



Lucas City Newsletter

Volume IV, Issue 5

May , 2009

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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Straight Talk from the Mayor

By the time you receive this newsletter, early voting for our City general election will have already begun. The right to vote is the true

foundation of any democracy, and you have the responsibility of determining how your city government will be shaped. If you have not already done so, I strongly urge you to cast your ballot for whichever candidates you choose to support. Lucas is **your** city, and you should help shape its future by exercising your right to vote.

If you are not able to take advantage of early voting, then please vote on election day, Sat. May 9.



MEETING SCHEDULE

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

**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY, MAY 1 8 AM**

**CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 7**

**ELECTION DAY
SATURDAY, MAY 9 7AM TO 7 PM**

**PLANNING & ZONING
THURSDAY, MAY 14**

**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
THURSDAY, MAY 21**



Effective Monday, April 27, the recycling bin formerly located at Hart Elementary has been moved to a location behind City Hall. This bin is for residential recycling **only**, and there will be video surveillance to ensure compliance. For information on recyclable materials, go to www.lucastexas.us/index.php?tag=recycle.

Our volunteer fire department also maintains a trailer at the same site for drop off of recyclable aluminum cans. The sale of these cans goes into their general fund and helps to pay for training expenses and other items needed by the fire department.



IT'S SPRING! ARE YOU PREPARED?

By Council Member Kathleen Peele

Ahh, Spring! I love this weather, trees budding out, bulbs in bloom, and spring rains. But, it's also Texas, and having lived here for 25 years, I know how quickly the weather can change and how severe it can become.

The Dept. of Homeland Security has run a television ad campaign urging families to create a disaster/emergency plan. What isn't mentioned is the importance of including plans for the furry, hairy, feathery, or wooly animals in our lives. In my case, that's 1 parrot, 4 dogs, and 3 horses. While the parrot and dogs don't present much of a problem – load them in the car and away we go – my much larger family members present more of a challenge. Many of my neighbors here in Lucas have the same issue, so I'd like to share some of the ideas I've gathered and give you a few resources to assist you in developing an emergency plan for those larger furry, hairy, or wooly creatures in your family.

- Find a safe place - Have a list of friends, relatives, boarding facilities, race tracks, show grounds, pastures, stables, fairgrounds, or arenas outside your immediate area and make arrangements ahead of time for them to be taken there. If these animals must be left behind make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor, friend or relative to look after them. Leave these people a list of your and your veterinarian and farrier contact numbers. Include information about the animal's food, vaccinations and any medication. Post a copy of this information visibly in your barn and your horse trailer. Keep a copy in the truck you use to pull that trailer.

- Develop an evacuation plan – Keep gas in your truck, keep the trailer ready to hitch up (know where that key to the trailer lock is), and tires inflated. Have maps of the local area and alternate evacuation routes marked to your designated safe place. Make sure that your animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer. If you do not have enough trailers to transport all of your animals, contact neighbors or local haulers and establish a network of available resources that will assist with transportation.

Have an evacuation kit – you can purchase these already put together or make your own in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container. Some of the items to include for our equine family members are: bandannas (to use as blindfolds), duct tape, first aid kit, heavy gloves, hoof knife,

- pick, nippers, & rasp, halters & leads, and wire cutters. Consult your veterinarian when putting together the first aid kit.

- ID your animals – two inexpensive, easy ideas are to braid a luggage tag into tail or mane or use a permanent

(continued on page 3 - see **Be Prepared**)

Tornado—Make A Plan to Survive

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Spawned from powerful thunderstorms, tornadoes can cause fatalities and devastate a neighborhood in seconds. A tornado appears as a rotating, funnel-shaped cloud that extends from a thunderstorm to the ground with whirling winds that can reach 300 miles per hour. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long. Every state is at some risk from this hazard.

Your first line of information for severe weather will come from your local radio and TV stations.

Tornado Watch – Conditions are right for the formation of a tornado.

Tornado Warning – An actual tornado has been spotted by trained personnel or indicated on radar. Take shelter immediately.

The weather systems that collide to form severe thunderstorms and possibly tornadoes occur more frequently in the spring, usually March through June. The prime time for tornadoes is from 3 to 7 p.m. Although it must be remembered that tornadoes can strike at any time of the day or year and at any place.

The key is to put as many walls as possible between you and the outside!

In homes or small businesses – Take cover in the center part of the structure, on the lowest floor, in a small room such as a closet or bathroom or under sturdy furniture. Stay away from windows and do not attempt to open them.

In schools, shopping centers, or public buildings - stay away from windows and large unsupported areas such as auditoriums or gymnasiums. Move to the pre-designated shelter area. Follow specific instructions by building officials.

In a car, mobile home, or in open country – seek shelter in a substantial shelter or get into the nearest ditch or depression (beware of flash flooding) until the tornado passes. Cover your head with your hands. Never try to outrun a tornado.

Always take cover – most tornado deaths are caused by head injuries from flying debris.

Purchase a NOAA weather radio – by listening you will be able to track the storm's progress well before it arrives in the area. Weather radios can be purchased through local retailers of electronic equipment. Monitoring local amateur radio storm spotters will allow you to know where the tornado is and the direction of travel.

Contact the Lucas Fire Department at (972)-727-1242 for more information on severe weather, how you could assist in storm spotting, or how to make a home survival kit for your family and pets.

