



Lucas City Newsletter

November, 2007

newsletter@lucastexas.us

151 Country Club Road, Lucas TX 75002 • 972/727-8999 • www.lucastexas.us

City Council

- Bill Carmickle, Mayor
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- Debbie Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
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- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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- Kathleen Peele, Councilmember
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- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
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- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember
(wmillsap@lucastexas.us)

City Administrator

Paul Catoe
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STRAIGHT TALK FROM THE MAYOR

On Nov. 6, our citizens, along with all other residents of Collin County, will have an opportunity to approve a \$328.9 million bond program, of which \$235.6 million is for transportation improvements throughout the county. During our meeting on Oct. 4, City Council unanimously supported a resolution in favor of this bond program. With the passage of the bond package, our City could greatly benefit as it would make significant matching funds available to us for various roadway projects, as well as fund improvements to roads throughout the county that our residents use daily.

Another part of the package is the open space proposition that is designed for long range planning for parks and open space to maintain the quality of life that makes Collin County a special place to live. Our city has just benefited from the 2003 bond funding parks and open space improvements by being awarded \$82,587 in matching funds for improvements to the Lucas City Park. This grant will be used for constructing a walking trail around the park, landscaping upgrades, and an expanded parking lot, as well as other miscellaneous improvements. Future grants of this nature throughout the county depend upon the passage of this new bond proposition.

For the future of our City, and Collin County, I personally urge each of you to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 6 in favor of this important bond package.

Meeting Schedule

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

City Council Regular Thurs., Nov. 1
Planning & Zoning Thurs., Nov. 8
City Council Workshop Thurs., Nov. 15
Parks & Open Space TBA
Municipal Court Nov. 28, 4:00PM
Home Rule Commission Mon., Nov. 12, Nov. 26

FOUNDERS DAY AND STICK HORSE RODEO A GREAT SUCCESS



The Founders Day celebration, featuring a Stick Horse Rodeo, was held on Sat. Oct. 13. There was a great turnout, and 36 young cowboys and cowgirls participated in the Rodeo. Special thanks go to the Allen HS FFA for their help.

Around \$1500 total was raised for the Lucas Volunteer Firemen Donation Fund. Proceeds from the entry fees for the rodeo, a raffle sponsored by the Parks and Open Space Board, and pie baking contest were donated to the fund. Additionally local churches held events such as a cake sale and raffle of a Ducks Unlimited print, and proceeds from those events were also donated. We want to thank the Allen Antique Mall for their dealer's contributions to the POS raffle. (A listing of the participating dealers is on page 4.)

If anyone has pictures taken at the celebration that you would like to share, please drop by City Hall or email to newsletter@lucastexas.us. We will display at City Hall, and include some of the best in a future newsletter.

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About City Finance! – Part 1

By Wayne Millsap, Councilmember

October 1 was the beginning of a new fiscal year for the City, so this is a good time to review the budget for the year. Over the next few months, we will discuss what it takes to operate the City and where the money comes from to pay for it. There is more than meets the eye to operating a city, so we will keep these articles short and simple; but you are always welcome to contact Council or City staff if you have questions. Council and City Staff recognize the responsibility we have for managing the City’s finances and welcome input from citizens. The challenges we face are no different than we do as individuals – balancing our wants and needs with our ability to pay.

The budget process begins in early summer. City staff prepares departmental budgets based on projected revenues and expenses for maintenance, operations and special projects. The budget is reviewed in public workshops by Council and Staff and adjusted based on priorities and available funds.

The City tracks income and expenses in funds: General Fund, Water Utilities Fund and the Debt Service Fund. The General Fund is for City operations such as the Fire Department, Community Development, Parks, and Public Works and Administration. The Water Utilities Fund is a business-type activity because it buys and sells water. A portion of our taxes goes into the Debt Service Fund to pay the bonds used for expenses such as road and water system improvements. The challenge is to balance the needs with our ability to pay.

