



# The City of Lucas Newsletter

January 2015

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



## Mayor's Message By Rebecca Mark

As part of our November 20th City Council Meeting, we had an agenda item regarding our future plans for a very important project to evaluate the condition of a number of our collector streets, and to determine the resulting scope of repairs and possible reconstruction needed, as well as discussion on financing options for the project. We urged the public to attend and give us your input and feedback based upon what we presented. The presenters included an engineer from Metropolitan Infrastructure who specializes in street evaluations, and also a representative from Southwest Securities who provided an analysis of our funding options. The turnout for this very important meeting was outstanding, and excellent feedback was provided to Council by the attendees. I can definitely say that the feedback provided will surely influence our final plans.

As you can imagine, a project of this nature requires a great deal of planning and forethought, as repairs and upgrades can be costly. We want to give this proposed project all the time and effort that is necessary to ensure that all options are considered. We also want the public to have more opportunities to understand what it entails. To this end, we made a commitment to have further meetings to allow the public to have input.

The City Council set the next public meeting regarding the street project for 7:00 pm on Thursday, January 29th, and will be seeking additional feedback from Lucas Citizens on this important project. During this meeting we will be evaluating the possibility of prioritizing this project by evaluating bridge infrastructure and defining any essential safety issues that need to have immediate attention and discussing the funding strategies to complete this first phase of these immediate needs. While this initial phase is underway, the City's Consultant, Louis Frisbee with Metropolitan Infrastructure, will be working on more detailed design work involving reconstruction on our designated collector streets so we can refine our project cost to move forward with a bond election in November, 2015 that will give our residents the final say on this project.

Please make plans to join us at this meeting. We all look forward to seeing you there.

## 2nd Public Meeting

Street Project

Thursday, January 29th, 7:00 pm

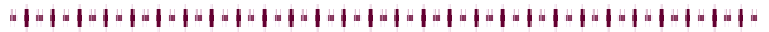
Lucas City Hall

## Did You Know.....



The City of Lucas logo was adopted in 2004. A contest was announced in November 2003 inviting residents to submit a design. There were 4 designs selected as finalists, and those designs were assigned numbers for voting purposes. Residents cast their votes when they came to

City Hall to pay their water bills. The winning logo was submitted by then Lucas resident, Royce Hall. If the Hall name sounds familiar, it's probably because his wife Kristi served as a Council Member.



## Living with Wildlife

Many of us live in Lucas to be able to enjoy a rural lifestyle that is unique in an area that has become urbanized. Part of our responsibility as stewards of our natural environment is understanding how to cohabitate with wildlife. Lucas has many species that reside and hunt in our community. There have been sightings of coyotes, bobcats and cougars, as well as hawks, owls, and wild hogs. It is important that our residents understand that some of our native species are predators and can put our pets at risk if proper precaution is not taken to protect them.

For more information visit:

**The Heard Museum**

<http://www.heardmuseum.org/>

**Texas Parks and Wildlife — Interacting with Urban Texas Wildlife**

[https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd\\_bk\\_w7000\\_1446.pdf](https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_1446.pdf)



## Meeting Reminders for January

Date	Time	Description	Notes
Jan 1		CITY HALL CLOSED	New Years
Jan 6	7:00 pm	Parks Board	City Hall
Jan 8	7:00 pm	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall
Jan 15	6:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
Jan 29	7:00 pm	Public Meeting— Street Project	City Hall

### City Council Action Highlights

- \* Received feedback from several citizens on the presentation of a possible street project. Discussions will resume in the January 29th City Council Meeting.
- \* City staff was directed to create an ordinance to regulate solicitation.
- \* The City Council took action to update the duties and responsibilities of the City of Lucas Parks and Open space board to include beautification projects and special events. The City Council also approved updated the park regulations that identifies prohibited activity.
- \* Canceled January 1, 2015 City Council Regular Meeting.
- \* The City Council approved the recommendation made by the Lucas Fire Department Volunteer Pension Board's recommendation to create a City of Lucas Volunteer Firefighters 457(e) Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) and to discontinue the City's participation in the Texas Emergency Services Retirement Act (TESRA) pension program.



### Wendy's is Coming to Town!

As you have heard, Lucas will soon be home to a new Wendy's restaurant!

In addition to providing us a convenient place to eat, they will provide local jobs for our community as they begin hiring. Wendy's is scheduled to open in late January or early February, and we look forward to them becoming part of our community.

