



LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

December 2017

LUCAS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS



Please join us for a Lucas old fashioned Country Christmas on Friday, December 1 from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm at the Community Park next to City Hall and help us bring in the Christmas season.

The fun begins with ice-skating... that's right folks, right here in Lucas! Whether you bring your own skates or use the ones provided you will be able to show off your talents in style gliding around the rink under the pavilion. Little ones can enjoy a ride around the park aboard Santa's festive train, and everyone can help themselves to hot dogs, popcorn, hot chocolate, marshmallow roasting, and holiday music as we wait for Santa and his Elf to arrive. Kids of all ages can talk with Santa as they tell him what's on their wish list of things they would like to find under the tree Christmas morning.

Bring the family and enjoy an evening with your neighbors as we light our holiday tree and celebrate the many joys and blessings of being part of the Lucas Community.



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

In previous newsletter articles, I have written about Collin County's desire to have a highway west of Lake Lavon cutting through Lucas. At that time the County felt that it would ease congestion on Central Expressway and improve mobility. The Lucas City Council vehemently opposed such a highway and passed a resolution opposing that proposal. Since that time many City Council and City Staff hours have been spent at State,

regional and local transportation meetings ensuring that our voice was heard. Following that, the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) completed some traffic analysis based on probable growth patterns in Collin County and expanding their thoroughfare analysis across the County. Their findings were interesting. The first thing that was interesting was that no proposed additional highways regardless of the location will ease congestion on US 75. Any improvements to traffic on US 75 will need to take place within the right-of-way for US 75. Meaning, the State will have to find a way to build more lanes or come up with solutions to solve US 75 congestion.

The second thing that was noted was, a highway west of Lake Lavon did not ease traffic on US 75 nor on Highway 78 that is on the east side of Lake Lavon. So the County's original proposal did not accomplish any goals except to allow residents living north of Lucas to pass through Lucas. The study did reflect that a highway down the Lake Lavon peninsula (generally referred to as the Lake Corridor) could have a significant impact on reducing the congestion on Highway 78. By NCTCOG's numbers this was the 'technically preferred' route for this type of thoroughfare. Currently there are several groups that have positions on these routes.

- There is the Lavon Pro Corridor Freeway Group (primarily folks from the east side of the lake) that support the Lake Corridor route because it will relieve congestion on the east side of Lake Lavon.
- There is another group (primarily from the peninsula and St. Paul area) lead by the Mayor Pro Tem of St. Paul that doesn't want a bridge over the lake and they propose to bring the highway down the peninsula until it hits the Lucas bridge then bring the highway across the lake into the City of Lucas until it can turn south then run on the west side of the lake.

- There is the NCTCOG that is waiting on all the political entities to come to a consensus before they can start holding public meetings to finalize the process.
- There is Collin County Commissioner Court that has adopted a resolution that they "support a new freeway to relieve SH 78 from the east side of Lake Lavon and Lake Ray Hubbard in the vicinity of the City of Lavon to the west side of the lakes, in the vicinity of the City of Wylie." It is my opinion that this resolution seems to describe a pretty wide swath. I am not sure if the County is now being open to the most technically preferred route (the first County Order was very specific to identify their desire to put the highway through the middle of Lucas) or if it is waiting to see what comes out as the 'politically preferred' route.
- Then there is the City of Lucas... the original resolution passed by the City of Lucas opposing a north/south highway through the City of Lucas has been ratified, additionally the City of Lucas has since adopted a second resolution supporting the Lake Corridor route (along the peninsula) along with supporting operational transportation improvements on the west side of the lake. The City of Lucas has provided a laundry list of improvements to several intersections and Lucas streets to match the City's current thoroughfare plan.

The City Council will continue to fight and work to keep the quality of life that we desire. We will continue to make our desires known regarding these transportation and thoroughfare issues that impact the City. Please reach out to me or any of the City Council members if you want any further information. Thanks for allowing us to serve you.



