



Lucas City Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue 12

December , 2009

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

CITY COUNCIL

BILL CARMICKLE, MAYOR

(BCARMICKLE@LUCASTEXAS.US)

KATHLEEN PEELE, MAYOR PRO TEM

(KPEELE@LUCASTEXAS.US)

MARK BARRATT, COUNCILMEMBER

(MBARRATT@LUCASTEXAS.US)

DEBBIE FISHER, COUNCILMEMBER

(DFISHER@LUCASTEXAS.US)

REBECCA MARK, COUNCILMEMBER

(RMARK@LUCASTEXAS.US)

WAYNE MILLSAP, COUNCILMEMBER

(WMILLSAP@LUCASTEXAS.US)

DON ZRINY, COUNCILMEMBER

(DZRINY@LUCASTEXAS.US)

CITY MANAGER

ROBERT PATRICK

(RPATRICK@LUCASTEXAS.US)

MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 IN THE NEW CITY HALL UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**

**PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
CANCELLED**

**CITY HALL CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 & 25**



November and December are the months when people are looking to extend the joy of giving to those most in need. This month, I'm encouraging those who are already giving back to keep doing what you are doing, and for those looking for a good time to start, this is it. Not just because of the holidays, but because this year nonprofit organizations and charitable programs need your help

more than ever.

Most area nonprofits throughout 2009 have seen an increase in demand for their services amid a decrease in funding support needed to deliver those services. Thus far in 2009, a drop in financial donations up against a large increase in calls for assistance to continue providing critical human services throughout our community and around the world.

Furthermore, the holiday season brings about a heightened need for help as nonprofits gear up to offer extra support to those in need. Here are some ways to make your holidays a charitable experience:

- Help the homeless enjoy Christmas
- Donate a toy to a child in need
- Make your corporate gifts charitable
- Volunteer with the Red Cross
- Adopt a pet from the Humane Society
- Plant a tree in honor of a special person
- Support US soldiers
- Support a good cause with friends

Drop off canned goods and unwrapped toys to City Hall. All canned goods and toys collected will go to a community food bank to help families during the upcoming holidays.

The City Council and City Staff wish your family, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Community Corner

A HOLIDAY INVITATION TO THE COMMUNITY

The Mayor, Councilmembers, and City Staff want to invite all of you to celebrate the holiday season with us at an open house and Christmas party to be held at our new City Hall on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 12:00-4:00PM. Come join us for a fun holiday celebration that will include refreshments, Christmas music, and even a visit from Santa Claus.

Santa will be arriving via fire truck at 1:00 PM. (His sleigh will be back at the North Pole getting its annual tune up prior to the big Christmas trip). He will then be at the party for the rest of the afternoon to talk to all the good boys and girls about their Christmas wish lists. We are inviting all residents to help decorate City Hall by participating in a tree ornament decorating contest. See the box inset below for contest details.

We will be giving tours of our wonderful new City Hall, and hope all of you will join us for this holiday celebration.



HOLIDAY TREE ORNAMENT CONTEST

City of Lucas kids of all ages (including those who are young at heart if not of body) are invited to participate in a handmade ornament contest. Prizes and categories are as follows

- Category 1: Tots thru Elem. School Students
- Category 2: Middle and High School Students
- Category 3: Adults

First, Second and Third Prizes will be awarded in each category in the following amounts:

1st Prize: \$75.00, 2nd Prize: \$50.00, 3rd Prize: \$25.00

Put your imaginations to work and help decorate our Christmas trees at City Hall. Ornaments may be dropped off at City Hall beginning on Monday, Nov. 30, thru 2:00 PM on Saturday, Dec. 12. Judging will begin after 2:00 PM at the Christmas Party, and winners will be announced at around 3:45 PM that day.

Please attach a small tag to your ornaments with name and age (prize category.) Only one entry per person will be allowed. Entry forms with contact information will be completed at City Hall

Bobby Parr

By Lisa Pruett

Bobby Parr is one of the last few residents in Lucas that actually grew up here. Because of the pride he has for Lucas and simply because he's just a nice guy, he mows the frontage along Stinson Road for his neighbors. This may not seem like much until you consider that that frontage is about 5,934 feet and includes fifteen of his neighbor's properties. Bobby does not "get" anything for doing this but the satisfaction of being a good neighbor and the pride of beautifying our neighborhood. Please come by Stinson Road sometime and you'll see him out there with a big smile on his face waving hello to all the passersby. If you take a moment to stop and say hello, you can be sure that he'll have a humorous story to share!

I'd like to share a story about an experience I had before I knew Mr. Parr and turned out to be my introduction to knowing him. When I was new to the neighborhood I used to drag my push cart over to the McKamy farm to get their horse manure for my garden. One day the tire went flat on that old thing and I was telling Melvin McKamy about how I had looked everywhere for a tire that would fit it but could not find one. A few days later a tire appeared on my front porch that fit that old cart. I didn't know who could have it left since Melvin said that he had not. It made me wonder which of my generous neighbors would do such a thoughtful thing. That got me to thinking about how lucky I am to live in such a place where the people are so friendly and helpful that you are not sure who to thank. Yep, it was Bobby, someone had mentioned something to him and that was it. This is what it means to me to live in Lucas.

