



Lucas City Newsletter

April, 2007

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)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember
(dzriny@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
(kpeeel@lucastexas.us)

City Administrator

Charles Fenner
(cfenner@lucastexas.us)

IMPORTANT REMINDER

SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON WASTEWATER (SEWER) MASTER PLAN TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 5

The second public hearing will be held during the regular City Council meeting at the City Hall Annex at 7:00pm, April 5. The first hearing was held on March 8. This is an issue that is very important to the future of Lucas as it deals with whether or not an ordinance should be passed to amend the existing City Comprehensive Plan to include a Wastewater Master Plan that would provide for limited sewer service to designated commercial areas.

Public input is invited, either in person at the hearing, or by faxing, emailing, or writing to the City Secretary. The fax number is 972-727-0081, and the email address is secretary@lucastexas.us. Your comments will be entered into the records of the council meeting.

If you have not already done so, you may review the proposed plan on the city website at www.lucastexas.us. Flyers giving more background information about the plan were included in the last newsletter, and copies are still available at city hall.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular Thurs., April 5
Planning & Zoning Thurs., April 12
City Council Workshop Thurs., April 19
Parks & Open Space Thurs., April 26
Municipal Court Wed., April 25, 5:30 PM

CANDIDATES FOR MAY COUNCIL ELECTION

The following candidates have filed for places on the ballot for the May 12 General and Special Election for City Council.

General Election (two year terms)

- Mayor: Bill Carmickle
- Council Member : Don Zriny (incumbent)-unopposed
- Mark Barrett-unopposed

Special Election (one year term to fill vacancy)

- Council Member: Wayne Millsap
- Michael Hughes

Debbie Fisher has filed notice of her intent to run for Mayor as a write-in candidate.

Early voting will begin on April 30. You must be registered in the appropriation jurisdiction at least 30 days prior to the election in order to vote.

“WHEN DECLARING YOUR RIGHTS, DON’T FORGET YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES.”



IT'S SPRING! ARE YOU PREPARED?

By Council Member Kathleen Peele

Ahh, Spring! I love this weather, trees budding out, bulbs in bloom, and spring rains. But, it's also Texas, and having lived here for 25 years, I know how quickly the weather can change and how severe it can become.

The Dept. of Homeland Security has run a television ad campaign urging families to create a disaster/emergency plan. What isn't mentioned is the importance of including plans for the furry, hairy, feathery, or wooly animals in our lives. In my case that's 1 parrot, 4 dogs, and 3 horses. While the parrot and dogs don't present much of a problem – load them in the car and away we go – my much larger family members present more of a challenge. Many of my neighbors here in Lucas have the same issue, so I'd like to share some of the ideas I've gathered and give you a few resources to assist you in developing an emergency plan for those larger furry, hairy, or wooly creatures in your family.

- Find a safe place - Have a list of friends, relatives, boarding facilities, race tracks, show grounds, pastures, stables, fairgrounds, or arenas outside your immediate area and make arrangements ahead of time for them to be taken there. If these animals must be left behind make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor, friend or relative to look after them. Leave these people a list of your and your veterinarian and farrier contact numbers. Include information about the animal's food, vaccinations and any medication. Post a copy of this information visibly in your barn and your horse trailer. Keep a copy in the truck you use to pull that trailer.
- Develop an evacuation plan – Keep gas in your truck, keep the trailer ready to hitch up (know where that key to the trailer lock is), and tires inflated. Have maps of the local area and alternate evacuation routes marked to your designated safe place. Make sure that your animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer. If you do not have enough trailers to transport all of your animals, contact neighbors or local haulers and establish a network of available resources that will assist with transportation.
- Have an evacuation kit – you can purchase these already put together or make your own in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container. Some of the items to include for our equine family members are: bandannas (to use as blind-folds), duct tape, first aid kit, heavy gloves, hoof knife,

pick, nippers, & rasp, halters & leads, and wire cutters. Consult your veterinarian when putting together the first aid kit.

- ID your animals – two inexpensive, easy ideas are to braid a luggage tag into tail or mane or use a permanent marker to mark hooves. Keep photo's and copies of vaccination records and registrations in a zip lock bag as part of your evacuation kit. This will help to identify your animal should they become loose.
 - The following Web sites provide more detailed information:
 - o The American Veterinary Medical Association has a series of brochures on this topic. The text of these brochures can be found at: www.avma.org/disaster/.
 - o The American Red Cross has information on disaster & emergency planning for livestock and wildlife: <http://www.redcross.org>.
- The Humane Society also provides disaster / emergency planning: <http://www.hsus.org>.

Enjoy spring safe and secure in the knowledge that *all* those you care about have been planned and prepared for in case of emergency.

WATER BILL REMINDER

As a friendly reminder, all water bills are due for payment on the 10th of the month, even if the 10th falls on a weekend day. In such cases, the payment must be at City Hall no later than 8:00 AM on the following Monday in order to avoid the late charge of \$10.00 that is assessed on all payments not received by the due date. For your convenience, there is a drop slot by the front door entrance (south end of the building) where you may leave your payment after hours.

One way to avoid the worry of a possible late payment is to use the City's convenient Direct Payment Plan. You simply complete a Direct Payment Form that can be obtained at City Hall or on the City web site. Return the completed form along with a voided check or deposit slip to City Hall. Payments will be automatically deducted from your checking account each month.

Meters are read mid-month and billings are mailed out on or before the 25th of each month. If you have not received your bill by the 1st of the month, you should call City Hall. If you receive your bill and believe there is an error, you should contact City Hall immediately.