Happy Holidays from the City of Lucas Mayor Jim Olk, Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele, and Councilmembers Wayne Millsap, Tim Baney, Steve Duke, Phil Lawrence, Debbie Fisher and your City of Lucas Staff.

Community Calendar

●● December ●●

December 1	Country Christmas Lucas Community Park 6 pm - 9 pm
December 2	Recycle Drop Off 151 Country Club 9 am - 1pm
December 7	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
December 14	Planning & Zoning Meeting City Hall - 7 pm
December 21	City Council Meeting City Hall - 7 pm <i>(check website may be cancelled)</i>
December 25-26	Christmas Holiday City offices closed
December 26	Parks Board Meeting CANCELLED

Drop-Off Recycling

The next drop-off recycle day is Saturday, December 2 from 9:00am – 1:00pm. Please note that **the location has changed**. The monthly drop-off recycling will now be held at 151 Country Club Road (corner of W. Lucas Road and Country Club Road), just south of the Fire Station.

Service Tree Award Nominations

The City of Lucas has established a Service Tree Award Program that allows for annual recognition of an individual, business, youth or civic group who has contributed a significant and useful service to the community. The award will consist of the planting of a living tree on City property and presentation of an award plaque by the Mayor that will be placed by the Tree. The presentation will take place during the annual City of Lucas Founders Day event on April 14, 2018. If you would like to nominate an individual, business or group for recognition, go to www.lucastexas.us/news and complete the online form. Nominations must be submitted no later than **January 15, 2018**. For questions, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.

Stay Safe Exercising in the Dark

With Day Light Savings Time, the Lucas streets are getting darker much sooner. Be sure to stay safe when jogging, walking or biking early in the morning or late evening on neighborhood streets, and be sure to wear reflective clothing so drivers can see you better. Stay safe this holiday season.



The City of Lucas is proud to be partnering with two agencies this year for holiday donations – Family Promise of Collin County, and Allen Community Outreach. Each of these organizations have different needs, and a common goal – assisting others. Donations can be dropped off at

City Hall **November 20 through December 8**. Please consider helping us to make a difference in the lives of others.

Family Promise of Collin County (FPOCC) has been serving Collin County since 2011 providing support services to homeless families with children as they regain sustainable independence. They are asking for gift cards to bless families from places such as gas stations, Walmart, and Target. Through their program they have found that there is great dignity in families buying their own gifts for children over the holidays.

The gas cards are used by case managers as weekly rewards to families for meeting case management goals and turning in weekly paperwork. They also assist in helping parents get to job interviews, get their kids to school, and to the churches where they sleep. Walmart cards are used for car repairs, tires, clothing, shoes, etc. Target gift cards are useful for clothes and shoes as well, but are often gifted to a family as they are graduating from the shelter program and moving into a home that they will need to stock with household essentials. As you can see, gift cards are very important to their program.

Allen Community Outreach (ACO) serves the communities of Allen, Fairview, and Lucas, and they go to the Branch VFD once a month to provide food to folks in the Branch community. ACO provides free basic services such as housing assistance, food, clothing, and more to help families avoid hunger and homelessness, and gain financial security. Unfortunately, the number of families in need continues to grow each year, and ACO has seen a 26% increase since last year in the number of families they serve. This year we are assisting with stocking ACO's Food Pantry. Below is a list of food items needed to help stock the pantry shelves.

