



Lucas City Newsletter

July, 2010

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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City Council

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MESSAGE FROM THE BUILDING OFFICIAL

The City of Lucas' Code Enforcement Department does not actively look for code violations. Code Enforcement staff responds strictly on a complaint basis, the person who makes a complaint is required by ordinance to fill out a citizen complaint form. When the form is filed with the City the complaint is investigated to determine the validity of the complaint and to make a determination on course of action. As a rule the City does not issue citations for violations unless the person or company in violation refuses to comply with City's nuisance regulations. The first contact is by knocking on the door of the person alleged to be in violation and let them know what regulation the City feels they are in violation of and ask them to correct the issue within a specified time line. If this does not work, a letter is mailed requesting they comply by a specified date, if no corrective actions have taken place by this date a citation is issued.

The City of Lucas is rural community with a lot of character, and over all excellent civic minded citizens. The above approach would not work in a larger city and at times does not work here; this approach can be lengthy and at times offensive to the person filing the complaint who feels their complaints are either not taken seriously or being ignored. I assure you they are not, at no time does the City completely ignore or refuse to follow up on a written complaint that has been filed.

There seems to be a growing trend to involve the City in disputes between neighbors who for one reason or another had trouble getting along with each other. Any time the City is being brought into an issue of this type it will turned over to the city attorney and no action will be taken.

One of the largest complaints in the City is tall grass, the city regulation is grass must not exceed 12" in height as an average not a few sporadic weeds above 12", and the City cannot require any one to mow their lawn more than once every 30 days. Agriculture properties are exempt from most nuisance complaints including tall grass. If you have any questions or concerns regarding code enforcement please feel free to contact the Code Enforcement Department at 972-727-8999.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular

Thursday, July 1, 2010

Planning & Zoning

Thursday, July 8, 2010

City Council Workshop

Thursday, July 15, 2010



City Hall will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2010 in observance of Independence Day. Please have a safe 4th of July!

July is "Texas Tay-Sachs Awareness Month"

By Fred Horak

In honor of Mallory Salazar's July birthday and other Texas children with Tay-Sachs disease, July has been declared Tay-Sachs Awareness month. Children affected by this fatal neurogenetic disease seldom celebrate more than a half dozen birthdays. Tay-Sachs is an inherited disease which is passed from two parents who are mutant gene carriers, to their children. For nearly a century, it was considered a Jewish disease. Today, like Mallory Salazar and many others, victims are not Jewish. It has now been diagnosed in French Canadians, Cajun families in Louisiana, (1 in 30 parents a carrier), mid-European families, Belgians, Dutch, Slavic, and the incidence among Irish descendants is growing (1 in 50 to 1 in 200 Irish-Americans). One in 250 of the general population is a Tay-Sachs carrier; in Texas there may be an estimated 100,000 carriers.

Awareness and research are important. A simple Tay-Sachs DNA test can tell if a person is a carrier. These steps have led to a significant drop in Tay-Sachs in the Jewish community. Conversely, other at-risk groups are not aware of the disease and availability of DNA tests and have experienced an increase in the number of Tay-Sachs affected children. There is no cure for Tay-Sachs available today but the best hope, gene therapy research, is currently underway.

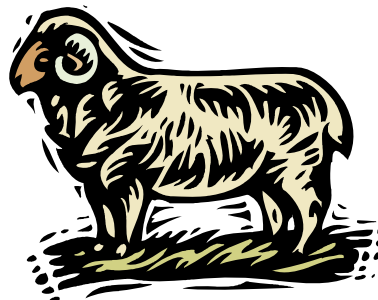
Research in Tay-Sachs is important because it is a simple autosomal recessive genetic defect, a single genetic mutation, and finding a cure will lead directly to cures for about 40 other related neurogenetic diseases including Parkinsons, Multiple Sclerosis, Gaucher disease, etc., which may involve more than one genetic mutation.

If gene therapy research and trials on Tay-Sachs are successful, the more complicated related diseases will eventually be cured.

