



The City of Lucas Newsletter

August 2015

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



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

It sure is getting hot out there and things are heating up here at City Hall as well. We have had several Town Hall meetings about the conditions of our neighborhood connector streets. The City Council has received a lot of valuable input about the condition of the streets and what the residents would like to see. The City Council is concerned about the condition of the pavement, and the drivability of not only the neighborhood connectors, but the residential streets as well. The City is still very interested in hearing from all of our residents about this issue. We are currently in the budget process and have to make a decision on asking the residents to consider a bond package that could top 15 million dollars. If you have any comments that you would like to pass on to the City Council about the neighborhood connector streets or your street, please contact City Hall and let us hear from you. Stay tuned and watch for more information that will be coming out about opportunities to participate and learn about the upcoming bond election. Also watch for opportunities to comment on the Comprehensive Plan, which is our vision for the future of Lucas. The Planning and Zoning Commission has this as a topic for discussion at their monthly meeting held the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at City Hall.

2015 City of Lucas Founders Day

When: Saturday, October 24, 2015

Time: 12:00—5:00

Where: Lucas Community Park
(next to City Hall)



Applications for booths and parade registration can be found on the City's website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/>.

Booths: Applications are being accepted for Arts & Crafts, Service Organizations, Non-Profit, and Commercial booths.

Parade: Applications are being accepted for participation in the annual Founders Day Parade.

Stick Horse Rodeo: The Stick Horse Rodeo is one of the most popular events of Founders Day. Participants of this year's rodeo are encouraged to come dressed in cowboy/cowgirl costumes, and to bring their own stick horses if available.

Costume Contest: This year's contest will be broken into age groups 0-4, 5-8, and 9-12, and separated into boys/girls.

Scarecrow Contest: New to this year's fun is the Scarecrow Competition. Lucas residents are encouraged to register and create a scarecrow display at their home or business location. We will have more details on this in upcoming newsletters.

Parking: Parking at City Hall will be limited to vendors and volunteers. Parking for parade participants will be at Hart Elementary. Additional parking will be at Little Harts Day Care. Carpooling to the event is encouraged.

Water Pressure Conservation

The City of Lucas is asking all residents to refrain from watering on the weekends. This simple action on your part will help ensure that we have adequate water pressure for all our residents, as well as for fire protection.

Reminder:

Watering between 10am and 6pm is prohibited!



! DON'T HOG ALL THE WATER !

Fiscal Year 15/16 Budget Highlights

By Finance Director Liz Exum

The City held a budget workshop on Tuesday, July 21st to discuss the preliminary budget for the FY 2015-2016 Fiscal Year. The proposed budget will be brought back to council for discussion on Thursday, August 6, 2015. Public Hearings are set for Thursday, August 20th, and Thursday, September 3rd, and the final budget will be presented to council for approval on Thursday, September 18, 2015. Highlights from Tuesday's work shop included: street conditions, long-term planning, replacement scheduling for fire department equipment, and planning for future staffing needs. The council has made street maintenance a priority for the next fiscal year by increasing the street maintenance budget to \$750,000.

Meeting Reminders for August

Date	Time	Description	Notes
Aug 6	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
Aug 13	7:00 am	Planning & Zoning	City Hall
Aug 20	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
Aug 25	7:00 pm	Parks & Open Space Board	City Hall

City Council Action Highlights

- City Council approved a one year agreement with Jab Broadband (DBA Skybeam Texas) for a Communications Facility License agreement.
- City Council appointed current Alternate Member, Andrew Sisson as a full voting regular member to the Board of Adjustment.
- City Council assigned the Development Agreement and the First Amendment to the Utilities Escrow Agreement to JCBR Holdings, LLC.
- Public hearings have been set for August 20, 2015, and September 3, 2015 to discuss the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.

MOVE OVER—IT'S THE LAW

From the City of Grand Prairie Police Department's Facebook page, June 18, 2015 at 6:17 pm

Today, we were blessed. One of our traffic officers had just made a traffic stop on a speeding motorist on IH-30 WB near Belt Line Road. The Officer was standing outside of his police car when he was suddenly struck from behind by another motorist. The crashed police car slammed into the officer, causing minor injuries. Thankfully, a passerby on a motorcycle stopped to help our officer by taking off his bandana and wrapping the officer's arm in it, stopping the bleeding. The officer was transported to a hospital where he was later released with some cuts, bumps and bruises. The driver that was initially stopped was also taken to a hospital and is expected to recover. Thank you to those who reached out to us with your thoughts and prayers!

