



Lucas City Newsletter

August, 2008

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

- Bill Carmickle, Mayor
(bcarmickle@lucastexas.us)
- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
(dfisher@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember
(dzriny@lucastexas.us)
- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
(kpeelee@lucastexas.us)
- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
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- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember
(wmillsap@lucastexas.us)

City Manager (Interim)

Stacy Caudell
(scaudell@lucastexas.us)



STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

As this article is being written, it is 101 degrees outside, and no rain in the forecast for a while. While we are thankful that this summer is not a repeat of the 2006 drought conditions, we must be mindful that we are still in water conservation status. As the weather heats up, we are seeing increasingly large amounts of water being used by our residents. Water usage in each of the last few days has exceeded 2 million gallons per day! The new 750,000 gallon water storage tank on Country Club Road has greatly helped our ability to deliver these large amounts of water without putting a huge strain on our system. However, I think a timely reminder to all our residents is in order encouraging the practice of good water conservation habits.

Our rainfall in this region is more than 3 inches below average year to date. We need to be mindful of wasteful water use if we are to avoid future water shortages. Using our water supply wisely not only helps maintain our supply, but also has an economic benefit to our residents.

We have begun the process of establishing our city budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, and have been given notice by North Texas Municipal Water District that water fees will be rising for the coming year. That, of course, means the water rates you pay will also be increasing.

There are a number of things you can do. Don't water between 10:00AM and 6:00PM when evaporation is greatest due to the heat. Don't over water and allow excessive water run-off. For more water conservation tips, visit www.ntmwd.com.

BURN BAN IN FORCE



Due to the current dry conditions, Collin County has announced a burn ban until further notice. The City of Lucas follows the County's lead in enacting burn bans inside City limits.

This means no outdoor burning will be allowed. You should also be extra careful about any actions that have the potential of starting grass fires, such as throwing down cigarette butts, or parking vehicles in areas where sparks from engines could ignite high grass or brush. Don't leave barbecue grills unattended. During this past January, when we had high winds and dry conditions, there were several grass fires in Lucas, including one that came dangerously close to several houses. We don't want a repeat of that situation, and urge everyone to use caution outdoors.

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 in the City Annex unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular

Thurs., August 7

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., August 14

City Council Workshop

Thurs., August 21

Parks & Open Space

TBD

Municipal Court

Wed., August 27, 4:00 P.M.

CLEANING THE GARAGE

By Fred Horak

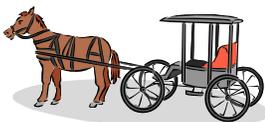
Mark, his real name, just graduated from college and is striking out on his own. Mark came by to see me and offered to help with some garage cleaning chores, perhaps to gain some pearls of wisdom from an old man, perhaps to earn some gas money. He has a job in Dallas, and we talked about housing, transportation, food, clothing...bachelor coping skills...he's a serious young man.

We save junk...and I pulled out an old Sears catalog ...at 1184 pages, the biggest Sears catalogue ever printed...the "everything you'll ever need" catalogue...Catalogue No. 117... "The Great Price Maker", with the request in bold print "Please show this catalogue to your friends and neighbors." I suggested that Mark look through it for ideas.

Housing? Sears offers a five bedroom, one bath, with kitchen, living and dining rooms on page 587. Two thousand square feet of house for \$1995; your choice of masonry or frame exterior. The plumbing system was another \$57.25 added on, and you had another option of "hot air furnace" for \$53.94, or hot water for \$209.14 which included boiler, radiators and plumbing.

Place to sleep? Mahogany bed is \$15.95 on page 423. Solid oak table, \$6.65. Recliner chair that tilts with foot rest is \$9.85. The Beckwith mouse-proof piano is only \$87.00; Columbia records are 18 cents each.

Transportation? The "two seat Phaeton" on page 103, or the roomy four seat surrey with Kelly Springfield tires at \$77.45 on page 107. Leather seats were "in".



No Ipod, but the top of the line Southwestern Telephone was \$10.80. Eyeglasses were \$2.00 a pair, and the catalogue includes an eye chart to test your own vision and order the correct prescription.

The Sears catalogue is 100 years old, sent out in 1908. Finally, we noticed the ads for granite and marble grave stones, \$5.00 for a nice marker up to \$135.00 for a monument. Richard Warren Sears died in 1908. Tempus fugit; Sears fugit.

PUBLICS WORKS DEPARTMENT STRIVES FOR EXCELLENCE

As part of their ongoing effort to provide the residents of Lucas with the best service possible, our City management has put a strong emphasis on Public Works Department training. We are fortunate to have a Public Works Director who is a Licensed Professional Engineer with over 30 years of experience.

In the Public Works Department, 6 of the 8 employees have been licensed by the State as Class "C" Water System Operators. As the State only requires that a City of our size have a minimum of 2 Class "C" Operators, our department far exceeds the standard. A Class "C" license requires at least 2 years of specific water system related experience, 60 hours of classroom training in water related classes, and finally, passing a comprehensive State exam on water systems. We are very proud of our Public Works employees and appreciate the time and effort they put into these educational efforts.

The City recognizes that it is critical to public health and safety to have trained professionals in charge of our water supply system.



