



# Lucas City Newsletter

June, 2011

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

Our new City Manager, Jeff Jenkins is now here, and has taken over the reins at City Hall. At some point in the near future we will plan a gathering where residents can meet him. In the meantime, you are always welcome and encouraged to attend City Council meetings.

As most of you know, the mayor's article is generally about current events in the City. This month I would like to do a little something different, and give you a few points to think about. Newton's Third Law, in part, states "To every action there is opposed an equal reaction...." Our City staff and Council face this truism every day. Many of our roads have needed repairs that have been made, and an equal number still need action. Yet when we repair roads, it sometimes results in frustrating consequences, such as increased incidents of speeding, or even, as some residents might say, the loss of rural, country lane character. Increased risk of speeding can lead to more warning signs, which can then cause some residents to be concerned about mowing around the signs, and, again, the loss of the rural feel.

We have strived to keep the country feel in Lucas, and have encouraged large lots. Yet, in some cases, these large lots have allowed people to accumulate all manners of what most people would consider "junk". We have enacted ordinances to control this, but it is difficult for our staff to keep an eye on every property to make sure that there is no junk "creep". To compound the problem, that old saying "One man's trash is another man's treasure" is very true. The real challenge is to preserve everyone's property rights yet protect the very real interests and property values of their neighbors.

Each of us in city government, both Council and Staff, face an ongoing balancing act. To almost every action we take, there can and will be someone who feels that there have been undesired consequences. We ask your patience and understanding when this happens. We also need and welcome your feedback. This feedback helps us to learn and make better decisions in the future. Sometimes we must make decisions that have no viable alternatives, but there are others that we learn from as respects what not to do in the future.

We are here to serve you, and to sustain and improve our community. Your input helps us to do a better job.

## Meeting Schedule

**All meetings begin at 7:00 PM**

City Council Regular

Thursday, Jun 2

Board of Adjustments

Monday, Jun 6, 6:30 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, Jun 9

Municipal Court,

Wednesday, Jun 15, 3 PM

City Council Workshop

Thursday, Jun 16

Parks & Open Space Board

Monday, Jun 20

## **PETS, LARGE & SMALL, NEED EXTRA PLANNING TO SURVIVE DISASTERS**

By Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem, Lucas City Council

My heart and prayers go out to all those whom have been impacted by the recent devastating floods and tornados across the U.S. that have cost so much in human and animal life and loss of property. These events have reminded me that disaster can strike any time, any where with little to no warning and to ask myself if I have prepared my household to survive such events. I know that saving our animals during and after a disaster strikes depends on planning ahead.

The first step in preparation for any disaster is to insure your animals have some identification and you have available proof of ownership. During recent wild fires in Colorado a large horse boarding facility, along with many residential barns had to be evacuated. Much to the dismay of many horse owners it was problematic for them to provide proof of ownership and hindered their ability to retrieve their animals. Keep copies of veterinarian records, photo's of the animals, copies of registrations, etc. in the trailer or the truck used to haul or in your 'grab and go' bag.

Prepare an Emergency First Aid Kit. For items to include in your kit there are many emergency preparation checklists you can find on the internet. You may also want to include a book on first aid for animals.

The best preparation, when you have ample warning, is to evacuate your animals as early as possible. Arrangements for evacuation, including routes and host sites, should be made in advance. Alternate routes should be mapped out in case the planned route is inaccessible. Make available and keep ready vehicles and trailers needed for transporting and supporting each type of animal.

If evacuation is not possible, a decision must be made whether to move large animals to available shelter or turn them outside. This decision should be determined based on the type of disaster and the soundness and location of the shelter. Two of the leading causes of death in large animals during disasters are electrocution from downed power lines and collapsed barns. Where are the power lines and how accessible to your animals are they should they come down? Can you erect fencing to keep them away from that area at all times? How sturdy is your barn and what can be done to improve it?