There is a unique connection between Tay-Sachs disease research and Lucas. In order to find a cure for "human Tay-Sachs" researchers had to find and then cure a large animal model that has Tay-Sachs. After nearly a decade, that animal model has been found and raised here in Lucas. Four lambs born in Lucas this Spring are said to be among the rarest animals in the world; Jacob sheep affected with Tay-Sachs and a single mutant gene nearly identical to the human mutant gene.

Neurogenetisists in New York, Massachusetts, Alabama, California, Pennsylvania and Cambridge, England have started work on gene therapies to cure the sheep from Lucas. It will be years before success or failure can be announced but researchers say it is the best chance to find a cure in a hundred years. The carrier and affected sheep have all been donated to the National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases Assn. which has been funding most of the research on Tay-Sachs. When the cure for Tay-Sachs is found, a doctor may go to Stockholm for a prize; and now you are aware the Jacob sheep from Lucas were part of the story.

Find more information about Tay-Sachs and make a donation to support Tay-Sachs research. You can do both on the internet at NTSAD.org or Cure Tay-Sachs.org.



City Water Line Projects Updates:

The City's contractors will begin 2 water line projects this summer. One project will be to replace the 6" line with a 12" line with fire hydrants, along Southview Road (FM 1378), from the Lucas Store intersection, down to Parker Road. The line will be built on the west side of the road.

The other project will replace the 6" line in Brookhaven with an 8" line, with fire hydrants. That same contractor will also replace the 2" line in Brockdale Park Road with an 8" line with fire hydrants.

Another project that is scheduled to start later this summer or early fall is the replacement of the 4" line down Rock Ridge Road (north end from Country Club to Exchange), and a 4" line on Shady Lane, with an 8" line, all with fire hydrants.

Disruptions to water service will be kept to a minimum. But, short disruptions to service should be anticipated when the main lines and service lines are connected.

If there are questions about these projects at any time, please call Stacy Caudell, Public Works Director, at 972-727-8999.



RURAL LIVING



One of the great advantages to living in Lucas is the wide open rural environment, large lots, wide open spaces, horses grazing and yet the feel of a small community where every body knows your name. At times the rural atmosphere can come into conflict with the more urban life style within subdivisions. The very things we love about Lucas can also bring some inconveniences. The City of Lucas does not regulate the number of animals on a given property below is an excerpt from our code of ordinances.

City of Lucas' Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Animal Control, Article 2.01, General Provisions, Section 2.01.007, Number of Animals, states:

Notwithstanding any ordinances, rules, or regulations of the city to the contrary, no limit on the number of domesticated animals, pet animals, or small or large livestock shall be imposed upon any owner as defined herein. (1995 Code, ch. 11, art. 6)

Most equestrian activities within the city limits are allowed in all districts by right, with the heat and humidity this year we are having a problem with horse flies commonly associated with equestrian activities, as well as a little more odor than is common. While the City realizes these types of things can be annoying and a little inconvenient; they are for the most part temporary and with the change in seasons should take care of themselves.

COMPLIANCE TIP: CLEANING UP BROKEN BULBS

Mercury is used in fluorescent light bulbs of all types. Visible light is produced when the mercury in these lights is energized electrically. However, because they contain mercury, fluorescent lamps must be handled and disposed of properly to avoid polluting the environment and posing a health threat. If a fluorescent light or another mercury-containing device is broken, follow these steps after you have ventilated the room for 15 minutes or more:

- Wear disposable rubber or plastic gloves and carefully scoop up the glass shards and as much powder as possible with one or two pieces of stiff paper or cardboard. Do not use your hands; the shards are sharp and the powder contains mercury.
- Wipe the area with a damp paper towel or a disposable wet wipe to pick up any very small shards and the powder residue. Sticky tape, such as duct tape, can also be used to pick up small shards and the powder. Do not use a vacuum until you have cleaned up all the visible powder and shards.
- Place all the glass shards, powder, and materials you used in the cleanup (gloves, paper towel, wet wipe, and tape) in a plastic bag that can be sealed. Then place this sealed bag inside another bag and seal it.
- Wash your hands.
- Vacuum. Ventilate the room during and after vacuuming. When you are done, put the vacuum bag or the contents of the canister in double-sealed plastic bags. Place this bag outdoors for normal disposal.

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