



The City of Lucas Newsletter

July 2015

665 Country Club Road - Lucas Texas - 75002 • 972.727.8999 • www.lucastexas.us



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

I sincerely hope everyone is drying out after a very wet couple of months.

At a recent City Council meeting a group of residents brought forward concerns about drainage in their neighborhood and the City overall.

Their concerns were heightened by the recent record rainfall and high water in their neighborhood. (I too, had a yard that looked like a marsh for a couple of days, and now I have little frogs everywhere.)

Drainage is something that we all need to be cognizant of as we do work in our yard or make improvements to our property. Sometimes a slight change in the topography of your yard can force water into your house, or push water into your neighbor's yard. Allowing the ditch that runs along the street to fill up with silt impacts the capacity of the ditch as well as changes the run-off water flows in the neighborhood. (I know the best looking grass in my yard is in the bar ditch because of the silt.)

The City Council empathized with the residents' and their concerns about protecting their property. So the City Council has directed Staff to look into the legal aspects as well as the engineering aspects of drainage in Lucas and bring this back for discussion. This is no small task because of all of the different ways property has been developed through the years, and there is not going to be a one size fits all solution to drainage issues in Lucas.

This also flows into the work that is being done to update the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is our (the residents) vision of Lucas in the future. By law, if we want to have zoning to guide growth in Lucas, we must have a Comprehensive Plan for the zoning and development to follow. This document needs to be revisited periodically to ensure that it is still what we envision Lucas to be. Our Planning and Zoning Commission recommended that we hold a Town Hall meeting, which we did on June 7th. We had a great representation from our residents at the meeting, and a "Questions and Answer" sheet from that session will be published soon. If you want to get in on the discussion, the Planning and Zoning Commission has the Comprehensive Plan on their agenda to discuss at each meeting. The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm at City Hall.

Please have a happy and safe 4th of July.

2015 City of Lucas Founders Day

When: Saturday, October 24, 2015

Time: 12:00—5:00

Where: Lucas Community Park
(next door to City Hall)



Whether you are a first time participant, or a seasoned veteran of the annual **City of Lucas Founders Day** event, you are bound to have a great time! Bring the whole family and come out for an afternoon of fun. You can watch the parade, listen to live entertainment, tempt your taste buds with the chili cook-off, and the kids can enjoy a variety of activities including the ever popular Stick Horse Rodeo, bounce houses, the Trick-or-Treat Trail, and more. Hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks are provided.

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering to work the event, please contact Rebecca Mark at lucasvolunteers@aol.com.

Watch for more details about booth and parade registration in our next newsletter.

Near Record Rainfall Causes Drainage Concerns

After several years of drought conditions, the North Texas area experienced the third wettest May in 117 years. It rained 24 out of 31 days in May. We were 0.68 inches away from being the wettest month on record. As a result, there were road closures, drainage system failures, and houses flooded. Lucas citizens



raised concerns with City Council Members and city staff regarding the responsibility of the city to maintain and manage drainage. If a home or property did not flood during these recent events, it most likely will not flood in the future if the private and public storm water systems are properly maintained. On June 18th, citizens shared their concerns with the Lucas City Council at the regular City Council meeting. City Manager Joni Clarke was asked by the Council to look into the complexities and costs associated with resolving various recurring drainage issues in town. Staff will be preparing this information during July to report back to the City Council in August or September.

Meeting Reminders for July

Date	Time	Description	Notes
July 2	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
July 3		City Hall Closed	City Hall
July 9	7:00 am	Planning & Zoning	City Hall
July 16	6:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
July 21	6:00 pm	Special Meeting City Council Budget & Tax Rate	City Hall
July 23	7:00 pm	Town Hall Meeting on Collector Street Project	City Hall
July 28	7:00 pm	Parks & Open Space Board	City Hall



City Council Action Highlights

- Approved an agreement between the City of Lucas and Seis Lagos Utility District commencing on October 1, 2015 for the provision of fire and emergency services.
- Approved an application for a Parks grant from Collin County Parks and Open Space Project Funding Assistance Program for a matching grant for a trail head on East Winningkoff Road.
- Approved the guidelines of the Service Tree Program and appointed a subcommittee to select nominations to bring those forward to the City Council for approval.
- Approved the TML Employee Benefits Pool Prerate Notice and Benefit Verification Form for Plan Year 15/16.
- Authorized the Mayor to enter into a contract with A&M Construction & Utilities, Inc. for the construction of the Osage Lane water line.
- Approved issuance of Certificates of Obligation to fund safety enhancements on Blondy Jhune and Winningkoff.
- Appointed Councilmember's Fisher, Duke, and Millsap as the Service Tree Program Sub-Committee.

Employee Spotlight

Jim Hurley, Building Inspector



Jim began working for the City of Lucas in October of 2013 and currently serves as a Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, and Fire Inspector. Jim became a member of the Lucas Fire Department as a Volunteer Firefighter in December 2010, and continues to serve the community in that capacity today. He holds Emergency Care Attendant and driver/operator certifications, and had the privilege of deploying with the LFD team to help fight the 2011 Magnolia, Texas wildfire. Jim received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Electrical Engineering while preparing for a prior career in electronics and defense systems. Still a bit geeky, he sometimes solves math problems just for entertainment.

Jim and his wife are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary this year. Longtime Lucas residents, they enjoy gourmet food, travel, and walking their two mutt dogs – one a Puggle (pug/beagle mix), and the other a Jack Russell wiener dog. The City is very proud to have Jim as part of both the City Hall staff, and as a volunteer member of the LFD.

