



December , 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 PROTEM

(DFISHER@LUCASTEXAS.US)

DON ZRINY, COUNCILMEMBER

(DZRINY@LUCASTEXAS.US)

KATHLEEN PEELE, COUNCILMEMBER

(KPEELE@LUCASTEXAS.US)

MARK BARRATT, COUNCILMEMBER

(MBARRATT@LUCASTEXAS.US)

WAYNE MILLSAP, COUNCILMEMBER

(WMILLSAP@LUCASTEXAS.US)

CITY MANAGER

ROBERT PATRICK

(RPATRICK@LUCASTEXAS.US)



STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

As we wind up this year, it seems appropriate to look back at some of the highlights of 2008 in Lucas. Likely the most significant accomplishment for all our residents was the passage of a Home Rule Charter. This moved us to the next step of our evolution as a City and gives us far greater control over our future. I am proud of our citizens and their willingness to let their voices be heard. It was gratifying to learn that over 70% of our registered voters cast their votes in the recent Presidential election. This is a very high number and it speaks well of our community. Involved citizens are what make a community strong. I want to offer thanks both personally and on behalf of the entire City Council to those residents who serve or have served our community in volunteer positions both by sitting on various committees and boards or by volunteering in other ways benefiting our City and its residents.

We have a new City Manager and we feel confident that he will be strongly involved in making 2009 another year of accomplishment and growth. We faced a number of challenges in 2008, including a developer who wanted to form a MUD (Municipal Utility District) inside our extra-territorial jurisdiction. Those of us on City Council who fought hard to protect the interests of all our residents will continue to do so in the future by vigorously pushing back at those who do not share our residents' vision of how we want our City to look in the future.

Finally, I want to thank, again, on behalf of the entire City Council, the employees of the City of Lucas. Their hard work strongly contributes to what makes Lucas the finest place to live in Collin County!

Thanks to Interim City Manager, Stacy Caudell

The City of Lucas' City Council and Staff wish to express their thanks and appreciation to Public Works Director Stacy Caudell for his willingness to serve as Interim City Manager. Stacy did an excellent job in serving the citizens during the time Council searched for a new city manager. Our hats are off to you, Stacy, job well done!

MEETING SCHEDULE

ALL MEETINGS BEGIN AT 7:00 IN THE CITY ANNEX UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR

THURS., DEC 4

PLANNING & ZONING

THURS., DEC. 11

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP

THURS., DEC 18

MUNICIPAL COURT

WED., DEC 17, 4PM

Division Chief to Retire



Division Chief/Fire Marshal Ron Grotti will retire from the Lucas Fire Department on December 16, 2008 after 30 years of dedicated service. Ron first joined the department in July of 1978 as a volunteer while working for Texas Instruments. After retiring from there he continued to volunteer for the Lucas Fire department and

began teaching at the Collin County Community College fire academy, and is currently a lead instructor at that location. Back when Ron first joined, the department was very small and needed all the help it could receive. It was said that every now and then someone comes along and you know that you have made good catch, and they knew Ron was a good catch. It is unknown how many training hours Ron has acquired over the years, but everyone agrees it is in the thousands. Ron has served two different terms as Fire Chief with the department, first from 1995 through 1997 and second from 2001 through 2005 when the department hired its first part time Fire Chief. Ron has continued to serve as a division chief and Fire Marshal since then.

Chief Grotti led the charge to make Lucas one of the best volunteer fire departments in the state of Texas, and has been very successful in his quest. Ron was instrumental in obtaining our current fleet of first line fire engines, as well as the design and construction of the current fire station. Ron is also responsible for the current ISO rating of 5, which is very good for a volunteer department. The department will be re-inspected in December and is expected to receive an ISO rating of three. A rating of three is very good, even for a fully paid department.

Ron will hang up the gear he has donned so many times over the past 30 years on December 16 and take the time to enjoy his new grandchild due very soon, but luckily for us he has agreed to hang around and lend us his expertise on future projects. By demanding first quality training and equipment, the department is now considered a non paid professional fire department. Our current standing with other local fire departments, the local Council of Governments and the State of Texas is all due to the efforts of a very dedicated man by the name of Ron Grotti. It would be impossible for this community to repay Ron for all he has done over the past 30 years. All we can do is give a heartfelt thank you for the many many hours he has given this community and wish him and his family all the best.

Local Ham Radio Operators Provide Public Demo of Emergency Communications for Lucas, Texas Residents

Over the past year, the news has been full of reports of ham radio operators providing critical communications in emergencies including the California wildfires, tornadoes and other events world-wide. During Hurricane Ike, Amateur Radio – often called “Ham radio” - was often the ONLY way people could communicate, and hundreds of volunteer “hams” traveled south to save lives and property. When trouble is brewing, ham radio people are often the first to provide critical information and communications.