For an approaching tornado one must determine if the animal is safer in the barn protected from flying debris or outside in case the barn should collapse. If a pasture has good fencing (well-maintained woven wire rather than barbed wire or electrical fencing) and limited trees, it is probably safer outside. Always keep tools and equipment secure and be watchful of items left out that could become flying weapons during a tornado. Tornado warnings seldom give enough time for one to pick up the pasture before those things become dangerous projectiles.

In case of wild fire, and if not evacuating, keep animals out of the barn and close off all doors and access to it as animals have a tendency to run into a barn, even if burning, while frightened. Additionally, do NOT use synthetic (nylon or plastic) halters or lead ropes. These may melt and cause serious burns to your horse and yourself. Leather halters and cotton lead ropes are safer. Also, don't use nylon fly masks or other synthetic tack or equipment. Additional actions may include wetting the horse's tails and mains, and wetting down the barn roof. Always keep vegetation trimmed back from the barn and pasture which will aid as a fire break.

Preparing for the worst now will go a long way helping to insure the best out come following a disaster.

*"If I've lost everything in a disaster, if you reunite with your family and on top of that your pet -- that would be the ultimate comfort."* Participant at an Oregon State Pet Evacuation Drill.

## Storm Water Run-Off

The City of Lucas is required by federal and state guidelines to develop, establish, and advertise a storm water reporting line to solicit information related to illicit discharges and illegal dumping; complaints, and general comments regarding Lucas storm water management program. If you want more detailed information on what the community can do to help improve water quality through very minor changes in general daily activities, call the hot line at 214-644-0779.

Wait for the storm to pass! Don't fertilize before a rain storm. Your fertilizer - along with your money - can just wash off your lawn and down the storm drain. Fertilizer runoff can pollute rivers, lakes, and bays, and cause problems in recreational areas or fishing grounds. Check the weather forecast before you head out, and wait for the storm to pass.

More information:

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/greenscapes/owners.htm>

Podcast: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/podcasts>

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## Everyday Everybody

### *Stormwater Pollution Solutions*

#### **Lawn Care**

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- \* Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- \* Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.
- \* Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- \* Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- \* Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.

- \* Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects

#### **Septic System**

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by storm water and discharged into nearby water bodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

- \* Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).
- \* Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

#### **Pet waste**

Pet waste can be major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- \* When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

#### **Auto care**

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a water body.

- \* Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater.
- \* Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

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## Newly Elected Councilmembers

On May 14, 2011 the citizens of Lucas turned out to cast their votes to elect two new councilmembers. Please join the Mayor, City Council, and Staff in extending a welcome to:

**Wayne Millsap**  
**Councilmember Seat 1**

**Jim Olk**  
**Councilmember Seat 2**



Lucas Volunteer Fire Department Community Emergency Response Team – (CERT)  
Class # 3

The CERT program educates citizens on how to prepare for a disaster that may impact their area. After a disaster, citizens may be on their own for up to 72 hours until the first responders can reach them. The CERT program teaches citizens the skills they need to help themselves, families and neighbors until help can arrive. Some other CERT opportunities could be, but is not limited to, helping the Lucas Fire and Rescue with disaster preparedness, community outreach, special community events, disaster drills, staffing a re-

habilitation unit to help the firefighters recuperate during large fires, ham radio communications, and fire safety/prevention. CERT members could also be called upon to assist other agencies throughout the state in disaster drills and/or to help if a disaster strikes their area.

The CERT Team has also attended “Live Fire Training Exercise” at Collin College in preparation for the upcoming Fireman Rehab Class. In the near future the group will also participate in the Sky Warn Program.

The CERT training is nine weeks in length and held one evening a week, with possibly one or two Saturdays. In order to be eligible to attend CERT Training, you must be eighteen (18) years old, hold a valid Texas drivers license, pass a background check and attend all 9 units. If you are interested in attending training or would like more information contact Bobette Mauck – [bmauck@lucasfire.com](mailto:bmauck@lucasfire.com)

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665 COUNTRY CLUB  
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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