



LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

July 2017



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Recently, I have received a number of emails regarding the decision to stop curbside recycling. I can tell you this was not an easy decision for the City Council to make. Several members of the City Council are subscribers to curbside recycling while other councilmembers recycle by taking their

recycled material to a variety of locations. Here is a summary of what transpired to help our residents understand the background information that led up to making this difficult decision.

The City of Lucas had a contract with Barnes Waste Disposal Services (Barnes) for solid waste collection/disposal and voluntary curbside recycling services. Barnes came before the City Council and indicated that the recycling program was having logistical and financial difficulties. This situation occurred because the facility they used for processing recycling in Garland had closed in December 2016 and Barnes had to take the collected recycling to Arlington. Barnes indicated that an alternate facility to take collected recyclable material was located in McKinney but the rates were significantly higher. The City of Lucas has 774 customers that participated in the voluntary recycling program of the 2,152 households. Shortly thereafter, the City was notified that Barnes could no longer provide curbside recycling and would discontinue this program as of October 1, 2017. Barnes indicated they were very interested in continuing to provide solid waste collection and disposal services for the City of Lucas under a new contract.

The City Council was interested in acquiring information from solid waste and recycling companies regarding the provision of services. Two additional providers expressed an interest in providing services but the City only received one additional proposal. The decision as to which contract to accept was placed on the City Council agenda to evaluate the one new proposal and Barnes. The one new proposal before the City Council was willing to include recycling only if it was mandatory for all residents. This meant that everyone would be required to pay for the service regardless if they recycled or not.

The City Council deliberated the merits of mandatory recycling or voluntary recycling and as a group, it was decided that they did not want to impose the cost of curbside recycling on those who did not want the service. Many of your neighbors attended the City Council meeting and emailed the City Council that they did not want to lose the customer service that was provided by Barnes. On several occasions, the council chambers was filled with residents that wanted to keep Barnes and not switch to another provider. All of the residents spoke of the wonderful customer service that they receive from Barnes and that Barnes uses smaller trucks that allow them to provide door-side pick up service where no other provider could. Additionally, they pointed out that the smaller trucks put less wear and tear on our streets.

In the end, based on citizen input the City Council elected to enter into a new contract with Barnes without curbside recycling. Let me state... that does not mean this is a dead issue. The City is always willing to explore other alternatives and to look for ways to deliver cost effective services. In October, I will be attending a statewide conference that usually draws a number of these types of vendors and I will make it a point to visit with each of them to see what they can offer for the residents of Lucas for curbside recycling. Before you know it, we may be able to come up with a solution that makes sense for Lucas, and I do encourage each of you to continue to let your City Council know how you feel on this topic and any other that you can think of.

For those of you that do recycle, I would encourage you to try the recycling drop-off when it starts on Saturday, October 7, 2017. The City and Barnes are collaborating to provide a monthly drop off option for recycling that will take place at City Hall from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. A collection truck will be located at City Hall with staff from the City and Barnes assisting customers with the collection of recyclable material.

To me, it is kind of back to the way it was just after we moved out here. We had to take our recycling behind the old City Hall and put most of it in big dumpsters and separate our cans for the Fire Department. I can tell I have lived here a while, when I'm now telling stories about the old days.

Important Topics for July City Council Meetings include:

Thursday, July 6 Agenda (meeting starts at 7:00 pm)

- Water and Wastewater Rate Study and Five Year Financial Plan
- Presentation and Discussion regarding Fire Engine Replacement and Dispatch Services
- Law Enforcement Services

Thursday, July 20 Agenda (meeting starts at 6:00 pm)

- Budget Workshop to discuss the operational and financial status of the fiscal year 17/18 budget
- Authorization of the issuance of Certificates of Obligation to fund water and street projects



For additional information on any of these topics, the City Council packet is published the Friday before the meeting and available on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/agendas-minutes/>.