A summary of the 2007 – 2008 budget is:

Fund	Revenue	Expenditures	Net Amt.
General Fund	\$ 2,099,473	\$ 1,955,568	\$ 143,905
Water Utilities Fund	1,877,300	1,874,401	2,899
Debt Service Fund	555,518	555,019	499
	\$ 4,532,291	\$ 4,384,988	\$ 147,303

Revenue comes from a several sources:

Type of Revenue	Amount	%
Property Taxes	\$ 1,690,518	37%
Water services & fees	1,752,300	39%
Sales & franchise taxes	255,250	6%
Licenses & permits	264,200	6%
Trash service	235,000	5%
Other	335,023	7%
	\$ 4,532,291	100%

Property taxes are based on the tax rate set by the City Council each year after establishing a budget. This year’s tax rate is \$.375 per \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate has two parts: \$.24426 for maintenance and operations and \$.13074 for debt service (interest and sinking fund). This equates to \$375 per \$100,000 in assessed value. For homeowners, exemptions reduce the taxable value and therefore the amount of tax: Homestead exemption of 8%; Over 65 exemption \$50,000; and Disabled exemption \$50,000.

Next month we will discuss the Water Fund. Space is limited, so if you have questions, please contact City staff, a Councilmember or the Mayor.

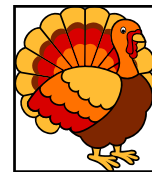
LUCAS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT PROFILES

Lee Bauer is one of the longest serving volunteers as he joined the LVFD in 1981. Lee is a Captain in the department, and has earned the designations of SFFMA, Basic Firefighter and SFFMA, Level II Instructor. Lee is a retiree, and he and his wife are long time Lucas residents. Thank you, Lee, for your many years of dedicated service.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

The City of Lucas staff wishes you all a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. City Hall will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 22 and 23.



OCT. NEWSLETTER PROBLEM

Due to being misplaced at the post office, the Oct. newsletters were not delivered to residents. You may view the newsletter on the City web site under the newsletter section, or come by City Hall to pick up a copy. You may also call City Hall and request that one be mailed to you.

POLL LOCATIONS FOR NOV. 6

For voting locations, visit www.co.collin.tx.us or call the elections office at 972-424-1460.

OCTOBER CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

October 4, 2007 Regular City Council Meeting

- Approved rezoning 41.91 acres located at Northwest corner of Forest Grove Rd. and County Rd. 321 from Agricultural to Residential (1 acre).
- Approved minutes from prior meetings held on 9-6-07, (Special and Regular Council meetings), 9-17-07(Special), 9-20-07 (Regular), and 9-24-07 (Special).
- Approved resolutions changing authorized signatures for American National Bank, changing authorized representatives for Local Government Investment Cooperative, and changing of authorized agents for Lone Star Investment Pool.
- Approved resolution for appointment of Dana Huffman as Municipal Judge for City of Lucas.
- Did not approve agreement with City of Wylie for providing animal control services. Voted to have City Adm. and Mayor meet with Collin County to discuss alternate animal control solutions.
- Approved a resolution of the City of Lucas in support of the Collin County Bond Election.

October 18, 2007 Workshop Meeting

- Discussed future water improvements needed in City.
- Declined to approve cost sharing with Collin Co. for road improvements for County Road 303, Aztec Trail.
- Approved an agreement between Cities of Allen, Frisco, Plano and City of Lucas for use of Allen, Frisco, & Plano 800MHz Trunked Radio Communications System.
- Approved agreement between City of Plano and City of Lucas regarding Fire and Emergency Medical Dispatch Services.
- Discussed possible amendment to City of Lucas' Fire Prevention and Protection Code to broaden Fire Protection (sprinkler) requirements for new construction.
- Agreed to budget critical improvements needed for City Hall as submitted by Advisory Committee.
- Approved agreement with Lovejoy ISD where they will pay for one dump per month of the recycling container, and City of Lucas has budgeted up to \$5000. this year for recycling services,
- Approved an ordinance designating an official newspaper for publishing all information required by law or ordinance to be published.
- Approved an ordinance to have the ex officio clerk of the municipal court be appointed by the City Council.
- Changed the Code of Ordinances to place the City Secretary reporting to the City Administrator with no direct reporting to the City Council.

