



Lucas City Newsletter

February 2013

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

- Rebecca Mark, Mayor
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- Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem (6)
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- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember (1)
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- Jim Olk, Councilmember (2)
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- Steve Duke, Councilmember (3)
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- Philip Lawrence, Councilmember (4)
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- Debbie Fisher, Councilmember (5)
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City Manager

Jeff Jenkins
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THOUGHTS FROM THE MAYOR

Living in a small town like Lucas has helped keep the majority of us insulated for the most part from the sort of crime occurrences that we read about in the newspapers daily, or hear about on the evening news. Some of you may have heard about a recent “crime wave” that took place in Lucas during the first week of January. During the early morning hours of January 3, a number of vehicles were broken into in one of our neighborhoods. Unfortunately, all of the vehicles that were involved were left unlocked by their owners. During that same time frame, an unsuccessful attempt was made to break into one of our local businesses.

Due to excellent work by our Sheriff’s Department, as well as great communications between several neighborhood watch groups, the alleged burglars were apprehended and arrested on January 10. The information we have been given indicates that a total of eight persons, ranging in age from 16 to 20 were all arrested and charged with organized crime offenses.

I know how easy it is to be lulled into a sense of security when you live in an area where you know all your neighbors, and have that feeling of being away from the problems faced by our much larger neighboring cities. However, none of us are immune from being taken advantage of by opportunistic criminals, and all have the responsibility of taking precautions to lessen our risks of being targets.

First and foremost, LOCK YOUR DOORS! These includes both vehicles and homes. The recent events showed that many would-be thieves will pass by locked vehicles, and simply move on to the next easier target.

Don’t leave garage doors open, even when you are at home. Be cautious about opening your door to strangers. Get to know your neighbors, and let them know when you plan to be gone for several days. Don’t let mail and newspapers pile up.

In future newsletter issues we will be giving more information on such issues as how to form a neighborhood watch group, as well as tips from our Sheriff’s department on how to avoid becoming a crime victim.

We need to all work together to keep our city safe and secure.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular

Thursday, Feb 7

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, Feb 14

President’s Day - City Hall Closed

Monday, Feb 18

Municipal Court

Wednesday, Feb 20, 3:30 p.m.

City Council

Thursday, Feb 21



Thanks to the kind donations from Lucas citizens and funds received from a Citizen Corps grant, the Lucas CERT team will begin supporting the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department, along with departments responding as mutual aid with rehabilitation service during their emergency services calls in early spring 2013.

Unlike many jobs, firefighters do not pick the time or conditions under which emergencies occur. Under the combined stresses of handling emergency incidents and the dangers of extreme heat, humidity or cold, firefighters suffer more than 80,000 injuries and nearly 100 line-of-duty deaths each year. Most of those injuries occur during fire suppression at single family homes. Firefighters who are not provided adequate rest and rehydration during emergency operations, or training exercises are at increased risk for illness or injury, and may jeopardize the safety of others on the incident scene. The Lucas CERT team will be providing rehabilitation to the volunteer fire fighters by providing rest from overexertion, rehydration and nutrition during emergency and training events.

Burn Ban Lifted



On January 7, 2013, Collin County lifted the outdoor burn ban.

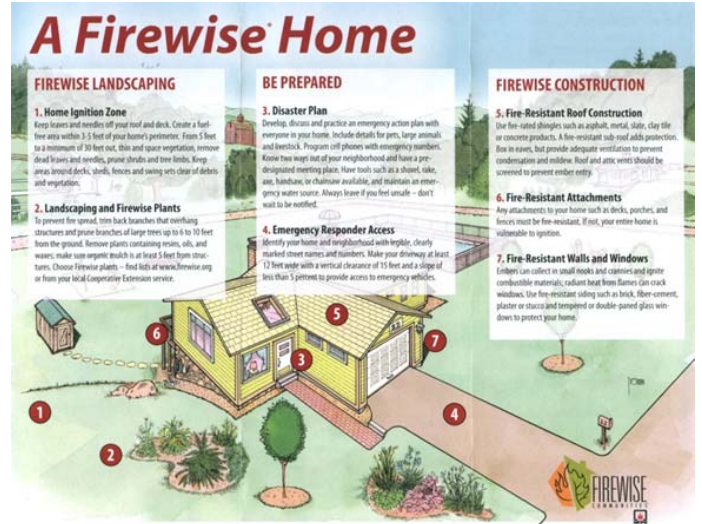
Prior to burning, please make sure that you have

the necessary Residential Burn Permit. In-city residents may apply for the necessary permit by stopping by City Hall, Monday–Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM and pay the \$10 permit fee. Out-of-city residents must contact Collin County Fire Marshal’s Office at 972-548-5576.

