



LUCAS LEADER



February 2016

TOWN HALL MEETING
February 7, 2016 - 2:00 p.m.
...Neighborhood Connector Street Projects...
See Page 2 for more details

Mayor Pro Tem's Message

By Kathleen Peele



We in Lucas are blessed to live in a country atmosphere and have close proximity to the beautiful lakeside, 25 mile Trinity Trail. The Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) was instrumental in creating this trail and its members devote hours of volunteer time to maintain it. It is enjoyed by a large number of equestrians from around the State (some from out of State) and an increasing number of hikers out for a walk in nature.

While the weather has been cold and the lake is more than full with most of the trails underwater, we know warm weather will return, the lake level will recede, and once again equestrians will be out on the trail. For everyone's safety, please remember these three things when you hear or see an approaching horse and rider: Stop, Speak, and Step out.

STOP – Horses are prey animals. That means they think *everything* wants to eat them! No one wins in an encounter with a 1,000 pound panicked animal. For your safety do not run or walk up quickly to a horse. It is dangerous to you and the rider.

SPEAK – Make yourself known to horse and rider. Talking to the horse and rider lets the horse know you are a person. Speak in a friendly and relaxed tone. Human speech is comforting and reassuring to the horse. Continue to talk until the horse has passed.

STEP OUT – Step into the open so you are clearly visible and keep up the conversation. Stepping out without sound can be dangerous. If approaching from behind it is critical you announce yourself loudly but calmly so you do not scare the animal. Stand off to the side of the trail on the downhill side as horses tend to bolt uphill when spooked. Also, waiting on the uphill side makes you look more like a predator waiting to pounce. Horses are big and unpredictable so they get the right of way.

For your safety, keep your ears open! No ear buds or headphones. You are out to enjoy our fabulous country side anyway. If walking with a dog, Collin County requires that your dog be on a leash. A horse can and will kick or stomp a dog they find aggressive. No bicycles should be on the trail as they can create an extremely dangerous situation for everyone.

We can all look forward to share, enjoy, and be safe on the trail by remembering to STOP, SPEAK, and STEP OUT. Although the trail is currently closed, I do want to ask our residents to report any unusual or suspicious activity at the trail heads on Brockdale and Highland Park, or along the trail itself that will help us prevent vandalism or catch those who are committing it. There is no access to the trail allowed after dark, yet we are finding evidence of fires along with trash such as glass and nails. Those things are a danger to human and animal alike. To make a report please contact the Collin County Sheriff's office at 972.547.5100.

When we go out and enjoy this beautiful area leave only footprints (or hoof prints) and take only memories.

Happy Trails to all.

Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem

Make Your Life Easier With



For your convenience, the City of Lucas offers automatic bill payment for your water and trash services. This will ensure that the City receives your payment in a timely manner and avoid any late fees that could be assessed due to late payment on your water and trash accounts.

To setup automatic bill payment, a bank draft form (ACH form) would need to be filled out that allows the City to draft your bank account on the 10th of each month. If the 10th falls on a weekend or holiday, your account would be drafted the following business day. If you would be interested in having your account set up visit the City's website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/PDF/Additionallinks/achform2013.pdf> to download the ACH Form or contact Delta Moody at 972.912.1205 or by email at dmoody@lucastexas.us to assist you in this process. A monthly bill will still be mailed that allows you to view your invoice should you have any questions with your account.

Voting for Primary Presidential Election to be held at Community Center



Voting for the Primary Presidential Election will take place on March 1, 2016. The City of

Lucas will host Early voting at the Lucas Community Center located behind City Hall at 665 Country Club Road February 22 through February 26 from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. each day. On Election Day, March 1 voting will take place from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. as well.

Adopt a Pet
Collin County Animal Services



This handsome boy is a male orange Tabby cat that is 2 years old. Tabby cats are intelligent and love to cuddle. Help him find his 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.



Saturday, April 2

Keep Lucas Beautiful is seeking volunteers for its upcoming Cleanup Event scheduled for Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Volunteers can work as individuals or in groups, and will help with litter abatement by picking up trash and debris along specified routes.

The event begins and ends at the Community Park pavilion next to City Hall. Participants will gather at 9:00 a.m., pick up safety vests and trash bags, listen to safety guidelines, and be assigned to a route. Volunteers will then be dropped off at their assigned location and when done, will be picked up and brought back to the Community Park. Volunteers should dress appropriately for the weather that day, wear comfortable shoes (water proof boots might be a good option), and bring gloves and a bottle of water. Children 13 and younger must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Donna Bradshaw at 972.912.1206 or by email at dbradshaw@lucastexas.us.



