week of April 24th and be discussed for awarding at the Council meeting on May 1. At least 22 roads, either entirely or partially, are included in this project.

Work on Winningkoff Road is slated to be contracted out sometime this summer.



LOCAL GIRL SCOUTS EARN GOLD AWARDS



Kayla Rusterholtz, Alix Bulleit

Two local Girl Scouts are among those who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest level of achievement in Girl Scouting. To earn this award, a girl must first earn the Career Exploration Award, the Senior Girl Scout Leadership Award, as well as the Senior Girl Scout Challenge Award, which includes 15 hours of community service, which she designs and directs. Through this process, the girls develop skills to implement their 50-hour Gold Award Project.

Kayla Rusterholtz, daughter of Brian and Peggy Rusterholtz of Lucas, and Alix Bulleit, daughter of Dave and Kim Bulleit of Seis Lagos both attended Lovejoy Elementary and Hart Elementary and are now juniors at AHS. They are members of Troop #2814. Their Gold Award projects were to build workstations for the bands at both AHS and Lowery Freshman Center. These are used by band volunteers for storage and as a writing surface, while also serving as a central location for pick up and drop off of band uniforms.

MESSAGE FROM OUR DEPUTY

Deputy Mike Holcomb would like to remind everyone to please call Collin County Sheriff's Department Dispatch rather than City Hall when the services of a deputy are needed for any reason or when you wish to make a report of any activity that may warrant the involvement of the Sheriff's Department. Calling dispatch directly will help avoid any delays in response time. The dispatch number is as follows:

972-547-5350



APRIL CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

(Complete text of all resolutions and ordinances may be found on the City website)

City Council Meeting April 3, 2006

- Approval of 3/20/06 City Council Workshop minutes.
- Adoption of Ordinance #2006-04-00562, 2005 City of Lucas Parks & Open Space Master Plan.
- Approved final plat for Lakeview Development.
- Approved contract with Freese & Nichols regarding waterline design and meter upgrade.
- Approved contract with NTACA regarding animal control for the City of Lucas
- Repealed Resolution #2004-11-00233 regarding the City of Lucas' population in excess of 5,000 inhabitants.
- Approved Budget Adjustments for Fiscal Year 2005/2006.
- Approved the appropriation of \$6300 for use in the purchase of security equipment for City facilities.

City Council Workshop Meeting April 24, 2006

- Council approved Ordinance # 2006-04-00563 regarding amendment to Ordinance #2004-12-00513 Comprehensive Plan to include Master Thoroughfare Plan
- Council approved Ordinance # 2006-04-00564 regarding an amendment to Code of Ordinances Appendix C of Chapter 7, "Water System Regulations" amending in-city and out-of-city water rates
- Council approve Resolution # 2006-04-00271 appointing the Election Officials for the May 13, 2006 General Election
- Council approved a Development Agreement between the City and Lakeview Development
- Council approved an amended plat for Seis Lagos Phase 4 Lot 29 & 30, Blk O and Lot 1, Blk X to add franchise utility easements
- Council approved the preliminary plat for Venenca Partners, LP (Fox Glen Addition) along with waivers 1, 2, & 3
- Council called for a Joint Meeting, to be held on May 22, 2006, 6:30 p.m. at the Lucas Fire Station, between the Planning & Zoning Commission and City Council regarding the proposed accessory building ordinance

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN APPROVED

After a year of hard work by the Parks and Open Spaces Board and Lucas City staff, a Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan was presented to City Council and was unanimously approved and adopted during the Council meeting of April 3rd.

In early 2005, the POS board and city staff began to work with Adjunct Professor and landscape architect John Fain of the University of Texas-Arlington. Under Professor Fain's direction, students worked to lay the groundwork of the plan by gathering information about current recreational resources and suggested standards which are those recommended by the National Recreation and Parks Association. Based upon that work, a development plan was refined and cost estimates prepared. At the end of the study, the Park and Open Spaces Board contracted with Mr. Fain's firm, DFL Group, LLC to complete the plan and format it so that it would be acceptable to Texas Parks and Wildlife, a requisite to possible grant funding.

Refinement of the plan continued into early this year, when a plan was finalized that met the goals set by the Parks and Open Spaces Board. The plan contains a strong emphasis on preserving open space for the long term enjoyment of our residents.

Now that the Master Plan has been approved by City Council, it has been sent to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Grant Branch in Austin for their review. This lays the groundwork for the Parks and Open Spaces Board to start pursuing grants that will help the City achieve it's commitment to improvement of recreational facilities and acquisition and preservation of open spaces.

Parks & Open Space members give away trees to citizens at the Lucas Country Parade



CITY CONSIDERING NEW PROGRAM

The City of Lucas is contemplating a program that will check on residents who may be shut-in, have limited mobility, or other difficulties.

A volunteer or city staff member would call the resident to check on them periodically, and during events like extended power or water outages or extreme hot or cold periods. If the person requires assistance, or does not answer the phone calls, follow up by the proper authorities and/or family members would be arranged. This is not meant to replace family, friends & neighbors. It is intended to be a back up program that provides a little extra security for those citizens who feel they need it.

If you, or a resident you know, might be interested in such a program, please contact Councilmember Don Zriny at dzriny@lucastexas.us or at 972-727-8999 x404.

ELECTION DATES

As a reminder, early voting begins Mon., May 1. Early voting dates are as follows:

Mon., May 1, 8AM-5PM, City Hall

Tues., May 2, 6AM-6PM, City Hall

Wed., May 3, 8AM-5PM, City Hall

Thurs., May 4, 8AM-5PM, City Hall

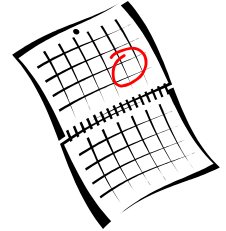
Fri., May 5, 8AM-5PM, City Hall

Mon., May 8, 8AM-5PM, City Hall

Tues., May 9, 6AM-6PM, City Hall (last day to early vote)

Note that there are two days with extended hours, Tues., May 2 and Tues., May 9.

Regular Election Day is **Saturday, May 13** from **7AM** until **7PM** at the **City Annex** building.



CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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