



Lucas City Newsletter

May, 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)
- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
(mbarratt@lucastexas.us
(Vacant), Councilmember
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



May will be a month of change at City Hall. Our new City Manager, Jeff Jenkins, will start on May 9, and two new Councilmembers will be voted into office on May 14. I want to personally thank outgoing Councilmember Mark Barratt for his dedication and service to the City over the past years. He has served the residents of this City faithfully. He and his wife Carol have been great contributors to the fun during our Founder's Day events, delighting the children with pony rides and other fun activities. We are fortunate to have the Barratt family as members of our community.

Please make sure you vote. There are numerous convenient options for voting early, if you choose. Our dedicated staff at City Hall will be there each day for early voting from Monday May 2 thru Tuesday May 10, and will be open extended hours at times. The schedule for early voting is shown elsewhere in this newsletter. Election day is Saturday, May 14. Each vote is important, and I urge you to make your voice heard.

Please be sure to read the article in this newsletter about our brave and dedicated volunteer fire department employees. We are all so proud of them for their willingness to serve when called to deploy to West Texas to help fight the wild fires that have devastated that area. Please keep in your prayers the firefighters who continue to work in that area to keep the fires under control. We also extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the two firefighters who lost their lives fighting the wild fires, one from Cactus and the other from Eastland. During this period of drought we are all vulnerable to wildfires. The natural beauty in Lucas that we all enjoy so much could be destroyed quickly as a result of one careless action. Please abide by the burn ban and use extreme caution when engaging in any activities that could trigger a fire.

Last, but certainly not least, I want to extend my thanks to a local Toastmasters Club for their willingness to moderate the two Meet the Candidates forums held April 28 and May 1. Mark Liberio and Mary Millholland of the Allen Toastmasters group graciously agreed to moderate these events for us.

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM

Early Voting

See page 2 for schedule

City Council Regular

Thursday, May 5

Planning & Zoning Commission

Thursday, May 12

Election Day

Saturday, May 14, 7AM to 7PM

Municipal Court, 3 PM

Wednesday, May 18

City Council Workshop

Thursday, May 19



**General Election
May 14, 2011
7 AM to 7 PM**

Candidates on the ballot:

**Councilmember Seat 1: Sean McCaffity
Wayne Millsap**

Councilmember Seat 2: Jim Olk

Early Voting dates and times:

Monday, May 2nd, 8 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday, May 3rd, 7 AM to 7 PM
Wednesday, May 4th, 8 AM to 5 PM
Thursday, May 5th, 8 AM to 5 PM
Friday, May 6th, 8 AM to 5 PM

Monday, May 9th, 8 AM to 5 PM
Tuesday, May 10th, 7 AM to 7 PM

Election Day

Saturday, May 14th, 7 AM to 7 PM

Polling locations:

Early Voting:

City Hall Conference Room
665 Country Club
Lucas, Texas

(Enter through the front door of City Hall.)

Election Day:

City Hall Council Chambers
665 Country Club
Lucas, Texas

(Enter the polling location from the southend of the building.)

Allen Community Outreach

Serving families in crisis for 26 years, **Allen Community Outreach (ACO)** is the only local agency to assist families in need in Allen, Lucas and surrounding areas.

ACO depends on donations from the community and needs your help. You can assist in several ways: Donate your gently used furniture, household items, clothes and books to the **ACO Resale Shop**; Donate summer snack foods, spaghetti & sauce, rice, dried beans and other pantry staples to the **ACO Food Pantry**; Donate much needed personal hygiene items such as toilet tissue, toothpaste, shampoo, dishwashing soap or paper towels to the **ACO Care & Share Program**; Make a monetary donations online or get more information at www.acocares.org.

Donations are accepted **Monday–Saturday at 801 East Main Street. 972-727-9131 or 972-727-4751**

Volunteer Time is a priceless gift!

