



# LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas



January 2017



## Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Back in March, I wrote about the Collin County Commissioners Court supporting a limited access roadway (highway) between US 75 and Lake Lavon. The drawings that the County used, reflect a wide swath of potential alignments for this highway... all of which would bisect the City of Lucas. Many residents have approached me and asked what they need to do to help in fighting a highway through Lucas. Each time I have asked them to wait so we could see what comes out of the Regional Transportation Council as a recommendation.

The Regional Transportation Council (RTC) is a 44 member committee made up of elected and appointed officials from each of the area's transportation providers. One of the RTC's primary tasks is to determine allocation of federal, state and regional transportation funds as they relate to transportation projects. The Mayor of Allen, Stephen Terrell is our representative on the RTC.

In March, the City Council sent a Resolution to the RTC and copied the Commissioners Court. The Resolution opposed any plans to put a limited access roadway through the City of Lucas. I did meet with our County Commissioners, Chris Hill and Cheryl Williams and expressed our concerns with the County's request and proposed an alignment of a north/south limited access roadway west of Lake Lavon. The Commissioners were polite and did state that they would consider other alignments if evidence was presented to them that other alignments were a better option.

City Staff attended an RTC meeting in November and this project was among more than 100 other regional projects that were reflected on the 10-Year Regional Transportation Plan. The 10-year plan totaled over 7 billion dollars of funding for transportation projects. At the November meeting it was

noted that this project was referred to as a North/South Arterial west of Lavon. Staff was assured that, to the RTC, an Arterial was not a Limited Access Roadway. We felt this was positive for the City of Lucas, but we were still concerned with the alignment and felt that more options such as looking east of Lake Lavon would be more forward thinking and allow for a more preferred location for this type of road.

In November and December, I met with the Mayors of Allen, Fairview, Wylie and St. Paul. All these Mayors were in agreement that any very large arterial, especially a limited access roadway, would not be desirable through their communities. A letter to the RTC was drafted that specifically requested that the study area be expanded to include east of Lake Lavon and that they look at the possibility of multiple smaller arterials to accomplish the same goal. Allen's Mayor Terrell was very supportive of the requested suggestions and helped carry them forward to the RTC.

On December 8, the RTC met to vote on the proposed 10 Year Transportation Plan. The presentation, prior to the vote, included the proposed changes to look at multiple "North/South Arterials" and that the thoroughfare alignment include both "west and east of Lake Lavon." The RTC did approve the plan with our desired changes. Additionally there were comments that this project was still far away from an agreed alignment.

It was not our goal to kill or delay any transportation project or attempt to impact funding that will improve mobility around the North Texas region or Collin County. It is, however, the goal of the Lucas City Council to protect the quality of life of our residents. This is not over, we have only made baby steps moving in the right direction. Council will continue to watch this and continue to work with the RTC and the County to find solutions that will not adversely impact what we hold so dear in Lucas.

## DON'T MISS OUT

on the opportunity to talk with the City Council about the future of major roadways through the City of Lucas at the

**Transportation Town Hall Meeting**

Thursday, January 26, 2017

6:30 pm - City Hall Council Chambers

## Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services



This is Evian, a beautiful three year old female Catahoula Leopard dog. Evian is neutered, walks well on a leash and is very friendly and gentle. Help her find her forever home by stopping by the Collin County Animal Shelter located at 4750 Community Boulevard in McKinney. To learn more about Evian and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at [http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal\\_services/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx) or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/>.

## Stay Warm with Home Heating Safety

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), half of all home heating fires occur in December, January, and February. Now is the time to make sure your home heating device is safe, before the weather turns bitter cold. Follow these USFA heating tips to maintain a fire safe home this winter:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three (3) feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters, and candles.
- Never use an oven to heat your home.
- Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected annually by a qualified professional.

For more information on how to keep specific heating devices safe, such as a furnace, space heater, kerosene heater, fireplace, or wood stove, visit the USFA's Heating Fire Safety page at <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/heating.html>.

## Welcome New and Returning Board Members

On December 1, the City Council reappointed existing board members and appointed several new members to the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Adjustment and Parks and Open Space Board. Each appointment begins in January 2017 serving two year terms. The City of Lucas is happy to welcome the following new and returning board members:

### Planning and Zoning Commission

- Andre Guillemaud  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Joe Williams  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Scott Sperling  
(promoted to regular member)

- Tim Johnson  
(new member appointed)

### Board of Adjustment

- Adam Sussman  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Mary Fuentes  
(new member appointed)

### Parks and Open Space Board

- David Rhoads  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Chris Vanhorn  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Brenda Rizos  
(Reappointed for 2 year term)
- Amber Patteson  
(promoted to regular member)
- Joanne Doucet  
(new member appointed)

## What is Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater runoff is water from rain or melting snow that “runs off” across the land instead of seeping into the ground. This runoff usually flows into the nearest stream, creek, river, or lake and is not treated in any way.

In order to keep our waterways clean, here are some things that you can do to prevent stormwater runoff pollution in our area lakes and streams:

- Use fertilizers sparingly, sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard
- Compost your yard waste
- Use least toxic pesticides, follow labels, learn how to prevent pest problems
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces; consider a rain garden to capture runoff
- Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil
- Pick up after your pet
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly

For more information on stormwater runoff pollution, visit the Environmental Protection Agency website at [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).



## Old City Hall Set to be Demolished

In March 2017 the City of Lucas will demolish the old City Hall building and storage tank located on West Lucas Road.