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7
2:00 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

**NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTOR
STREET PROJECT**

The Lucas City Council would like to encourage the citizens of Lucas to attend a Town Hall Meeting to receive updated information on the Neighborhood Connector Street Project. The City Council is seeking additional feedback from the community regarding the various elements associated with this project. **Come be a part of this important dialogue!**

There are four consulting engineering firms working with City staff on various components of the Neighborhood Connector Street Project which include:

BLONDY JHUNE BRIDGE DESIGN – The City received four bids for the Blondy Jhune bridges which were rejected by the City Council on January 7, 2016 because the cost was significantly over the engineer's estimate of cost. City Council directed staff to evaluate design features with cost constraints in mind so the project can be prepared for another bidding process in the future.

SNIDER LANE BRIDGE/FLOODPLAIN CROSSING – The Snider Lane bridge and associated roadway between Shady Lane and east of Natha Court may be considered a priority due to its propensity to flood. The bridge is on land owned by the United States and controlled by the Army Corp of Engineers. The bridge and adjacent roadway may need to be raised 12 to 16 feet to clear the floodplain.

STINSON ROAD BRIDGE/FLOODPLAIN CROSSING – The Stinson Road bridge and approximately 1,500 feet of Stinson Road is being evaluated. It is anticipated the need to raise the bridge and roadway eight feet to clear the floodplain. The bridge is 40 feet wide and 100 feet long. The roadway is 24 feet wide and made of concrete. Right-of-way needs and impacts to trees near the bridge and within the creek channel are still being assessed.

BLONDY JHUNE & WINNINGKOFF ROADWAYS – Staff is planning to have an engineer's estimate of cost ready for both roads associated with the Neighborhood Connector Project.

The purpose of obtaining the schematic designs and costs for the above projects is to determine how to fund these projects and how to sequence the construction. Staff's goal is to have the best set of numbers and estimates possible. While Forest Grove Road, Snider Lane, and Stinson Road are still part of the Neighborhood Connector Street Project, the design and cost estimating of these roads will be done at a future date. Financing alternatives for this project will also be discussed at this Town Hall meeting. In consultation with the City's financial advisor, the City Council has studied the tax rate impact, reserve fund availability and the City's growth potential to help determine the best method of financing.



On the Election Ballot - May 7, 2016 City Elections

City Council Seats 5 and 6 Possible Sales Tax Propositions

The 2016 General and Special City election will take place on May 7, 2016. During this election, two City Council seats will be on the ballot, Council Seat 5 and Council Seat 6. Applications to file for a place on the ballot will be accepted January 20 through February 19, 2016 at City Hall in the City Secretary's office.

The City of Lucas may adopt a sales tax rate up to a two-percent cap. Sales tax is levied by the City on all goods sold within the city limits. The City has adopted a one-percent general revenue sales tax and may also adopt additional sales tax that cannot exceed a total of one-percent for dedicated purposes. Currently, the City of Lucas has adopted the following "dedicated purpose" sales tax:

- One-quarter of one-percent (.25%) sales tax dedicated for street maintenance
- One-quarter of one-percent (.25%) sales tax dedicated to property tax relief
- One-half of one-percent (.50%) sale tax dedicated to the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District for the purpose of funding equipment and operation costs include fire safety and emergency medical programs

The City Council will be evaluating at its February 4, 2016 meeting, the placement of two sales tax proposals on the May 7, 2016 election ballot for consideration by the voters:

1. The sales tax for street maintenance is an optional, dedicated city sales tax which may be spent to repair and maintain existing city streets and expires after four years unless another election is held. This revenue source for street maintenance will discontinue in September of 2016 unless the voters approve its continuation.
2. The sales tax for property tax relief uses sales tax collected to reduce property tax. The sales tax for property tax relief dedicates this portion of sales tax collected to offset an equivalent amount of city property tax revenue. The City may be asking voters to consider abolishing the property tax relief and approve an additional one-quarter of one percent (.25%) for street maintenance.

If both of the above-referenced proposals are placed on the ballot and approved by the voters, this would mean that a total of one-half of one percent of sales tax collected will be earmarked for repair and maintenance of existing city streets. This represents approximately \$265,000 annually.

Meeting Reminders for February

| Date | Time | Description | Notes |
|-------------|---------|------------------------------|-----------|
| February 4 | 7:00 pm | City Council | City Hall |
| February 7 | 2:00 pm | Town Hall Meeting | City Hall |
| February 10 | 6:00 pm | Board of Adjustment | City Hall |
| February 11 | 7:00 pm | Planning & Zoning Commission | City Hall |
| February 18 | 7:00 pm | City Council | City Hall |
| February 23 | 7:00 pm | Parks & Open Space Board | City Hall |

Tiny Bubbles...