Opt-In to Receive Emergency Alerts

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. Thank you to everyone who has registered and opted-in for the City of Lucas updates. This program is a great benefit to the citizens and first responders because the system allows you to get updates regarding traffic accidents and road closures, water shut offs, severe weather related events, and any other emergency or citywide notification. Currently we have over 9,000 citizens within Lucas and our surrounding areas that our Nixle program can reach out to at any moment. Over 1,300 residents have 911 call back capabilities and over 800 who have opted-in via texting Lucas to 888777. As this programs continues to grow, take advantage of up-to-date information and go online at www.nixle.com and register your email address and you can receive notifications as well. We have learned that sometimes the text messages can get hung up by the location you are at. You know your phone better than anyone and if you have pockets where texts aren't received, then signing up for email notifications is another option. If you have any questions regarding the Nixle program, contact Assistant Fire Chief Lance Gant at lgant@lucastexas.us or 972.727.1242. And remember if you do receive a notification, please avoid the area so that congestion of the roadway can be reduced, you can get to your destination faster, and it makes the roadway a safer place for first responders.

Water Meter Replacement Project Has Begun



With the purchase of a new water meter system, the implementation to replace all water meters over a three-year period has begun. The City has approximately 2,400 water meters and approximately 1,200 of those meters are 25 years old or older. In February 2017, phase one of the implementation plan began identifying meters that were experiencing operational deficiencies and meters that were approaching the end of its useful life for priority replacement. To date, approximately 50 meters have been replaced as the Public Works staff continues to work on replacing meters in the northern portion of the City.

The water meter replacement project is a major undertaking and will require cooperation between the City and its water customers. Every effort will be made to minimize any inconvenience to customers during this period. As each meter is replaced, a door-hanger will be left to notify you that your new water meter has been installed and calibrated. If the City is unable to replace the meter due to an obstruction or other obstacle, you will also be notified and contacted to coordinate a resolution. Because of work on each meter, customers may notice discolored water and/or debris. If this occurs, customers should run their taps until the water runs clear. (This water can be collected for use in household plants and gardens). The City of Lucas is committed to providing its water customers with a safe and reliable water system. If you have questions about this project, contact Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn at 972.912.1207.

Meetings and Events

July 4, 2017

Independence Day Holiday
City Hall offices closed

July 6, 2017

City Council
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

July 13, 2017

Planning & Zoning
7:00 pm - Council Chambers

July 20, 2017

City Council and Fire District
Budget Workshop
6:00 pm - Council Chambers

July 25, 2017

Parks and Open Space Board
7:00 pm - Council Chambers



Adopt a Pet

Collin County Animal Services

Meet Lola. She is a two-year old Beagle mix. She is gentle, loving and loves to sit right by your side. If you would like to learn more about Lola and others to adopt, visit the Collin County website at http://collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx or visit the Collin County Animal Services on Facebook for additional information and pictures.



Water Quality Report

The City of Lucas is required to meet all standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for safe drinking water. Lucas drinking water is safe and complies with all water quality standards. The City's annual drinking water quality report is posted on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/drinking-water-quality-report-ccr-latest/>. The report covers water quality testing from January 1 to December 31, 2016. This report is a requirement of the TCEQ. If you have any questions about the report contact the Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at stanton@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1208. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the water system to provide safe drinking water.

It Is Illegal to Discharge Fireworks



The City of Lucas wants everyone to have a safe Fourth of July, but please do not include discharging fireworks as part of your festivities. We want to remind everyone that the use of fireworks is **prohibited**. During the Fourth of July weekend in 2016, the City spent 169 staff hours in responding to this prohibited activity.

More importantly, the City of Lucas prides itself on being animal-friendly and fireworks can be very dangerous to our pets and livestock. The City is also blessed with beautiful trees; the risk of fire from the use of fireworks is significant and presents a substantial risk to your home. Do you know that one of the major causes of grass fires is the use of fireworks? Since 2011, the Lucas Fire-Rescue has been called out to 16 grass fires during the Fourth of July holiday. In 2016, Fire-Rescue responded to one grass fire on Monday, July 4. Thankfully, an alert citizen who was mowing with his tractor observed the fire and immediately cut a firebreak with his mower. If it had not been for this action, the fire would have been more serious and potentially cause additional damage. Discharging fireworks can also cause problems for our veterans and families with young children; using fireworks is not part of the Lucas culture!

