



Lucas City Newsletter

151 Country Club Rd. • 972/727-8999 • City Website: www.lucastexas.us

CITY COUNCIL

Tom Fleps, Mayor

Kristy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem

Debbie Fisher, Councilmember

Tonda Frazier, Councilmember

Mike Marafine, Councilmember

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Joe Gambill

Meeting Schedule

City Council Regular

April 4, 7:00 PM
City Annex

Planning & Zoning

April 11, 7:00 PM
City Annex

City Council Workshop

April 18, 7:00 PM
City Annex

Municipal Court

April 20, 2:00 PM
City Annex

Parks & Open Spaces

April 25, 7:00 PM
City Annex

MAYOR'S CORNER By Tom Fleps



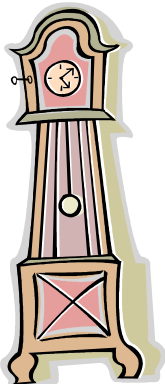
It was nice to see everyone at this year's Founder's Day Fair. I want to thank **Tonda Frazier**, the Chairman of the event, and **Cheryl Massey**, the Co-Chair, along with all the other volunteers who helped make this event a success. It is our volunteers who make our City events possible. I appreciate their time and commitment to Lucas. There were some added attractions to this year's event, and we would like your suggestions on how we can make next year's event even better. You can offer your input via our website on the Comment Corner forum or you can call City Hall.

Tentative dates for our **Meet the Candidates** forum for this year's election are Sunday, April 17, and Sunday, May 1. Precinct 2 Commissioner Jerry Hoagland and Precinct 3 Commissioner Joe Jaynes will be this year's moderators. The general election will be held on Saturday, May 7. More election information is included in this issue. This year there are four candidates vying for the two Council seats that will be vacated by David Harvey and Kristy Hall. David has resigned his position and has moved from Lucas and will not be eligible to run. Kristy has decided not to seek a second term. I want to thank Kristy and David for the time and effort they have given the City. There has been a last minute change of events in the Mayor's race. I had initially chosen to run for a third term as your Mayor. My opponent was Planning and Zoning Chairman Bob Sanders. Due to my wife's sudden job transfer, it was necessary for me to remove my name for re-election. I plan to remain in office until my term expires. I have enjoyed serving the City during the last eight years in both appointed and elected positions and will miss being involved in Lucas's future. With my withdrawal, Mr. Sanders will become your new Mayor when my term expires. I feel confident that the Mayor's office will be in good hands under Bob's leadership.

Remember **San Jacinto Day** on April 21. On this day in 1836 Texan forces under Sam Houston defeated the Mexican Army under Santa Anna. The next day Santa Anna was captured by the Texans, officially ending the War for Texan Independence.

If you would like to discuss any issue facing the Lucas, please feel free to contact me at 972-390-1917 or send me an e-mail at either tfj@swbell.net or tfleps@lucastexas.us.

SPRING AHEAD



Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 a.m. on April 3rd. Be sure to set your clocks one hour forward. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Newsletter Submissions:
newsletter@lucastexas.us

Deadline is the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your city urgently needs people willing to volunteer to participate on various boards and commissions. Stop by City Hall or complete the volunteer form on the website if you are interested in lending your time and expertise. <http://www.lucastexas.us/forms/volunteer.html>

REVAMPED WEB SITE

There's a whole new look and feel to our city's website. Take a look at <http://www.lucastexas.us/>. The changes you'll see are just a start. Stay tuned for more features and improvements.



PUBLIC WORKS

Preliminary tests have been completed on the McGarity Road Water Tower and Pump Station. We are awaiting final approval from NTMWD to bring them online.

There have been several instances of illegal dumping along Snider Road and Shady Lane, along with vandalism of signs around Blondy Jhune Road, Shady Lane, and Winningkoff Road. Please contact City Hall with any info that could lead to the apprehension of the culprits.



HAVE YOUR SAY

**Saturday, May 7, 2005
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
City Annex Building**

Here's the challenge: 50% voter turnout. If you can't make it on election day, you can always vote by mail or take advantage of early voting at City Hall from April 20th through May 3rd. Your vote matters!

Last Day to Register to Vote	April 7
Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (application must be received by this date)	April 29
First Day of Early Voting	April 20
Last Day of Early Voting	May 3

SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

As the weather gets warmer and drier, it'll soon be time to turn on our sprinkler systems for the first time in several months. Be on the lookout for leaks that may have occurred during the winter. Leaking sprinkler systems can very quickly waste a lot of water and leave you with a much higher than expected monthly water bill.

NEW ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS

All of the new resolutions and ordinances may be found on our website. Click on the *Ordinances* link located on the left-hand side of the page.

- Ordinance 2005-02-00519 Zoning Change from AG to R1, Wolfe Creek 2
- Ordinance 2005-02-00520 Revised Numbering System for Ordinances
- Ordinance 2005-02-00521 Zoning Change from AG to R1, Dennis Day
- Ordinance 2005-03-00522 Creating a Parks and Open Spaces Board
- Resolution 2005-02-00242 Collin County Cooperative Purchasing Agreement
- Resolution 2005-03-00243 Opposing Tax System Reforms
- Resolution 2005-03-00244 Amending the Personnel Policies Manual
- Resolution 2005-03-00245 Appointing Parks and Open Spaces Members



PLANT A TREE

April 29th is National Arbor Day. Honor a loved one and plant a memorial tree.

DIRECT DEBIT

Many thanks to those who have signed up for direct debit payment of their water bills!