## Looking Back – A Glimpse at Lucas History

### Winningkoff Road

By Councilmember Debbie Fisher

The names of the roads within Lucas give a glimpse into past communities and people who once made a contribution to the well-being of the area now included in our city. One such example is Winningkoff Rd which intersects East Lucas Rd. It is called Winningkoff because it led directly to the Winningkoff Community which was home to the Winningkoff School.

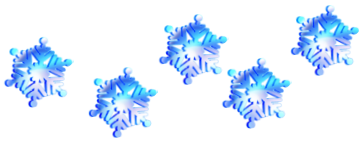
AJ Winningkoff was born around 1850 in Louisiana to parents who were from Prussia. Elizabeth Rolf(e) was born in England around 1857 to parents who were both born in England. AJ and Elizabeth were married in Collin County on February 15, 1875 by ordained minister Buford Henry. The 1880 census lists him as a barber in McKinney. His wife, Lizza (as she was called), worked as a milliner. They had three daughters who grew to adulthood, but none remained in the area.

In 1884, AJ and Elizabeth Winningkoff donated 2 acres of land located on East Winningkoff Rd near the water tower to be used for a school. The deed stated it was "in consideration of the imperative public want of school and church." In 1895, Dr. Ellsworth S. Blythe donated an acre of land near the school to be used for the church. At that time, this area was a thriving farming community with fields of corn, wheat, and cotton. The entire community was known as Winningkoff, and was the home of Blythe Chapel Methodist Church. The school and the church were named for the families who donated the land.

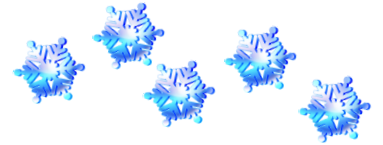
Winningkoff ('coff') School is listed as a 'free' (taxpayer funded) school after 1880. The school continued operating until 1949. The number of students attending had dwindled to such a small number that they began trying to recruit Native American Indians in hopes of continuing. After the school closed, the building was moved to Melissa for use as a residence.

"AJ", also known as "Anthony" or "Tony" died on April 5, 1910. He is buried in the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney. The date of Elizabeth's death is uncertain. Two of their daughters, Alicia Carrie Winningkoff who died in 1942, and Emma Daisy Winningkoff who died in 1964, are both buried in the West Hill Cemetery in Sherman. Elizabeth's brother, George Rolf, also lived in the Winningkoff community and some of his descendants are still part of our community.

In 1953, the dam forming Lake Lavon was completed. The purpose of the dam was to control flooding and prevent further erosion of farmland, however, much of the former farming community of Winningkoff/Blythe Chapel now lies under Lake Lavon. The Collin County Historical Commission has placed a commemorative marker on East Winningkoff Road near our water tower to remind people of the role Winningkoff played in the development of Collin County and Lucas. Residents are encouraged to take the time to visit the Winningkoff marker and learn more about our community.



# Time to Winterize



With winter upon us it's not too late to take steps to keep your house, car, boat, and RVs safe through the colder months. Here are some simple things you can do to ensure your property survives winter weather in fine form.

## Your Home

from [www.bobvila.com](http://www.bobvila.com)

**EMBRACE THE SEASON** – It doesn't take much to bring the natural beauty of the season indoors. Fill a bowl with acorns and pinecones to admire, cut leaf-covered branches to decorate a table, or create an autumnal wreath to hang above the mantel or outside on the front door. You'll find plenty of clever ideas in if you use your imagination.

**SEAL THOSE DRAFTS** – A small crack or one leaky window might not seem like a big problem, but taken together, your home's small drafts can add up to lots of wasted energy dollars. Seal any gaps around electrical outlets, ducts, windows, and doors with foam sealants, caulking, or weather stripping.

**READY THE FIREPLACE** – Before you light up your fireplace to take away the winter chill, take a moment to give it a quick inspection to make certain everything is in working order. Begin by checking the brickwork in your fireplace for wear. Check the damper, as well — it should open and close easily. Look into the smoke chamber above the damper to see if it has a buildup of soot. Open the clean-out door (if your fireplace has one) and empty out any ashes or other debris. Using a small mirror and flashlight to see up the flue, look for soot buildup and also any cracks, holes, or separations. If in doubt, call in your chimney professional for a good cleaning and checkup.