Using fireworks is **prohibited** by City ordinance in the city limits of Lucas and within 5,000 feet of our city borders. Law Enforcement and Code Enforcement Officers will be out patrolling from Saturday, July 1 through Tuesday, July 4 and violators of the ordinance will have their fireworks confiscated and may also receive a citation. City staff will place signage in strategic locations reminding everyone that using fireworks in Lucas is **illegal**.

Q What should I do if my neighbor is setting off fireworks?

A Call 911.

Q Can I shoot fireworks from a large-acre tract of land that I own in the City of Lucas?

A No. This is a violation of City ordinance.

Q A City employee stopped by my house last year and I told them

that their rules don't apply because I lived outside the City.

A If a City employee stopped by to see you, it means you either are located in the City or in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City and/or within 5,000 feet of the city limits so the ordinance prohibiting discharging fireworks does apply to you.

Q Can I shoot fireworks from a public roadway, public park, or U.S. Corps of Engineer property?

A No. This is a violation of City ordinance and a citation may be issued.

Q The fireworks stand located in Branch said their customers could go to Lucas to ignite their fireworks. Is this true?

A No.

Q I have lived in Lucas for years and have always had a huge party that includes discharging fireworks, is this a new regulation?

A No. Fireworks have been prohibited since November 6, 1979.

Q I live in a neighborhood outside the city limits, so I can still shoot fireworks, right?

A False. Any neighborhood that is not in the City but is within 5,000 feet of our city limits is prohibited from discharging fireworks.

Q What will happen if I start a fire by shooting fireworks?

A If the fire is found to be started intentionally and damages the property of another, you may be subject to the charge of Arson. If the fire is found to be started accidentally and damages the property of another, you may be subject to a fine. In either case, you may be held civilly liable for damages.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate the Fourth of July **without** the use of fireworks. There are many Independence Day celebrations that include a professional fireworks display within a close proximity to Lucas. Should you have questions, contact the City's Code Enforcement Officer at 972.727.8999 ext 3001.

Report Illegal Dumping and Keep Lucas Beautiful

Dumping in unauthorized locations is a crime and is a concern for the City of Lucas and its citizens alike. The rural characteristics that enhance the natural beauty of our City also makes it a target for illegal dumping. Illegal dumping causes an economic impact to our community because your tax dollars are spent to clean up these areas in an effort to prevent more illegal dumping from occurring. Illegal dumping includes placing organic matter such as tree limbs and leaves on undeveloped lots or in public places. It is not okay for people to dump unwanted debris onto abutting property or on public property such as along our roadways or in our parks.

Illegal dumping can lead to a number of health and safety concerns for both local citizens and the environment because they can contain broken glass, hazardous waste, exposed metals, and other dangerous materials that can harm children playing or runoff into a nearby stream polluting our water supply. Illegal dumping also attracts rodents, snakes, mosquitoes, and other pests, making sites even more dangerous to citizens.

Please help stop illegal dumping and fight environmental crime! We encourage you to work together with your local code enforcement and law enforcement agencies towards a cleaner, healthier, and safer community. What can you do to help reduce illegal dumping?

- Report illegal dumping of garbage, construction materials, bulky items and organic landscaping debris such as tree trimmings or brush piles to Code Enforcement at 972.727.8999 ext. 3005 during regular business hours.
- Report illegal dumping of liquids or spills in creeks and streams to Development Services at 972.912.1207 during regular business hours.
- You may also leave a message after hours at 214.644.0779.

Lucas residents wanting to dispose of large items such as appliances and furniture or piles of brush, should call Barnes Disposal at 972.734.3333 or visit their website, barneswds.com for more information.