April Council Actions

- Approved the zoning for newly annexed land, 8 Hobb Hill, to be Residential two acre (R-2)
- Approved the zoning for newly annexed land, 2005 Estates Parkway, to be Residential one and a half acre (R-1.5)
- Approved the zoning for newly annexed land, 802 and 803 Ambleswood Drive, to be Residential one acre (R-1)
- Approved the zoning for newly annexed land, The Ranch at Pecan Grove, to be Residential one and a half acre (R-1.5)
- Approved **Resolution # R-2009-04-00329** of the City of Lucas, Texas changing authorized agents for American National Bank
- Approve **Resolution # R-2009-04-00330** of the City of Lucas, Texas authorizing participation in Texpool and designate authorized representatives for the purpose of establishing an interest and sinking fund to pay debt service accounts
- Approved **Resolution # R-2009-04-00331** by the City Council of the City of Lucas, Texas calling for redemption certain currently outstanding obligations designated as “City of Lucas, Texas Waterworks System Revenue Bonds, Series 1969”, “City of Lucas, Texas Waterworks System Revenue Bonds, Series 1980”, and “City of Lucas, Texas Waterworks System Revenue Bonds, Series 1989”; directing that the City Secretary, or her designee, effectuate the redemption of these obligations; and other matters in connection therewith
- Approved **Ordinance # 2009-04-0644** of the City of Council of Lucas, Texas approving the adoption of the Planning and Design Drainage Criteria for Storm Water Run-Off
- Approved **Ordinance # 2009-04-0645** of the City of Lucas, Texas amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Lucas by amending Chapter 10, “Subdivisions” by adding a new Article 10.04 titled “Stormwater Runoff Regulations and Control”
- Approved **Resolution # R-2009-04-00332** of the City Council of the City of Lucas, Texas, amending the Master Fee Schedule by adding Storm Water Run-off Permit Fees
- Approved **Ordinance # 2009-04-00647** of the City Council of the City of Lucas, Texas, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 13, “Utilities” by amending Article 13.03 “Drought Contingency Plan” by amending Sections 13.03.001 through 13.03.004; to establish a new water conservation and contingency and water emergency response plan for the City of Lucas
- Approved **Ordinance # 2009-04-00646** of the City of Lucas, Texas, amending the Code of Ordinances by amending Chapter 3, “Building Regulations” by amending and restating Article 3.14 “Flood Damage Prevention”; by adopting regulations designed to minimize flood losses
- Approved authorizing the City Manager to allow Collin County to pave the gravel only portion of Ingram Road with a double course chip seal
- Approved and authorize Staff to have BW2 prepare bid package to solicit bids on the Pavement Maintenance for portions of Ingram Road, Blondy Jhune, Lakeview/Long, Holyoak Lane, Graham Lane, Holly Lane, and Estates Road

Tips to Save Energy Today

Easy low-cost and no-cost ways to save energy.

- Install a programmable thermostat to keep your house comfortably warm in the winter and comfortably cool in the summer.
- Use compact fluorescent light bulbs with the **ENERGY STAR®** label.
- Air dry dishes instead of using your dishwasher’s drying cycle.
- Turn off your computer and monitor when not in use.
- Plug home electronics, such as TVs and DVD players, into power strips; turn the power strips off when the equipment is not in use (TVs and DVDs in standby mode still use several watts of power).
- Lower the thermostat on your hot water heater to 120°F.
- Take short showers instead of baths.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Drive sensibly. Aggressive driving (speeding, rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline.
- Look for the ENERGY STAR label on home appliances and products. ENERGY STAR products meet strict efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Visit <http://www.energysavers.gov/> for more energy-saving ideas.

Be Prepared (from page 2)

marker to mark hooves. Keep photos and copies of vaccination records and registrations in a zip lock bag as part of your evacuation kit. This will help to identify your animal should they become loose.

- The following Web sites provide more detailed information:
 - o The American Veterinary Medical Association has a series of brochures on this topic. The text of these brochures can be found at: www.avma.or/disaster/.
 - o The American Red Cross has information on disaster & emergency planning for livestock and wildlife: <http://www.redcross.org>.

The Humane Society also provides disaster/emergency planning: <http://www.hsus.org>.

Enjoy spring safe and secure in the knowledge that *all* those you care about have been planned and prepared for in case of emergency.



Stage 1 Water Restrictions

The City of Lucas is currently in Stage 1 Water Restrictions. Beginning April 1st through October 31st, watering between the hours of 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. is prohibited.

Drought Contingency Plan

The City of Lucas is currently working on updating our drought contingency plans to be in accordance with North Texas Municipal Water District regulation and State law. The city is required to adopt a set of guidelines by May 2, 2009 that meets the criteria established by NTMWD. The changes that will affect every day usage are as follows.

1. Time of day watering is restricted from 10 AM to 6 PM from April 1 through October 31.
2. No watering of impervious surfaces.
3. No watering during precipitation or freeze events.
4. Outdoor lawn and landscape watering limited to twice a week.
5. Treated water may not be used to fill or refill ponds.
6. At home car washing to be done using a water hose with a shut off nozzle.
7. Watering of areas over seeded with cool-season grass (rye, winter or other) is not allowed accept for golf courses.
8. Rain/freeze sensors and/or ET Smart controllers required for all new irrigation systems. (already required by local code)

With the upcoming summer season fast approaching if we all give just a little thought to water conservation, it may help to alleviate the need for more stringent regulations in the future.

CITY OF LUCAS
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LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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