



LUCAS LEADER



January 2016

NEW YEAR - NEW LOOK

We're kicking off the new year with a new look - We hope you enjoy!

Mayor's Message By Jim Olk



The New Year is approaching and the City of Lucas is looking forward to the challenges it will bring.

To start the year out, the City Council is going to have a strategic planning retreat where we will focus on developing guiding principles for the City. These guiding principles should reflect things like transparency, accountability, resource management, safety, growth, infrastructure management, human resource management, and others. This will be a

time where the Council can come together and talk openly about the vision for the City and how we can go about realizing that vision. The strategic planning retreat is scheduled for most of the day Saturday, January 23 starting at 9:00 am in the Lucas Community Center next to City Hall and the Park.

Through the upcoming year the City Council and Staff will be working toward the following goals:

- The completion of the Comprehensive Plan which has been underway for several months now.
- Financing alternatives to fund neighborhood connector streets.
- Reconstruction of the bridges along Blondy Jhune Road.
- Discussion surrounding the Capital Improvement Plan for City infrastructure.
- Election and/or re-election of two City Council seats.

All these along with regular City business should make it a very busy year for City Council and City Staff. However, both Council and Staff are looking forward to an exciting and productive year, all while keeping our residents and their needs at the forefront of our actions.

I do want to wish each and every one a very happy and prosperous New Year in 2016.

Jim Olk, Mayor

Think Green!



Everyone knows the importance of recycling. Making a conscious effort to recycle can significantly reduce the amount of waste generated every year, and in turn protect the environment and natural resources. Currently, 744 Lucas residents participate in the recycle program offered by Barnes Waste Disposal. Signing up is easy, all recyclables can be placed in a single cart, no sorting is required and the monthly cost is only \$5.00 and Barnes will pick up your recyclable items bi-weekly. To learn more about what you can recycle and to sign up, visit Barnes Recycling at www.barneswds.com/lucas-recycling-service or call 972.734.3333.

Christmas Tree Pickup



While Barnes Waste Disposal does not recycle Christmas trees, they will pick up your Christmas Tree as part of their waste disposal service. Just be sure your tree is smaller than 6 feet in length and it may be cut in half to make it smaller for pickup. For more information visit Barnes Waste Disposal at www.barneswds.com.

Adopt a Pet
Collin County Animal Services



This sweet girl is a Boxer mix breed just over one year old. She is spayed and available for adoption at the Collin County Animal Shelter. Help her and others find their forever home by stopping by the Collin County Animal Shelter located at 4750 Community Boulevard in McKinney or visit the Collin County website at http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx.

**Minimal Outdoor Watering
Needed January through March**

Lawns need less water during cooler weather months, and water is a precious resource we all must conserve and use wisely. Please consider turning off irrigation systems and water only if needed.

**Commercial Business Survey
Results**

As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, a commercial business survey was prepared asking citizens for their input in identifying preferences for future commercial development in Lucas. The survey results are in and the top five preferences are listed below. While the list below outlines citizen preference, any business meeting all zoning requirements can locate their business within the City.

- Sit-Down Family Style Restaurant
- Farmers Market
- Garden/Nursery
- Grocery Store
- Feed Store

Country Christmas

The City of Lucas Community Park was the place to be on the first Friday evening of December as we gathered as a community to celebrate Lucas and the holiday season. We sincerely appreciate the following sponsors that made our first Country Christmas event possible:



- Craig's Car Care
- Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith LLP
- Grayson Collin Electric Cooperative
- BW2 Engineers, Inc.
- Michael and Deborah Burge
- Samco Capital Markets, Inc.
- JCBR Holdings

With approximately 350 in attendance, we enjoyed listening to the children's choir singing Christmas carols and eating dinner together while the children enjoyed rides on the Lucas Express. The highlight of the evening was the lighting of the official Country Christmas tree and of course, the arrival of Santa and his Elf. If you were unable to attend this year's festivities, please mark your calendar for the first Friday in December for 2016. We had so much fun, we are going to make this an annual event.

