



# LUCAS LEADER



May 2016



## City of Lucas Special Election May 7, 2016

The City of Lucas will be holding a special election on May 7, 2016 with two sales tax propositions on the ballot. We want to clarify the reasons for these proposals and the short answer is – funding for street maintenance. The long answer is below!

The City Council has been focused on addressing the condition of our streets. Several capital improvement projects are planned, but the on-going maintenance of streets needs to be addressed as our maintenance costs are growing and we continue to dedicate more of the budget each year to repair our streets.

Property tax accounts for 41% of the City's revenue budget, but a unique distinction about sales tax (19% of the budget) is that it is paid by everyone who shops in Lucas, not just those of us who live here. We are accustomed to paying the 8.25% sales tax, but we may not know that 6.25% goes to the State of Texas. Of the remaining 2%, 1% is the general sales tax that goes to the City of Lucas General Fund to help pay for the cost of providing services. The remaining 1% is for dedicated purposes based upon local elections.

So that brings us to the point of the upcoming election. In 2012 and 2014, the City held elections that established three uses for the 1% dedicated purpose sales tax. Two of these are the subject of this election:

- .25% sales tax dedicated for street maintenance (see Proposition 1)
- .25% sales tax dedicated to property tax relief (see Proposition 2)
- .50% sales tax dedicated to the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District for the purpose of funding equipment and operational costs including fire safety and emergency medical programs

### Proposition 1:

*"The continuation of the one-quarter of one-percent (.25%) sales and use tax within the City of Lucas Texas, to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets."*

The .25% sales tax for street maintenance is an optional, dedicated city sales tax which must be spent to repair and maintain existing city streets. This will expire effective September 30, 2016 unless approved by the voters on May 7. If approved, the tax rate will remain the same. If the Proposition fails, the sales tax rate will decrease by .25% and the City will lose its ability to collect approximately \$132,500 annually that it uses to fund street maintenance and repairs.

### Proposition 2:

*"Abolishing the one-quarter of one-percent (.25%) sales and use tax dedicated to property tax relief and approving an additional one-quarter of one-percent (.25%) sales and use tax dedicated to provide revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets."*

The sales tax collected for property tax relief, approximately \$132,500 each year, offsets an equivalent amount of property tax. For a house with a taxable value of \$400,000, the property tax is reduced by approximately \$70.00 per year.

We are asking Lucas voters to consider shifting this sales tax from property tax relief to street maintenance. If approved, it will be dedicated to maintenance and repairs of city streets. It will not increase the overall sales tax rate, but you would have a small increase in your property tax. If it does not pass it will remain as is. These propositions do not increase the sales tax – the rates will remain the same. If both propositions are approved by the voters, .50% of sales tax collected will be earmarked for repair and maintenance of existing city streets which represents approximately \$265,000 annually.

If you need any clarification or additional information on this matter please don't hesitate to contact any of your City Council members at [citycouncil@lucastexas.us](mailto:citycouncil@lucastexas.us) or the City Manager Joni Clarke at [jclarke@lucastexas.us](mailto:jclarke@lucastexas.us).

## Early Voting Information

If you are a Lucas resident and a registered voter, you are eligible to vote in the upcoming City and school elections on May 7, 2016. On the ballot for the City of Lucas will be two sales tax propositions and depending on what school district you are in, you will also see propositions on the ballot from Plano Independent School District and McKinney Independent School District.

Early voting will be held at the Lucas Community Center located at 665 Country Club Road beginning April 25 through May 3 and on Election Day May 7. The Community Center will be open for voting at the following times:

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monday, April 25       | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm        |
| Tuesday, April 26      | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm        |
| Wednesday, April 27    | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm        |
| Thursday, April 28     | 8:00 am to 7:00 pm        |
| Friday, April 29       | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm        |
| Saturday, April 30     | 8:00 am to 5:00 pm        |
| Monday, May 2          | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm        |
| Tuesday, May 3         | 7:00 am to 7:00 pm        |
| <b>Saturday, May 7</b> | <b>7:00 am to 7:00 pm</b> |
| <b>Election Day</b>    |                           |

## Primary Runoff Election May 24, 2016

The Primary Runoff Election will be held on May 24, 2016 with a smaller window for early voting from May 16 through May 20. The following offices will be on the ballot for the Primary Runoff Election:

### Democratic Runoff:

Railroad Commissioner:

Cody Garrett vs. Grady Yarbrough

### Republican Runoff:

- District Judge 416:  
Andrea Thompson vs. Michael Puhl
- Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3, Place 1:  
Chuck Ruckel vs. Thomas Hayden
- Railroad Commissioner:  
Gary Gates vs. Wayne Christian
- Criminal Court of Appeals Place 2:  
Mary Lou Keel vs. Ray Wheless
- Criminal Court of Appeals Place 5:  
Scott Walker vs. Brent Webster
- State Representative, House District 33:  
John Keating vs. Justin Holland

For a full listing of Collin County Vote Centers go to <http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>.

## Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services



This sweet boy is a grey/black tabby cat that is two years old and loves to have his belly scratched. Help him find his forever home by stopping by the Collin County Animal Shelter located at 4750 Community Boulevard in McKinney or visit their website at [http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal\\_services/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx).

## NTMWD Costs to the City Continue to Increase

The City of Lucas purchases water for its customers from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). NTMWD has increased water purchase rates annually in response to rising operational costs, EPA water mandates to improve treated water quality, invasive species infestations, and the need to increase water supply for our growing north Texas population. The North Texas Municipal Water District provides water to over 1.6 million residents in the north Dallas area. NTMWD recently invested \$123 million to provide greater water quality by improved disinfection processes (ozonation). The City's costs to purchase water from NTMWD is projected to progressively increase over the next five years. Preliminary estimates from NTMWD indicate increases averaging approximately ten percent per year.

## Keeping Our Air Clean

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) is working diligently to have an effective abatement program at the Wilson Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant located at 3020 Orr Road. If you notice any unpleasant odor, please keep NTMWD informed by calling 972.442.5405.

## Outdoor Burning Prohibited

In 2015, the City of Lucas discontinued issuing burn permits when we became aware that Collin County was designated as a nonattainment area. The Clean Air Act and Amendments of 1990 define a "nonattainment area" as a locality where air pollution levels persistently exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Texas Administrative Code (Title 30, TAC Sections 111.201-221) also regulates outdoor burning. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is the state agency that strives to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. TCEQ's goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.

The City periodically receives inquiries from its residents regarding this issue. The City does not provide anyone with permission to engage in outdoor burning activities. If the City becomes aware of illegal outdoor burning, the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department will be dispatched and the fire extinguished. Currently, Barnes Waste Disposal accepts brush that has been cut into 4-foot lengths, and is bundled into packages no heavier than 35 pounds. You may also contact Barnes at 972.396.1139 to arrange for a dumpster rental or special pick-up for an additional fee. There are also other dumpster rentals available by other vendors. Some neighborhoods have got together and rented a chipper for the day to eliminate brush.

For additional information on outdoor burning regulations, go to the TCEQ website at <http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/publications/rg/rg-049.html> and review Outdoor Burning in Texas Field Operations.



Collin County has contracted with the North Texas Municipal Water District's landfill in Melissa to conduct free once-a-month clean-up days for Collin County residents to dispose of their trash. The clean-up days offer trash and recycling services for plastics, paper, aluminum, and glass. Tires will also be accepted.

These free trash days are held at one central location conveniently positioned just inside the landfill entrance located at 3820 State Highway 121 N. in Melissa. They are held on the first Saturday of the month (holidays excepted) from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. During these one-day events Collin County will pick up the disposal cost for residents' trash, but proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill, will be required.

Acceptable trash and recycling items include:

- Furniture
- Appliances
- Tires (maximum of four)
- Boards, trees and tree limbs (8 feet long maximum)
- Motor oil
- Oil filters

Not accepted items include:

- Chemicals
- Paints
- All batteries
- Anti-freeze

All loads must be enclosed, covered or secured or entry will be refused. Small contractors can take their commercial waste/scraps debris to the landfill for a fee. For more information contact the landfill at 469.626.4452 or go to [www.collincountytx.gov/public\\_works/Pages/trash\\_collection.aspx](http://www.collincountytx.gov/public_works/Pages/trash_collection.aspx).

## Keep Lucas Beautiful Cleanup Event Huge Success



A great big THANK YOU to well over 90 community volunteers and staff who came out on Saturday, April 2 to help Keep Lucas Beautiful and clean up trash and debris. Volunteers worked along Stinson Road, W. Lucas Road, Lewis Lane and Estates Road. Clean up crews also picked up trash at Brockdale Park and

Highland Park. Approximately 30 cubic yards of garbage and debris was collected that included over 250 bags of trash, plus wood, brush and discarded household items. We plan to make this an annual event and continue to “Keep Lucas Beautiful”.



## Summer Safety Tips

The last day of school is May 27, 2016. This means we will have a lot more children engaging in summer activities. Summer is a great time for kids to enjoy different indoor and outdoor activities and whether they are young children or teens, learn ways to keep your kids safe and healthy while they enjoy the summer fun.

Summer also brings incidents of vandalism at the Highland Park and Brockdale Park Trailheads. A group of volunteers with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association work extremely hard to maintain the Trinity Trail for all to enjoy. Please be respectful when visiting the trail. The Collin County Sheriff's Office will be actively seeking individuals that engage in illegal activities such as destroying property or starting outdoor fires. As a reminder, the trail and trailheads close at dusk. The Sheriff's Office will take extra steps in ensuring that Utility-Type Vehicles (UTVs) also defined as Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles (ROVs), are not on the roadways. These vehicles are generally used for maintenance, hunting or recreation and although they are required to be titled they are not allowed to be driven on public roads. Be sure to call 911 to report any suspicious activity on the trails or in your neighborhood.