Please remember, Texas Transportation Code 545.157 requires drivers nearing stopped emergency vehicles with lights activated to either slow down or change lanes.

The law states a driver must either vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction, or slow down 20 miles per hour below the speed limit. (If the speed limit is below 25 mph the driver must slow down to 5 mph.)

Employee Spotlight

Lance Gant, Lucas Fire Rescue Battalion Chief



Lance Gant joined the Lucas Fire Department in February 2011. His family was by his side at a recent City Council meeting when Lance was promoted to Battalion Chief. His wife Sharla, proudly pinned his new badge on as everyone stood and applauded Lance's accomplishment.

Lance served in the Marine Corp for 8 years, and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Texas in Emergency Administration and Planning, with a minor in Public Administration. Lance has been married to his high school sweetheart, Sharla for 15 years. They live in Allen with their two sons, Caleb and Carson. Lance has enjoyed serving as head coach for his son's baseball team for the past 8 years. In his spare time, Lance's hobbies include doing anything outdoors, and grilling out. The City of Lucas and the Lucas Fire Department are proud to have Lance Gant as part of our team.

Collector Street Project Has A New Name

By Public Works Director Stanton Foerster

Based on citizen input describing the plan to start improving Lucas roadways, the Collector Street Project will now be referred to as the Neighborhood Connector Project. The word "collector" conjured up ideas of multilane divided roadways for some folks, and Mayor Olk wants everyone to know that the Neighborhood Connector Project is about two lane, undivided streets.

During the Town Hall meeting on July 23, 2015, the Neighborhood Connectors discussed were Blondy Jhune Road, Winningkoff Road, Forest Grove Road, Snider Lane, and Stinson Road. Since April 2014, the City Council has been seeking input from citizens about what to do with our Neighborhood Connectors. General direction from our citizens include: keeping neighborhood connectors as narrow as possible; protecting the tree canopies; building what we need in the space that exists; considering room for horseback riding, pedestrians, and bicycle riders; improving drainage, culverts, and bridges; eliminating cut-through traffic; and being creative in improving safety.

On August 6th, City Council will consider all of this input to determine the need for a bond election in November and the amount of the money needed to fund the Neighborhood Connector Project.

Blondy Jhune Bridges

By Public Works Director Stanton Foerster

In January 2015, the City Council directed staff to move forward with the safety enhancements for the two bridges on Blondy Jhune Road. The construction funding was secured in June, and staff gave an update on the bridgework to City Council at the meeting on July 2.

Roadway surveys have been completed within the right-of-way which is generally defined by the fence rows. Some segments of the survey are delayed because letters of permission are needed from 14 homeowners. These areas are needed to start the detailed drainage and roadway designs. A "Right of Entry" form has been placed on the City's website, but to date, none of the 14 homeowners have signed the agreement.

The most important part of the bridge design stems from the survey work of the creek bed or channel up and downstream. This work is underway as well. The hydraulic (water flow) design information was still needed on both bridges on Blondy Jhune, and the consultant was reviewing various options related to the alignment of the bridges to reduce sight distance issues and safety concerns.

Alignments for horse riding and walking across the bridges is being reviewed by staff and the consultant. The options being discussed include parallel pathways on the same structure, or completely separate bridges and stream crossings.

FM1378 Maintenance Project

By Public Works Director Stanton Foerster



The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is performing maintenance milling and base repair operations on FM 1378 (Southview Drive, W Lucas Road, and Country Club Road) from Parker Road to Forest Grove Road. They will also be installing turn lanes at Lucas Christian Academy driveways, and at Seis Lagos Trail. Because this is a TxDOT project, the City is not directly involved and has very limited information regarding the schedule and work being done. Should you have any questions, please contact TxDOT at (972) 542-2345.

Fire Station Celebration

Save the date—Sunday, October 4, 2015 1:00 pm

On behalf of the Lucas City Council, you are invited to participate in the Grand Opening of the Lucas Fire Department addition. The renovation of the Frank Hamlin Fire Station adds much needed space including an upgraded living area, office space, and a training room to better serve the needs of our professional firefighters and emergency medical personnel. The Fire Department will also be hosting their annual Open House during this time - a family friendly event which provides citizens with a fun and educational experience. We encourage you to bring the children and take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions of our highly qualified, professionally trained personnel about the Fire Department, learn more about the services we provide, and see the actual equipment up close.