On the weekend of June 27 – 28, 2009, Lucas residents will have another chance to meet and talk with these ham radio operators and see for themselves what the Amateur Radio Service is about. Showing the newest digital and satellite capabilities, voice communications and even historical Morse code, hams from across the USA will be holding public demonstrations of emergency communications abilities.

This annual event, called "Field Day" is the climax of the week long "Amateur Radio Week". Using only emergency power supplies, ham operators will construct emergency stations in parks, shopping malls, schools and back yards

around the country. Their slogan, "Ham radio works when other systems don't!" is more than just words to the hams as they prove they can send messages in many forms without the use of phone systems, Internet or any other infrastructure that can be compromised in a crisis.

In the Lucas, Texas area, the Texas Amateur Radio Rescue Group (TARRG) will be demonstrating Amateur Radio at the Lucas City Hall Complex on Saturday, June 27, and Sunday June 28, 2009. TARRG invites all Lucas residents to come and see ham radio's new capabilities and learn how to get their own FCC radio license before the next disaster strikes.

There are 650,000 Amateur Radio licensees in the US, and more than 2.5 million around the world. Ham volunteers provide emergency communications for thousands of state and local emergency response agencies at no cost.

To learn more about our local Texas Amateur Radio Rescue Group, go to www.WR5W.org. Lucas residents are most cordially invited to come, meet and talk with the hams. See what modern Amateur Radio can do. We can even help you get on the air!

November City Council Report

CANDIDATE PACKETS TO BE AVAILABLE JANUARY 19

Nov. 6 Regular City Council Meeting

- Welcomed the new City Manager, Robert Patrick.
- Thanked the interim City Manager, Stacy Caudell, for his excellent job in serving the citizens during the time Council searched for a new city manager.
- Welcomed Britney Walls of Wylie who was visiting the Council session in preparation for a report to her government class.
- Approved minutes from the Oct 2nd Regular, Oct 6th Special and October 16th Workshop meetings.
- Approved ordinance # 2008-11-00632 repealing Sections 7.01.002 and 7.01.003 in their entirety and reserving for future use; providing a savings clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.
- Approved Ordinance # 2008-11-00633 concerning the requirement for residential sprinklers.
- Discussed drainage issues in the Austin Trails subdivision.
- Approved Resolution # R-2008-11-00321 concerning the establishment of an Identity Theft Program.
- Discussed the approval of Holloway Welding and Piping Companies landscape plan.
- Discussed an amendment of city water rates regarding an increase. Staff to research and bring back to future meeting.
- Discussed the December and January City Council Meetings..

There will be a total of 4 seats on the ballot this May; Councilmember seats 1, 2, 3 and the Mayor. The election, which will take place on May 9, 2009, will be officially called by the Council at its regular meeting in February, as prescribed by the State election code. Persons who are interested in filing as candidates for any of these seats may pick up packets at City Hall beginning January 19. The first day to file for a place on the ballot is February 7, 2009. Please contact City Secretary Kathy Wingo for any questions regarding the candidate packets.

Storm Water Education

What is storm water run-off?

Storm water run-off occurs when precipitation flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks and streets, prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is storm water run-off a problem?

Storm water run-off can pick up trash, decaying matter, chemicals, soil and other pollutants before it flows into a storm sewer system or directly into a stream or lake. Any pollutant that enters a storm sewer system, such as a pipe or a curb inlet, is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

What are some simple steps Lucas residents can take to help control storm water pollution?

Pet waste

Pet waste can be a 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.

January 1st City Council Meeting Cancelled

The City of Lucas' City Council has cancelled the first meeting in the month of January due to the New Year's Holiday. The regular scheduled City Council Workshop Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15th.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

Each year the National Safety Council offers suggestions to help make your holiday season merry and safe. Some of the

tips are especially good as they involve things that we may not have considered. For example, they remind us that certain plants may look good enough to eat to small children, but can actually cause severe stomach problems. Plants to watch out for include mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry, and amaryllis. These same plants may also be harmful to pets. They also recommend that you not burn evergreens or wreaths in the fireplace or in a wood stove to dispose of them. They are likely to flare out of control and send flames and smoke into the room. Also, do not burn wrapping paper in the fireplace because it often contains metallic materials which can be toxic if burned.

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

Meet the new City Manager, Robert Patrick



The City of Lucas introduces and welcomes Robert Patrick to his new position as the City Manager of Lucas. Robert's appointment started on November 3rd. He started in the man-

agement profession in January of 1992 for his hometown of Quitaque, Texas. He served Spearman, Texas as City Manager for seven years, and Henrietta, Texas for over four years. His most recent position was for the City of Denton where he served as Water Production Maintenance Manager. Robert received his bachelor's degree from Western Governors University, and his Certified Public Manager designation from Texas Tech University.

Robert and his wife Kimberly have been married for 18 years and have four children, Christian, Geoffrey, Madison and Allison. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, and any activity in which his children are active.

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002
PERMIT 157

POSTAL PATRON