



LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

May 2017



Council Corner

By Councilmember Tim Baney

Is the Lucas Lifestyle Really All That Unique?

The short answer is “YES.” Anytime either a new or longtime resident is asked “Why did you move to Lucas?” their first answer is for the large lots and the rural feel. That statement is true and the very thing that brought my wife and I to Lucas nine years ago this month. However, there is so much more that really gives this wonderful small town the rural feel we all enjoy.

Narrow tree lined roads are one of the first things that come to mind. Livestock within the city limits is another. We see people riding horses alongside the road. We have horses, cattle, goats and sheep grazing in pastures visible from the road. Many residents raise chickens and rabbits. Our community has a very active 4-H chapter where young people learn the skills and commitment necessary to take care of the animals we see in the pastures. The City also has access to the Trinity Trail, a 25 mile equestrian and pedestrian trail following the Lake Lavon shoreline with two of the three existing trailheads within the City limits. This trail is maintained by the Trinity Trail Preservation Association, a nonprofit volunteer organization. The City is in the process of building another trailhead utilizing grant money from Collin County. Founders Day and the County Christmas events are unique to Lucas and help us maintain the small town rural feel.

These are just a few of the things that come to mind when I think about what gives Lucas the unique rural feel we enjoy. The one piece of the puzzle I haven't mentioned is you, the residents. As a City Council member, I love it when we have a room full of people ready to voice your opinion on items that come before the City Council. The lifestyle we enjoy didn't happen by accident. It was planned and worked for by past residents and City Councilmembers and that work continues. As large scale development encroaches upon our City we will be put under greater pressure to allow our roads to be widened and in general, change the City to look and feel more like surrounding cities. As an example of the ongoing work, Mayor Olk and the City Council, with help from our City Staff have taken a proactive “go around Lucas” stance with Collin County regarding their long-term transportation plan and proposed road changes within the City of Lucas with some success. We continue to work to minimize the effects on our City's growth and growth within surrounding communities will have upon our City.

Many of the issues we face as a City will not be resolved in the short-term, but will require continued vigilance from the City Council and our residents. How can you help? Attend our City Council meetings. Apply for a position on one of the advisory boards. Volunteer to help at Founders Day and our County Christmas celebrations or our City Clean Up events. With the continued help and support from you, the residents of Lucas, the City Council and Staff will be successful in maintaining the unique lifestyle we enjoy. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you as a City Councilmember.



Utility Billing On-Line Payment Improvements

Utility Billing will be implementing a new software that will interface on-line payment files directly into the City's billing system from the utility customer's bank account. Currently, for those customers that make on-line payments through their bank, the City receives a paper check from the financial institution. The new software will allow the City to receive on-line payments made through your bank electronically and eliminate the paper check.

Currently, when the paper check is received, the check is manually opened and keyed into the billing system. The new software will streamline the payment receipting process and be much more efficient.



Office of Emergency Management Preparedness Exercise

On March 29, the City of Lucas Office of Emergency Management conducted a tabletop exercise with Collin County Office of Emergency Management. The exercise was a tornado scenario similar to actual events in Collin County that have impacted the area over the last several years. The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was opened and the EOC team participated in the exercise. Departments of the City involved in the exercise included, the City Manager, Public Works, Engineering, Development Services, Building Code/Inspection, Lucas Fire-Rescue and EMS, along with the Collin County Sheriff's Office. This was a great learning opportunity for the City to evaluate our capabilities in such a scenario.



Adopt a Pet
Collin County Animal Services

Meet Houston. He is a two year old Heeler mix. He's friendly, playful, will sit for treats and is neutered. If you would like to learn more about Houston and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at

http://collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx or visit their Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/>.

Nixle – Mass Notification System



The Nixle mass notification system continues to grow in the number of residents who have opted-in for the program or gone online to register. The City of Lucas has received almost 600 opt-in contacts who want to receive important information via text messaging. Through our zip code (Nixle Wire) system the City of Lucas has over 8,700 residences that we can reach in an emergency situation.