LT. RANDY CONRAD NAMED EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

(Mayor Carmickle, right, presents award to Lt.. Conrad)

Lt. Randy Conrad joined the LVFD in 2001. He has both intermediate and driver operator's certifications, and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2006. He was voted Officer of the year for 2007, and serves as the procurement officer for the department. Randy worked on many extra projects in the month of June, including the security system at City Hall, assisting the Fire Chief with FY 08-09 budget preparations, and scanning old records into the computer for transfer to DVDs. All this was done while still answering over 17 emergency calls, and participating in an important emergency communications exercise. To start July off right, he worked every day at the fire station over the July 4th holiday weekend along with several other firefighters. Congratulations, Lt. Conrad, and thanks for a job well done.

JULY CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

July 3, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting

- Approved minutes from June 5th, June 19th, and June 23rd Council meetings.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2008-07-00618 annexing Lot 11, Block A in the Claremont Springs subdivision.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2008-07-00619 annexing land at 2005 Estates Parkway (Grace Evangelical Free Church).
- Approved an Interjurisdictional Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Lucas and Collin County regarding Fire Protection Service in portions of Collin County.
- Awarded bid to ACT Pipe & Supply for replacement of our current water meter system with the Performance Meter/Automated Meter Read System, for a total contract amount of \$60,810.95.
- Awarded bid to Morrow Construction for replacement of the underground Storm Drainage System located at 242 East Estelle Lane, total contract not to exceed \$62,632. Authorized Mayor and City Attorney to prepare final release to be obtained from homeowner.

July 5, 2008 City Council Special Meeting

- This was a discussion only meeting for the purpose of considering City Council's Goals and Objectives for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.

July 17, 2008 City Council Workshop Meeting

- Set date for August 9 Coffee With Council.
- Approved Ordinance #2008-07-00620 which makes mid-year budget adjustments by amending Ordinance #2007-090-00603 adopting the Fiscal year 2007/2008 Budget.
- Authorized City Manager to enter into negotiations and execute a contract with BW2 Engineers for professional and engineering services not to exceed \$10,000.
- Designated Lt. Randy Conrad of the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department as Employee of the Month, June 2008.
- Approved Resolution #R-2008-07-00316 changing authorized signatures for American National Bank, to replace former City Manager's name with current Interim Manager.
- Approved Ordinance #2008-07-00621 which amends the Code of Ordinances section pertaining to signs to include a definition of changeable electronic variable message signs, and amending the code to prohibit such signs.
- Voted to leave the current Council Meeting times and dates in place rather than changing to Mondays.

PETS IN DISASTERS



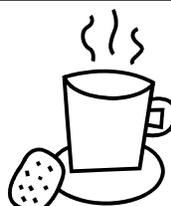
While we can't guarantee to teach your pets how to dial 911, we can help you and your family formulate a disaster plan that includes your cherished pets. The Lucas Volunteer Fire Department will be presenting a program called "Pets in Disasters" from 9:00AM-Noon on Saturday, Sept. 27. The program is free and will be held at the Lucas Fire Station at 151 Country Club Road. More information, and a reminder will be included in the September newsletter

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY



Almost 50 years after being incorporated as a City, Lucas achieved Home Rule status after our citizens voted to approve a Home Rule Charter in our May election. If you would like to own a copy of this official document, copies are available for purchase at City Hall for \$10.00 each. These are very nice professionally printed copies in reduced size booklet form.

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL SET FOR SATURDAY, AUG. 9



You are all invited to attend this quarter's Coffee With Council event on Saturday morning, Aug. 9, from 8:00AM until 11:00AM. Mayor Pro-Tem Debbie Fisher and Councilmember Kathleen Peele will be co-hosting the coffee. It's a great way to get to know your elected officials in an informal setting. Join them for coffee, donuts, and conversation. The coffee is held at the City Annex Building on Country Club Road to the right of the Fire Station. Hope to see you there!

LOVEJOY SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS ON AUG. 25

The 2008-2009 school year will begin on Monday, Aug. 25 at all schools in the Lovejoy District. Please drive carefully and slow down in school zones.



HAVE FUN CLOSE TO HOME



With the ever rising gas prices, many of us are looking to find fun places that don't require driving long distances. There are several parks and recreational areas in the Lucas vicinity that can quickly and easily be accessed by Lucas residents.

Forest Creek Park is a small neighborhood park with playground equipment located on Orchard Gap Road off White Rock Trail.

Lucas Community Park is located on FM 1378/Southview, south of FM3286. Funded by a matching funds grant from Collin County, recent improvements to this park include greatly expanded paved parking, a walking trail around the outside perimeter of the ball fields, and handicapped access to both the covered pavilion and the walking trail. Other improvements, including upgraded landscaping, are still to come.

Trinity Trails is an 18 plus mile hiking and horseback riding trail that begins at East Fork Park in Wylie on the shore of Lake Lavon. The trail meanders along the shore of the lake north to Brockdale Park in Lucas off Brockdale Park Road (accessed from FM 3286). A recent extension of the trail goes up to Highland Park, a Corp of Engineers park located off Snider Road (also accessed from FM 3286). It's a beautiful non-paved trail that does not allow any wheeled vehicles. There are restroom and picnic facilities at each of the three parks along the trail. For more information, visit www.trinitytrailriders.org.

Bratonia Park is located off FM 3286 on the other side of the bridge. It is on Farm Road 546. This site is dedicated to the flying of radio controlled models of all types. Collin County Open Space Commission leases the site to the Richardson Radio Control Club who maintains the flying site which includes shelters and a paved 50' by 350' runway. The Bratonia Park Flying Site is open to the general public during flying hours, but AMA membership is required to fly at the site. Visit www.rrcc.org for more information.

CITY OF LUCAS
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