



MARCH 2005  
VOLUME VI, ISSUE 3

# Lucas City Newsletter

151 Country Club Rd. • 972/727-8999 • City Website: [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us)

## CITY COUNCIL

**Tom Fleps, Mayor**

**Kristy Hall, Mayor Pro Tem**

**Debbie Fisher, Councilmember**

**Tonda Frazier, Councilmember**

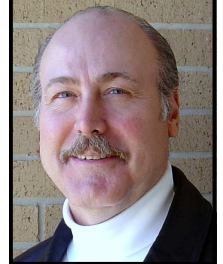
**David Harvey, Councilmember**

**Mike Marafine, Councilmember**

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

**Joe Gambill**

## MAYOR'S CORNER By Tom Fleps



Congratulations to **Jesse Corpus** for attaining his Class "C" Water Operators License. Jesse has been an employee of our Public Works Department for 2 years. In order to obtain his Class "C" license, Jesse spent many hours with on-site and classroom training. His added knowledge and training will be a great benefit in our ever-improving Public Works Department.

Don't forget this year's **Founder's Day Fair** which will be held on Saturday, March 19 from 2-6 PM at the Hart Elementary School. This year's venue has been expanded so get there early so you won't miss a thing. More details are inside this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there!

March is officially **Texas History Month**. The celebration begins with the 169th anniversary of the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence on March 2, 1836. Ironically, Sam Houston, the commander at the Battle of San Jacinto and President of the Republic of Texas was also born on March 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1793. On March 6<sup>th</sup> Santa Anna captured the Alamo setting in motion the events that culminated in Texas' Independence. This is an opportune time for everyone to fly the Texas flag to commemorate those who fought to make Texas free.

Governor Perry has designated March 6-12 as **Severe Weather Awareness Week**. Governor Perry has joined with the National Weather Service, the American Red Cross and the Governor's Division of Emergency Management to urge all Texans to be prepared for severe storms. For more information on Severe Weather Awareness Week visit their web sites at <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem/svwxindex.htm> or <http://www.srh.noaa.gov>.

I hope you and your family have a happy Easter.

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

## Meeting Schedule

**City Council Regular**

March 7, 7:00 PM

**Planning & Zoning**

March 14, 7:00 PM  
City Annex

**City Council Workshop**

March 21, 7:00 PM  
City Annex

**Municipal Court**

March 23, 2:00 PM  
City Annex



The St. Patrick's Day custom first came to America in 1737 with a public celebration in Boston.

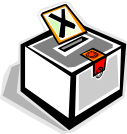
Lucas volunteer firefighter **Austin McKitrick** graduated from the NTTA Fire Academy Class #28 and received the Irons Award on February 12th. Congratulations, Austin!

**Newsletter Submissions:**  
[newsletter@lucastexas.us](mailto:newsletter@lucastexas.us)

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

## TURN AROUND, DON'T DROWN

Did you know that more people on average die in floods in Texas than by lightning strikes, tornados, or hurricanes? Please don't drive through water covering roadways or play or walk along banks of flooded streams, creeks, or rivers.



**LET YOUR VOTE BE COUNTED**

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

Did you know that only about 17% of registered Lucas voters actually vote in the city elections? Let your voice be heard and vote for the positions of Mayor and two Council members. Not registered? No problem. There's plenty of time left. Don't really know where the Annex is located? It's just to the north of our fire station on the northwest corner of Lucas Road and Country Club/FM1378.

Last Day to Register to Vote	April 7
Last Day to File for Place on Ballot	March 7
First Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	March 8
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

**FOUNDER'S DAY FAIR**

**Saturday, March 19, 2005  
2:00 to 6:00 PM  
Hart Elementary**

Mark your calendars! We'll have great food, history presentations, a bounce house, face painting, fire engine tours, door prizes and more!

Judging for the **bake contest** begins at 2:30 PM. Our taste testers will surely appreciate lots of entries, so bring along your cakes, pies, and cookies.

**Meal tickets are free of charge to Lucas residents**, but non-residents may purchase a ticket if they would like to attend. Drop by City Hall, show proof of residency with a driver's license or water bill stub, and obtain a ticket for up to 5 people in your household. Non-residents may purchase tickets for \$10.00 each.



**ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS**

The City Council has recently passed several resolutions and ordinances. All of the new resolutions and ordinances may be found on our website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/>. Click on the *Ordinances* link located on the left-hand side of the page.

- Ordinance 2005-01-00515      Annexation: 3 acres, R. Stone, W Lucas Road
- Ordinance 2005-01-00516      Right-of-Way Use Regulations
- Ordinance 2005-01-00517      Zoning Change from AG to R2, Eastlake Estates
- Ordinance 2005-01-00518      Annexation: 69.235 acres, Lovejoy High School
- Resolution 2005-02-00234      Creation of Public Information Officer Position
- Resolution 2005-02-00235      Authorization of Copier/Printer Purchase
- Resolution 2005-02-00236      Participation in HGAC Purchasing Cooperative
- Resolution 2005-02-00237      Authorization of Public Works Vehicle Purchase
- Resolution 2005 01-00240      Review of Non-compliant Special Use Permits
- Resolution 2005-01-00241      Authorization of Blondy Jhune Bridge Repair

Agendas for the upcoming meetings are available at City Hall and posted online at least three business days prior to the meeting. Additionally, complete council packets with all the supporting details are available at City Hall for public review at the same time.

**WATER SERVICE NON-PAYMENT AND RE-CONNECTION FEES**

Save some money! If your water service is disconnected for non-payment, you will be charged a \$15 disconnect fee plus a \$25 re-connection fee to restore your service. In addition, if your deposit balance is less than \$100 (inside city) or \$125 (outside city), you will need to pay the difference. This primarily affects those who began receiving water service when the deposit rates were lower. Read more about how to automate water bill payment inside this newsletter.

**SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

The Collin County Sheriff's Office logged 244 calls for service in the Lucas grid for the month of January. This number includes traffic stops, building checks, arrests, accidents, security checks, etc.

**INSURANCE?**

Just a reminder that it is state law to carry liability insurance on your vehicle. Be sure to renew your coverage to avoid being towed.

**THANK YOU!**

The staff at City Hall would like to thank all the kind folks who've brought tasty treats to us. We have most definitely enjoyed them all, even as our waistlines quietly protest.



### LANDSCAPE REPAIR

Companies performing utility work in easements are required by contract to repair any damage they create to the landscape by restoring it to a state equal to that which existed before the work started. Please contact City Administrator Joe Gambill by phone or email ([jgambill@lucastexas.us](mailto:jgambill@lucastexas.us)) to report problems with landscape restoration.

### SIMPLIFY YOUR WATER BILL PAYMENT

The City of Lucas offers direct debit (ACH) from your checking or savings account for payment of your water bill. All you have to do is stop by City Hall and fill out a simple form. We will need a voided check (checking debit) or deposit slip (savings debit) to complete the setup. All information is kept strictly confidential. The form is available online in PDF format.

Currently, less than 50 of our approximately 1500 water service accounts are paid via ACH. In contrast, more than 175 accounts were sent late notices this past month.

Water bills are mailed every month on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. ACH customers should examine their bills and contact City Hall on or before the 8<sup>th</sup> of the month should there be a problem with the bill.

The City of Lucas will initiate the ACH on the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month or on the first business day following the 10<sup>th</sup> should it fall on a weekend.

As with payment by check, a \$25 insufficient funds fee applies.

Save yourself time and money. Sign up for ACH today!

### SPRING IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER

March 20th is the first day of Spring. Along with warmer temperatures and an increasing amount of sunshine, grass will soon be growing at an accelerated pace. Please be sure to mow your grass before it gets too tall and tidy up refuse piles after spring cleaning in your yard, garden, and flower beds.

### PUBLIC WORKS



The McGarity Road Water Tower and Pump Station has undergone the first inspection by NTMWD. After receiving a few minor adjustments, it will be close to becoming operational. The City is also working to improve the logo and lettering on the tower.

The Blondy Jhune Bridge has been successfully repaired. Additionally, pot hole repair is in progress throughout the city.

Parks and Facilities will soon begin planting flowers and doing landscaping at Forest Creek Park.

### STUDENT STARS



Several Lucas elementary students shined in the PISD Hickey Elementary Science Fair. **Colton Harrison**, 1st-grade, took 1st place in his classroom. **Kalie Gianfilippo**, **Madison Stark**, and **Mackenzie Stark** took 3rd place in their 2nd-grade classroom. 3rd-graders **Haylee Harrison** and **Chris Platt** (photo) took 1st place in their classroom and for their grade level. They went on to the PISD district science fair where they won 3rd place in 3rd grade Earth Science. **Helen Butcher**, 4th grade, placed third in her classroom. Well done! Congratulations to all!



Lucas 7th grader **Joshua Burnham** has been bowling since he was three years old. Since then, he's earned over \$700 in scholarship tournaments. He maintains a 203 average in the Classic Youth League at Plano Super Bowl and a 184 average in the Junior Gold Scratch League at Allen Bowl where he competes against high school students. His more recent accomplishments include bowling a 279 game in August, bowling a series of 719 in August and 729 November, and qualifying for the Pepsi Classic in Austin in March. Great job, Josh, and the best of luck in Austin!

### USEFUL WEBSITES

Collin County Central Appraisal District  
<http://www.collincad.org/>

Collin County Education  
<http://www.co.collin.tx.us/education/>

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

North Central Texas Council of Governments  
<http://www.nctcog.dst.tx.us/>

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/>



**TIDBITS**

- Lucas was incorporated on February 19, 1959. The December 20, 1958, election results were 49 votes for and 25 against.
- Spring officially begins at 6:33 a.m. on March 20 this year. This day is also known as the vernal equinox, the day of the year when the Sun crosses the celestial equator moving northward.
- The average high temperature for Lucas in March is 66.1 degrees Fahrenheit. The average low is 42.7. Average precipitation is 3.4 inches.
- In 2000, the population of Lucas was 2,890. Estimated population in July 2002 was 3,174 (+9.8% change). More Lucas demographic information can be reviewed at <http://www.city-data.com/city/Lucas-Texas.html>.
- Although it's not quite the time of year for the dreaded ozone alert days, you can begin building better "clean air" habits now. Here are two tips to get you started: 1) Get fuel when it's cool. Refueling during cooler times of the day can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone. This in turn can help reduce ozone alert days; and 2) Care for your car. Regular tune-ups and maintenance, including proper tire inflation, can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life, increase its resale value, reduce emissions by more than half, and reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns. Report smoking vehicles online at <http://www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/air/ms/smokingvehicles.html>.

**BY THE NUMBERS**

**Citywide Water Usage (gallons)**

October 2004	22,479,000
November 2004	17,692,000
December 2005	14,467,000
January 2005	16,020,000

**2004 Building Permit Summary**

Single Family Dwellings	56
Remodels	15
Accessory Buildings	29
Barns	13
Garages	9
Pools & Spas	49
Roofs	10
Fences	9
Commercial (High School)	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>

CITY OF LUCAS  
 151 COUNTRY CLUB  
 LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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

POSTAL PATRON