Fireworks New Rules — Fireworks Prohibited

The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited within the City of Lucas and within 5,000 feet of its borders.



Fireworks are not only **illegal** in the City of Lucas and it's ETJs, they are also very dangerous. Despite the dangers of fireworks, few people understand the associated risks - fires, devastating burns and other injuries, and sometimes even death. It also terrifies pets and larger animals like horses.

Fireworks by the numbers—is it worth it?

In 2011, fireworks caused an estimated 17,800 fires including 1,200 total structure fires, 400 vehicle fires, and 16,300 outside and other fires. These fires resulted in an estimated eight deaths, 40 bodily injuries, and \$32 million in direct property damage. There were also 9,600 fireworks-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The risk of fireworks injury was highest for young people ages 15-24, followed by children under the age of 10.

In a typical year, more fires are reported in the U.S. on Independence Day than on any other day of the year, with fireworks accounting for two out of every five fires. This year it is expected there will be an abundance of dry grassy fuels because of the wet spring, so the chance for wildfires will be greatly enhanced.

Community Service Awards Program

Service Tree Program

By Mayor Pro-Tem Kathleen Peele

The City of Lucas recognizes that many of its citizens, businesses, civic organizations, church, and youth groups contribute in a significant manner to the City each day, without reward or recognition. The program's goals are to applaud and recognize activities that make a positive difference in our City, and to inspire others to think about how they might contribute.



To that end, the City of Lucas is establishing a Service Tree Award Program that will allow for appropriate annual recognition of an individual, business, youth or civic group who has contributed a significant and useful service to the community. The award will consist of the planting of a living tree on City property, and the presentation of an award plaque by the Mayor that will be placed by the Tree. The presentation will take place during the annual City of Lucas Founders Day event. The recipient(s) will have their picture taken and the photo, along with brief article of recognition, will be in the City's monthly newsletter.

To recommend an individual, business, or group for recognition, please fill out the Service Tree Award Nominating Form and return it to City Secretary, Stacy Henderson at City Hall, or by email to shenderson@lucastexas.us.

Forms can be picked up at the Lucas City Hall. Nominations must be submitted no later than August 15th, 2015.

Collector Street Project Public Meeting

The next public meeting to receive citizen input and feedback for the Collector Street Project will be Thursday, July 23rd at 7:00 pm at City Hall. City staff and consultants have been working on project elements to be included in a possible November bond election. Please make plans to attend and share your thoughts and ideas other citizens, the City Council, and staff.

Dates to keep in mind:

July 23 -- Town Hall Meeting

7:00 pm Lucas City Hall

**Town Hall
Meeting**

August 6 -- City Council decision on the Collector Street Project(s) and possible adoption of an Ordinance calling the Election.

Town Hall Meeting Recap

The City of Lucas held a Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, June 7th to discuss updating its Comprehensive Plan. It was attended by approximately 50 citizens who shared their vision for the future of Lucas. Important areas of discussion included whether the City could facilitate the implementation of a trail network for pedestrians and horses. Further, many citizens commented on commercial development and what, if anything, they would like to see come to fruition in Lucas. On behalf of the City Council, the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the Parks and Open Space Board, we want to sincerely thank the participants who took time out of their Sunday afternoon to provide their insight and desires for Lucas. As a reminder, the Planning and Zoning Commission meets the second Thursday of every month (next meeting is July 11th), and they have a standing item on their agenda to discuss the Comprehensive Plan. Please attend and provide your valuable insight.

Detailed notes from the Town Hall Meeting will be posted on the City's website.



2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year the City of Lucas and the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) produce a report to let our water customers know the condition and safety of our drinking water. The 2015 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) can be found at City Hall, and the City's website at <http://lucastexas.us/DocumentCenter/View/2875>.

The source of drinking water used by the City of Lucas is Purchased Surface Water from the NTMWD. The report describes the susceptibility and types of contaminants that may come into contact with your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions.

For more information on the report, please contact our Public Works Director Stanton Foerster, PE, at stanton@lucastexas.us or (972) 912-1208. Additional details about sources and source-water assessments are available online at www.dww.tceq.texas.gov/DWW, or by calling the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

Nighttime Driving Safety

Plenty of us hate night driving. There's no feeling quite like getting someone else's high beams shined in your eyes while driving on a dark road. But few of us realize how dangerous it can be. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, fatalities on the road occur at a rate three times greater at night than during the day. The proportion of nighttime driving is not likely to go down in today's round-the-clock economy making car headlights increasingly important to nighttime driving safety. But we can't just sit around waiting for the sun to come up.

Here are some helpful suggestions to safer nighttime driving:

- * Slow down and obey the speed limit.
- * Dim your vehicle's headlights at least 500 feet ahead of approaching vehicles, and within 300 feet when following another car.
- * Keep headlights clean. Headlight dirt can cut light output by 75 percent. Proper headlight aim also is very important and should be checked periodically.
- * Never look directly at a glaring headlight. Keep your eyes on the right edge of the road, but at the same time, pay attention to where the oncoming vehicle is by quick glances in that direction.
- * Greatly reduce speed when confronted with oncoming headlights that are not dimmed. Maintain reduced speed until your eyes are recovered from the glare.
- * Go slow on curves. Remember that your car will not automatically follow the direction of the curve.
- * Avoid using light of any kind in your car while driving at night. This includes using your cell phone.
- * Do not drive if tired. Fatigue reduces your ability to see clearly, and you may fall asleep when least aware of it.

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002

POSTAL PATRON