



Lucas City Newsletter

November, 2006

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

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Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
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Tonda Frazier, Councilmember
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Kathleen Peele, 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

Thurs., Nov. 2

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., Nov. 9

City Council Workshop

Thurs., Nov. 16

Parks & Open Spaces

Mon., Nov. 27

Municipal Court

Wed. Nov.29, 2:00PM

"Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.."

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Beginning this month, all city meetings will be held on Thursdays, rather than Mondays, unless otherwise specified. The first meeting affected by this change will be the Regular City Council meeting. It will be held on Thursday, November 2. Check the "Meeting Schedule" on this page for all other meeting dates and times for this month.

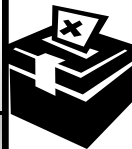
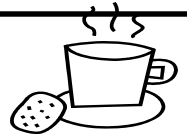


HOLIDAY CLOSING

City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. The City staff wishes all of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL UPDATE

Councilmembers Bill Carmickle and Kathleen Peele will be hosting the "Coffee with Council" event on Saturday, December 9th. It will be at the City Annex from 8:00AM until 10:00AM. Collin County Judge Elect Keith Self will be a special guest, and looks forward to meeting his Lucas constituents. A Holiday Open House will be held on the same day from 1:00PM until 4:00PM. More details will follow in the December newsletter.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Early voting for the Nov. 7th election has already begun and will continue through Nov. 3rd. Remember, you must have been registered at least 30 days prior to the election date in order to vote (by Oct. 6th). For a list of locations and times, check the City of Lucas website.



BECAUSE OF THEM, WE ARE FREE!

On Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, we honor all members of the Armed Forces who have served and fought to protect us and our way of life. They gave their time, and, in many cases, their lives for you and me. The freedom we enjoy in this great nation is because of the sacrifices they made. To all our veterans: We give you our heartfelt thanks .

OCTOBER CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

City Council Meeting October 2, 2006

- Approved minutes from Sept. 18, 2006 City Council Meeting.
- Approved Ordinance #2006-10-00575 amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance and map of the City of Lucas, TX, by granting a change in zoning from agriculture (AO) to residential 2 acre lots (R2) and residential 1.5 acre lots (R1.5) on 58.97 acres generally located approx. 1000' West of Stinson Rd., and 2600' South of Lucas Rd.
- Approved Ordinance #2006-10-00576 providing for the designation of the official newspaper, McKinney Courier Gazette, by the City of Lucas for the purpose of publishing each ordinance, notice, or other matter required by law or ordinance to be published.
- Approved request for re-plat of Lot 6 of Chandler Addition consisting of 10.8 acres situated in the P.E. Lucas Survey, Abstract No. 1537 and the Benjamin Sparks Survey, Abstract No. 813, City of Lucas, Collin Co., TX.
- Approved Final Plat for 8.665 acres situated in the Benjamin Sparks Survey, Abstract No. 813, Tracts 96, 97, 98 in Collin Co., TX, property generally located North side of FM 1378, 1200' East of Lucas Rd. intersection.
- Awarded Engineering Design Contract to BW2 Engineers for two 750,000 gallon water tanks and pump upgrades at North pump station.

City Council Workshop Meeting, October 16, 2006

- Approved minutes from October 2, 2006 City Council Meeting.
- Approved ordinance amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 9 of Code of Ordinances, by adding Article 15.5 "ACCESSORY BUILDINGS, STRUCTURES AND USE REGULATIONS", Sections 9-130 through 9-135, providing regulations for accessory buildings, structures and uses in all zoning districts: by amending various sections of Chapter 9, to wit: Sections 9-30, 9-35, 9-38, 9-42, 9-43, 9-52, 9-53, 9-61, 9-70, 9-80, 9-95, 9-101, and 9-121 by adding provisions for accessory buildings, structures and uses and/or by amending to comply with Article 15.5 and/or by deleting and reserving for future use.
- Approved application request for Site Plan consisting of 28.45 acres situated in the William Snider Survey Abstract Number 821, Collin County, Texas. Property generally located at the NE Corner of FM2551 and Lucas Rd. Applicant was Stephen Preston of Sterling CentreCorp Management Services.

GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

By David Leonard, Captain, EMT-B, Lucas VFD



The Lucas Fire District stretches from Forest Grove Road on the North to Parker Road on the South, from FM 2551 on the West to Lake Lavon on the East for a total area of approximately 23 square miles. At the present time there are 27 firefighters within the department. During a major fire, manpower needs skyrocket and, especially during hot weather, the amount of time a firefighter can operate in extreme conditions is measured in minutes. The tasks associated with putting out a large fire are many, and take a toll on the strength and endurance of the members.

Due to these factors, Lucas VFD has an arrangement with Parker VFD to automatically assist on any fire calls. In a large city, the normal response to a "One Alarm" fire would be at least three engines, a ladder truck and one ambulance. Manpower assigned to a situation in the big city would be around 25 - 30 personnel. Depending on the time of day, the Lucas & Parker VFDs can put approximately 25 - 50 firefighters on the scene. Our two departments normally will respond with four engines and a manpower squad. Both departments are alerted by the Plano Dispatch Center, and with a simple keystroke are linked to the same radio frequency.

