



# LUCAS LEADER



September 2016

## Mayor's Message *by Jim Olk*



In October, you may notice a change in your water bill as new water rates go into effect. What we, as residents, pay for water is directly impacted by what the city has to pay for the water at a wholesale price along with the costs of maintaining the water delivery system.

In Lucas the water system is handled as an enterprise fund, meaning that the expenses and revenues are all kept separate from the City's general fund. The revenues from people paying their water bills goes into the fund and then expenses like purchasing the wholesale water, maintaining the water towers, pumps and pipes are all paid out of that fund. That way there is transparency in where that money is spent and it shows that property taxes are not being used to support that utility.

To insure that we have sufficient funds to keep the water system operational, every 5 years the City hires a consultant to perform a rate study. The last study was completed in 2012 the next study will be in 2017. The rate study looks at our expenses to maintain the system as well as what the North Texas Municipal Utility District (NTMUD) is going to charge us for the wholesale water. The consultant then assists in developing a plan that sets the water rates so that we don't go in the hole.

There are a couple of things that significantly impact our water rates. The first is consumption. The average monthly residential water consumption in the State of Texas is about 6,400 gallons. The average monthly residential water consumption for the City of Lucas is over 15,000 gallons. When NTMUD estimates our annual need they use this figure. Then they look at their costs to deliver that much water to us. Regardless if we actually use that much water, that is what the City has to purchase from NTMUD.

The second thing that significantly impacts our water rates is delivery. The City has to maintain a water system that will deliver water to each property and insure there is adequate pressure to prevent contamination. Along with the pipes, this requires water towers and pumps to maintain supply and pressure. The City's water delivery system is constantly being monitored and reviewed for potential points of disruption.

Once we take all these costs into account we set a rate that each user will need to pay. The following tables reflect the new rates for the upcoming year along with the percent of change.

**Base Rate** – includes the first 2,000 gallons of consumption.

Meter Size (in inches)	Current Fiscal Year Rates (15/16)	New Fiscal Year Rates (16/17)	Percentage Increase
5/8 & 3/4	21.34	22.18	3.94 %
1	31.35	34.69	10.7 %
1 1/2	37.92	42.90	15.1 %
2	64.36	75.95	18.0 %

### Water Consumption Rate

Additional Water Consumption per Gallon	Current Fiscal Year Rates (15/16)	New Fiscal Year Rates (16/17)	Percentage Increase
0 – 2,000	N/A	N/A	N/A
2,001 – 5,000	5.07	5.25	3.55 %
5,001 – 10,000	5.40	5.59	3.52 %
10,001 – 30,000	5.65	5.85	5.54 %
30,001 – 50,000	5.90	6.11	3.56 %
50,001 & Up	6.34	6.56	3.47 %

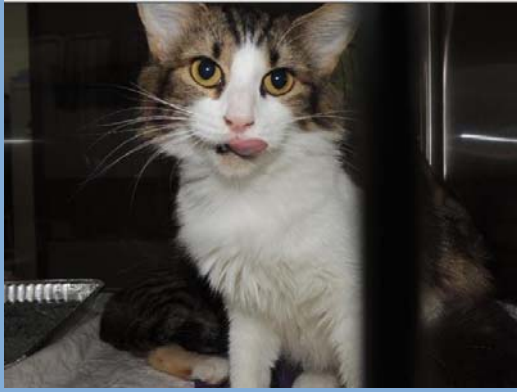
Water conservation is the first step in reducing your water bill. For more info on water conservation techniques please visit [www.northtexaswateriq.org](http://www.northtexaswateriq.org). Also, if you reside in the ETJ you can visit the City's website for additional information for fiscal year 2016/2017 water rates for out-of-City residential and commercial customers.

## Lucas will host voting for November Presidential Election

The Lucas Community Center will be a temporary polling location during the Presidential election this coming November. Election Day will be Tuesday, November 8 and as early voting location details are finalized through the Collin County Elections office, information will be made available in the Lucas Leader.

## Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services



This sweet girl is a two-year old female brown/white Tabby that has been neutered and is available for adoption. Help her find her forever home by stopping by the Collin County Animal Shelter located at 4750 Community Boulevard in McKinney or visit their website at [http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal\\_services/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx).

## City Accepting Board Applications

The City of Lucas is accepting applications to serve on a Board/Commission until September 9, 2016. To apply, visit the City's website and fill out the online applications at <http://www.lucastexas.us/city-of-lucas-board-commission-volunteer-application.html>. For more information contact the City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.



On Friday, October 14, the annual Family Promise of

Collin County Gil Gilster Memorial Golf Tournament will take place at Twin Creeks Golf Club in Allen. This event will raise important funds for programs serving homeless families in Collin County.

If you would like to have a fun afternoon of golf and help families that are struggling with homelessness, visit Family Promise of Collin County at [www.ihelpfamilies.org](http://www.ihelpfamilies.org) to register or find out more about sponsorship opportunities for this event.