- Flour, Sugar, Coffee
- White and brown rice
- Ketchup/Mustard/Mayo
- Canned tomatoes: whole, stewed, diced, crushed, Ro-tel, and tomato paste
- Canned foods: spinach, peas, carrots, black-eyed peas, pinto beans, fruit, soups
- Pinto beans dry in 1 pound bags
- Potato mixes and soup mixes
- Grocery Store gift cards



Lucas Senior Angel Tree

Did you know that the City of Lucas has two assisted living care facilities. **Agape Care Home** and **Loving Care Home** are assisted living residential care facilities to senior citizens, both located right here in Lucas. Each year the City of Lucas sponsors a *Senior Angel Tree* to show our senior citizens who reside at these homes some "Lucas Love" over the holidays. If you would like to be a Santa to one of our beloved seniors, stop by City Hall beginning November 20 to get started. Select an angel off of the *Senior Angel Tree* to help guide your gift purchase, and then drop off your new, unwrapped gift at City Hall by Friday, December 8. City Staff will wrap your gift so that Santa and his elves can make their special delivery to our seniors during the week of December 11.

Christmas Eve Service at New Hope Church

Christmas is a time of reconnection. We long to see friends and family we've missed all year. We want to get out the Christmas tree and reconnect with traditions we've come to love. However, the rush of the holidays can also leave us feeling frazzled and more disconnected than ever. If you're looking to reconnect, New Hope Church invites you to a Christmas Eve service at 11:00 am on December 24 at Lucas Christian Academy located at 505 W. Lucas Road. It's open to anyone in the community. Don't let the gift of Christmas pass you by. Come, sit back, breath in the beauty of this season. "

Lock Your Vehicles to Prevent Burglary

According to Collin County Sheriff's Office, there have been 19 reports of burglary of motor vehicles between August 1 and November 6, 2017 in the Lucas area targeting unlocked vehicles. The majority of these incidents have occurred in the Seis Lagos community but several have also occurred in the City of Lucas. The suspect(s) remain unknown at this time, so it is important for all of us to lock unattended vehicles and encourage reporting. As Collin County Sheriff's Office increases patrol, please do your part by locking your vehicle and of course, report any criminal activity to the Collin County Sheriff's Office.

Congratulations to Mayor Jim Olk TML State and Local Leader of the Week

Texas Municipal League's State and Local Leader of the Week is Jim Olk, Mayor of the City of Lucas, and Building Official in Garland, Texas. Mayor Olk is the past president of the Building Officials Association of Texas. He played a lead role in putting together a group of building officials who respond to emergencies to help tag structures—playing an especially important role in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. In his testimony before a Texas Senate Committee, he advised state legislators that Texas has the potential for more types of disasters than the majority of other states in the nation, noting that, in recent history, Texans have seen hurricanes, floods, wildfires, explosions, tornados, severe weather, and even earthquakes. He testified that these disasters are impacting small Texas communities like West and Wimberley, midsize communities like Rowlett and Cleburne, and large cities like Houston, Dallas, and Garland. He reminded state legislators that disasters can have a profound impact on a city and its residents—financially, emotionally, and physically.

The Building Officials Association of Texas (BOAT), has become a leader in providing post-disaster damage assessment. After the recent tornados in North Texas, 42 professionals from BOAT's Disaster Response Team deployed to Ellis County, Glenn Heights, Rowlett, and Garland. Those teams were made up of building officials, building inspectors, code enforcement officers, and engineers from all over the metroplex area, as well as the Structural Engineers Association of Texas. These teams performed rapid safety evaluation on almost 2400 structures in three days. In inhospitable conditions, they posted more than 600 structures as unsafe, 400 as restricted use, and 1300 as inspected. The current damage assessment program addresses two major issues following a disaster. The first is safety. Mayor Olk told state legislators that it is of utmost importance that we attempt to protect our residents from further injury while they work at rebuilding their lives. BOAT's Disaster Damage Assessment Teams provide a rapid safety evaluation on structures to determine if it is safe for someone to enter a building. Each structure is placarded with a red "unsafe," yellow "restricted use," or green "inspected" placard. This lets the residents and others know if it is safe to go into a building. He reported that the second is data collection on damaged structures. To obtain a disaster declaration from the state or federal government, the city must provide counts on the number of homes which are affected. Both the state and the Federal Emergency Management Agency want to know how many buildings have minor damage, major damage, or are destroyed in addition to the total dollar value of damage. With this data, a city can quickly determine the number of structures that are damaged, what category they fit into, and the estimated damage amount.

