

## Trailhead Grant Project Underway



The City of Lucas was awarded a grant by the Collin County Parks and Open Space Project Funding Assistance Program for the construction of a new trailhead located adjacent to the East Winningkoff Road water tower near the Shady Lane/E. Winningkoff Road intersection. The City estimates the trailhead project cost to be \$235,480. Collin County has agreed to pay \$106,480 of the project. The remaining balance of \$129,000 is funded by the City. The new trailhead will be fenced, landscaped, and will include a pavilion with electricity, picnic tables, a round pen and watering trough for horses, a restroom, and parking. There will be a trail leading from the trailhead to the Trinity Trail along Lake Lavon for pedestrian and equestrian use only. This project is projected to be complete by September 2017.

## Welcome Our Newest Board Members

On December 15, the City Council appointed new members to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment. Each appointment begins in January 2017 serving two year terms. The City of Lucas is happy to welcome Brian Blythe to the Board of Adjustment and Tommy Tolson to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

## Welcome our Newest Employee

Lucas is happy to welcome Jacob Tassan to the Public Works team. Jacob worked for the City of Allen Parks Department and brings with him great experience and a reputation of having a good work ethic. Jacob will begin at the City of Lucas on January 16, 2017. We are looking forward to Jacob coming on board.

## City Council Highlights

- Funds were approved for mass communication services that will allow for notifications for emergency alerts, road closures, and weather related items to Lucas residents.
- Funds were approved in the amount of \$91,130 to Birkhoff, Hendricks and Carter for design improvements at the intersection of W. Lucas Road and Stinson Road.
- A Planned Development was approved for 58.6 acres at the east end of E. Winningkoff Road that will create an additional 17 new residential home lots.

## Stormwater Runoff - What Can You Do to Help!

The City of Lucas is required by federal and state guidelines to develop, establish, and advertise a storm water reporting line to solicit information related to illicit discharges and illegal dumping; complaints, and general comments regarding the Lucas storm water management program. Did you know that leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns. Here are a few tips to keep your septic system running smoothly:

- Inspect your system every three years and pump your tank as necessary (every three to five years)
- Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.

For more storm water information visit the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/stormwater-drainage-repair/> or to report any concerns call the storm water hot line at 214-644-0779.

## What's That Smell?

On occasion, City Staff will receive telephone calls regarding an unpleasant odor in a neighborhood. Please be a good neighbor and if you have an aerobic septic system, please add chlorine as required and follow manufacturer's maintenance recommendations. It is every homeowner's responsibility to properly maintain their septic system.

## Meetings and Events

<b>February 2, 2017</b> City Council Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers	<b>February 9, 2017</b> Planning and Zoning 7:00 pm - Council Chambers	<b>February 16, 2017</b> City Council Meeting 7:00 pm - Council Chambers	<b>February 28, 2017</b> Parks and Open Space Board 7:00 pm - Council Chambers
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# LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

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## Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Spring is on the way, so I thought I would take this opportunity to remind Lucas residents of a few things.

The burning of tree limbs, brush or debris is not allowed in Collin County due to our designation as a nonattainment area by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) because we do not meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. (That is Big Brother watching out for us.) I know this is an issue for a good number of Lucas residents that have large properties with trees. Burning our brush piles was the easiest way to dispose of this type of material rather than trying to haul it to a land fill somewhere.

Even though we can't burn our brush to dispose of it, the regulations do not prevent us from having a recreational fire or ceremonial fire. So feel free to roast your marshmallows or hot dogs over a fire or enjoy a promotion ceremony or celebration for a Boy Scout around a bonfire.

It seems that we are getting more comments about people making loud explosion noises, especially late at night or early in the morning, that are disturbing our neighbors. I understand that some of the big box retailers are selling products that can produce a bang that can be heard almost a mile from the source. Because of our desire to keep our community with a lot of open space, noises like this can travel and have adverse impacts on our animals as well as our neighbors. I had one horse trainer tell me that you can

fire a gun from the saddle of a trained horse and the gun shot will still bother them at times.

Panicked animals can hurt themselves if they don't understand what is happening. I just ask everyone to be mindful of our surroundings, enjoy what we have here in Lucas and think about potential negative impacts before we try something like that.