## Shattered Dreams Program Conducted at Lovejoy High School



On Wednesday, April 6 Lucas Fire-Rescue teamed up with Lovejoy High School, Medical Center of McKinney, Collin County Sheriff's Office, Fairview Fire Department, and PHI Air Ambulance to create an

educational experience known as “Shattered Dreams” that demonstrates the tragic consequences of underage drinking.

Shattered Dreams is a school-based program that promotes responsible decision-making among high school students regarding underage drinking, driving after drinking, or riding with a drinking driver. The Shattered Dreams program involves the dramatization of an alcohol-related crash and the impact. Through this process, students have a better understanding of the number of DWI-related deaths that occur each year.

## Meeting/Event Reminders

- May 5  
**City Council**  
7:00 p.m. - City Hall
- May 7  
**City and School Elections**  
7:00 am to 7:00 pm - Lucas Community Center
- May 12  
**Planning and Zoning Commission**  
7:00 p.m. - City Hall
- May 16  
**Special City Council Meeting to Canvass Election Results**  
8:00 a.m. - City Hall
- May 19  
**City Council**  
7:00 p.m. - City Hall
- May 24  
**Parks and Open Space Board**  
7:00 p.m. - City Hall
- May 24  
**Primary Run-off Elections**  
For a full listing of Vote Centers go to <http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>.



Effective May 2, 2016, a new watering schedule will be in place. Watering days for Zones 1 and 2 have been updated, here's the new schedule:

|         |                        |
|---------|------------------------|
| Zone 1: | Tuesday and Saturday   |
| Zone 2: | Monday and Friday      |
| Zone 3: | Wednesday and Saturday |
| Zone 4: | Thursday and Sunday    |

No outdoor watering is allowed between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. To view the water scheduling map visit <http://www.lucastexas.us/PDF/Additionallinks/Outdoorwaterschedule.pdf>.



# Blackland Prairie Raptor Center Bird of Prey Photography Day - May 21



If you're interested in photographing hawks, falcons and owls up close perched in their natural setting, come join the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center on Saturday, May 21 from 7:30 am to 11:00 am. The cost is \$20 per person and you can register online at [www.bpraptorcenter.org](http://www.bpraptorcenter.org) by using the donation page for payment. Please type "registration for BOP photo day" in the comments section.

Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is dedicated to environmental preservation through public education and the conservation of birds of prey and wildlife in their natural habitat. Incorporated in 2004, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center has ten permanent resident raptors for Education Programs that focus on the importance of Birds of Prey in the maintenance and measure of a healthy environment. Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, through its work with birds of prey, is a catalyst fostering a positive impact on life and the environment of Texas.

The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is located at 1625 Brockdale Park Road, just off Lucas Road. Come enjoy a morning of photography with these beautiful birds.

## Welcome to the Newest Lucas Employee



Matthew Dickerson joined the Public Works Department on March 14. Matt has great energy and a thirst for learning all about this City. Matt has an extensive customer service background and is looking forward to his career with the City. Matt lives in Royce City with his wife, Emma. His hobbies include riding dirt bikes with his family and playing paintball.



**See Flashing Lights**  
**Move to the Right**

When you see flashing lights from an emergency vehicle, the general rule in all cases is to pull your vehicle to the right and slow to a stop. Lucas is special when it comes to sharing the road with emergency vehicles. Currently, the City of Lucas has only two lane roads, one-lane in any given direction. Many of the roads have little or no shoulder so pulling off to the right is not always an option.

## Water Payments Made Easier



The City of Lucas has a new drive-up drop box for citizen convenience when paying their water bills. This drop box is a stainless steel design that is easier to view, has a protective faceplate that keeps the water payments dry during wet weather, and has reinforced poles to protect the box from car damage. The old box was difficult to spot and leaked when it rained. This box is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for making payments.

### What You Should Do:

- If at all possible, pull your vehicle as far right as possible and slow to a stop.
- If no shoulder is available pull to the right into an open driveway or adjoining street and if an open driveway.

### Things You Should NOT Do:

- Stop in the middle of the lane when there is room to pull right.
- Pull to the left in the center yellow lane or left turn lane.
- Drive through a red light or stop sign when an emergency vehicle approaches from behind.
- Make a left turn quickly to a driveway or street.
- Race ahead to get through a green light or turn before the response vehicle gets there.
- Disregard emergency vehicles and continue to travel despite the response vehicle.

Together we can help to make the roads safer and help those who need emergency medical and fire services have a timelier and safe response in an emergency. Stay safe and continue to help make our community a wonderful place to live.



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is hosting their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Fun Day on Saturday, May 14 from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Music, games for all ages, bounce houses, hot dogs, chips, cookies, and drinks...all free to the community. Bring your family and

friends for an afternoon of fun. We are located at 750 West Lucas Road in Lucas. For more information call 972.429.0295. Rain date for the festivities will be May 21. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/GoodSheperdUnitedMethodistChurch](http://www.facebook.com/GoodSheperdUnitedMethodistChurch)