



Lucas City Newsletter

October 2005

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

CITY COUNCIL

Bob Sanders, Mayor
 Mike Marafine, Mayor Pro Tem
 Bill Carmickle, Councilmember
 Debbie Fisher, Councilmember
 Tonda Frazier, Councilmember
 Don Zriny, Councilmember

CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Charles Fenner

Meeting Schedule

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM in the City Annex unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular
 October 3

Planning & Zoning
 October 10

City Council Workshop
 October 17

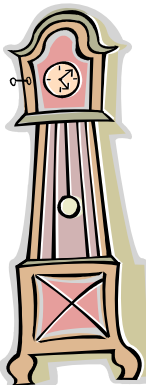
Parks & Open Spaces
 October 24

Municipal Court
 October 25, 2:00 PM



October 10th—Columbus Day
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/oct12.html>

FALL BEHIND



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on October 30th. Be sure to set your clocks one hour backward. Read more about it at <http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors.

HOME RULE CHARTER ELECTION RESULTS

On September 10, 2005, a majority of Lucas voters cast ballots against the adoption of the proposed Home Rule Charter.

For: 251 (37.9%) Against: 408 (61.6%) Provisional: 3 (0.5%)

Election Summary

Registered Voters: 2803	Number of Voters	Percent of Registered Voters	Percent of Voter Turnout
Voted Early	189	6.74%	28.55%
Voted on Election Day	473	16.87%	71.45%
Total Voter Turnout	662	23.62%	100%

Next Steps

The City Council will be appointing commissioners to a new Home Rule Commission to begin work on another Home Rule Charter. An election on the adoption of the charter created by the new commission will be tentatively held on May 13, 2006.



NEW SUBDIVISIONS and LOT SIZES

The City has received several comments from our citizens regarding the number of new developments coming in with lots sizes which are only 1 or 1.5 acres, even though the Future Land Use Plan may call for a 2-acre minimum in a particular area.

How can this happen? The City can only set the zoning district on a piece of land that is within the city limits. Any land that is located in our extra territorial jurisdiction (ETJ), meaning it is unannexed and generally referred to as being "in the county," can be developed however the owner sees fit so long as it complies with any applicable County codes and any City codes enforceable in the ETJ. By state law (Texas Local Government Code 212.003), a municipality cannot enforce zoning regulations in its ETJ.

What can we do about it? Forced annexation is allowed only in certain circumstances and is not allowed for a general-law municipality eligible to adopt a home rule charter, such as Lucas. These laws are enacted by the State of Texas and can only be changed at that level.

PARKS SURVEY RESULTS

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to fill out the Parks and Open Space survey. The Parks & Open Space Board is guided by your input. The number of voters who responded was equivalent to the number who elected our City Council in the last election. Only about 6% did not want any parkland at all. The table below shows the top 10 choices, the lower the score the better. 86% of respondents were in favor of working with the LISD to share resources. Being able to use athletic fields at night was important to 43% and not important to 43%.

Walking & Hiking Trails	2.94
Bike Trail	4.94
Undeveloped Open Space	6.18
Gazebo Picnic Areas	7.03
Fishing Pier	7.33
Equestrian Trail & Arena	7.55
Elementary Age Playground	8.83
Baseball and Softball Fields	9.37
Preschool Age Playground	10.02
Sand Volleyball	10.23

OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

The complete parks survey results will be included in a Parks and Open Space Master Plan which is currently being compiled. A master plan is only a framework and is subject to frequent revision based on your input. A master plan is required by all grant giving entities — a necessity if the City is to obtain matching funds for open space and leverage your tax dollars.

Currently, the POS Board has compiled as much of the master plan as its expertise allows. The City Council recently approved the expenditure of funds budgeted in last year's budget to have a professional consultant complete the plan with conceptual drawings, a prioritized list of projects with estimated timelines, recommendations on funding sources, and estimates of acquisition, development and, most important, maintenance costs. This will help the City plan its future open space needs as tax dollars allow. At every step of the way, the POS Board must seek approval from the City Council for any plans, expenditures or grants through the budget process.

In addition, the City now has a Parkland Dedication Ordinance which requires developers to donate either land or funds at the City's discretion towards Open Space within the City.

FOREST CREEK PARK

Many of you may not know about Forest Creek Park, the first neighborhood park in the City. Located near the corner of Orchard Gap and White Rock Trail, this parkland was donated by the developer of Forest Creek Estates to the City long before there was a Parks and Open Space (POS) Board, and it remained open space for many years. Its amenities include pre-school and elementary age playground equipment, bike racks, a small parking area, trees, and a gazebo — a perfect park for daytime play or parties.