Lake Lavon

(Lake Elevation as of April 27, 2011)

Current Elevation	Normal Elevation
486.57	492.00



**City of Lucas' Stage 1
Water Conservation
Effective April 19, 2011**

1. Time of day watering is restricted between 10AM to 6 PM from April 1 through October 31.
2. Recommend, No watering of impervious surfaces.
3. Recommend, No watering during precipitation or freeze events.
4. Recommend, Treated water may not be used to fill or refill ponds.
5. Recommend, "At home" car washing to be done using water hose with a shut off nozzle.
6. Recommend, of areas overseeded with cool season grass (rye, winter or other) is not allowed, except for golf courses.

Let's Share the Road



Mayor Rebecca Mark has proclaimed the month of May to be **Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month** in the City of Lucas. It is the responsibility of all who put themselves behind the wheel, to become aware of motorcyclists, regarding them with the same respect as any other vehicle traveling the highways of our city. And it is the responsibility of riders and motorists alike to obey all traffic laws and safety rules. All citizens are urged to become aware of the inherent danger involved in operating a motorcycle, and for riders and motorists to give each other the mutual respect they deserve.

Wildfire Assistance Given By Chief Jim Kitchens

During the recent wildfires in West Texas, Lucas Volunteer Fire Department was called upon to provide assistance. At 5:00am Mon., April 18th, three Lucas firefighters, Chief Craig Zale, Captain James Tellier, and Lieutenant Jonathan Haynes, left on the new brush engine to meet up with a Collin County strike team headed to West Texas. The Frisco Fire Department added a fourth firefighter to our crew for safety.

The strike team's first stop was Merkel Texas where they were checked in, inspected and issued orders. Their first assignment was Robert Lee, Texas, working on exposure protection (houses).

They were sent to a rural area to work a ten mile fire line until 2:30 am. They then went to San Angelo to rest. They were back up very early and sent back to the fire line where they worked until 10:30pm Tuesday night.

Our crew was re-assigned to the Wild Cat fire, mainly in Tom Green County, on Wednesday morning at around 6:00am. Chief Zale reported that the heat from the fire could be felt a quarter of a mile away, and that trees exploded into fire balls 75 feet in front of the fire from the radiant heat, creating a very fast moving fire. They remained on scene until 6:00pm before being sent back to San Angelo for rest.

Our unit was in high demand in that area. It is able to deliver large amounts of water in areas not accessible by large type one pumpers or water tenders. Our unit carries a lot of hand tools and saws that regular pumpers do not carry, allowing them clear all combustible material from around structures. They can cut down a tree and use the truck, in 4 wheel drive, to pull it away from the structure. Our crew was directly responsible for saving several structures. They were also assigned to protect the John Woodard Ranch where they were credited with helping save over 5,000 acres. Our crew came across a Forest Service official who was broken down with a flat tire. They took out the air hose fittings, located the hole in the tire, used the tire plug kit, and got the official back on the road so he could complete his assignment. His comment: "Is there anything this rig can't do?"

Chief Zale said they were tired because the work is very labor intensive, but added they were well taken care of. The experience they gained was priceless. They learned a great deal about wild land fire behavior, and how to protect structures from this very destructive type fire. The crew safely returned home on Thursday, April 28.

I am very proud of the performance and dedication of the crew representing us at this disaster. They have sacrificed a great deal to help others. Lucas is very lucky to have such dedicated men and women ready and willing to serve our City and our State.



Lucas Firewise Program

I am sure all Lucas residents are aware of the terrible fires the state is experiencing this season. The Lucas Fire Department and the Lucas CERT team members have are working together on laying the foundation for a Lucas Firewise program to reduce the effects of wild land fire in our city. As everyone can see this is program can be worth its weight in gold under certain conditions. But until our program is up and running I encourage all citizens to use the following resources to build wildfire awareness and help get prepared in the event a fire threatens their property. Below are links that provide wildfire education for citizens.

Firewise - <http://www.firewise.org/>

Fire Ready - <http://www.fireready.com/index.html>

Texas Forest Service - <http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/default.aspx>

TDEM Wildfire Awareness - http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/pages/pio_wildfire_awareness.htm

*Jim Kitchens
Fire Chief
Lucas Fire Department*

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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