The City of Lucas understands there are several options (apps, news, and social media) to get pertinent weather information for our area. The City's Nixle system is a warning system, specific to the City of Lucas and our extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), which should prompt you to seek additional information regarding the weather or whatever information is pushed out through Nixle. The City adopted this program to notify the residents of Lucas and keep them safe and informed. The City is also working with the North Central Texas Council of Governments for 911 data (Nixle Dial) for emergency notifications that will allow the City of Lucas to inform residents at home within a geographical area. Once this 911 data is uploaded into the Nixle program, it will allow another way for the City of Lucas to notify several thousand people in an emergency event or situation. So please continue to "Stay Informed" by texting LUCAS to 888777 or go online at www.nixle.com to sign up.

SNAP 
Special Needs Assistance Program

SNAP is a Special Needs Assistance Program database that enables the City of Lucas Office of Emergency Management and Lucas Fire-Rescue to have a list of registered residents with special needs so we can better plan for an emergency or disaster. Anyone who has a special condition that might require assistance in the event of an emergency or disaster is considered special needs. By registering your information, the Office of Emergency Management and Lucas Fire-Rescue can be better prepared to respond to an emergency or disaster to assist the individual. Data is kept confidential and can only be accessed by the Emergency Management Coordinator.

You can register at www.snapforyou.org. If you do not have access to the internet you can have someone you know register you online or call the City of Lucas Assistant Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator Lance Gant at 972.727.1242. Family, friends and caretakers can register on behalf of an individual. Information must be updated every year.



City Elections
May 6, 2017

The City of Lucas General Election will be held on May 6, 2017 to elect candidates for City Council Seat 1 and City Council Seat 2, both positions have three-year terms expiring in 2020. Candidates on the ballot include:

City Council Seat 1
Wayne Millsap
(*running unopposed*)

City Council Seat 2
Tim Baney
Randy Conrad

Early voting and Election Day voting will take place at the Lucas Community Center located at 665 Country Club Road on the following dates and times:

April 24	8 am to 5 pm	April 29	8 am to 5 pm
April 25	8 am to 5 pm	May 1	7 am to 7 pm
April 26	8 am to 5 pm	May 2	7 am to 7 pm
April 27	8 am to 7 pm	May 6	7 am to 7 pm
April 28	8 am to 5 pm		

Meetings and Events

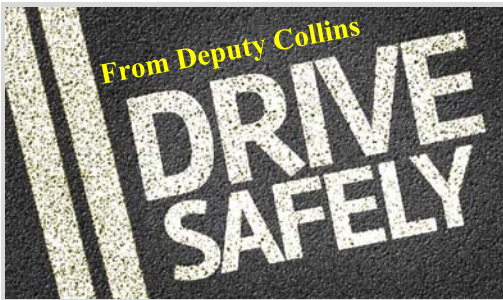
May 4, 2017
City Council
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

May 6, 2017
City General Elections
Voting at Lucas Community Center

May 11, 2017
Planning & Zoning
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

May 18, 2017
City Council
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

May 23, 2017
Parks and Open Space Board
7:00 pm - Council Chambers



Speed kills, and that's not just a cliché. It's a statistically proven fact, and it's something we are working to avoid. Lucas has

experienced a recent increase in reports of

vehicles speeding along streets and roadways, so we will begin to crack down on these offenses.

The growth in the city, including an increase in new houses, creates more traffic on the roads. Not only from new residents but the construction personnel, as well. Roadways in the area lack shoulders, so avoiding accidents is more difficult. We enjoy the scenery provided by the winding roads and trees. However, this does limit visibility. These are all factors that can create increased risk when drivers are speeding.