TRAFFIC LAW: Passing Stopped Emergency Vehicles

Upon approaching a stationary authorized emergency vehicle using visual signals, unless directed by a police officer, you must a) vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle if there are 2 or more lanes traveling in the direction of the emergency vehicle, or b) slow to a speed not to exceed 20 mph less than the posted speed limit or to 5 mph for posted speed limits less than 25 mph. Violation of this traffic law is a misdemeanor .

TAX RETURNS DUE!



FOUNDERS DAY FAIR WRAP-UP



Seth Hall, Catelyn Fisher, Kate Hall

Food, fun, and Founder's Day flair were in abundance at our annual event. The kids had fun taking turns in the bounce house, getting elaborate face paint designs, and receiving expertly designed balloon sculpture hats, animals, bracelets and more. Most took the opportunity to tour the fire engines up close and personal.

Many attendees enjoyed viewing the history display compiled by Historical Society members Ed Phillips, Bonnie Guimarin and Tracy Matern. Charlotte Christian had many photos and artifacts from her family, for which Christian Lane is named.

A mini Crafter's Mall yielded some beautiful and unusual items from our hometown artisans. They included jewelry, beaded bookmarks, sculpted Santas, goat milk soap and fudge, knitted wool caps and scarves, crocheted dolls and baby blankets, decorative items, hand-painted contemporary art, children's wood furniture, and imaginatively trimmed clothing items.

The bake contest entries were scrumptious! Judges Brenda Constantine, Deputy Mike Holcomb, County Commissioner Joy Jaynes, and Public Works Staff-member Randy Roller pulled pretty good duty tasting the goodies. The winners were Cheryl Massey, 1st and 2nd place Cake; Charlotte Christian, 3rd place Cake; Cara Brazeal, 1st place Cookies; Linda Ingram, 1st place Pie; JoAnne Bird & Gene Ingram, 2nd place Pie (tie).

Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event happen. The Founder's Event Committee members were: Tonda Frazier, Chairperson; Cheryl Massey, Co-Chair; Neta Fleps, Kristy Hall, and Jim and Joy Olk. They were assisted by Bill and Donna Carmickle, Catelyn Fisher, Bill Frazier, Hunter Massey and Aaron Olk.

National Junior Honor Society volunteers Zach Coats, Daniel Ellis and David Wills were helpful wherever needed. Chrissy McDonald, Danielle Flaherty, Fermin Baeza, Jessica Swan, and Kelsie McIntyre manned the door prizes, tickets and bounce house. Creative face painting was provided by National Art Honor Society members, Nathan Rusterholtz, Elizabeth Williams, Jane Chandy, and Cory Sudduth.

We hope to see you at next year's event!

CODE VIOLATION NOTIFICATION UPDATE

The various codes in effect in Lucas were created to protect the safety of the residents, insure proper storm water flow, and to keep Lucas beautiful and maintain home values. Codes are created by the city council and enacted by ordinance.

To improve our code violation notification, we have instituted a new, 4-step process.

- 1) During routine driving throughout the city, should the code enforcement personnel observe a violation, a letter will be sent to the resident and landowner informing them of the violation and asking them to correct the situation. The landowner and resident should contact the code enforcement department if they have any questions.
- 2) The property will be inspected 10 days later. If the violation has not been corrected, a second letter will be sent requiring resolution within 10 days.
- 3) The property will be re-inspected 10 days after the second letter was sent. If the violation has not been corrected, a third letter will be sent requiring resolution within another 10 days (14 days for junk vehicles). Failure to comply will result in a citation being issued.
- 4) A final inspection will be made 10 days (14 days for junk vehicles) after the third letter is sent. If the code violation has not be corrected, a citation to appear in court will be given at that time. If the resident is not at home to receive the citation, a certified letter will be mailed to their home.

Please do not hesitate to contact the code enforcement department if you have any questions concerning a code violation. A list of frequently asked questions and their answers will soon be posted to the city's website to help you learn more about our code and its enforcement.

HOME RULE CHARTER UPDATE

"Becoming a home rule municipality will allow Lucas residents to have more of a voice in their local government", Robert Hagar, City Attorney, explained, "right now it's the Texas State Legislature that dictates what the of town of Lucas can do." Our Home Rule Charter Commission will be providing a detailed update in the next newsletter. More details about this commission and its progress are available on the city's website.

USEFUL WEBSITES



Collin County Tax Assessor – http://www.co.collin.tx.us/tax_assessor/

Collin County Sheriff’s Office – <http://www.co.collin.tx.us/sheriff/>

North Central Texas Traveler Information – <http://www.dfwtraveler.com/>

TIDBITS

- The average high temperature for Lucas in April is 73.7 degrees Fahrenheit. The average low is 51.3. Average precipitation is 3.6 inches.
- Learn about the history of Daylight Saving Time at <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/index.html>.
- Farm-to-Market and Ranch-to-Market roads were created to enable farmers and ranchers to more easily get their goods to various markets in the cities via a decent roadway. Read more about them at <http://www.texasmonthly.com/ranch/readme/farm.php>.
- In April: Civil War began in 1861; Bounty crew mutinied in 1789; Louisiana was admitted to the Union in 1812; Peary & Henson reached the North Pole in 1909; Argentina invaded the Falklands in 1982.

BY THE NUMBERS

Citywide Water Usage (gallons)

February 2005	12,735,000
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**February 2005 Sheriff’s Report
Calls for Service in the Lucas Grid**

Traffic Stops	79
Building Checks	62
Audible Alarms	13
Vandalism	5
Theft	14
Suspicious Vehicles, Persons, Circumstances	16
Accidents	6
Disturbances	7
Other	30
Total	232

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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

POSTAL PATRON