



# LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

October 2017

## Manager's Message *By Joni Clarke*

Throughout our country, public servants from all backgrounds provide services to their constituents and, the entity that citizens are most familiar with, is their local government. The City of Lucas provides essential services such as emergency medical and safe drinking water to its residents, and while this is some of our most important work, there is so much more to the role of public servant. Recently, Hurricane Harvey devastated the Texas coast and thankfully, there was no impact to Lucas. Right? Well, just hold that thought.

Our Mayor, Jim Olk, is a leader within his own profession, and as a Texas building official was deployed as part of the Building Officials Association of Texas to provide damage assessments for the City of Port Aransas. The City of Lucas also sent a team consisting of four firefighters for a week at a time to the City of Fulton to assist the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department. They did this for not one, not two, but for three consecutive weeks. In the meantime, back at the City of Lucas, we were all stepping up to support those who were providing direct services to the people impacted by Harvey, and ensuring that our service to others did not negatively impact the services provided at home.

When I entered public service as an accountant for Kalamazoo County Government in Michigan, my choice was more about stable employment in an economy that was often challenged with economic fluctuations from the automobile industry. As a seasoned professional, while maybe my reason for choosing life as a public servant was not profound, I am certainly proud to be associated with a group of professionals that simply care about other people and more importantly, are willing to do something meaningful to help. If you are fortunate to call Lucas home, you are probably generous, thoughtful and care about others, creating a culture of serving others, which is our focus at the City of Lucas.

## Fill the Boot for Fulton First Responders Helping First Responders



Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast on August 25, making landfall over the Rockport/Fulton area. The path and destruction of the hurricane was devastating for that area. Lucas Fire-Rescue was part of a strike team that was deployed to Fulton. Lucas Fire-Rescue was deployed to Fulton from August 28 until September 17,

servicing three weeks to help the community and assist the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department. While assisting the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department we learned that several of their own first responders had lost everything in the hurricane, homes, personal possessions, and even jobs. Lucas Fire-Rescue wants to directly impact those first responders that we worked with for over three weeks by raising a "Fill The Boot For Fulton" for the first responders that have been impacted. **Lucas Fire-Rescue will host a "Fill The Boot For Fulton" at the Walmart in Lucas on Wednesday, October 4 through Friday, October 6 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm each evening.** All monetary donations will be directly given to Fulton first responders (Matt Jamison, Jonathan Peters, Michael Greenway, Samantha Greenway, Shara Harris, and others) who lost everything. This event has forever changed Lucas Fire-Rescue with our response to help our brothers and sisters in Fulton. Additional monetary donations will be accepted at the Lucas Fire Station and at the Lucas Fire Station Open House on October 8. If you have any questions, contact Assistant Fire Chief Lance Gant at 972.727.1242.

**CORRECTION**

The Grand Opening Celebration for the East Winningkoff Trailhead located at 745 East Winningkoff Road will be held on Saturday, October 28, 2017 at 8:00 am.

## Harvey the Hurricane Hawk Lands in Lucas



The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center received Harvey the Hurricane Hawk for rehabilitation after being rescued from Hurricane Harvey in Houston on August 27. The Cooper's Hawk was sent to the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center for final flight exercise before its release on Wednesday, September 13 at Oak Point Park in Plano. The hawk became an international phenomenon when it took refuge inside a Texas cab drivers car during the storm and refused to leave. The cab driver took the hawk home and cared for it until a member of the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition in Houston was able to take it to their center for professional care. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center was contacted by the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition to help with the final rehabilitation as the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center has the large cages necessary to give the hawk exercise before releasing it back into the wild. The release took place in the Plano area as the Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition felt that

releasing the newly recovered hawk into damaged habitats in the Houston area would not be in the best interest of the hawk's survival. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is a state and federally permitted facility in Lucas, Texas whose mission is the rehabilitation and release of birds of prey in North Texas as well as outreach programming with live raptor ambassadors. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is a nonprofit organization that has received almost 600 patients so far this year. If you are interested in supporting this nonprofit's mission, go to [www.bpraptorcenter.org/helping](http://www.bpraptorcenter.org/helping) for more information.

# Community Calendar

## October

October 3	National Night Out
October 5	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
October 7	Recycle Drop-Off City Hall - 9 am - 1 pm
October 8	Fire Station Open House 1 - 4 pm
October 12	Planning and Zoning Meeting - City Hall - 7 pm
October 19	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
October 24	Parks Board Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
October 28	Winningoff Trailhead Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting - 8 am

## November

November 2	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
November 4	Fall Sweep Clean Up and Arbor Day Event Community Park 8 am - Noon
November 4	Recycle Drop Off City Hall - 9 am - 1 pm
November 9	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
November 16	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
November 23	Thanksgiving Holiday City offices closed
November 24	Thanksgiving Holiday City offices closed
November 28	Parks Board Meeting City Hall - 7 pm



## Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day Event

Keep Lucas Beautiful is proud to host our first annual Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day event on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm at the Lucas Community Park at 665 Country Club Road. Volunteer sign-in begins at 8:00 am at the pavilion. After signing in, volunteers will pick up their supplies, listen to a short safety speech, divide into teams, and then be driven to the drop off locations for their work assignments. Once they are done, they will be picked up and return to the pavilion where they will be served lunch.