- Continued discussion of new animal control services contract. Determination of final contract to be made at future meeting.

HOW I SPENT MY SUMMER VACATION

By David Leonard, Captain/EMT-B, LVFD

What would possess a person to use their vacation to face extreme temperatures, life threatening situations or long technical classes for a week? The 78th Annual Municipal Firefighting School was held at Texas A&M the last week of July and attended by firefighters willing to give up a summer vacation to further their education and experience realistic scenarios that they may encounter.

Each year, thousands of volunteer fire service personnel participate in intensive weeklong training courses that make up the summer fire school. This is the largest school of its kind in the world, attracting firefighters from the state's smallest volunteer fire departments to those serving the largest metropolitan areas. Courses range from basic to advanced levels and are taught by hundreds of instructors, each experienced in specific areas of emergency response. The training provided is very intense, very hot and normally very intimidating.

Lucas VFD sent six members to schools where they could gain knowledge and experience to better serve the Lucas community:

Ben Hardy – Firefighting IV; **David Palmer**-Aircraft Emergencies; **Brandon Marshall**-Fire Service Officer II; **Phil vanBeek**-Firefighting II; **Burk Staes**-Rope Rescue; **Ron Grotti**-Pump Ops Instructor.

The Lucas VFD was awarded scholarships from the Texas Forest Service, saving the city \$2250 in tuition cost. Because the department is made up of volunteers, the city also saves money on salaries and benefits. The Annual Municipal School is only one location the department uses to obtain high quality training. Members also attend classes at CCCC in McKinney, regional seminars, and Tuesday nights at the Lucas Station. As a department, the members will normally account for approximately 4000 hours a year of certifiable training.

For more information on how to be part of this experience, visit the website www.lucasfire.com or pick up an application at City Hall.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS

Due to the generosity of a number of dealers at the Allen Antique Mall almost \$500. was raised by the Parks and Open Space Board raffle at the Founders Day Event held Oct. 13. The participating dealers who donated many wonderful prizes are as follows:

- Allen Antique Mall
- Molly's Junque
- Faithfully Yours
- MoonWalker
- Circle E Candles
- Buttons & Bows
- Vintage Season
- Dad's Place
- Baby Peekaboo-Webkinz
- Judy's Collectibles
- Wild Rose Collectibles
- Carol Fejeran
- Painted Ladies
- Jesse Miller Knives & Hot Wheels

Other donors of prizes for the raffle and stick horse rodeo awards are as follows:

- Richie Wolfe
- Mark Trucking Company
- HB Welding

CITY OF LUCAS
151 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

HOT WHEELS SILENT AUCTION

Jesse Miller grew up in a small town in Michigan, and knows the value of a volunteer fire department. Jesse, owner of Jesse Miller Knives & Hot Wheels at the Allen Antique Mall, has generously donated a collection of 100 vintage Hot Wheels (still in original packaging) valued well in excess of \$300 to be auctioned off as a fund raiser for the Lucas Volunteer Fire Department. The collection was on display at the Founders Day celebration, and the opportunity to enter silent bids was given to attendees.



The auction will end on November 15 and the bid sheet will be at the front desk at City Hall until then. This is your opportunity to acquire a great collection, and help the LVFD at the same time. A list of the Hot Wheels included in the collection (which includes at least one rare model valued at over \$30) is also at City Hall. The auction does have a reserve (hidden minimum bid).



DON'T FORGET TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR!

Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, 11/4. It's also a good time to check and change the batteries in your smoke detectors and other protective devices.

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