## Lucas Fire-Rescue Hosts Annual Awards Ceremony



Each year, the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department opens their doors and hosts their annual Awards banquet ceremony to recognize

individuals for their dedication, service and extraordinary efforts performed over the last year. This year's ceremony, led by Fire Chief Ted Stephens and Executive Chief Jim Kitchens, was held on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at the Lucas Frank H. Hamlin Fire Station. Individuals recognized for their outstanding efforts included:

- T.J. Johnson for Firefighter of the Year
- Craig Zale for Officer of the Year
- Aaron Alderdice for EMS Officer of the Year
- Dr. Scott Corcoran, with QuestCare LLC., for Civilian of the Year

The following Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers were also recognized for their hours of service with over 9,000 volunteer hours combined:

- Theron Johnson with 2,391 volunteer hours
- Matthew Malik with 1,924 volunteer hours
- Denise Fick with 1,726 volunteer hours
- Victor Jones with 1,553 volunteer hours
- Larry Abston with 1,415 volunteer hours

The following Lucas Fire-Rescue personnel and volunteers were presented with service awards for their length of service to the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department and the Lucas community.

- Jason Bender, 5 year service award
- Scott deJong, 5 year service award
- Lance Gant, 5 year service award
- Scott Wheless, 5 year service award
- Gary Johnson, 15 year service award
- Larry Abston, 20 year service award
- Craig Zale, 20 year service award

Honored attendees also included retired Fire Chief Tuck Minnett, retired Fire Chief Richard Morris, retired Fire Chief Alan Storck, and retired Fire Captain Lee Bauer. The City of Lucas is honored to work with such an amazing group of dedicated individuals.



With the New Year fast approaching, the City would like to remind everyone that the sale, possession, and use of fireworks is prohibited within the City limits and within 5,000 feet of the City limits. The City will have Code Enforcement and the Sheriff's Department patrolling the City for violations.



Consider these safety tips from Deputy Collins to secure your home when you're away:

- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave your house, even when it's for a short time.
- Burglars know to look for hidden keys near the front entrance. Don't hide them under mats, flowerpots, rocks or door ledges.
- If you go out for the evening, turn on lights and a radio or TV so it appears to be occupied.
- Burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors or windows. A problem can occur when exterior light cords are run through a window to prevent it from being secured.
- Burglars look for occupancy cues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers or mail. Ask a neighbor to pick up your newspapers and mail when you aren't home.

Once you've opened all your holiday packages, be sure to break down cardboard boxes and put them in dark plastic bags to hide the fact you have valuable new items in your home.

### Meetings and Events

**January 5**  
City Council Meeting  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**January 24**  
Parks and Open Space Board  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**January 12**  
Planning & Zoning Meeting  
7:00 pm - City Hall

**January 26**  
Transportation Town Hall Meeting  
6:30 pm - City Hall

**January 19**  
City Council Meeting  
7:00 pm - City Hall

## Country Christmas in Lucas



The Lucas Community Park was transformed into a winter wonderland on Friday, December 2, 2016. With over 400 people in attendance, a great time was had by all ice skating under the pavilion, train rides on the Lucas Express, roasting marshmallows at the fire pit, lighting the Christmas tree, and of course, having the opportunity to talk with Santa. A big thank you to members of the Lovejoy High School Hockey team that came out to assist the children with ice skating, ensuring all the kids had a great time.



## City of Lucas Career Opportunities

The City of Lucas will be looking for qualified applicants for the following open positions:

- Public Works Specialist  
(currently posted and accepting applications)
- Administrative Assistant - Fire-Rescue Department  
(scheduled to be posted in December 2016)
- Code Enforcement Officer  
(scheduled to be posted in February 2017)
- Human Resources Generalist  
(scheduled to be posted in January 2017)
- Assistant Fire Chief  
(scheduled to be posted in January 2017)

For more information and to fill out an application go to <http://www.lucastexas.us/need-info/job-openings.html>.

## City Council Highlights

- A preliminary plat for Enchanted Creek Estates was approved proposing 66 lots on approximately 135 acres for the property located on the north side of Parker Road between Stinson Road and FM 1378.
- A zoning change request was approved for Goose Real Estate, Inc., to change the zoning from Agricultural to Residential for the property located at the east dead end of East Winningkoff Road.

## Blondy Jhune Bridge Update

As in the case of most construction projects, no one knows what is waiting for the contractor underground.

During the preparation for the drilling of the shafts on the south side of the east bridge, the contractor discovered a conflict between the placement of the drill shafts and an AT&T fiber optic line. The line had to be located during the design phase of the project, but the locator was searching for the line through nine feet of rock and 12 feet of soil. Once the soil was removed, the line was relocated, but this time there was a conflict. An engineer has been hired to redesign the footings for the outside drill shafts that will straddle the AT&T line. The other option was to allow AT&T to relocate the line. They estimated two to three months for design and construction of the new line. In the interest of time, the City will use some of the contingency funds and design/work around the line.

The west bridge is proceeding slowly, and the weather has delayed the work by a week or two. Two water service lines were discovered, and both were in conflict with the retaining walls on the west side of the west bridge. City staff is in the process of running new service lines that do not conflict with the west bridge retaining walls. These new lines will also tap into the contingency funds. Crews have begun placing forms and tying the steel reinforcing bars for the retaining walls. Anticipated completion of the Blondy Jhune bridges is set for May 2017.