Should you have any concerns please feel free to contact me or any City Council member or attend a City Council meeting. There is always a Citizens Input item on the agenda that allows citizens to address anything on your mind. Enjoy the Spring!

## Rise Broadband Wireless Internet Services

City staff met with three representatives from Rise Broadband to establish a plan for the removal of Rise Broadband equipment from the non-operational water tower at 325 W. Lucas Road. Rise Broadband provides wireless technology to Lucas. Rise Broadband has been in communication with Lucas Christian Academy about placing a temporary broadcast tower on the Lucas Christian Academy property. Rise Broadband is planning to have the temporary tower in place by the end of February. When this is done, the City can move forward with removing all the structures on the site. No date for the demolition has been set yet. The next step in working with Rise Broadband is to establish a permanent location for their broadcast tower.

## City Elections Coming in May



The City Council of Lucas includes a Mayor and six Council member positions elected at large for three-year terms. In 2017, City Council Seats 1 and 2 will be on the election ballot. Election day this year is May 6, 2017.

Applications for a place on the ballot may be filed with the City Secretary's office January 18, 2017 through February 17, 2017. Applications can be picked up at City Hall from the City Secretary's office or can be found on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/elections/>.

If you are not yet registered to vote or need to transfer your registration to your new address, applications must be received at the Collin County Elections office by April 6, 2017. Voter registration information can be found at Collin County Elections at <http://www.collincountytx.gov/elections/Pages/default.aspx>.



## Permit Numbers Up

Overall permits were up this past year from 662 to 777. However, new home construction permits were down slightly with 104 new home permits issued this fiscal year compared to 124 last fiscal year. Development Services also reviewed 127 sets of fire plans and issued 127 sets of fire permits. Development Services also oversaw the addition of the following developments:

- Logan Ford Cattle Ranch Phase 1 and 2 (Welborn and E. Winningkoff Road)
- Stinson Highlands Phase 3 (Stinson Road)
- Barry Ranch (Country Club Road, north of Estates Parkway)
- Tokelauan Park Addition and Estuary Phase 2 (Blondy Jhune Road)
- Bristol Park Phase 3 (Stinson Road)
- Five Oaks Addition (Orr Road and Tree Row)

## Comprehensive Plan Public Hearings Scheduled

The City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission have been reviewing and updating the Comprehensive Plan throughout the year and are now ready to consider its final adoption. If you would like to attend a meeting, public hearings will be held by the Planning and Zoning Commission on February 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm and by the City Council on March 2, 2017 at 7:00 pm.



## Adopt a Pet Collin County Animal Services

This is Yali. She's a two year old female Calico/Tabby cat that has been spayed. She loves attention and to be petted. To learn more about Yali and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at [http://collincountytx.gov/animal\\_services/Pages/default.aspx](http://collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx) or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/>.

## Blondy Jhune Bridges Update



Things are moving along at the Blondy Jhune bridges project site. Most of the work has been completed on the abutments, retaining walls, and gabions on the south side of the west bridge. The abutment cap and retaining walls are not finished yet on the north side of the west bridge.

The east bridge is about a month behind the west bridge, but some of this time can be made up. Several modification to the east bridge were needed to avoid underground utilities and the extra work has been completed. The working space on the east bridge is tighter as well, which had an impact on the construction schedule.



The plan for February is to start hanging the bridge beams at both bridges. The beams were ordered in September, but their delivery was delayed because of a utility conflict at the east bridge and inclement weather which delayed the project for a few weeks.

After the beams are hung, the contractor will pour the bridge deck which is the roadway driving surface on the bridges. The deck will be followed by the guardrails, and the last step will be the reconstruction of the Blondy Jhune Road pavement within a few hundred feet on both sides of the bridges.

Originally, the bridges were scheduled to be closed from October 2016 to April 2017, based on construction activity and dealing with unforeseen circumstances, the opening of the bridges is now tentatively scheduled for May 2017.

Several citizens have been receiving email updates about the bridge construction. If you are interested in receiving updates, contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at [stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:stanton@lucastexas.us) with a request to be added to the email list. This same list will also be used for updates on the Winningkoff Road Reverse Curve project when it starts later this year.