Blondy Jhune Bridges Grand Opening

On Friday, May 26, the moment that everyone had been anticipating finally arrived. The Blondy Jhune bridges were opened to the public! Nearly 40 Lucasites- people, horses, and dogs included- gathered at the official ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the occasion and show their community spirit. Mayor Jim Olk, Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele, as well as Councilmembers Wayne Millsap, Tim Baney, Steve Duke, and Debbie Fisher joined in to celebrate this event, enjoying the beautiful weather and the company of good neighbors.

Mayor Olk and Councilmembers did the honors of cutting the ribbon and declaring the bridges officially open, at which point those in attendance were invited to leave their mark on the bridge by signing their name or writing a message on the beautifully constructed concrete rails with sidewalk chalk. The ribbon cutting ceremony was wrapped up with a maiden voyage across both bridges via car, truck, horseback, and any other creative method of transportation that those in attendance could imagine.

Construction on the Blondy Jhune bridges began in September of 2016 and continued through May 2017. The City would like to extend a special thank you to Metropolitan Infrastructure, Lakes Engineering, and Structural Assurance, LLC for the design and construction of the bridges, roadway, and impacted driveways. The bridges are now much safer, more visually appealing, and will stand strong for many years to come. Remember that your safety is paramount, and just because we brought a checkered flag to the ribbon cutting does not mean that you should race through the area like you're a NASCAR driver! Please

continue to be mindful of your speed on Blondy Jhune, and do not let the new bridges trick you into believing that you can drive faster. The speed limit on Blondy Jhune Road is 30 mph!

Summer 2017 Roadway Maintenance

Through an interlocal agreement with Dallas County, APAC/Old Castle Paving Solutions will be making asphalt repairs to various roadways this summer. There are several streets being repaired including:

- Blondy Jhune (1,000 feet east of the west bridge)
- Horseman Drive
- Skyview Drive
- Daytona Avenue (first 700 feet south of E. Lucas Road leading to Trinity Park)
- Improved turn-around for emergency vehicles at the end of Estates Road, Edgefield Lane and Prado Verde Drive

All of the work should be completed by the end of September. The contractor will be milling up the existing pavement, mixing in a 5% cement stabilization, and compacting the millings twice before overlaying them with two or three inches of asphalt pavement. In addition, we are replacing 55 panels (about one-third of the road) on White Rock Trail.



Sign Up for Construction Updates

Periodic updates on the status of construction were provided throughout the duration of the Blondy Jhune Bridge project, and the information in these proved valuable to many. As the City continues to make significant improvements to our infrastructure, please send a request to Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at stanton@lucastexas.us if you would like to be added to the email list to receive future construction updates.

West Lucas Road Widening and Overlay Project

Reynolds Asphalt Construction was awarded a \$1,465,974.50 contract for the widening and repairs of West Lucas Road last month by the Lucas City Council. The project will consist of reconstruction of the shoulders and overlay, and base repair work. Each component is funded differently. The Regional Toll Revenue, Collin County bonds, and Lucas impact fees fund the reconstruction and overlay, and the base repair work is funded from the General Fund line item. The project is 4,150 linear feet from Country Club Road to Angel Parkway with two 11-foot main lanes, a 13-foot continuous left turn lane, and two 2-foot shoulders. The contractor's traffic control plan has not been submitted to the City yet. The most likely traffic scenario for the construction phasing is to squeeze the traffic towards the middle and begin construction of the outer edges. Once the edges are completed, the overlaying of the entire roadway can start.

Vacation Bible School at Grace Church

Join Grace Church at their Vacation Bible School - Maker Fun Factory July 10 through July 14 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Kids, ages 3 years (and potty trained) to entering 5th grade will participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, make and experience one-of-a-kind Bible adventures to remind them of God's love, and test out science-fun gizmos they'll take home and play with all summer long. Plus, kids will also join in a mission project helping those in the community. Register online at <http://www.grace-efc.org/vbs-registration> or walk-in are welcome at a \$20 fee for the first child, and join Grace Church for an All-Family Burger Bash on Thursday night, July 13. Grace Church is located at 2005 Estates Parkway in Lucas. For questions, call 972.727.4512.