## North Texas Municipal Water District Oversight Committee

The scarcity of water for the growing north Texas population was recognized in the 1940's. This led to the construction of Lake Lavon in 1948 for the purpose of water conservation and to help with flood control. In order to provide an organization for the delivery of water to the public, the 52<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature passed Article XVI, Section 59 of the Texas Constitution, authorizing the creation of the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). Original member cities (in 1954) Farmersville, Forney, Garland, McKinney, Mesquite, Plano, Princeton, Rockwall, Royse City and Wylie were joined by Richardson in 1973, Allen in 1998, and Frisco 2001. The NTMWD is governed by a Board of Directors with representatives from each of these member cities.

In 1972, NTMWD added a Regional Wastewater System to their services. As part of their plan, they purchased approximately 400 acres in the ETJ (extra-territorial jurisdiction) of the City of Lucas, planning at first to develop a solid waste disposal operation. However, studies showed the areas was a prime location for their wastewater need and they began the process of building the Wilson Creek Wastewater Plant located on Orr Road near the intersection with Forest Grove.

This plan met with great resistance from the Lucas community and lawsuits followed. The plant was allowed to be built by the courts and construction began in 1987. But significant odor issues and the presence of toxic gases continued to be a problem for our area. As they planned for plant expansion, a group of citizens (Lucas United Citizens Against Sewage) and the City of Lucas were successful in a court ordered decision in 2000 creating the Wilson Creek Oversight Committee. This agreement allowed plant expansion up to 64 MGD (million gallons per day), a number the district said would meet their future needs at Wilson Creek. Currently, the plant processes an average of 53 MGD of sewage. Construction activities are occurring over the next 2 years to take the plant to its maximum capacity of 64 MGD. Studies are being conducted to determine NTMWD plans for increased sewage treatment needs.

The Oversight Committee has been successful in alleviating the persistent odor issues including the requirement of sludge trucks (solid waste from the sewage treatment process) to be covered and washed before returning to the plant. The screening requirements are so effective that many of its neighbors are unaware of the plant's existence. The entities involved have developed a more cooperative relationship and the Wilson Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant is a model used throughout the NTMWD and for other plants across the state. If odors do occur, there is a reporting process and the Oversight Committee is advised of all odor complaints. If you experience odor problems, please note the time and weather conditions. Call the NTMWD main office at 972.442.5405. A report will be taken, investigated and resolved. The Oversight Committee members have significant concerns about the possible expansion to the Wilson Creek Plant including more trucks and noise, damages to local roads and the intrusion on our City. The Oversight Committee which includes Councilmember Debbie Fisher, Don Kendall and John Helm receive updates on the NTMWD studies and their future plans.

## Meetings and Events

**September 1**  
City Council  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**September 5**  
Labor Day Holiday  
City Hall Closed

**September 8**  
Planning and Zoning  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**September 27**  
Parks and Open Space  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**September 15**  
City Council  
7:00 pm - City Hall (*Approval of budget and tax rate*)



## Blondy Jhune Bridges Construction

On Thursday, July 21, the City Council approved an agreement with Structural Assurance in an amount of \$1,559,781.72 plus a contingency for the construction of the Blondy Jhune bridges. Currently the plans show a concrete bridge with “scalloped” rails, but the possibility of a steel truss bridge is not out of the picture, such as the one shown in the picture above.

A preliminary schedule has been set with both bridges proposed to be closed from late October 2016 to March/April 2017. This time frame has not been approved or finalized. The contractor should begin construction sometime in early August once all the paperwork, bonding, and other requirements have been met by the contractor. The contractor and staff will be setting up meetings with the eight property owners living within the construction zone. These meeting will take place in late August and September. The paving work is one of the last elements of the construction. So driveways will be reconstructed sometime during March and April 2017. The impact to any one driveway should be less than two weeks. Don't forget to photograph your property to document the pre-construction condition. Please let Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster know if you would like to receive email updates by emailing him at [Stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:Stanton@lucastexas.us).

## Automatic Flushing Valves



There are approximately 90 dead-end water lines throughout the City. These dead-end lines pose a water quality issue, because water can become trapped, and the residual chlorine levels can drop adversely impacting water quality. The City is actively flushing and/or testing these dead-end lines each month. Soon the city will start installing automatic flushing valves (AFV). These devices are in use on the end of the water

lines on Brockdale Park Road and Osage Lane. Many water lines around the city will be receiving these upgrades. The small green boxes contain the AFV and are proximately two feet long by one foot wide by one foot tall. If you believe that the water coming from these devices is excessive, please call city hall 24 hours a day at 972-727-8999 and if prompted pick option two.

Some of these AFVs may be temporary in nature until other improvement strategies are employed. The best strategy is to loop the water line by connecting it to another water line. If you have any questions regarding these devices, contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at 972.912.1208 or [Stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:Stanton@lucastexas.us) for more information.