This time of year, lots of residents are outside taking advantage of the nice weather, children are playing, families are pushing strollers and walking pets. This could be a recipe for disaster if confronted with a speeding vehicle that becomes out of control. We urge you to be cautious as you drive around Lucas and obey the street signs, including posted speed limits. We won't hesitate in issuing tickets to keep our roads safe.

And since we're talking about safe driving, April is designated as "Distracted Driving Awareness Month." The area has also seen

an increase in accidents caused by drivers not paying attention behind the wheel because they are too busy with their device. These accidents are making statewide headlines as the results have been increased fatalities, all of which could have been prevented if the driver put away their phone. Everyone always believes they're the driver that can pay attention while they multitask, but statistics prove otherwise, so put away the devices because "one call or text could wreck it all."



While we were talking about driving safety, our Public Works Department is working hard to improve your safety by repairing roadways and responding to emergency situations such as debris removal. When you see those public works trucks and orange cones, please be respectful and follow these safety tips:

- Dedicate your full attention to the roadway
- Avoid changing the radio station, using a mobile phone, eating, or other distractions that can remove your concentration from the road
- Watch traffic around you and be prepared to react
- Merge into the proper lane
- SLOW DOWN as workers may be present just feet away
- Follow instructions from flaggers
- Expect the unexpected as workers, work vehicles, or equipment may enter your lane without warning
- Other vehicles may slow, stop, or change lanes unexpectedly
- Be Patient



What's Our Rating

The Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS) is a manual containing criteria the Insurance Services Office (ISO) uses in reviewing the fire prevention and fire suppression capabilities of individual communities or fire protection areas. The schedule measures the major elements of a community's fire protection system and develops a numerical grading called a Public Protection Classification. The FSRS lists a large number of

items (facilities and practices) that a community should have to fight fires effectively. The schedule is performance based and assigns credit points for each item. The City of Lucas currently has an ISO rating of 3. The City of Lucas has completed its initial analysis and is recommending the implementation of the action plan to improve the ISO Class from a 3 to a 2. If the City were successful in this endeavor, the residential property owners within five road-miles of the fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant would save approximately 8 percent on their homeowners insurance premium. The action plan will take up to six months to complete if approved.

Adopt-A-Garden



Is your green thumb anxious for spring? Do you love playing in the dirt? Do you suffer from OWD (Obsessive Weeding Disorder)? Do you enjoy garden parties? Then we need you! The Keep Lucas Beautiful program needs gardeners with a creative touch.

Keep Lucas Beautiful Adopt-a-Garden provides a great way for community groups and residents to come together, have fun, and take responsibility for a green space by adopting one of the gardens at the Lucas Community Park and City Hall. It requires a commitment to plant, weed, water, fertilize and trim plants to keep the garden healthy and attractive at all times. All we ask is a commitment to maintain your adopted

space for a minimum of 12 months. It will be an opportunity to make new friends and create an atmosphere of ownership within the community. A special thank you to Chase Oaks Church, Sloan Creek Campus, who has already adopted a garden space! Members from the church will be working during the KLB Cleanup Event on Saturday, April 22 to improve one of the gardens in front of City Hall.

If you are interested in adopting a garden, contact Cathey Bonczar at cbonczar@lucastexas.us, or 972.912.1213. We will work with you to identify which gardens are available, and discuss in general what is expected of the adopters. The City of Lucas requests that all adopters provide plants that are native to our area that are low maintenance, water wise plants that are drought/heat tolerant. There are many resources available and the City would be happy to assist you so that by working together, we can Keep Lucas Beautiful!



Traffic Signs in Lucas

The Federal Highway Administration is responsible for establishing how traffic control devices and signage are shown and used so that they will appear uniform to drivers from different states. This document is called the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). Each state has the authority to modify certain parts of the MUTCD to accommodate local issues and needs. The Texas Legislature has adopted a Texas version known as the Texas Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (TMUTCD).