In addition to the recent North Texas tornados, BOAT's Disaster Response Teams have completed this same type of rapid safety evaluations for the fertilizer explosion in West, tornados in Cleburne and Van, and floods in Wimberley and Garland. It is BOAT's mission to provide this type of service to any jurisdiction that is impacted by a disaster regardless of the size of the city or the kind of disaster.

On the Ballot in 2018

While City elections may seem far away, there are some deadlines approaching for the City of Lucas General Election set for May 5, 2018. There will be three City Council seats on the ballot in 2018, that include the seat for Mayor, City Council Seat 3, and City Council Seat 4.

Candidate filing will take place January 17, 2018 through February 16, 2018. Candidate applications and information packets will be available in the City Secretary's office beginning January 2, 2018. For election information, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.

Sights of Fall

By Councilmember Debbie Fisher

Driving around Lucas, I have enjoyed so many wonderful fall sights. The trees are dressed in the most majestic, brilliant colors. The Chinese Pistaches are sharing vibrant colors ranging from burgundy to flaming scarlet and orange. The sweet gum trees have provided a golden hue to the view. Fiery maples have been at their finest. The colors of all the trees this year are vast in their range of colors and intensity – a feast for the eyes and the soul!

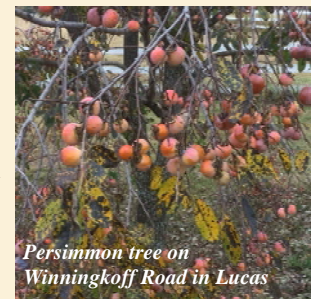


Cotton Field in Lucas on Forest Grove near Stonegate

During my travels, I discovered a cotton field, a pleasant surprise. At one time cotton was a widely grown crop in the area but it has been a long time since I have seen a field of cotton. Cotton fields are special to me as my parents met in a field while picking cotton. Mom was only 13 years old at that first meeting. They were married for over 50 years when my father died. I even came across a Persimmon tree on the

side of the road. Its limbs are drooping from the heaviness of the golden orange orbs of fruit.

It reminded me of the folklore of the persimmon seed. According to lore, you can predict the coming winter weather by splitting open the persimmon seed after the first frost and when the fruit has ripened to be mostly mushy. It should reveal a knife, fork or spoon. A "knife" means there will be frigid winds that cut like a sharp knife. A "fork" foretells a mild winter with very light snow. And a "spoon" warns you to plan on shoveling a lot of snow. I can't wait to see what the local persimmon seed tells! Fall is also football, volleyball, and basketball games. Marching bands are strutting their stuff. (Love it all!) Soon the trees will lose their color and reveal the stark beauty of winter in our community. What is your favorite fall sight in Lucas? If you'd like to learn more about the Persimmon tree, click on the following link to the farmers almanac. <https://www.almanac.com/content/predicting-weather-using-persimmon-seed>.



Persimmon tree on Winningkoff Road in Lucas

Lucas Fire-Rescue Welcomes Four New Full-Time Staff

The City of Lucas is proud to introduce the newest full-time members to the Lucas Fire-Rescue team, Josh Richmond, Jeremy Goodwin, Seth Decker, and Joseph Krizan. This is an exciting time for Lucas Fire-Rescue and we would like to introduce each of new members and ask you to join us in welcoming them into the Lucas family.

Josh Richmond, formerly employed with the Cities of Sunnyvale and Stephenville Fire Departments, is a certified firefighter, driver/operator, and a certified paramedic. He brings with him almost four years of fire/EMS experience.

Jeremy Goodwin, formerly employed with Legacy ER, is a certified firefighter, aircraft rescue firefighter, and a certified paramedic. He brings with him over three years of fire/EMS experience, including service to the City of Odessa Fire Department.

