



Lucas City Newsletter

March, 2008

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

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- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
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- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
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- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
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- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember
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City Administrator

Paul Catoe
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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

In the past few months, there has been much discussion among the City Council members regarding the issue of providing City services to non-Lucas residents who reside within our ETJ (Extra Territorial Jurisdiction) areas. At issue was the basic fairness of providing services that are paid for with Lucas City tax dollars to areas that do not pay Lucas taxes. Tax paying Lucas residents have in effect been subsidizing a number of services to those who live in ETJ areas.

Effective May 1, 2008 the City of Lucas will no longer provide City services to anyone but City of Lucas residents. The services discontinued will include, but are not limited to fire protection services, emergency medical services, law enforcement services, and animal control services. The residents affected by this discontinuation must now look to the County to see what services they can provide. A letter was sent to all affected households on Feb. 11. Residents in the ETJ areas who are eligible to annex into the City were invited to do so. By paying their fair share of City taxes, they could then continue to enjoy all the benefits of being Lucas citizens, including lower water rates, and the right to a voice in City issues, among others.

The City will of course continue to honor all mutual aide agreements in effect with other regional fire departments. We want to continue to be good neighbors to all surrounding areas. This change is about our ability to maintain the needed funds to provide a sufficient and appropriate level of City services to our tax paying residents.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular

Thurs., Mar. 6

Planning & Zoning

Thurs., Mar. 13

City Council Workshop

Thurs., Mar. 20

Parks & Open Space

Mon., Mar. 31, City Hall

Municipal Court

Wed., Mar. 31, 4:00 PM

Home Rule Charter Education

See Page 2 for complete list

HOME RULE CHARTER INFORMATION

A proposed Home Rule Charter for the City of Lucas will be on the May 10 Special Election Ballot. The enclosure in this month's newsletter is intended to assist our residents in making an informed decision at the polls. It is designed to answer the most frequently asked questions (FAQS) about the proposed charter, and is intended to supplement the public meetings scheduled by the Home Rule Commission on this topic. Our City continues to grow, and important decisions need to be made about our future. Every Lucas citizen has both the right and the responsibility to have a voice in how they will be governed in the future. Take this responsibility seriously by educating yourself on this important issue, and vote according to your vision of our future. You are encouraged to attend one or more of the meetings scheduled on this topic, and ask any questions you may have.

HOME RULE CHARTER EDUCATION MEETINGS SCHEDULE

There are a number of Home Rule Charter Education meetings planned between now and the election on May 10. All residents are invited to attend one or more of these meetings, all of which will be held in the City Hall annex building to the right of the fire station on Country Club road.

- Tuesday, March 11, 7:00 PM
- Monday, March 31, 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 PM
- Saturday, April 12, 8:00 AM-11:00PM (Coffee with Council format)

CITY IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH COUNTY



Mayor Bill Carmickle and City Attorney Joe Gorfida are currently in negotiations with Collin County Commissioners Court to effect an agreement by which the City will assume responsibility for all building permits and inspections in our ETJ (extra territorial jurisdiction) areas. Doing so will help ensure that areas with potential to be annexed into the City will be built in accordance with the same standards as those currently applied within the City.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Each registered voter in Lucas must receive a copy of the proposed Home Rule Charter at least 30 days prior to the election on May 10. It is the goal of the Home Rule Commission to have these mailed out no later than March 24. In order to meet this deadline, the City staff is asking for volunteers to assist in stuffing envelopes and preparing the charter copies for mailing. Copying of the charter has already begun, and staff would like to begin stuffing the envelopes as soon as possible. If you are able to help in this process, please contact our City Secretary, Kathy Wingo at 972-727-8999 or by email to kwingo@lucastexas.us.

FIRE DISASTER AVERTED IN LUCAS

Many of us may remember Tuesday, Jan. 29 of this year as a day when television news was filled with stories of out of control wildfires, and the loss of many homes and properties in the North Texas area.



Extremely high winds and dry conditions combined to create dangerous fire hazards. What you may not know is that a potential fire disaster in Lucas that day was averted by the actions of a quick thinking Good Samaritan and our outstanding volunteer fire department.

I was working in my home office that morning when I heard a loud pounding on my front door. When I opened it, much to my horror I saw my entire front yard ablaze, with the flames racing toward my house. Denny Rice, a Lucas resident, was driving by when she saw the fires in my yard and those of my neighbors. She immediately pulled over, called 911, and began banging on doors to alert residents, then grabbing water hoses and moving flammables to try and hold back the flames.

Due to her quick reaction, the assistance of another passerby, and the extremely fast response of our fire department, the blaze was quickly extinguished. It had apparently started when sparks from downed power lines ignited the grass. Four homes along Estates Parkway were affected by the fires. None suffered any structural damage.