The POS Board used the value of the land as a match to obtain funding to install the playground equipment and the gazebo. Last year, the City budgeted funds to improve its usability by planting grass and irrigating the 2 acres. The POS Board plans to add more trees and refurbish the native plant garden which was installed using mostly citizen and corporate donations along with a grant from the Native Plant Society of Texas. The POS Board welcomes your ideas as to what amenities could be added to make this park a gathering place for families. Please send your comments to the Comments Corner on the City's website or call City Hall to pass along your message.

STUDENT PROFILE



In July, Lucas resident and Allen ISD student Jaclin Rehring, 14, qualified to swim at the Texas Age Group Championship at the University of Texas. At the event, Jaclin qualified for and made it to the final round for several long course events; however, her gold medal performance in the 200 meter butterfly coming in at 2:20.34 separated her from the rest

of the girls in her age group. She also took 5th place in the 400 meter individual medley in (5:13.95) and 4th place in the 100 meter butterfly (1:05.46). Jaclin began swimming competitively at age 10 and currently swims for the City of Plano Swimmers club team and is on the Allen high school swim team. Way to blow bubbles, Jaclin!

CLEARLY POSTED HOUSE NUMBERS ARE CRITICAL IN AN EMERGENCY

by David Leonard, Captain / EMT-B, Lucas VF

Something that is taken for granted but is overlooked quite often in Lucas is visible house numbers. A very high percentage of houses in the Lucas area do not have house numbers that can be found by emergency crews at night. Very often addresses are unreadable due to lack of size, overgrown by vegetation or just missing.

Imagine if a family member starts experiencing a heart attack and the rapid response of emergency crews is hampered by the inability of the crews to locate your home because they can't find the proper address.

Response time is critical; seconds lost can mean the difference between life and death. Firefighters, emergency vehicles and personnel may need to find your house number quickly no matter the time of day.

The City of Lucas Municipal Code 5-24.505.1 states: "New and existing buildings shall have approved address numbers, building numbers, or approved building identification placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property and to the rear of the property. These numbers shall be contrasting with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters."

Please help the Lucas VFD by posting your house numbers so that they are visible at night from the road. This simple act may be the difference between life and death.

ORDINANCES and RESOLUTIONS

The new resolutions and ordinances listed below may be found on our website.

- Ordinance 2005-09-00534
Adopting budget for fiscal year 2005-2006
- Ordinance 2005-09-00535
Setting tax rate for fiscal year 2005-2006
- Resolution 2005-09-00261
Updating signatories for LOGIC
- Resolution 2005-09-00262
Updating signatories for ANB
- Resolution 2005-09-00263
Updating signatories for Lonestar Investment Pool
- Resolution 2005-09-00264
Accepting TXU Energy Delivery settlement
- Resolution 2005-09-00265
Increasing trash service monthly rate by \$0.47.

FIRE CHIEF JAMES KITCHENS



James Kitchens became the new Fire Chief for the City of Lucas on June 27, 2005. He has 25 years of experience in public safety, both in fire service and law enforcement. James is currently Battalion Chief with the City of Coppell where he has worked the past 20 years. Prior to that, he was a public safety officer with the City of Highland Park.

Chief Kitchens holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas. He was project coordinator for the Emergency Management Department for the City of Coppell and was instrumental in developing the emergency management plan for the city. Coppell was the first city in North Texas recognized as a storm ready community.

James also earned Associates degrees in Fire Science and in Law Enforcement. He has a Master Fire Fighter Certificate, Master Police Officer Certificate, and 20 years as a Licensed Paramedic. James is a recent graduate of the Executive Fire Officer Program at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

James has an Amateur Radio Extra Class License and is Zone Director for Army MARS. He and his wife, Debbie, currently reside in Lucas. They have two grown sons and one granddaughter.



PROPOSED ZONING CHANGES

Public Hearings scheduled for the October 3rd City Council meeting:

- Zoning change from A0 to R-2 for 134.49 acres, McCamy/Anderton Tracts (Stinson Crossing)
- Zoning change from A0 to R-2 for 15.62 acres fronting FM1378 and West Lucas Rd across from City Hall

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

newsletter@lucastexas.us

Submissions must be received by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the next month's issue.