I called 911 for a fire truck, why did I get an ambulance?

By Fire Chief Jim Kitchens

The Lucas Fire Department has been asked this question more than once over the past year. A short explanation of fire behavior may help explain why the fire department wants a unit on scene as quickly as possible.

Depending on the source of the fire and the materials burning, a fire doubles in size every couple of minutes. All fires have one thing in common and that is they all start small and begin to grow until they are extinguished, or all until all of the fuel is consumed.

On April 1, 2014, the Lucas Fire Department became a combination department meaning we have both full time paid (career) and volunteer firefighters. The career firefighters are at the station 24 hours a day, seven days a week staffing the ambulance.

The Lucas Fire Department ambulance provides more service and function than a typical ambulance. The men and women staffing these units are also certified firefighters. They carry their firefighting gear and air packs, as well as a few firefighting tools to extinguish small fires before they become larger ones. The ambulance is able to get out of the fire station and navigate the roads in Lucas much faster than the large fire engines, thus getting a unit on scene in less time. This accomplishes two goals for the Fire Department. First, and in many cases, the first arriving ambulance has been able to extinguish the fire in a timely manner because it was still a small fire. The canisters they carry are filled with special foam that helps rapidly extinguish a fire. Secondly, if the fire is too large for them to handle, they can quickly assess the situation and give the additional responding fire units a quick size up of what will be needed to bring the fire under control. That critical information can include such things as whether or not a rescue is needed, what type of equipment will be required, where the closest fire hydrant is, the type of structure involved in the fire, and what area of the structure the fire is located in. All of this information saves valuable time and helps ensure the firefighters are equipped with everything they need to contain the fire as quickly as possible. We hope this clears up the question of why you get an ambulance when you call in a fire.

Can We Talk?

By City Secretary Stacy Henderson



Q. *Why is it important for the City to have my updated contact information?*

A. The Public Information Act, Texas Government Code Chapter 552, gives you the right to access government records. All government information is presumed to be available to the public. So what does this mean to you? It means that Governmental bodies are required to release requested information that is not confidential by law, or information for which an exception to disclosure has not been sought. The City would like to ensure that your information is kept private if that is your desire.

Having your updated information on file assists the City in notifying you regarding public safety items, street closures, disruption to your water service, or other pertinent information. The City needs your help in updating our records. In the September water bill, you will find a Confidentiality Authorization form that allows us to protect your information. Please complete the form with your current information, check the box at the bottom regarding your desire to keep your records private, and return it to City Hall. You can include it with your water payment, place it in the drop box in front of City Hall, mail it, or by coming into City Hall and giving your completed/signed form to Delta Moody in Utility Billing.

Update on the Comprehensive Plan

By Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

The City of Lucas entered into an agreement with Metropolitan Infrastructure to update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a document that the City uses to guide future development in the city, as well as plan for infrastructure improvements to support the proposed development. The components include the Park Master Plan, the City Thoroughfare Plan, the Water System, Economic Development, Drainage, and land use.

The purpose of the plan is to provide guidance for community decisions, especially those relating to land use, protecting private property rights, safeguarding the area's rural character, and maintaining a high quality of life for its residents. The plan is a compilation of information ranging from city population to the local economy, public services, natural resources, land uses, and more. The goal is to better understand in what direction the residents foresee the growth of the city, and to plan accordingly. This may include specifying certain areas for commercial development, residential development, or areas to be preserved in their natural state. These decisions will be based on input from interested residents, economic factors, existing areas of development, and pertinent environmental factors. Our current plan was adopted in 2004 with updates in 2006, and 2014. The updates that have been made affected only parts of the plan, and not the entire plan. A Town Hall meeting was held on June 7th, with an impressive turn out of citizens asking questions and providing their thoughts on the future of Lucas. Notes from that meeting can be found on the City's website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/DocumentCenter/View/2874>.

The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be August 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm. They will have a standing item to discuss the Comprehensive Plan on the agenda for each meeting for the next three or four months. Residents interested in learning more or in sharing their input are encouraged to attend the meetings. You can also contact me directly at jhilbourn@lucastexas.us if you have any questions or concerns. The current timetable is to have a plan ready for adoption in January of 2016.

Community Service Awards Program

Hurry!!! Time is running out to submit your application for the first annual **Service Tree Awards Program**. Nominations must be submitted by **August 15, 2015**. You can learn more about the program, and find the nomination form on our website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/>.

CITY OF LUCAS
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PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002

POSTAL PATRON