



Lucas City Newsletter

November, 2011

newsletter@lucastexas.us

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

City Council

- Rebecca Mark, Mayor
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- Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem
(kpeelee@lucastexas.us)
- Wayne Millsap, Councilmember
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- Jim Olk, Councilmember
(jolk@lucastexas.us)
- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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- Philip Lawrence, Councilmember
(plawrence@lucastexas.us)
- Debbie Fisher, Councilmember
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City Manager

Jeff Jenkins
(jjenkins@lucastexas.us)



THOUGHTS FROM THE MAYOR

I received an email from a local resident recently, and he raised an interesting question that I have not seen addressed in this newsletter in the past. His concern was over the lack of consumer choice in most of our electric utilities service area. As most of you know, the majority of Lucas is served by Grayson-Collin Electrical Cooperation.

In the mid-nineties due to a combination of new state legislation and federal law changes, the electric providers system was deregulated and the retail electric market was born. Until January, 2002, electric cooperatives and municipally owned electric utilities were not included in this competitive marketplace. As of that date, however, they were given the right to choose whether or not to participate in the competitive retail electric market. For electric cooperatives the board of directors makes that decision.

Prior to the 1-1-02 date, in anticipation of this change, Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperative sent a survey to each of their approximately 18,000 members asking them to vote on whether they wished their Board to opt in or out of what was commonly known as "Customer Choice". Almost 6,000 members participated in the survey, and an overwhelming majority (87%) voted to opt out, meaning that they did not want to participate in the retail market.

Customer service for co-ops, as well as their retail rates, is not regulated by the Public Utility Commission.

The City of Lucas has no say in which electric provider services our area.

For more information about this issue, there are two websites you may want to visit. The first is Grayson-Collin Electric Cooperation's website which is www.gcec.net. The second is the State of Texas Public Utilities Commission website which is <https://puc.state.tx.us>.

On another note, I hope everyone is enjoying the fall weather. Although we have been fortunate to have received fairly good rainfall over the last couple of weeks, the drought is still firmly in place, and is likely to continue for a number of months. Please be mindful of the Stage 3 water restrictions, and do everything you can to help us achieve the goal of an overall reduction of 10% of our water usage.

All meetings begin at 7:00 PM unless otherwise specified.

City Council Regular
Thursday, Nov. 3

Fire Department Advisory Committee
Thursday, Nov. 3, 5:30 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission
Thursday, Nov. 10

Municipal Court
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 3:30 PM

City Council Workshop
Thursday, Nov. 17

City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, Nov. 24

City Hall Closed for Thanksgiving
Thursday, Nov. 25



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS APPROACHING

The City of Lucas is collecting food and unwrapped toys to be given to a number of families in the community in need of assistance. A collection box is at City Hall, and will remain there through December 15th. If you wish to donate non-perishable food items or an unwrapped toy please drop by City Hall between the hours of 8AM and 5 PM.

During this season of thankfulness, please consider helping those less fortunate by donating.



The City Council wants to thank all the residents who have recently submitted volunteer applications. As we have mentioned many times in the past, there are continually volunteer opportunities within our city.

Our non-elected boards and commission are comprised of citizens such as yourself who care about our community and are willing to give their time and expertise to make our City the best place to live in Collin County!

A special thanks goes out to all the citizens who have volunteered and served the community over the past months and years, whether it be on a board or helping with a special event such as Founder's Day. Without your commitment to the community we could not have made it such a special day. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did!

If you have questions on how you can be of service to your fellow citizens, contact City Hall at (972) 727-8999 or email secretary@lucastexas.us.

Actions from City Council

- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-09-00687** of the City Council of the City Of Lucas, Collin County, Texas, amending the Lucas Code Of Ordinances, by amending Chapter 14 "Zoning" by amending Article 14.04 "Supplementary Regulations" by adding a new Division 10 Titled "Wind Energy Conversion Systems," relating to the use, regulations, and review standards for the installation and siting of wind energy systems within the City of Lucas; providing a repealing clause; providing a severability clause; providing a savings clause; providing for a penalty of fine not to exceed the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) for each offense; and providing for an effective date.
- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-10-00690** an ordinance of the City Council of Lucas, Collin County, Texas designating the *McKinney Courier Gazette* the official newspaper of the City of Lucas, Collin County, Texas, for Fiscal Year 2011 - 2012; authorizing the City Manager to contract with the *McKinney Courier Gazette*; and providing an effective date.
- * Approved **Ordinance # 2011-10-00691** an ordinance of the City Council of Lucas, Collin County, Texas, providing for the taxation of Goods-in-Transit; providing a repealing clause; providing a severability clause; and providing an effective date.
- * Council appointed the following individuals to serve on the Planning & Zoning Commission: Karen Hurtt, Steve Duke, Sean McCaffity, David Keer, Peggy Rusterholtz, and Alternates Andre Guillemaud and Chris Wylie.
- * Council appointed the following individuals to serve on the Parks & Open Space Board: Kerry Leath, Christopher Vanhorn, Ruth Josenhans, Amy Hutchinson, Robbin Wells, and Alternates Tommy Tolson and Jinx Smith.
- * Council appointed the following individuals to serve on the Board of Adjustments: Kathy Morris, Stuart Fink, Cathey Bonczar, Amber Patteson, Craig Williams, and Alternate Charles Beveridge.