In support of Arbor Day, members of the Legacy 4-H Club will be on hand giving away Shumard Oak and Overcup Oak tree saplings, along with a small bag of mulch. Representatives from Texas Pure will be available to talk about their products for organic gardening, and members of the Collin County Master Gardeners Association will be on hand to share information about the proper planting and care of the trees, and to answer questions about becoming a Master Gardener. This is a great opportunity to show your support in helping us keep Lucas a beautiful place to live. Boy/Girl Scouts, students, church groups, and individuals can pre-register by downloading the volunteer release form on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/> and returning it to Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar at City Hall. All volunteers must complete this form to register/participate. **Volunteers who submit their completed registration forms prior to November 4 will have their names entered into a drawing for a Wal-Mart gift card (must be present to win).** For more information contact Cathey Bonczar at 972.912.1213 or [cbonczar@lucastexas.us](mailto:cbonczar@lucastexas.us).

## Recycling Drop-Off

October 7, 2017  
9 am - 1 pm

Saturday, October 7 is the beginning of drop-off recycling program for the City of Lucas. Residents can bring their recycle items to City Hall the first Saturday of each month between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. A Barnes Waste Disposal truck will be parked at the back near the Community Center, and staff from Barnes and the City will be available to assist residents with unloading items if necessary. City staff will be working that day to direct traffic and ensure we have a smooth flow of vehicles in and out of City Hall. You must have proof of residency in Lucas, or be a Lucas water customer showing a drivers license or utility invoice to participate in the recycling program. All recyclable items should be rinsed and free of material. Acceptable recyclable items include:

- Aluminum, tin, and steel cans
- Glass bottles and jars
- Plastic bottles and containers with a recycle symbol of 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7
- All mixed paper and paperboard products

*Save the Date* Lucas Country Christmas  
December 1 @ 6 pm

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Lucas Country Christmas event scheduled for Friday, December 1, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Ice skating will be back again this year along with train rides for the children, a tree lighting ceremony, and Santa will be arriving on his special sleigh to meet all the children!





## 3rd Annual Scarecrow Contest

Again this year, the City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Board will be hosting the annual Scarecrow Contest. Lucas residents, business, youth groups and church groups are encouraged to register and create a scarecrow display at their home or any other location. There are two scarecrow maker categories individual/family and business/organization. Organizations may be comprised of businesses, school classrooms, sports teams, churches or various clubs. Use your imagination to select a theme for your scarecrow entry. Whether you choose a traditional or humorous approach, it's up to you. You may purchase all materials and arrange your scarecrow display or show off your artistic skills and create a handcrafted scarecrow display or any combination of the two. It's fun for children, adults and the scarecrows. Prizes will be awarded. Registration begins October 1 through October 30, you may go to [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) to register. Judging will begin October 31 through November 5. If you want to be considered by the judges for a prize (and why not), have your display completed by October 30. Please note that by registering for the Scarecrow contest, contestants agree to have the name and address of their display published on the City of Lucas website so that all scarecrow enthusiasts may "take the tour" through the City to view all the scarecrow entries.

## Lucas Fire Station Open House



Lucas Fire-Rescue will kick off the 2017 Fire Prevention Week with an open house on Sunday, October 8, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, at the Fire Station. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will be there showcasing some of their beautiful birds, the Texas A&M Forestry Service, Smokey the Bear, as well as the National Weather Service are just a few of the vendors taking part in the Lucas Fire Station Open House. There will also be fire prevention activities for the kids that include a face painter and a physical ability test. For the adults, a fire extinguisher prop to teach how to properly use a fire extinguisher will be available. Lucas Fire-Rescue will also be discussing how to create your own home escape route in an emergency. We hope that the entire family can join Lucas Fire-Rescue for a fun afternoon and to learn more about safety and fire prevention.



The City of Lucas has had two instances where the 911 call back feature has been activated through the mass communication function of Nixle. This call back feature is for more serious incidents that affect a

greater majority of our residents. The City received several phone calls after this feature was activated asking why the different notifications between a text message, a phone call, and an email. If the 911 call back system is activated, a phone call, text message, and email will be sent. This is ensure you are reached. If you do receive a phone call, please answer the phone call or the system will continue to call back. Once the entire message has played, press 1 to confirm. The City wants to ensure that when serious incidents occur, everyone is notified.