Website Redesign



The City of Lucas new website has been up and running for several weeks now, and has been redesigned with the citizens in mind. Various drop down menus have been added to quickly find what you need along with the most frequently asked for items such as water billing, trash and recycling, and agendas and minutes directly on the home page making information easily accessible.

The website also navigates nicely for both computers and mobile devices. The City and IT Consultant continue to evaluate and update the content and its functionality to ensure links are working, information is clearly conveyed and searching tools are fully operational.

As the finishing touches continue to the website, photography that makes Lucas unique will be added throughout the website in January. We hope you continue to visit the website for the information you need and the updates that continue to make the site easier to use.



Meeting Reminders for January

Date	Time	Description	Notes
January 7	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
January 14	7:00 pm	Planning & Zoning Commission	City Hall
January 21	7:00 pm	City Council	City Hall
January 23	9:00 am	City Council Strategic Planning Session	Community Center
January 26	7:00 pm	Parks & Open Space Board	City Hall

City Council Action Highlights

- The City Council appointed Bill Esposito to the recently vacated alternate position on the Parks and Open Space Board.
- The City Council cast their votes and supported John Politz for a Board position on the Collin Central Appraisal District Board of Directors.
- The City Council entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Collin County for use of their Animal Shelter and Animal Services until September 30, 2016.

City of Lucas Fire-Rescue Adds Three New Full-time Firefighter/Paramedics

The City of Lucas Fire-Rescue is very pleased to announce three new full-time employees. From left to right, Scott Wheless, Aaron Alderdice, and Ian Evans began their new positions as firefighter/paramedics in November. Aaron, Scott, and Ian were all volunteer emergency responders for the department previously.



Scott Wheless is a certified paramedic and a certified firefighter. He has been a Lucas Fire-Rescue volunteer since July 2011 and has 2 years additional experience in EMS. Scott is a fire academy instructor and a skills instructor for Emergency Medical Training Services where he teaches EMTs and paramedics.

Aaron Alderdice is a certified paramedic. He has been a Lucas Fire-Rescue volunteer since January 2015 and has 10 years additional experience in EMS. Aaron is also a certified public accountant, which he now practices on his days off from the fire station.

Ian Evans is a certified paramedic and a certified firefighter. He has been a Lucas Fire-Rescue volunteer since December 2011 and has 2 years additional experience in EMS. Ian continues to work for MedStar, which is the exclusive emergency healthcare provider to Fort Worth and 14 other Tarrant County cities. Please join us in welcoming each of them to the City of Lucas staff!

Blondy Jhune Bridges Project



The existing narrow two lane bridges on Blondy Jhune Road are no longer sufficient to handle Lucas traffic. In January of this year, an engineering consultant was hired to design new wider two lane bridges with room for a trail crossing similar to the Winningkoff Road bridge. One of the many joys of driving Lucas roads is the tree canopy shading the country lanes. The City Council after hearing from many of the residents made it clear to staff and the engineer to avoid the trees and keep the country feel.

A third bridge has been added to the project to avoid direct damage to the 48-inch, 250-year-old pecan tree next to the eastern bridge. Staff is planning to have an arborist on board to trim the tree at the proper time during the winter. Before the construction begins, a six-foot fence will be installed around the pecan tree to keep the contractor away from it.

The new roadway bridges with added trail room will be 40 feet wide. The existing bridges are only 26 feet wide. The widening has a direct impact on 25+/- trees that will be removed to rebuild the bridges and trail elements. Staff will mark these trees with orange ribbons and paint before removal in January prior to the contractor starting the bridge construction. The trunks are being saved and stored at city hall until a respectful use of the wood can be determined.

The bridge project is anticipated to start in March 2016 and last eight to ten months.