Seth Decker, previously employed with Allegiance Ambulance, is a certified firefighter and paramedic. He brings with him over three years of EMS experience.

Joseph Krizan is a certified firefighter and emergency medical technician. He is currently enrolled in the School of EMS-North Texas in the Paramedic Program.

These four newest Fire-Rescue members will serve the City of Lucas well and provide the best care to the citizens of this community.



Thirty folks put on their jackets and braved the chilly fall weather for the opening of our newest trailhead located on East Winningkoff Road. Trinity Trail Preservation Association Chuckwagon Chair Tim Baney started the morning off by serving up some good old-fashioned Dutch-oven camp cooked homemade cinnamon rolls, along with breakfast burritos. Following opening remarks, County Commissioner Chris Hill, Mayor Jim Olk, Councilmembers Debbie Fisher, Tim Baney, Kathleen Peele, Wayne Millsap and Steve Duke had the honor of cutting the ribbon to officially open the trailhead for riders to enjoy. Trinity Trail Preservation Association President Duke Monson along with several others brought their horses out to be the first riders on the new addition to the 25.5 mile Trinity Trail system.



Individual Entry Winner - Porch Time in the Fall



Organization Entry Winner - We Flip for Legacy 4-H

We hope that everyone was able to take the Scarecrow Tour around town to see all the entries that participated in the 3rd Annual Scarecrow Contest sponsored by the Parks and Open Space Board. The first place winner for the Individual category was "Porch Time in the Fall" located at 1110 Snider. The first place winner in the Organization/Business category was "We Flip for Legacy 4-H". Thank you to all who participated in this fun event.

Improved ISO Rating Could Mean Lower Insurance Rates

Fire protection in the City of Lucas is about to receive one of the highest Public Protection Classification ratings awarded by the Insurance Services Office and approved by the Texas Department of Insurance. The City of Lucas joins about 284 other communities in Texas with a Class 2 rating. Prior to this, Lucas had a rating of a Class 3. This Fire-Rescue achievement means better fire protection and potentially lower property insurance rates for homeowners and businesses in the Lucas Fire-Rescue service area. With the new Class 2 rating, all properties located within 5 miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant, will receive the Class 2 rating. Properties located within 5 miles of a fire station, but outside the 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant will receive a 2X rating.

To download a copy of the City's ISO rating letter to submit to your insurance company, go to www.lucastexas/news. For any questions, contact Lucas Fire-Rescue at 972.727.1242.

Pay Your Utility Bill Online

Coming in early 2018, residents will be able to pay their utility bill online. Customers will be able to access and pay their bills online 24 hours a day, 365 days a year via the City's website. Bills can be paid by credit card with a three percent (3%) processing fee added. Customers will be able to view bill due dates, payment history, current balances, deposits on file and graphs detailing consumption history. A link will be added to the City's website with instructions on how to set up an account to use the online payment system. The following options will also be available to pay monthly utility bills:

- Mail your check or money order to the City of Lucas
- Drop your payment in the City's drive-thru drop box located in front of City Hall
- Automatic bank draft recurring payments by completing an automatic bank draft form available on the City's website
- Credit card payments with a three percent processing fee added.



Arbor Day/Fall Sweep Clean-up Event

The weather was perfect on November 4 for our first Fall Sweep Clean-up and Arbor Day. Forty eight volunteers turned out for the dual event. The Legacy 4-H Club arranged to sponsor our Arbor Day event and together with the members from Girl Scout Troop 8938, bagged and distributed 200 sapling trees and bags of mulch. Representatives from Texas Pure and the Collin County Master Gardeners were on hand sharing their knowledge of proper planting and care of the trees. The morning activity was topped off with a traditional Lucas hot dog lunch. Congratulations to Emma Sun, winner of the Walmart gift card. A heartfelt thank you goes to the many men, women and youth who came out and did their part to help Keep Lucas Beautiful!!!