Once in a while, a glass of tap water looks cloudy or milky, but after a few seconds it miraculously clears up! The cloudiness is caused by tiny bubbles. The bubbles rise to the top and go into the air above, which clears up the water. The bubbles are completely harmless.

It usually happens when it is very cold outside because the solubility of air in water increases at water pressure increases and/or water temperature decreases. Cold water holds more air than warm water. In the winter, water from the water tower that is very cold, and it warms up during its travels to the tap. Some of the air that is present is no longer soluble and comes out of solution making the water appear cloudy.

Once the water comes out of a tap, the water is no longer under pressure, and the air comes out of solution as bubbles in the same way bubbles rise out of a carbonated soft drink. If the cloudiness is a concern, the best thing to do is let it sit in an open container until the bubbles naturally disappear, but this is not necessary. (<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/qa-chemical-cloudy.html>).

City Council Action Highlights

- The City Council approved the Allen American as the official newspaper of the City of Lucas. All advertisements and public hearing notices will now be published in the Allen American.
- The City Council approved a site plan for a self-storage facility located at 731 Angel Parkway.
- A Town Hall meeting has been set for February 7 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the Neighborhood Connector Street Projects consisting of Blondy Jhune Road, Winningkoff Road, Snider Lane Bridge and Stinson Road Bridge.



Pictures Needed for the Website

The city staff is looking for pictures to populate the website that reflect the unique character and charm of life in Lucas. If you have photographs that represent the natural beauty and personality of Lucas, staff would love to consider your photos for the website. Please email your pictures/jpg files with a minimum resolution of 3 megapixels and taken in a landscape format to Stanton Foerster at stanton@lucastexas.us.



Accepting Applications to Serve on the Friends of the Lucas Fire-Rescue Board

The Friends of the Lucas Fire-Rescue, Inc., is a non-profit charitable corporation that provides the citizens of Lucas an opportunity to support the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department. The Friends of the Lucas Fire-Rescue is a non-profit corporation completely separate from the Lucas City government. The Corporation assists with fundraising and receiving donations for the purpose of purchasing fire fighting related equipment.

The Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be comprised of no less than five (5) and no more than seven (7) individuals for one to two year terms. The Board will consist of two (2) to three (3) volunteers of the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department to be selected by the volunteers of the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department; two (2) but no more than four (4) citizens of the City of Lucas to be appointed by City Council and one (1) member of the City Council shall serve as a liaison.

Applications will be accepted January 25 through February 5 and can be found on the City's website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/what-we-do/boards-commissions.html> or forms will also be available at City Hall. For more information, contact Stacy Henderson, City Secretary at 972.912.1211.



Angel Tree for Seniors

The magic of Santa Claus isn't something only experienced by children. This year, the City hosted an Angel Tree for local Seniors from the Agape Home and Loving Care facility right here in Lucas. The City's very own Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn dressed up as Santa and brought a smile to the residents' faces delivering all the wonderful gifts donated by our Lucas residents.

Santa, his Elf, Public Works Director Stanton Foerster and Santa's helpers, Donna Bradshaw and Scott Dejong delivered gifts to each of the residents. It was heartwarming to see the variety and amount of gifts that our residents donated, and the thought they put into what they gave to their angel. We certainly considered our first Senior Angel Tree a success and hope to continue this tradition for years to come.



Family Promise Toy Drive Big Success

The annual Food and Toy Drive was an outstanding success thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the citizens of Lucas. *Family Promise of Collin County* was able to give dozens of families a joyous Christmas with the toys and food donated at City Hall.

Family Promise of Collin County is a local affiliate of a national organization that has helped families in need for more than 25 years. The Family Promise model operates through Interfaith Hospitality Networks (IHN) of 10-13 faith based congregations within a community. To learn more about Family Promise of Collin County go to <http://familypromiseofcollincounty.org>.



Spend Valentine's Day with your Special Someone and Elvis

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church located at 750 W. Lucas Road, invites you to spend your Valentine's evening, February 14, being entertained by Elvis tribute artist, Donnie Pyles. Donnie performs Elvis music from the 50's thru the 70's. Tickets are \$17.50 each and includes a catered Italian dinner and homemade desserts. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6:00 p.m., and the Elvis concert at 7:00 p.m. Reservations are required. To register or for more information contact Cheryl Massey at 972.429.0295 or Patsy Gibson at 972.442.2381.