COMMUNITY CORNER

- SPCA low-cost pet vaccinations, Saturday, October 1st, 9 a.m. to noon, City Hall.
- Annual Forest Grove/Fitzhugh Cemetery Chili Supper, Craft Auction, and Kids Carnival, Saturday, October 8th, 5 p.m., FM1378 and Forest Grove Road.
- Bazaar for Hope's Door, Saturday, October 8th, 4-9 p.m., First United Methodist Church of Lucas. For more information, visit www.lucasumc.org/lucasumc/bazaar.html.
- Hart Elementary Silent/Live Auction and Carnival, Saturday, October 22nd, 4-7 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, call 972-442-6734.

TIDBITS

- The average high temperature for Lucas in October is 76.5 degrees Fahrenheit, with an average low of 53.2 and average precipitation of 4.4 inches.
- In October: Claudius I died, 54 AD; Columbus arrived in the Bahamas, 1492; Harvard College founded, 1636; First Colonial Congress met, 1765; Erie Canal opened, 1825; Sam Houston sworn in as first president of the Republic of Texas, 1836; Model T introduced, 1908; New York Stock Market crashed, 1929; First non-stop flight across the Pacific, 1932; *I Love Lucy* premiered on TV, 1952; Gateway Arch constructed, 1965; *Cats* opened on Broadway, 1982; San Francisco Bay earthquake occurred, 1989; Berlin Wall torn down, 1990.

BY the NUMBERS

**Citywide Water Usage
(gallons)**

August 2005	76,420,000
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**August 2005 Sheriff's Office
Calls for Service in Lucas**

Traffic Stops	74
Building Checks	41
Alarms	9
Traffic Accidents & Hazards	12
Theft, Burglary	15
Suspicious Vehicles, Persons, Circumstances	21
Assistance	7
Disturbances	17
Other	42
Total	238

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

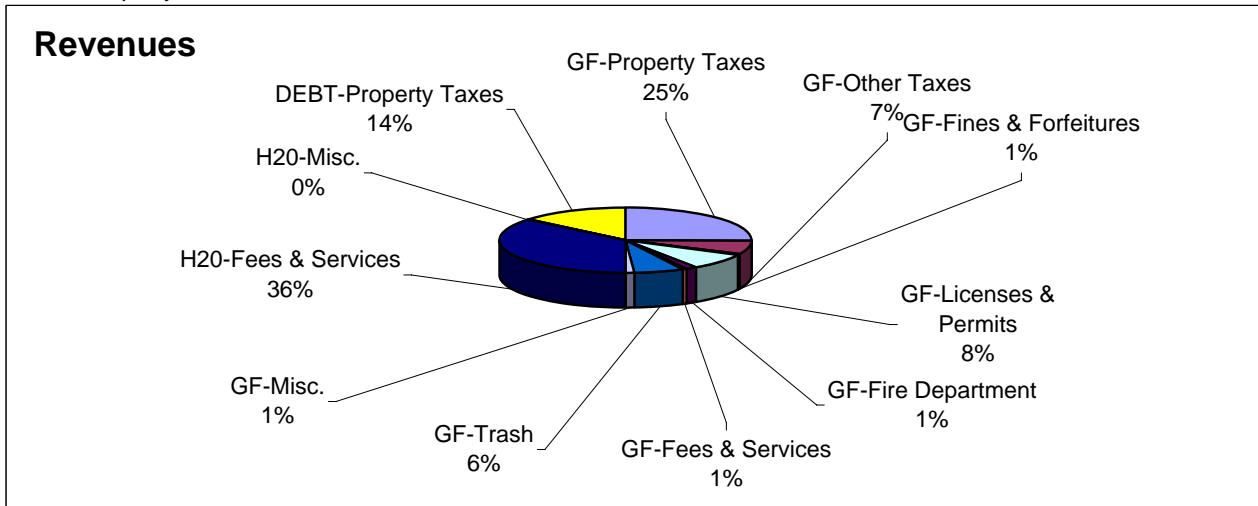
PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ALLEN TX 75002
PERMIT 157