**EQUIPMENT**—If you haven't done so already, this is the time to winterize your seasonal equipment. Drain fuel from lawn mowers, leaf blowers, and chain saws. Cover and store outdoor furniture and barbecue grills in a protected area. And, be sure to empty out pots, containers, and planters. Soil left in clay pots outside can freeze and cause the pots to crack. Disconnect and store your garden hoses. If your home has a separate shutoff for external spigots, turn it off and drain the water from those spigots. If you have a sprinkler system, you may want to call in a professional company to blow out any leftover water in the underground lines.

## Your Boat and RV

The best place for your boat or RV during the winter is out of the water, under cover, in a climate-controlled storage area. This however can be expensive. If you don't have this option, make sure that your boat or RV is well covered with a tarp or some other sturdy cover. Check the owner's manual for manufacturer's recommendations on other very important winterization procedures.

## Your Car

([www.dmv.org](http://www.dmv.org))

**Ice Scrapers** – We have all used a credit card or keys to clean a windshield, but having one or two ice scrapers in each car is a good idea. They are inexpensive and can be easily stored in the trunk or glove box.

**Wheels & Tires** – Your tires take a beating in the winter weather. Use protective wax or a nano-based ceramic glass coating for your tires and wheels.

**The Paint** – Consider using a paint sealant because they tend to last longer and require less frequent reapplications than ordinary wax.

**Battery Capacity** – When was the last time you had the battery in your car tested? Cold weather can reduce the capacity of a battery making it unable to start your car. Don't stop with checking the battery. Make a quick inspection of all the cables, battery fluid, fuses, terminals, etc. to see if all is in place. Better yet, have a qualified mechanic make sure your ride is weather worthy.

**Engine Coolant** – You car's coolant system is not intended only to keep your engine from overheating. It is also responsible for protecting your valuable engine against corrosion. Make sure you are using coolant with ethylene glycol to help protect your engine. Every vehicle requires a certain ratio of coolant to water, and your owner's manual or repair technician can explain what your engine needs.

**Cables** – In the rare event that we have an ice storm, consider having a set of tire cables on hand. Unlike chains, cables are less likely to damage your tires and the roadway pavement. Most cables are design to run up to 35 MPH on dry pavement. The other kind of cables are jumper cables. These cables are not just for winter. Motorist should have a set handy year round. Consult your owner's manual for proper use when jumping a dead battery.

**Emergency Kit** – If you don't already have an emergency kit in your car, consider putting together a few basics and stowing them in the trunk. Naturally, you'll want to be sure your spare tire is in good shape with all the tools to change it out. But you might also want a few other emergency items in case you slide off the road and get stuck on the side of the road. Some basics for a roadside emergency supply kit include:

- Flares
- Blankets
- Boots
- Radio
- Engine oil
- Washer fluid
- Coolant
- Flashlight

When you take the time to winterize your car, you become more comfortable driving in cold, snowy climates. A short commute quickly becomes difficult when your vehicle isn't equipped to handle snow and ice. By planning ahead, you can make winterizing your vehicle an annual ritual in the name of safety and vehicle reliability.

## Tiny Bubbles

By Stanton Foerster, Public Works Director, PE

Why does my drinking water look cloudy sometimes?

Once in a while, you get a glass of water and it looks cloudy; maybe milky is a better term. After a few seconds it miraculously clears up! The cloudiness might be caused by the water in the pipes being under a bit more pressure than the water in the glass, but is more likely due to tiny air bubbles in the water. Like any bubble, the air rises to the top of the water and goes into the air above, clearing up the water. Cloudy water, also known as white water, is caused by air bubbles in the water. It is completely harmless.

Glasses of tap water go from cloudy due to air bubbles, to clear after the water sits for a few minutes.

It usually happens when it is very cold outside because the solubility of air in water increases as water pressure increases and/or water temperature decreases. Cold water holds more air than warm water. In the winter, water travels from the reservoir which is very cold and warms up during its travel to your tap. Some of the air that is present is no longer soluble, and comes out of solution.

Also, water pressure has something to do with it. The water in the pipes is pressurized to a degree (which helps to get the water all the way from the water tower to your home). Water under pressure holds more air than water that is not pressurized. Once the water comes out of your tap, the water is no longer under pressure and the air comes out of solution as bubbles (similar to a carbonated soft drink). The best thing to do is let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear.

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/qa-chemical-cloudy.html>



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

CITY OF LUCAS  
665 COUNTRY CLUB  
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ALLEN TX 75002

POSTAL PATRON