



# Lucas City Newsletter

August, 2011

[newsletter@lucastexas.us](mailto:newsletter@lucastexas.us)

665 Country Club Road, Lucas TX 75002 • 972/727-8999 • [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us)

### City Council

- Rebecca Mark, Mayor  
([rmark@lucastexas.us](mailto:rmark@lucastexas.us))
- Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem  
([kpeelee@lucastexas.us](mailto:kpeelee@lucastexas.us))
- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember  
([wmillsap@lucastexas.us](mailto:wmillsap@lucastexas.us))
- Jim Olk, Councilmember  
([jolk@lucastexas.us](mailto:jolk@lucastexas.us))
- Don Zriny, Councilmember  
([dzriny@lucastexas.us](mailto:dzriny@lucastexas.us))
- Philip Lawrence, Councilmember  
([plawrence@lucastexas.us](mailto:plawrence@lucastexas.us))
- Debbie Fisher, Councilmember  
([dfisher@lucastexas.us](mailto:dfisher@lucastexas.us))

### City Manager

Jeff Jenkins  
([jjenkins@lucastexas.us](mailto:jjenkins@lucastexas.us))



### THOUGHTS FROM THE MAYOR

It's August, and the heat isn't the only thing on your elected officials' minds this time of year. Our City's fiscal year begins October 1, and the annual budgeting process begins in August. Our City Manager, Jeff Jenkins, and his staff have started the process of evaluating our past year's income and expenditures

in great detail in order to prepare a budget for the coming year to be reviewed and approved by Council. This is a very thorough process that takes into consideration future needs of the city, in such areas as road improvements, staffing needs, equipment and facilities demands and many other expenses that the City will need to fund for over the coming year.

It is always a challenge to balance revenues, (in our case, mainly property taxes due to our current limited sales tax revenue) with expenditures needed to maintain and improve our city. By law, ( in simple terms) we must maintain two separate funds, one an "enterprise" fund (I.e. water), and the other a "general" fund (all other revenues) that cannot be co-mingled. Simply put, revenue from water bills can only be spent on water related expenses. Our taxes go into the "general fund", and it is the revenue vs. expenditures out of this fund that determine needed property tax levels.

We take this process very seriously, and your councilmembers go over the budget for the coming year in the greatest of detail. We are very mindful of the need to achieve a balanced budget, while avoiding tax increases. We have been very successful over the past few years at maintaining healthy fund balances, with no increases in city property taxes. You have our commitment to continue to work towards maintaining this same financial position for the coming fiscal year.

City Council is currently accepting applications for three (3) volunteers to serve on the City of Lucas' Fire Department Advisory Committee. Please contact City Hall for more information or to obtain an application, (972) 727-8999 or [secretary@lucastexas.us](mailto:secretary@lucastexas.us).

### Meeting Schedule

**All meetings begin at 7:00 PM**

City Council Regular

Thursday, Aug. 4

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, Aug. 11

Municipal Court

Wednesday, Aug. 17, 3 PM

City Council Workshop

Thursday, Aug. 18

Parks & Open Space Board

Monday, Aug. 22



*1st day of  
school,  
Monday, August  
22, 2011*

## **Volunteers Needed**

Over the next few weeks the City will be accepting applications to serve on the various boards, commissions and advisory committees. Nominations and appointments will be made in November. If you would like to volunteer please complete a volunteer application and mail to ATTN: City Secretary, 665 Country Club, Lucas, TX, 75002 or email to [kwingo@lucastexas.us](mailto:kwingo@lucastexas.us) or fax to 972-727-0091.

An application can be found on the City's website:  
[http://www.lucastexas.us/objects/Volunteer\\_Application-1.pdf](http://www.lucastexas.us/objects/Volunteer_Application-1.pdf)

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## **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**

After a disaster citizens may be on their own for up to 72 hours until the first responders can reach them. The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program teaches citizens the skills they need to help themselves, families and neighbors until help can arrive. The CERT training is conducted once a week for nine weeks on Wednesdays from 6:30 pm—9:30 pm and one Saturday morning for the disaster day exercise. CERT training includes Disaster Preparedness, Fire Safety, Disaster Medical Operations, Part one and two, Light Search and Rescue Operations, CERT Organization, Disaster Psychology, Terrorism and CERT, and course review and Disaster Simulation.

In order to be eligible to attend CERT Training, you must be eighteen (18) years old, hold a valid Texas drivers license, pass a background check and attend all 9 units and disaster day exercise.

After completing the CERT training additional non-disaster opportunities and trainings will be available , some included, but is not limited to, helping the Lucas Fire Department with Disaster Preparedness events, Community Outreach and Events, Disaster Drills, Fire Rehabilitation training to help staff a fire rehabilitation unit to help the firefighters recuperate during large fires, ham radio communications, and fire safety/prevention.

If you are interested in attending training or would like more information contact Bobette Mauck - [bmauck@lucasfire.com](mailto:bmauck@lucasfire.com)



## **Water Facts**

A recent survey conducted by North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) reveals that 33% of residents admitted they water their lawn three or more times a week—a practice detrimental to lawns and a common waste of water according to area agronomists. According to the Texas AgriLife Extension Service, the typical North Texas home with an automatic sprinkler system has five irrigation zones and each zone applies 15 gallons of water per minute, so during the typical watering cycle of 10 minutes per zone, the average sprinkler system in North Texas sprays about 750 gallons.