The City of Lucas is required to comply with the criteria set forth in the TMUTCD, and the City's Engineering Department has been tasked to review all existing traffic control signage to ensure that it complies with the standards set forth in the TMUTCD. The purpose of the principles established in the TMUTCD is to use traffic models and data to improve the safety of the traveling public. Engineers use a term referred to as "warrants" which is based on guidelines established in the TMUTCD. Examples of information used by traffic engineers to "warrant" traffic signage includes:

- Number of vehicles
- Pedestrian activity
- Crash history
- Traffic flow
- Speeds
- Visibility

Not every intersection must have an official traffic control device controlling traffic movement through the intersection. Texas law states, "An operator approaching an intersection of a street or highway that is not controlled by an official traffic-control device shall stop, yield, and grant immediate use of the intersection to a vehicle that has entered the intersection... or is approaching the intersection from the operator's right... and after stopping, may proceed when the intersection can be safely entered without interference..." There are many intersections that do not have stop signs, yield signs or traffic signals, particularly in residential areas.

Stop signs should be installed at an intersection only when a careful evaluation of existing conditions indicates that their installation is

warranted and appropriate. What harm can arise when unnecessary and unwarranted stop signs are installed?

1. Overuse of stop signs reduces their effectiveness because drivers tend to speed up between stop sign controlled intersections rather than slow down. In fact, studies have shown that at residential speeds, drivers accelerate to their original speed prior to the stop sign in less than 200 feet. Driver acceleration and deceleration only adds to noise levels that can turn a quiet neighborhood into a racetrack.
2. Stop compliance is poor at unwarranted multi-way stop signs. Studies have determined that drivers see little reason to stop and yield the right-of-way when there is no traffic on the minor street. Unwarranted stop signs foster disrespect and disregard of the law. The cost of installing stop signs is relatively low, but enforcement costs are not. In addition, enforcement cannot be provided "24/7" and at best can only have limited effectiveness.
3. Studies have found that pedestrian safety, particularly small children, is decreased at unwarranted multi-way stop sign locations. Pedestrians expect vehicles to stop at the stop signs but many vehicles "run" the unnecessary stop sign.
4. Finally, placement of stop signs not warranted by engineering studies may violate State of Texas law.

It is the City's goal to enhance safety on Lucas roadways by using a conservative methodology (such as 600-foot intersection visibility standard), ensuring that our signage complies with the TMUTCD, and rely on best practices formulated by traffic engineers. For example, at the Winningkoff Road/Snider Lane intersection, visibility exceeds the requirement of 140 feet. City Engineer Stanton Foerster's approach is more conservative; he generally uses 600 feet as a minimum for visibility. There is about 225 feet of visibility looking north on Winningkoff Road from Snider Lane. Using the more conservative 600-foot standard, the three-way stop sign control was warranted by the City Engineer.

If you would like the City Engineer to review the need for new traffic signage or evaluate the removal of existing signage, please send an email to stanton@lucastexas.us or call at 972.912.1208.



Good Shepherd United Methodist Church Community Fun Day

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church in Lucas will be hosting a Community Fun Day on May 6 from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Bring a lawn chair and sit back and listen to live music from area bands and join in the fun with games and activities for all ages. There will be bounce houses and water games for the kids, all this while you munch on hot dogs, chips, drinks and homemade cookies! Spend a lazy Saturday afternoon with us having some fun. Best of all, it's free!

Good Shepherd is located at 750 West Lucas Road in Lucas. Should you have any questions, call 972.429.0295 or check out their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdUnitedMethodistChurchLucasTx or www.gsumclucas.org.



Nar-Anon Family Group Meetings Now Held in Lucas

Nar-Anon Family Groups are a worldwide fellowship for those affected by someone else's addiction. As a twelve step program, Nar-Anon offers help by allowing others to share experience, strength and hope.

Nar-Anon will now be meeting every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at Good Shepherd United Methodist Church located at 750 W. Lucas Road in Lucas. For more information contact Jerry or Carla at 972.837.6558 or pony100k@icloud.com.