## New Assistant Fire Chief Chosen



The City of Lucas has selected Lance Gant as the new Assistant Fire Chief for the City of Lucas. Lance has been with Lucas Fire-Rescue since February 2011 working his way up through the volunteer ranks to Lieutenant and Battalion/Night Incident Chief. Lance has a Bachelor's Degree in Emergency Management from the University of North Texas and will be serving as the City's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Lance and his wife Sharla have two boys, Caleb age 13 and Carson age 11. The family enjoys tennis, baseball, fishing and being together. Chief Gant will begin his new assignment on Monday, January 23, 2017.

## Calls for Assistance on the Rise



Lucas Fire-Rescue had a busy first quarter of fiscal year 2016-2017 compared to the same period in 2015-2016. The Fire-Rescue Department has responded to 22% more calls with a total of 153 calls for service so far this year. The largest increase is in motor vehicle collisions, in which we

have already responded to 24 motor vehicle collisions. This number is up from 14 the previous year. Emergency Medical Service calls are also up 22%. This year so far of the 101 Emergency Medical Service calls received, 68 patients have been transported to area hospitals compared to 55 last year. Lucas Fire-Rescue is also happy to report that the average response time has improved by 3.2% over last year.

The Lucas Fire-Rescue Department is proud to serve the citizens of Lucas. Feel free to stop by the station between the hours of 10:00 am and 9:00 pm for a station tour and to meet our staff.

## WE ♥ LUCAS

As we begin the month of February, we thought it was a great time to show what we love and appreciate about the City of Lucas. Here are what some of the residents around town LOVE about Lucas.

We LOVE sitting outside in the afternoon and smelling fresh cut grass and honeysuckle flowers. Walking in a peaceful neighborhood and smelling fresh cut hay and seeing horses graze in their lots. Feeding the hummingbirds and watching the squirrels and rabbits running across the yard. Hearing and seeing the nature sounds, like the birds in the morning, and stars in the night. It is so peaceful and no traffic noises or sirens. Trees, wild flowers, roosters and baby goats! Life is just better in our Lucas Community. ~ Beth Denniston

I LOVE living in Lucas for many reasons, the small town feeling, wide open spaces, and the strong sense of community. People in Lucas are extremely welcoming, and always willing to do whatever they can to give a helping hand when needed. Having my four children grow up in a community like Lucas where they can run around and play is simply amazing. I also love that my children can grow up in a country setting with horses, chickens and a few donkeys. ~ Heike Wright

There is a lot to LOVE about life in Lucas. Jogging down the quiet streets or walking my dogs, the uncrowded feel of the neighborhood, and the wildlife adventures taking place in my back yard where rabbits, coyotes and owls visit often. The skies are often dark enough for viewing meteor showers and stargazing. It is amazing that a community with abundant horses and other domestic animals can be this close to jobs, shopping, dining, as well as lakes. ~ Jim Hurley

When I think back to my childhood on the farm, life was not quite as chaotic, and I am lucky to remember a wide open sky with twinkling stars. Moving to Lucas allowed me to have those memories alive again. I am THANKFUL to have found this niche where I can enjoy the rustic charm of the land, shady lanes of tree lined streets, sightings of horses, chickens, and the wonders of the wildlife. ~ Peggy Rusterholtz

Our City Council and City Staff listen to resident comments and work hard to effectively control our land development and judicially administer our monetary resources. ~ David Rhoads

My husband and I LOVE living in Lucas! We moved here for the country atmosphere and a large yard, but didn't realize the additional bonuses a country life style offered. We have the most wonderful neighbors who look out for each other, and are always willing to lend a helping hand no matter what you need. We have the added treat of a wide variety of song birds that come to the feeders we put out, beautiful raptors that

occasionally perch in our trees and on our fence, and visits from other wildlife that we have learned to co-exist with. We have the serene life style we like, coupled with the conveniences of shopping, dining, and other things we might need just a short drive away. ~ Cathey Bonczar

Our family feels that Lucas is represented in the following way:  
L ovely  
U nderstated  
C ountry  
A ppealing  
S enic

~ Theresa McLaren and Family

## WE ♥ LUCAS