POSTAL PATRON

CITY OF LUCAS: FY 2005-2006 BUDGET

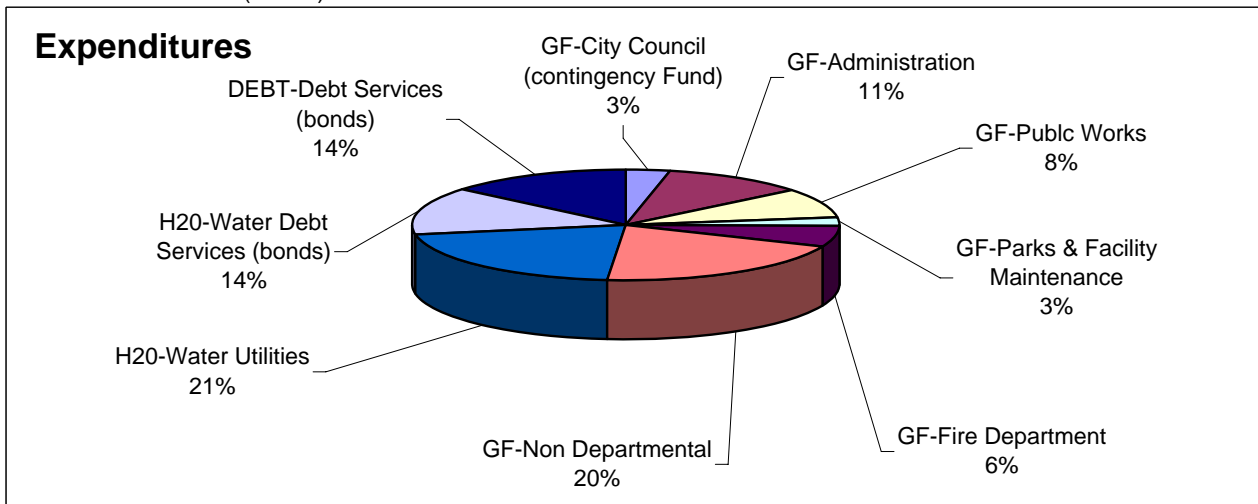
Department	% of budget
GF-Property Taxes	25.35%
GF-Other Taxes	6.57%
GF-Fines & Forfeitures	0.56%
GF-Licenses & Permits	8.18%
GF-Fire Department	1.24%
GF-Fees & Services	0.71%
GF-Trash	6.32%
GF-Misc.	0.94%
H2O-Fees & Services	35.91%
H2O-Misc.	0.31%
DEBT-Property Taxes	13.91%

\$3,256,271.72 REVENUES



\$3,256,271.72 EXPENDITURES

GF-City Council (contingency Fund)	3.31%
GF-Administration	10.99%
GF-Public Works	8.37%
GF-Parks & Facility Maintenance	2.70%
GF-Fire Department	6.04%
GF-Non Departmental	20.00%
H2O-Water Utilities	20.76%
H2O-Water Debt Services (bonds)	13.95%
DEBT-Debt Services (bonds)	13.89%



GENERAL FUND 2005-2006	
2005-2006	
<u>REVENUE SUMMARY</u>	
PROPERTY TAXES	\$825,425.35
OTHER TAXES	\$214,000.00
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$18,300.00
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$266,350.00
FIRE DEPARTMENT REVENUE	\$40,300.00
FEES & SERVICE CHARGES	\$23,100.00
TRASH SERVICE	\$205,856.28
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$30,500.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,623,831.63
2005-2006	
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
CITY COUNCIL	\$107,691.13
ADMINISTRATION	\$357,765.70
PUBLIC WORKS	\$272,465.74
PARKS & FACILITY MAINT	\$87,886.17
FIRE	\$196,744.28
NON-DEPARTMENTAL	\$651,138.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,673,691.01
EXCESS REVENUES/EXPENDITURES	(\$49,859.38)

The budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 was adopted on September 6, 2005, by Ordinance #2005-09-00534. The complete budget is available online at <http://www.lucastexas.us/documents/budget-fy-2005-2006.pdf>. The fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.

WATER SERVICES FUND 2005-2006	
2005-2006	
<u>REVENUE SUMMARY</u>	
FEES & SERVICE CHARGES	\$1,169,440.09
MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES	\$10,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,179,440.09
2005-2006	
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
WATER UTILITIES	\$675,883.21
DEBT SERVICES	\$454,402.50
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1,130,285.71
EXCESS REVENUES/EXPENDITURES	\$49,154.38

DEBT SERVICES FUND 2005-2006	
2005-2006	
<u>REVENUE SUMMARY</u>	
PROPERTY TAXES	\$453,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$453,000.00
2005-2006	
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	
DEBT SERVICES	\$452,295.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$452,295.00
EXCESS REVENUES/EXPENDITURES	\$705.00