



Lucas City Newsletter

January 2012

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

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

City Manager

Jeff Jenkins
(jjenkins@lucastexas.us)



THOUGHTS FROM THE MAYOR

As we begin the new year, I want to reflect on some of the things for which we all are grateful. First, we should give thanks for all the wonderful volunteers who give so much of their time and experience to make this community a better place to live. Leading that list are all the volunteer firefighters who put their own lives in danger so the rest of us can be safe. A large number of them don't even live in Lucas, yet give so unselfishly of their time. Words can't express the gratitude we all owe them.

Serving on our boards and commissions reaps no rewards for those who serve others that the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts make our community a better place to live. We salute you.

To those who volunteer at our annual Founders Day event, thank you for bringing our community together in a spirit of fun and camaraderie. Without you, we could not have this wonderful event annually.

Thanks to the groups who volunteer in our City in other ways. A local group of families from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints recently painted our City fire hydrants. What a great gift to our City!

I know there are others who volunteer throughout the year that I have not mentioned specifically. To all of you, thank you very much.

Last, but certainly not least, we should all be very thankful for our outstanding City employees who keep our City going each and every day. Our quality of life is a direct reflection of your efforts.

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

City Hall Closed for New Year

Monday, Jan. 2

City Council Regular

Thursday, Jan. 5

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, Jan. 12

Municipal Court

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 3:30 PM

Fire Department Advisory Committee

Thursday, Jan. 19, 5:30 PM

City Council Workshop

Thursday, Jan. 19

Walmart Development Update

Plans for the proposed Walmart at the intersection of W. Lucas Rd. and FM 2551 are still under review by our City Building Inspections Department. Once these plans have been approved and finalized, our plan is to put them on display at City Hall so that residents can see the proposed development. Until the review process is completed, we will not know how quickly construction will begin, although it is estimated that construction will likely begin in early spring .



LOVEJOY HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Lovejoy became the first team in 3A history and only the fourth team ever to win four straight State Championships as they defeated Abilene Wylie in five sets. It was a battle to the end as the Leopards struggled at times, and shined at others. Lovejoy won the first set 25-20 in rather workmanship fashion, after trailing early 15-17. The Leopards closed with a 10-3 run. This is where it began to get interesting as the second set saw the Leopards commit many mistakes as they dug a hole that they could not recover from. Wylie began to put the ball down from the outside and before you knew it the Bulldogs had taken set two by a 18 - 25 margin. Lovejoy immediately bounced back as if nothing had happened by opening the third set with a 14-9 lead which they stretched to 20-9 at one point. Wylie put together a few points but it wasn't enough as the Leopards won 25-14. With a bit of momentum on their side, Lovejoy opened the fourth set looking to close out Abilene Wylie. The Bulldogs wouldn't go away that easily as they built a lead down the stretch and then held on to win the fourth set 23-25. It was at this point in the match where the real Leopards stepped in and took control. Lovejoy opened the fifth set with an early 8-4 lead. Boosted by several kills by Tournament MVP Andie Malloy, the Leopards closed with a 7-3 run to pull off the 15-8 victory.

The Citizens of Lucas congratulates the Lovejoy High School Leopard Volleyball Team and Coaches for a job well done!



City of Lucas' Finance Department Receives Excellence in Financial Reporting Award



The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Lucas by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) for its comprehensive annual financial report

(CAFR). The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the high standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story.

Finance Manager, Liz Exum, and her staff should be congratulated for a job well done!

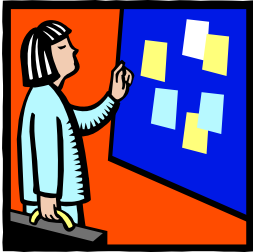


December Actions from City Council

- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-12-00694** of annexing 22.661 acres {*Bedell tract*}
- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-12-00695** annexing 2.495 acres {*Nasir tract*}
- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-12-00696** annexing 2.498 acres {*Nasir tract*}
- * Approved **Resolution # R-2011-12-00380** of the City of Lucas, Texas, approving the restating of Section 457 (b) Deferred Compensation Plan (GOVERNMENTAL); authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement; and providing an effective date.
- * Approved the award of an agreement in consideration of the City of Lucas' Banking Services to American National Bank of Texas.

City Works: Open Meetings Act 101

By: Kathy Wingo, TRMC, CMC, City Secretary



This article contains information compiled from various sources, including the 2012 Open Meetings Handbook, which is available in its entirety on the Texas Attorney General's website. There is a second handbook written in plain language, titled '2012 Texas Open Meetings Act Made Easy' also available on the website that may answer any additional questions. The website is https://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/publications_og.shtml

A governmental body shall give written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of each meeting held by the governmental body.