Emergency Alert System Nationwide Test (EAS)

The first nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System, or EAS, will take place at 2:00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on November 9, 2011. The purpose of the test is to assess the reliability and effectiveness of the system in alerting the public.

The Emergency Alert System is a media communications-based alerting system that is designed to transmit emergency alerts and warnings to the American public at the national, Tribal, state and local levels. EAS participants broadcast alerts and warnings regarding weather threats, child abductions and other types of emergencies. EAS alerts are transmitted over television and radio broadcast, satellite television and satellite radio, cable television and wireline video services.

Although the nationwide EAS test may resemble the periodic monthly testing some differences in what consumers may see or hear. This is one reason for conducting a nationwide EAS test. During the test, the public will hear a message indicating "this is a test". The audio message will be the same for everyone, however due to limitations of the EAS, the video test message may not be the same and may not indicate "this is a test". This is due to the use of a "live" national code - the same code that would be used in an actual emergency. Also, the background image that appears on video screens may indicate "this is a test" but in some cases there may be no image at all. FEMA and the FCC plan to reach out to organizations representing people with hearing disabilities to prepare that community for the national test. In addition, FEMA and the FCC will work with EAS participants to explore whether there are solutions to address this limitation.



Lucas Book Club

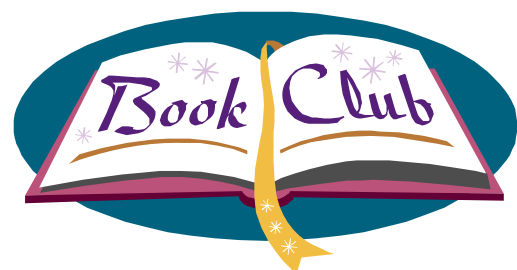
The Lucas Book Club was started almost nine years ago with an announcement in the City of Lucas newsletter. The first meeting was held at the Lucas City Hall in January of 2003. The first book selected was *Issac's Storm*.

The group is a diverse group of intelligent, talented women who came together because of a common love of literature and stayed together because of a common bond of respect and friendship. Six of the seven charter members are still with the group.

The years have brought many changes and life challenges, but the ladies have held fast and grown as a group. The book selections have included a variety of genres: classic, biography, fiction, mystery, and self-help. Club meetings are interesting and creative; there have been field trips, visiting speakers, holiday parties, gourmet luncheons, and high tea.

The group recently met at the Lucas Community Park for a Halloween event which was enjoyed by all of those in attendance.

If you would like more information on the Lucas Book Club please send an email to vls3551@yahoo.com.





Pictured left to right: Sandy "Thumper" Daniels, Louann Cunningham, Maggie Parslow and Lucas' City Manager, Jeff Jenkins.

Share the Road Campaign a Success

Back in May 2011, Mayor Rebecca Mark proclaimed the month of May to be **Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month** in the City of Lucas. Sandy "Thumper" Daniels of the Outpost S&A DFW, Blacksheep MC Wylie Chapter and several local independents attended a City Council meeting to receive a proclamation from Mayor Mark.

Ms. Daniels asked that the City of Lucas to consider placing a "Share the Road" sign along one of the city's busiest roadways. The City was able to obtain a sign and placed it along West Lucas Road.

City Manager, Jeff Jenkins, met with Ms. Daniels and Lucas residents Louann Cunningham and Maggie Parslow recently to have a picture made beneath the sign.

It is the responsibility of all who put themselves behind the wheel, to become aware of motorcyclists, regarding them with the same respect as any other vehicle traveling the highways of this country; and it is the responsibility of riders and motorists alike to obey all traffic laws and safety rules. Even though the statewide "Share the Road" campaign ends November 1st, citizens of our community are urged to become aware of the inherent danger involved in operating a motorcycle, and for riders and motorists alike to give each other the mutual respect deserved. Drive friendly and drive safe!

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

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POSTAL PATRON