Neighborhood Connector Street Project



There are four consulting engineering firms working on various segments of the Neighborhood Connector Street Project. The firms are as follows:

Metropolitan Infrastructure, PLLC (MI);
Birkhoff, Hendricks & Carter, LLP (Birkhoff);
KCI Technologies, Inc. (KCI); and
BW2 Engineers, Inc. (BW2)

The purpose of obtaining the schematic designs and costs for these 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 to aid the City Council in the financing discussions in January and February 2016. Based on the direction from the

City Council, staff is focusing design efforts and cost estimating on the following projects:

- **BLONDY JHUNE BRIDGE DESIGN** – The bid plan set was advertised in the Wylie News newspaper on November 18 and 25 and December 2. The bid opening is planned for December 17, 2015 at 2:10 pm at City Hall. At that time, staff will have the bid costs from the various construction companies for the Blondy Jhune bridges. The bid award will be on the agenda for the January 7, 2016, City Council meeting. Construction is anticipated to start in February and last for about 10 months.
- **BLONDY JHUNE ROAD** – MI is working on the design and is planning to have an engineer's estimate of cost ready for this project in January 2016.
- **WINNINGKOFF ROAD** – Birkhoff is reviewing some of the boring and traffic data and the engineer's estimate should be ready in December 2015.
- **SNIDER LANE FLOODPLAIN CROSSING** – KCI is preparing a phase one proposal for the schematic designs of the Snider Lane bridge and the roadway between Shady Lane and Natha Court. The bridge is on land owned by the United States and controlled by the Army Corp of Engineers. The bridge and adjacent roadway will need to be raised 12 to 16 feet to clear the floodplain.
- **STINSON ROAD FLOODPLAIN CROSSING** – BW2 did some preliminary work on this project in 2012 and is preparing a proposal to complete the schematic design of the Stinson Road bridge and approximately 1,500 feet of Stinson Road. They have already done most of the preliminary work for this bridge in 2012. During the work completed in 2012, BW2 anticipated the need to raise the bridge and roadway eight feet to clear the floodplain.

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 considered at a future date.

Eagle Scout Service Project Donated to Fire Department



Landon Bruner of Boy Scout Troop 224 in Allen, Texas recently completed his Eagle Scout Service Project. Landon is the son of Lloyd and Donna Bruner of Lucas, Texas. He is currently a sophomore at Lovejoy High School. With so many worthy causes to choose from, Landon chose for his project to benefit the Lucas Fire Rescue Department. With their newly built facility, they were in need of an outside seating area. The four forest green aluminum benches and picnic table were custom built for this well deserving group of firefighters. Engraved plaques with the firefighters names and shift were attached to each bench. An emblem was created that depicts the logo of the Fire Rescue Department and was placed in the center of their table. Repurposed fire hose was incorporated into the design as armrests for the benches. Landon's project was presented to the firefighters at the Frank H. Hamlin Fire Station on November 21, 2015.

"The project had rewarding challenges to learn from and work through. It was a great way to give back to our local community. I would like to give a special thanks for all those that donated and supported my Eagle Scout Service Project." Landon Bruner

Special Recognition given to the following:

City of Lucas, Texas	Ret. Navy Captain Dave Pastula	Joe Hilbourn	Sean Gassman
Lucas Fire Rescue Department	Boy Scout Troop 224	Chief David Leonard	Ben Young
Firefighter Gerald Reining	Chandler Crews	Ascend Extrusions Inc. of Wylie	Brady Ballew
Lloyd and Donna Bruner	Connor Martin	Dawton Bruner	Thomas Michal
Wal-Mart of Lucas	Cub Scout Pack 358	Home Depot	Nathan Reining
Clayton Reining	Hart Elementary	Dr. Karen Neat DDS, MSD	Dr. Dean Doles DDS
M.B. & B. Trophies & Awards	Chad Engbrock & Sonia Duggan	Black Diamond Designs	
Dallas Woods & Waters Foundation			