Burn days in the City of Lucas correspond with Collin County burn days. Please call the Burn Day Information number (972) 548-4799 first to make sure that it is an authorized burn day.

Learn more about outdoor burning by visiting the Collin County Fire Marshal’s web page:

http://www.co.collin.tx.us/fire_marshal/burn_ban.jsp



Members of the Lucas Fire Department, along with staff from the Texas Forest Service have completed the application process for the City of Lucas to become a part of the Firewise Communities program.

The Firewise Communities program was created in 1986 in response to the destruction of homes due to wildfires. In the fall of 2002, the National Firewise Communities/USA Recognition Program was established. There are now over 800 Firewise Communities within the United States.

The Firewise Communities program teaches residents about the hazards of wildfire in the wildland urban interface, and how to take simple steps to create a defensible space around their homes. A home ignition zone has 3 zones. Some things homeowners can do to reduce the risk of destruction to their home due to a wildfire is to remove dead leaves/pine needles that are left on roofs, deck and in gutters; storing firewood away from the home, remove “ladder” fuels by trimming the lower branches from trees and shrubs.

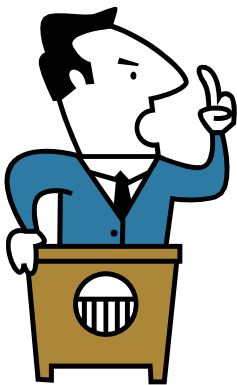
The cost of becoming a Firewise Community is \$2.00 per capita, which can be offset by volunteer hours. Any time citizens spend working in and around their homes and yards to reduce the risk of wildfire can count toward the cost. So, please keep track of the time you and your family spend working on your house or in your yard to create a defensible space.

The Firewise Communities board is planning many activities for the upcoming year. Upcoming events will be posted on the Lucas Fire Department website and/or the City of Lucas website.

For more information and to schedule an assessment of your home to reduce the risk of destruction from wildfires please contact Bobette Mauck – bmauck@lucasfire.com or 972-727-1242. To find out more about the Firewise Communities program visit www.firewise.org.

City Council Actions for January

- * Approved **Ordinance # 2013-01-00747** of the City of Lucas, Texas, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Ordinance # 2008-12-00635, adjusting in-city and out-of-city residential water rates, adding a non-residential customer class; implementing a meter-size based minimum charge structure; increasing residential and non-residential minimum charges and volumetric rates over a five year period at the levels and effective dates indicated in the rate tables provided within this ordinance; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.
- * Approved **Ordinance # 2013-01-00748** of the City of Lucas, Texas, establishing a wastewater rate structure; providing a severability clause; providing a repealing clause; and providing an effective date.



May 11, 2013 City of Lucas General Election

On May 11, 2013, the citizens of Lucas will turn out to vote for Councilmember Seat 5 and Councilmember Seat 6, which are currently held by Debbie Fisher and Kathleen Peele respectively. Each seat carries

with it a three (3) year term, ending May 2016.

If you would like to file for a place on the ballot the first day to file your application is January 30th with the final day being March 1st. Candidate packet can be found on the city website by visiting:

<http://www.lucastexas.us/index.php?id=04JRXXK4DQ>

To be eligible to vote in the May 11, 2013, City of Lucas' General Election you must be registered no later than April 11th. If unsure whether you are registered or not, contact Collin County Elections at 972-547-1901.

Clean Water Everybody's Business

10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

1. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
2. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
3. Vegetate bare spots in your yard
4. Compost your yard waste
5. Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, and learn how to prevent pest problems
6. Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
7. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
8. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
9. Pick up after your pet
10. Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

For more information, visit
www.epa.gov/nps or www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater



Walmart Opening February 13th



Construction is nearly complete on the new Walmart store in Lucas scheduled to open in early spring. Associates will now begin stocking shelves in the approximately 177,000-square-foot store with a full line of groceries and a wide assortment of merchandise in preparation for the grand opening of the new store, located at 2662 W. Lucas Road.

“With major construction complete on this store, we are now headed into the home stretch for our grand opening,” said store manager Jamie Dennis. “Next steps are to complete the landscaping and interior cosmetic touch-ups and continue associate training.

We are proud of our new store and look forward to welcoming members of the Lucas and Parker communities when it opens.”

The store features many energy-saving elements, part of Walmart’s overall efforts to reduce the total amount of energy used in stores and other operations. These features include LED lights in signage, freezer cases and the parking lot. This technology uses about 50 percent less energy than traditional lighting.

Approximately 300 associates will be employed at the new store, and applications are still being accepted for both full- and part-time positions in all areas of the store. Interested applicants can apply online at <http://careers.walmart.com>.

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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POSTAL PATRON