## CONGRATULATIONS Deputy White

The City of Lucas would like to congratulate our very own Collin County Deputy George White on his induction into the Allen Athletic Hall of Honor for football and track. Deputy White graduated from Allen High School in 1989 and while involved in the Allen athletics program, he was named Honorable Mention All District as a sophomore in the football program, and as a junior and senior was awarded the First Team All District Running Back and First Team All District Punt Returner. Deputy White was also named All American in Street and Smith his senior year. Aside from his many accomplishments in football, Deputy White competed on the track relay team helping lead them to the Regional competition.

Deputy White continues this dedication and commitment in his professional career as well being named National Law Enforcer in 2009 and has received six Life Saving Awards. The citizens of Lucas are well served by Deputy White.

## Service Tree Award Nominations

The City of Lucas Service Tree Award Program allows for annual recognition of individuals, businesses, and youth or civic organizations who have contributed a significant and useful service to the community. A living tree is planted at the Lucas Community Park next to City Hall in their honor along with an award plaque that will be presented at our annual Founders Day event on October 22, 2016.

If you know of a deserving individual, business or group, you would like to nominate visit the City's website and fill out the Service Tree Nomination form at <http://lucastexas.us/city-documents/category/59-service-tree-awards-program.html>. Deadline to submit nominations is September 9, 2016. For more information contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.



# Founders Day Celebration October 22, 2016

Mark your calendars, Founders Day is set for Saturday, October 22 from Noon to 5:00 pm at the Lucas Community Park next to City Hall. There will be food, live music, bounce houses, costumed ponies, petting zoo, booths, a parade, costume contest and the best stick horse rodeo in town.

## Parade Information

All applications to participate in the parade must be received by October 14. Applications may be found on our website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) or stop by City Hall. Should you have additional questions, contact Donna Bradshaw at 972.912.1206 or [dbradshaw@lucastexas.us](mailto:dbradshaw@lucastexas.us). Parade participants will line up and depart from Hart Elementary located at 450 Country Club Road.



### Founders Day Grand Marshal - Lee Bauer

This year the Founders Day parade will feature our Grand Marshal, Captain Lee Bauer. Captain Bauer served 32 years with the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department, starting on November 1, 1981 and retiring on March 15, 2013. Lee's service to the City and his accomplishments include: logging over 3,451 hours volunteering for the Fire-Rescue Department, 748 training classes and 3,511 documented activities with the department! Lee also served as Chairman of the Volunteer Pension Board and Chairman of the Volunteer Selection Team. These outstanding accomplishments have earned him Firefighter of the year 2006 and Firefighter of the year 2009. Please join us as we salute Grand Marshal, Captain Lee Bauer!

## Parking

Parking at City Hall will be limited to vendors and volunteers. Parade participant parking will be available at Hart Elementary located at 450 Country Club Road and additional general parking will be available at the Lovejoy ISD Operations buildings as well as Little Hart's Preschool next to City Hall.

## Costume Contest

Calling all ghost, goblins, princesses and super heroes...this year's contest will be broken into age groups 0-4, 5-8, and 9-12, and separated into boys/girls. After the contest, children are invited to Trick or Treat Trail where they will trick or treat from booth to booth and fill their bags with candy and other goodies provided by local businesses and organizations. Should you have additional questions, contact Cathey Bonczar at 972.824.6311 or [cbonczar@lucastexas.us](mailto:cbonczar@lucastexas.us).



## Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for events ranging from serving popcorn and cotton candy to manning bounce houses and cooking. Volunteering is also a great way to earn service hours for students. Should you have additional questions contact Rebecca Mark at 972.912.1246 or by email at [lucasvolunteers@aol.com](mailto:lucasvolunteers@aol.com).

## Booth Information

Applications will be accepted until October 14, 2016 for arts & crafts, service organizations, non-project, and commercial booths. Booths participants are asked to bring at least 10 lbs of candy to participate in Trick or Treat Trail. Please see the website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) or stop by City Hall for the booth application form and should you have additional questions, contact Joni Clarke at 972.912.1212 or [jclarke@lucastexas.us](mailto:jclarke@lucastexas.us).

## Stick Horse Rodeo

The Stick Horse Rodeo is one of the most popular events at Founders Day where Cowboys and Cowgirls participate in events such as barrel racing, pole bending and other fun rodeo events. Participants of this year's rodeo are encouraged to come dressed in cowboy/cowgirl costumes, and to bring their own stick horses if available. For questions contact Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele at 972.838.8954 or [kpeele@lucastexas.us](mailto:kpeele@lucastexas.us).



## Scarecrow Contest

The City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Board would like to invite you to join us in our annual Scarecrow Contest.



Registration begins September 16 through October 9. Judging will begin October 11. Scarecrow displays are required to be completed by October 9 and winners will be announced at our Founders Day celebration on October 22. To register your display, view the requirements to participate, and the judging guidelines visit the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) and click on the Founders Day link at the top of homepage. For additional information, contact Ken Patterson at [kpatterson@lucastexas.us](mailto:kpatterson@lucastexas.us).