The notice must be sufficient to apprise the general public of the subjects to be considered during the meeting. There is certain terminology to be avoided when posting a notice of a public meeting. Generalized terms such as “old business”, “new business”, “regular or routine business”, and “other business” are not proper terms to give notice of a meeting because they do not inform the public of its subject matter. The term “public comment” or “citizen’s input,” however, provides sufficient notice of a “public comment” section, where the general public addresses the governmental body about its concerns and the governmental body does not comment or deliberate. “Public comment” or “citizen’s input” will not provide adequate notice if the governmental body is, prior to the meeting, aware, or reasonably should be aware, of specific topics to be raised. When a governmental body is responsible for a presentation, it can easily give notice of its subject matter, but it usually cannot predict the subject matter of public comment sections.

“Items of Community Interest” can include items such as expressions of thanks, congratulations, or condolences; information regarding holiday schedules; an honorary or salutary recognition of a public official, employee or citizen; a reminder of an upcoming event sponsored by the governing body; information regarding a social, ceremonial or community event organized or sponsored by an entity other than the governmental body that will be attended by members of the community; or announcements involving an imminent threat to the public health and safety of the citizens.

A municipal government shall post the notice of each meeting on a physical or electronic bulletin board readily accessible to the general public at all times for at least 72 hours before the scheduled time of the meeting. Special rules allow for posting notice of an emergency meeting notice. An emergency meeting would be called if an emergency or an urgent public necessity exists if immediate action is required of the governmental body. An imminent threat to public health and safety or a reasonably unforeseeable situation is two examples of why an emergency meeting would be called.

A meeting may not be convened unless a quorum of the governmental body is present in the meeting room. The meeting must be held in a location accessible to the public. A meeting that is “open to the public” is one that the public is permitted to attend. However, this does not entitle the public to choose the items to be discussed or to speak about items on the agenda. A governmental body may, however, give members of the public an opportunity to speak at a public meeting. If so, the governmental body may set reasonable time limits on the number, frequency and length of presentations before it, but it may not unfairly discriminate among speakers for or against a particular point of view.

There are certain narrowly drawn exceptions to the requirement that meetings of a governmental body be open to the public or commonly known as an “executive session”. These exceptions outlined in the Open Meetings Act Section 551.071, Consultation with Attorney; Section 551.072, Deliberations about Real Property; and Section 551.074, Personnel Matters. Only the members of the governmental body have a right to attend an “executive session”, except that the attorney may be present when it meets under Section 551.071. A governmental body has discretion to include in an executive session any of its officers, and employees whose participation is necessary to the matter under consideration. All votes or actions as a result of an executive session must be made in the public section of the meeting.



Pictured left to right: Betty Thomas (Alumni), Mike Shea (Alumni President), Sheriff Terry Box, Dick Hildenbrand, Councilmember Wayne Millsap, Deputy Dickie Thomas, Suzan Little, (Alumni) Don Little, (Alumni) and Charles Blackstock (Alumni).

Neighborhood Night Out Grand Prize Winners

Each year as a center-piece for crime prevention, the Collin County Sherriff's Office supports and encourages participation in the National Association of Town Watch, Neighborhood Night Out (NNO) event. Here in Texas it is held the first Tuesday in October. Neighborhoods compete for recognition by the Sherriff for participation and events..

In 1994 several homes on McMillen Road in Lucas were burglarized. It was that year the residents banned together and vowed to never let that happen on their street again. They started one of the earliest NNO events in Collin County and have participated every year since (except one due to sleeting rain). The goal is to ensure that each neighbor is acquainted with the others. They know the cars, kids and tempo of the street and have a long history of keeping an eye out for one another throughout the year.

This year, McMillen Road was the Grand Prize winner of the Collin County NNO event because of the high percentage of neighbor participation and annual dedication to the event for over 17 years. When asked how their block has consistently been able to participate each year, they offer this basic advice. 1) It's easier to prevent crime than respond to it. 2) Having all neighbors come together for a common cause, rallied around the dedication to ensuring a safe little community, unifies families no matter their uniqueness the rest of the year. 3) They keep it simple. It's "Bring Your Own Almost Everything" and one item to share. No big plans, just a willingness to commune. 4) It's brief lasting no more than 2 hours.

This simple little BYO Almost Everything block party lingers all year long in unifying a neighborhood, encouraging steering wheel waves accompanied by a smile while noticing if things are out of place in order to keep homes, children, animals and friends safe. To start your own NNO event next year contact Dickie Thomas at the Collin County Sherriff's Office 972-547-5167.

CITY OF LUCAS
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