*Founders Day*  
CELEBRATION

**HAS MOVED  
TO APRIL**

Just a reminder, Founders Day will NOT be held in October of 2017. Founders Day has a new theme and a NEW date. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 14, 2018 at the Community Park next to City Hall. This popular event will feature a new focus on gardening, sustainable landscape practices, plant selection for our City, anti-litter efforts and beatification. We will continue to have local favorites such as the parade, stick horse rodeo, live music and of course.... Food! The City is looking for vendors to sell plants, trees and to provide gardening resources for this event. If you have any questions regarding this event or want to participate as a vendor, please contact Cathey Bonczar at 972.912.1213 or by email at [cbonczar@lucastexas.us](mailto:cbonczar@lucastexas.us).

*Get on Board*

**Join a Board or Commission**

Would you like to serve your community and get involved? One way to do that is to serve on a City of Lucas Board or Commission. The Lucas City Council is always looking for dedicated individuals that are interested in preserving the quality of life in Lucas. To serve on the City's Boards and Commissions, all candidates must:

- Be a citizen of the City for twelve (12) continuous months prior to the date of appointment
- Be eighteen (18) years old prior to the date of appointment
- Have not been convicted of, and are not currently charged with a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude
- Have no indebtedness to the City, such as delinquent taxes
- Be a qualified voter of the City

Visit the City's website at <http://www.lucastexas.us/departments/boards-commissions/> to complete the on-line application. There is currently two vacant positions on the Parks and Open Space Board.

The application deadline is November 10 and the City Council will be conducting interviews and considering appointments at their December 7 and December 17 City Council meetings.

## 7th Year to Receive Financial Reporting Excellence Award

The City of Lucas Finance Department once again received notification from the Government Finance Officers Association that the City had received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the September 30, 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row. The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.



### National Night Out

October 3

Lucas Fire-Rescue is excited to participate in the 34th Annual National Night Out event on Tuesday, October 3.

If your neighborhood would like Lucas Fire-Rescue to bring an apparatus to your party, please contact

Administrative Assistant Devanie Bode at

972.727.1242 or email her at [dbode@lucastexas.us](mailto:dbode@lucastexas.us).

### Grace Church Offering Educational Seminar

**Social Security -**

**Know Your Options to Help Maximize Your Benefits**

Grace Church is offering two different dates for this educational seminar learning how to maximize your Social Security benefits. The first seminar will be held on October 19 at 6:30 pm and the second seminar will be held on October 21 at 4:00 pm. Both seminars will take place at Grace Church located at 2005 Estates Parkway in Lucas. These seminars are open to everyone in the community. To register email Angela Behymer at [angela.behymer@lpl.com](mailto:angela.behymer@lpl.com) or call at 214.403.1250.



### Adopt a Pet

*Collin County Animal Services*

Meet Ginger!

She is a nine-month old Heeler mix. She loves dog toys and treats and will even do tricks for you. Ginger is calm and loves to be close to you. If you would like to learn more about Ginger 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 the Collin County Animal Services on Facebook for additional information and pictures.



### Trunk or Treat

October 28

6:00 - 7:30 pm

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church invites you and your family to their Trunk or Treat Event on October 28 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. It's a safe, fun-filled evening to trick or treat for candy and prizes and a FREE dinner including hot dogs, chips, cookies and drinks. Good Shepherd United Methodist Church is located at 750 W. Lucas Road in Lucas. For more information go to the church website at [www.gsumlucas.org](http://www.gsumlucas.org).

### Tree Removal

The City will occasionally get a call from a concerned citizen regarding the removal of a tree on private property. If you are a resident of Lucas, you are probably passionate about our trees! We love our tree-lined streets and the benefits that trees offer, such as providing shaded areas to reduce ambient temperatures, preventing erosion, and the aesthetic appeal and beauty they afford to the City. The City of Lucas is working on becoming designated as a Tree City USA!

In the City's building regulations, there is a section on tree conservation and landscaping that regulates the removal of trees during the development and construction of a project. The City works with developers or builders to ensure they comply with these conservation standards. However, an owner of a residence who uses the property as a homestead is exempt from these requirements. There are other exceptions to these requirements, which include agriculture uses, damaged or diseased trees, the city working in the right-of-way, and in the case of utility interruption. Please do not hesitate to contact the City of Lucas if you see a questionable tree removal so City staff can evaluate the situation.

### New City Hall Sign

The City will be replacing the existing City Hall sign with a new full color LED message display sign. This upgrade was necessary because parts to repair the existing sign are no longer available. The new sign will feature Austin Chalk Stone and will have a cedar looking metal cap. The dimensions of the sign will be approximately 6 foot by 10 foot and will be placed in the same location as the current sign. We hope to have the sign in place and operational in early October.