The survey also revealed that 70% of North Texans think they use more water indoors than out. “The truth is more water is used outdoors,” said Jim Parks, NTMWD executive director. “In the summer, outdoor water use can account for up to 80 percent of home water use, and about half of that is wasted due to over-watering of our lawns, broken sprinklers or water runoff according to the Texas Water Development Board.”

“Now imagine if one of those sprinklers is misaligned,” continued Parks. “That’s a lot of water – and money – down the drain.”

For more Water IQ visit:  
<http://northtexas.wateriqknowyourwater.org>

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## **Stage 1 NTMWD Water Conservation and Drought Contingency Plan**

1. No watering between the hours of 10 AM to 6 PM
2. Recommend, no watering of impervious surfaces
3. Recommend, no watering during precipitation
4. Recommend, treated water may not be used to fill or refill ponds
5. Recommend, “at home” car washing to be done using a water hose with shut off nozzle
6. Recommend, of areas overseeded with cool season grass (rye, winter or other) is not allowed, except for golf courses.

## Actions from City Council

- \* Approved **Ordinance # 2011-06-00681** authorizing the issuance of “City of Lucas, Texas Combination Tax and Limited Pledge Revenue Certificates of Obligation, Series 2011”; providing for the payment of said certificates by the levy of an ad valorem tax upon all taxable property within the City and further securing said certificates by a lien on and pledge of the pledged revenues of the system; providing the terms and conditions of said certificates and resolving other matters incident and relating to the issuance, payment, security, sale and delivery of said certificates; including the approval and distribution of an official statement pertaining thereto; authorizing the execution of a paying agent/registrar agreement; complying with the requirements imposed by the letter of representations previously executed with the depository trust company; and providing for an effective date.
- \* Created a Fire Department Advisory Committee and appointed Councilmember Wayne Millsap, Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele, City Manager Jeff Jenkins, Building Official Joe Hilbourn, Fire Chief Jim Kitchens to serve. Three (3) citizens will be named at a later date to participate.
- \* Approved a contract between the City and BW2 Engineering for a Right-of-Way Survey for Stinson Road in an amount not to exceed \$48,500.
- \* Appointed Kathleen Peele to serve as Mayor Pro Tem for a period of one (1) year.
- \* Approved **Ordinance # 2011-06-00682** amending the Code of Ordinances, by amending Chapter 1 “General Provisions,” by amending Article 1.05 “Boards, Commissions and Committees,” by amending Section 1.05.003 “Appointment of Members” to establish two year terms for members of boards, commissions and cooperations; amending Section 1.05.032, “Composition; Appointment and Term of Members” to establish dates of appointment for the Planning and Zoning Commission; amending Article 1.09 “Parks and Recreation” by repealing Section 1.09.032 in its entirety and reserving for future use; providing a savings clause; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.

- \* Appointed the following City Council Liaison(s) to serve for one (1) year: Parks & Open Space Board, Jim Olk; Board of Adjustments, Kathleen Peele; Planning & Zoning Commission, Rebecca Mark; North Texas Municipal Water District, Debbie Fisher; and North Central Texas Council of Governments, Philip Lawrence.
- \* Appointed Andre Guillemaud as the Alternate Commissioner to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Bob Johnson, Chris Vanhorn, and John Spencer to serve on the Capital Improvements Advisory Committee.



### Lucas Fire/Rescue Goes West

By: Craig Zale

March 18, 2011,  
three Lucas fire  
fighters were de-  
ployed to help with

fighting the West Texas wildfires. The team was assigned to the “Wildcat” fire in Tom Green and Coke Counties as part of the Texas Intra-State Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS), task force 4. Operations Chief/EMT Craig Zale, Captain/ECA James Tellier and Lieutenant/Paramedic Jonathan Haynes worked one of the largest fires in this part of Texas in many years, as some 155,000 plus acres were involved on this one fire alone. The firefighters were there for a four day deployment. They worked 12 to 18 hour days, catching sleep in a San Angelo motel provided by the state and eating whenever time allowed.

They were deployed as part of the Tri County Task Force Team was made up of first responders from Collin, Hunt and Rockwall Counties. This was by far the largest fire any of our firefighters have fought. They helped keep several homes from burning and made many quick stops that kept the fire from going east, beyond Hwy 277. Costs for the deployment will be reimbursed to the city by the state for use of the equipment, fuel and supplies.

If you would like to learn more about these fires you can check out the Lucas Fire Department’s web site for pictures at: <http://www.lucasfire.com/Runs/2011/Wildfire/index.html>

## JUNK CARS, PUBLIC NUISANCES, & NEGLECTED PROPERTY

BY: Brian Blythe, Code Enforcement Officer



Just a reminder, it is time to do some yard cleaning around Lucas. The City of Lucas' Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6 "Health & Sanitation", Article 6.02 states that it is unlawful to leave piles of debris, garbage, scrap metal, tires, car parts, old construction materials, and appliances laying about residential properties in the city.

Chapter 8 "Offenses & Nuisances", Article 8.02 states it is unlawful to have non operating, un-registered, and/or dismantled vehicles left upon residential properties, or on public streets.

A junked vehicle, including a part of a junked vehicle, that is located in a place where it is visible at any time of the year from a public place or public right-of-way is detrimental to the safety and welfare of the public, tends to reduce the value of private property, invites vandalism, creates a fire hazard, is an attractive nuisance creating a hazard to the health and safety of minors, produces urban blight adverse to the maintenance and continuing development of the city, and is hereby declared a public nuisance.



Residents who wish to report a possible code violation may obtain a Citizen Complaint Form at City Hall during business hours, 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday–Friday.

CITY OF LUCAS  
665 COUNTRY CLUB  
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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