With such a close working relationship, both departments train together, usually on a monthly basis and know each other's capabilities and personnel. The officers of each department direct the scene through a recognized Incident Command system. During an emergency a bystander may see both department's officers working shoulder to shoulder.

Frequently there are needs for additional manpower or equipment and the call is then made to other neighboring departments. The Lucas VFD also works closely with Branch, Fairview, Wylie and Plano Fire Departments. Each of these groups has a unique niche that can be called upon in a time of need.

Of course Lucas VFD returns the favor and, in the event of a fire or manpower request, will respond to the City Of Parker with our resources. Because of foresight and planning, the cities of Lucas and Parker have doubled their firefighting capabilities. Owners of homes saved from total fire devastation in the recent past can attribute their situation to this arrangement.

During a major fire a citizen will observe many examples of neighbors helping neighbors, or in our case, departments helping departments, brothers helping brothers.

CITY WORKS



If you have attended City Council or any Board or Commission meetings, you know that they follow a certain pattern each time. What you may not know is that the manner in which meetings are announced and conducted is set forth under guidelines mandated by state law. The primary guidelines used were established by the "Open Meetings Act." The goal of this act was to require all government body meetings to be open and accessible to the public, except for expressly authorized executive sessions.

Any decisions that must be made by the governmental body must be made at a properly called meeting, and must be made by a quorum (majority) of the members of that body. This requirement is meant also to prevent members of the government body such as a city council from holding informal meetings "behind the public's back".

The law requires that the time, place, and subject matter of all meetings be posted at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in a readily accessible public place, such as City Hall.

Once the agenda has been set, members of the Council, Board, or Commission must follow that agenda. Although members of the public have no legal entitlement established by the Open Meetings Act to speak on any agenda items, our Council, Boards, and Commissions have established a precedent of including "Citizen Comments" sessions at the majority of their meetings. During these sessions, citizens are invited to speak out on not only any item on the agenda, but also on any other city matters that they wish to address. However, the members of the Council, Boards, or Commissions may not answer questions or engage in dialogue with speakers during this session. To do so could put them at risk of getting "off agenda", and thus potentially be in violation of the Open Meetings Act. The City does retain the right to set reasonable limits on the number, frequency, and length of presentations, but it may not unfairly discriminate among speakers for or against a certain point of view.

The Council, Board, or Commission may discuss a subject not listed on the agenda only as a proposal to place the subject on a future agenda. In a future column, we will discuss how agendas are set, and go through the various parts of the agenda in detail.

COMMISSIONER HOAGLAND PLEDGES TO MATCH FUNDS

County Commissioner Jerry Hoagland, right, is shown encouraging Lucas Fire Chief Jim Kitchens to lead his department in getting out and raising money for the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Hoagland has pledged to match up to \$600. in donations raised by the department. He has committed to give his entire salary increase for the next year (\$3,600.) to the six volunteer fire departments within his precinct.



Commissioner Hoagland is shown with members of the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department.



PARK IMPROVEMENTS



Working in conjunction with the Parks and Open Space Board, our director of public works, Stacy Caudell and his staff have recently made a number of improvements to our community ball park. They have installed a 10 ft. high fence at the front of the baseball field to protect cars in the parking lot from stray balls. Twenty tons of clay and sand have been spread on the infield to improve the playing surface. A new water cooler and an outdoor display board have also been installed. In addition, volleyball nets have been erected at both the ball park and Forest Creek Park. Other improvements to our city parks include two new wooden benches at Forest Creek Park. A special thanks goes to T.J. Alvizo of our public works department for all his hard work.



A TIME FOR GIVING

Allen Community Outreach is a United Way agency that serves the communities of Allen, Fairview, and Lucas, helping citizens in need of assistance.

A collection box is at City Hall, and will remain there through December. ACO has expressed specific needs for the following items:



<i>Gallon Jugs of Bottled Water</i>	<i>Diapers (sz. 5 & 6)</i>
<i>Dish Soap</i>	<i>Shampoo</i>
<i>Canned Foods</i>	<i>Laundry Detergent (small)</i>
<i>Toilet Paper</i>	<i>Paper Towels</i>
<i>Deodorant</i>	<i>Christmas Toys</i>

During this season of thankfulness, please consider helping those less fortunate by donating these much needed items.

BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICATION REMINDER

If you have not already completed an application, and wish to be considered for appointment or reappointment to either the Planning & Zoning Commission or the Parks and Open Space Board, you may obtain one either online at the City of Lucas website (click on *Forms*, then *Volunteer*.) or by picking up at City Hall. You may also call City Hall to have one faxed or mailed to you. City Council will be interviewing candidates for appointment for the 2007 terms of these boards and commissions on December 4th.

DROUGHT PLAN UPDATE

Although rain in October brought much needed relief from the high temperatures and summer drought, it did not significantly affect the water levels in Lake Lavon. We continue to be under the Stage 3 Drought Plan. As of October 17th, however, the outdoor burn ban was lifted. For status of the outdoor burn ban on any given day, you should call 972-548-4799, the Burn Information Hotline.

CITY OF LUCAS
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LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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