Deter, Detect & Defend

Avoid ID Theft

Identify theft is a serious crime. It occurs when your personal information is stolen and used without your knowledge to commit fraud or other crimes. Identify theft can cost you time and money. It can destroy your credit and ruin your good name.

Deter identify thieves by safeguarding your information.

Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information before you discard them.

Protect your Social Security number. Don't carry your Social Security card in your wallet or write your Social Security number on a check. Give it out only if absolutely necessary or ask to use another identifier.

Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet unless you know who you are dealing with.

Never click on links sent in unsolicited emails; instead, type in a web address you know. Use firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software to protect your home computer; keep them up-to-date. Visit www.OnguardOnline.gov for more information.

Don't use an obvious password like your birth date, your mother's maiden name, or the last four digits of your Social Security number.

Keep your personal information in a secure place at home, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.

Detect suspicious activity by routinely monitoring your financial accounts and billing statements.

Be alert to signs that require immediate attention:

- Bills that do not arrive as expected
- Unexpected credit cards or account statements
- Denials of credit for no apparent reason
- Calls or letters about purchases you did not make

Inspect:

Your credit report. Credit reports contain information about you, including what accounts you have and your bill paying history.

The law requires that major nationwide consumer reporting companies – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – to give you a free copy of your credit report each year if you ask for it.

Visit www.annualcreditreport.com or call 1-877-322-8228,

a service created by these three companies, to order your free credit reports each year. You can also write: Annual Credit Report Request Service, PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

Your financial statements. Review financial accounts and billing statements regularly, looking for charges you did not make.

Defend against ID theft as soon as you suspect it.

Place a "Fraud Alert" on your credit reports, and review the reports carefully. The alert tells creditors to follow certain procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer report companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert; a call to one company is sufficient:

TransUnion 1-800-680-7289

Equifax 1-800-525-6285

Experian 1-888-EXPERIAN (397-3742)

Placing a fraud alert entitles you to free copies of your credit reports. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you did not open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain.

Close accounts. Close any accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently.

Call the security or fraud departments of each company where an account was opened and changed without your okay. Follow up in writing, with copies of supporting documents.

Use the ID Theft Affidavit at ftc.gov/idtheft to support your written statement.

Ask for verification that the disputed account has been closed and fraudulent debts discharged.

Keep copies of documents and records of your conversations about the theft.

File a police report. File a report with law enforcement officials to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime.

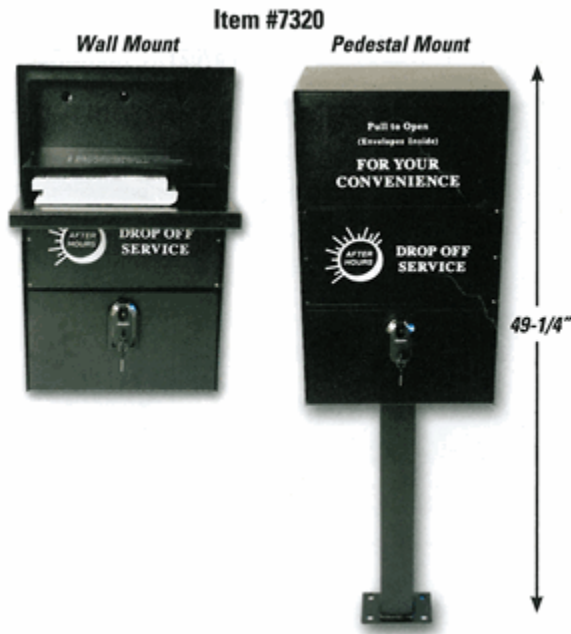
Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement official across the count in their investigations.

Online: ftc.gov/idtheft

By phone: 1-877-ID-THEFT (438-4338) or TYY, 1-866-653-4261

By mail: Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC 20580

Night Drop Box



The City of Lucas provides a drive-up night drop box for the citizen's convenience when paying your water bill. It is located at 665 Country Club, near the flag poles, in the parking lot at City Hall. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Delta Moody, 972-727-8999 X 409.

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

CANDIDATE PACKETS TO BE AVAILABLE JANUARY 15

There will be three (3) councilmember seats on the ballot this May; seats 4, 5, and 6. The election, which will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2010, will be officially called by the City Council at its regular meeting in February, as prescribed by the State Election Code. Persons who are interested in filing as candidates for any of these seats may pick up a packet at City Hall, 665 Country Club, beginning January 15. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is February 6, 2010. Please contact City Secretary Kathy Wingo for any questions regarding the candidate packets.

December 17th City Council Meeting Cancelled

The City of Lucas' City Council has cancelled the second meeting in the month of December due to the holiday. The next regular scheduled City Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th.

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

POSTAL PATRON