MARCH CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

March 1, 2007 City Council Regular Meeting

- Approved minutes from January 18, 2007 City Council Workshop, February 1, 2007 City Council Regular Meeting and February 15, 2007 Workshop Meeting.
- Approved Ordinance #2007-03-00585, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, by amending Article 3.04, Building Code, by adding a new Subsection 3.04.004, Construction Site Maintenance, to provide for roll-off containers, and providing for the establishment of a fee.
- Approved Ordinance #2007-03-00586, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 3, Building Regulations, by amending Article 3.08, Residential Code, by adding a new Subsection 3.08.03, Construction Site Maintenance to provide for roll-off containers, and providing for the establishment of a fee.
- Approved Ordinance #2007-03-00587, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 1.04, by amending Division 3, City Secretary, by deleting Section 1.04.067, duties as accountant for the City and reserving said section for future use; and amending Article 1.04 by adding division 6., Finance Manager of the Office of Finances; providing for a person to be appointed by the City Administrator; providing for duties; amending Chapter 1, General Provisions, Article 1.04, City Officers, by adding Division 7., City Attorney; there is hereby created a position City Attorney; providing for appointment by City Council.
- Approved a resolution amending Resolution #R2007-01-00285, Master Fee Schedule to include rates for fire inspection services.
- Approved Resolution #R2007-03-00288, deeming the Lovejoy 5K Walk/Run as a public event serving a public purpose by supporting the school district's extracurricular activities; approving the terms and conditions of an agreement by and between the State of Texas, acting by and through the Texas Department of Transportation, and the City of Lucas for the temporary closure of state right-of-way.
- Approved Resolution #R2007-03-00289, declaring the City Council's opposition to the expansion of the McKinney, Texas Municipal Airport into a regional commercial passenger and/or freight airport; providing for the filing of such opposition with the Texas Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Agency, County Court of Collin County, and the City of McKinney, and authorizing the Mayor to sign such resolution.
- Approved Resolution #R2007-03-00290 adopting an annexation plan for the City.

March 15, City Council Workshop Meeting

- Approved submission of list of roads for maintenance repairs through an interlocal agreement with Collin County for year 2008.
- Authorized expenditure of \$43,015 to Collin County for maintenance of section of W. Lucas Road.

IT'S TIME FOR SPRING CLEANING!

It's that time of year when most of us begin the task of spring cleaning. As everything begins to turn green, and the weather becomes warmer, we also begin to clean out our flower beds, remove the yard weeds, and cut back the brush that has sprung up after the recent rains.

If you have yard debris to be removed, Barnes Waste Disposal, our City trash services provider, will pick up brush that has been cut into 4 ft. lengths in bundles weighing no more than 35 lbs. on your regular trash collection day.

If you have a larger amount of debris to be removed, they will pick up 2 cubic yards (approx. the size of a sofa) on request at no extra charge on your regular trash day any two weeks during the month. For more information, you can reach them at 972-396-1139.

If you choose to burn your brush and yard debris, you must follow the City's Burn Control Guidelines. You must first call Plano Dispatch at 972-941-7900 and request "fire dispatch" to verify that it is an approved burn day (determined by wind, drought, or ozone conditions). You will be asked for your name, location, and intended time of burn. For complete Burn Control Guidelines, visit the City web site, and click on Public Safety. You will be taken to a section titled Lucas Volunteer Fire Dept. where you then can click on "Burn Control Guidelines". You may also call Lucas Fire Department at 972-727-1242 for information on the guidelines.

ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED



There are still election worker slots to be filled for the May 12 General and Special Elections. An Election Judge, Alternate Election Judge, and four (4) election clerks will be required. No experience is necessary, and workers receive compensation. Please contact City Secretary, Kathy Wingo, at 972-727-8999 for more information

WE NEED YOU!

In the March newsletter, there was a list of committees for which we need citizen participation. They include the Economic Development Committee, the Citizens Advisory Committee on Public Safety, and the Home Rule Commission. At this time, there is still a need for more citizen volunteers to serve on these committees.

If you have previously completed a volunteer application form, it should still be on file. However, if it was completed prior to the call for volunteers for these three new committees/commissions, you may want to call the City Secretary at 972-727-8999, or email her at secretary@lucastexas.us to express your interest on serving on a specific committee or commission. The Home Rule Commission alone needs at least fifteen (15) members, so there are a great many opportunities to serve. As a reminder, in order to serve on any of these committees, you must have been a Lucas resident for at least six (6) months.

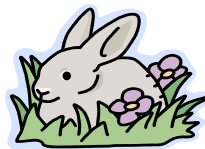
For detailed information on any of these advisory groups, contact any City Council Member.

**LOVEJOY 5K WALK/RUN ON
MAY 12**



At their regular meeting on March 1, City Council approved a resolution supporting a 5K walk/run to be held by the Lovejoy Schools booster clubs as a public event on Saturday, May 12. The event will be held in the morning hours, beginning around 8:00AM, and some roads may be partially closed for a short time during the event. The walk/run will begin at Lovejoy High School and will proceed west on Estates Parkway, turning north on to Rockridge Rd to Exchange Parkway, and returning along the same route. Law enforcement personnel will be along the designated route to ensure participant safety, as well as to make sure residents along the route will have access and egress to their homes.

Special Event signs will be placed in the appropriate locations during the event.



Happy Easter

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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

POSTAL PATRON