Denny Rice is a true Lucas hero. If not for her quick reaction, I and several of my neighbors could easily have been on the TV news that night talking about our losses. Thank you, Denny, and thanks to all the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department members who so quickly responded to this potentially disastrous situation.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED

The current volunteer newsletter editor has resigned from this position effective after the May, 2008 issue. Council is currently looking for a replacement, and would like to invite all interested persons to apply. This is a challenging and rewarding opportunity to become more involved in your community. If you would like more information about the qualifications needed, time involved, or have any other questions, contact the current editor at newsletter@lucastexas.us or the City Secretary kwingo@lucastexas.us or call her at 972-727-8999.

FEB. CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

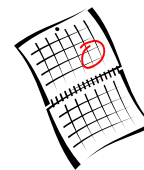
February 7, 2008 Regular City Council Meeting

- Approved minutes from Jan. 3, Regular Meeting, Jan. 7, Joint Meeting of HRC & Council, Jan. 17 Workshop Meeting, and Jan. 18 Special Meeting.
- Approved **Resolution #R-2008-02-00310** calling for a General Election to be held on May 10, 2008 for purpose of electing (3) three City Councilmembers at large: and calling for a Special Election to vote on adoption of the proposed Home Rule Charter. The resolution also provided for appt. of a Deputy Early Voting Clerk; approved early voting; and established early voting business hours.
- Approved audit of Fiscal Year 2006-2007 that concluded that the City is in very solid financial shape.
- Approved a development agreement between the City and New Lineage Homes which will include annexation of the property in question.
- Authorized advertisement of bids for asphalt paving of Winningkoff Rd. and Christian Lane.
- Approved a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) and Notice of Intent for submission to the TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality).
- Appointed Robert J. Lang as an alternate to the Planning & Zoning Commission.
- Set a date of Sat. April 12, 2008 for next Coffee With Council Event to be hosted by Mayor Carmickle and Councilmember Zriny, along with member of Home Rule Commission.
- Approved "Procedures for Annexation".

February 21, 2008 Workshop Meeting

- Accepted 2 (two) water line easements on Snider Lane from the US Army Corps of Engineers and Lou Gigliotti for the construction of an 8" water line by the developer of Lakeview Downs.
- Approved a resolution authorizing participation in Texpool and designating authorized representatives for purpose of establishing an interest and sinking fund to pay debt service accounts.
- Agreed to comply with auditors recommendations regarding reorganization of investments accounts.

VOTER INFORMATION



In order to vote in the **May 10** General and Special elections, your voter registration must be submitted and processed by the County Election Administrator by **April 10**. Early voting will begin on **April 28** at City Hall and will end on **May 6**. Early voting will take place during normal City business hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM with the exception of **Tues., April 29**, and **Tues., May 6**. On these two days, you may cast your ballots from 7:00AM until 7:00PM.

If you would like to run for one of the three Council seats up for election, you may pick up a packet at City Hall. The final day to submit your paperwork is **Monday, March 10**.

Please remember that the above information applies only to the City of Lucas election. Election Day polling places for county, state, and federal elections are established by Collin County, and are not at the above location. Where you will vote in these elections is determined by the precinct shown on your voter registration card. You can contact the Collin County Elections Department at 972-424-1460 ext. 1990 (metro), or email election@collincountytx.gov for this information. Their website is www.co.collin.tx.us/elections.

You may also obtain polling location information for the March 4 Democrat/Republican primaries at the above website or phone number.

COMMISSIONER JOE JAYNES TO PRESENT MATCHING FUNDS GRANT ON MARCH 6

County Commissioner Joe Jaynes will be present at the March 6 City Council meeting to officially present the City with a symbolic check for \$82,587.50. This is the matching funds amount awarded to Lucas from the Collin County 2003 Parks and Open Space Bond program. This money, along with matching funds from the City of Lucas park dedication fees account, will be used for improvements at the City Park. A new concrete walking trail will be built around the outer perimeter of the park, as well as a new paved parking lot and upgraded landscaping. Bids for the improvements will go out shortly with work to be completed in the next few months.



LUCAS TEEN A BIG WINNER AT 2008 SOUTHWESTERN EXPOSITION AND LIVESTOCK SHOW

Lysie Bradshaw, daughter of Donna and Kevin Bradshaw of Lucas, exhibited her shorthorn heifer calf at the 2008 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show in Fort Worth last month, and walked away with a first-place win in her class (Junior Breeding Beef Heifer). Lysie is a junior at Allen High School and member of the Allen High FFA, of which she is an officer, serving as club reporter. She showed her winning heifer, "Miss Kitty", on Jan. 20. On January 31, she showed her steer, "Marshall Dillon", and placed in the top ten "sale steers". During the 2007 Fort Worth Show, Lysie competed in the Calf Scramble event.. She used her prize money from that event to purchase "Miss Kitty", with the stipulation that she would return with her heifer to be exhibited this year. Miss Kitty will be bred, and will return to next year's show to be exhibited with her calf.

Lysie is preparing to take "Miss Kitty" to Houston for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in March. Best of luck in Houston, Lysie, and we know you will continue to make Lucas proud to claim you as one of our own!

Lysie's mother, Donna, is a member of the Lucas Parks and Open Space Board.



*CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED ON
GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21.*



CITY OF LUCAS
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LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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