



# LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

January 2018



## Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Please welcome some new Lucas residents! At the November 16 City Council meeting, ordinances were passed that annexed three neighborhoods into the City of Lucas. These neighborhoods were initially developed prior to the adoption of the Lucas Home Rule Charter in 2008. Two of the neighborhoods, Edgewood and Cimarron, are right in the heart of Lucas on the northeast corner of the intersection of Country Club and Lucas Road. The third neighborhood, Claremont Springs, is off of Estates Parkway by Grace Church. To set the stage... It has been a long term goal of the City Council to establish the Lucas city limits and once set, there would be no real desire to expand any further. That way the City could focus its resources within those boundaries providing the residents with the desired services, maintaining our quality of life, all within a reasonable tax rate. So, right after we became a Home Rule municipality the City annexed the area along the lake to ensure that no other City could encroach on our eastern border and bring undesirable development that would adversely impact Lucas. Then we turned our focus inward to the unincorporated areas that were surrounded by the City but still not in the City.

Since 2008, Lucas has annexed many new neighborhoods through development agreements and other properties through annexation agreements, leaving only these three neighborhoods surrounded by the City of Lucas, but still not part of the City. (I tend to refer to them as the holes in our swiss cheese.) Several times since becoming a Home Rule municipality, the City Council has considered annexing these neighborhoods as part of the overall annexation plan but we were under no pressure to make it happen. Recent State legislation caused the City to revisit annexation again. The legislation basically took away the unilateral annexation powers of the City of Lucas. Leaving us with a decision to act or not to act on this type of annexation by December 1. I'm not going to try and debate the merits of the legislation in this article, but I will say that all aspects were thoroughly discussed and considered during the Council's deliberation over the past several months.

In the end, the ordinances annexing these neighborhoods bring almost 100 homes into the City of Lucas. I, for one, am excited to welcome these neighbors into the great community that is the City of Lucas. I look forward to them participating at City functions like Country Christmas and Founders Day, becoming involved with our Boards and Commissions, or even volunteering at one of our clean-up events or with the Fire Department. As County Commissioner Chris Hill stated at the recent ribbon cutting for the Winningkoff Trailhead, Lucas is truly a unique gem in Collin County. Welcome new Lucas residents and Happy New Year to all.

## The Easy *Do's* and *Don'ts* of Lucas Drop-Off Recycling

The next recycle drop-off is Saturday, January 13 from 9 am – 1 pm at 151 Country Club Road just south of the Fire Station. Knowing what is and is not acceptable for recycling can be confusing. Here are some easy guidelines to assist you.

**Do** bring materials for recycle to the drop-off location in polycarts, totes that can be dumped, cardboard boxes, or clear or clear blue recycle bags. Regular garbage bags are not accepted at the recycle center. You are not required to sort your recyclable material.

**Do** rinse out aluminum cans/tins, glass bottles, and plastic bottles and trays before placing them in your recycle bin.

**Don't** place wet paper or cardboard, electronic devices or light bulbs of any kind into your recycle bin.

Electronic devices (also known as e-waste) include items such as computer equipment, stereos, televisions, and mobile phones. If its still in good working order, these items can be donated for reuse. If the items are no longer working, they should be taken to a designated collection point for proper recycling/disposal, such as Staples or Best Buy that has a recycling program for electronic items.

### **Do Bring These Items for Recycling**

- Aluminum & steel/tin cans
- Plastic bottles/containers (#1-5 and #7) rinsed with lids removed
- Cardboard flattened, cereal and dry food boxes
- Glass bottles and jars (rinsed)
- Junk mail, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, phone books
- Shredded paper in clear plastic bags
- Grocery bags that are bundled/tied in a single bag

### **Don't Include these items as part of the recycle drop off**

- Aluminum foil or pie plates
- Any #6 plastics, or plastics with no recycle symbol
- Ceramic cookware
- Household chemicals, paint cans or light bulbs (all types)
- Metals (other than aluminum & steel cans)
- Pizza boxes, paper towels, paper plates, or plastic utensils
- Plastic film of any type, waxed cardboard or coffee cups
- Styrofoam of any type (food trays, cups, packing material)
- Tissue paper or metallic paper products such as gift wrap
- Yard trimmings/waste

The Drop-off Recycling Program began on October 7, 2017 and the following information summarizes collection activities:

October 7	137 customers	3.21 tons of material collected
November 4	215 customers	5.26 tons of material collected
December 2	288 customers	7.75 tons of material collected

The Lucas City Council will be discussing recycling options at their January 18, 2018 City Council meeting.

# Community Calendar

## January

January 1	New Years Holiday City offices closed
January 4	City Council Meeting City Hall   7 pm
January 11	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall   7 pm
January 13	Recycle Drop Off 151 Country Club   9 am - 1 pm
January 18	City Council Meeting City Hall   7 pm
January 23	Parks Board Meeting City Hall   7 pm

*Save the Date*

Mark your calendars for another fun Lucas event. **Founders Day** is set for Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 12 – 4 pm at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall at 665

Country Club Road. Enjoy your favorites such as the parade, stick horse rodeo, live music and bounce houses for the kids. We will also be adding some items this year such as gardening, sustainable landscape practices and anti-litter efforts.

## City of Lucas Receives Partner of Trinity Trail Award



The City of Lucas is the recipient of the 2017 Partner of Trinity Trail Award from the Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA). The TTPA is a non-profit all-volunteer trail preservation organization

whose main purpose is to maintain the 25.5 mile long trail on Army Corps Engineers land located on Lake Lavon. The City of Lucas was honored as the 2017 Recipient of the Partner of Trinity Trail Award for its contribution of the East Winningkoff Trailhead to enhance the trail system.



## Celebrating Community Service Service Tree Award

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 consists of planting a living tree in the Lucas Community Park and an award plaque placed by the tree. Presentation of the Service Tree Award will take place at the City's annual Founders Day event on April 14, 2018. To learn more or to nominate an individual or group, go to [www.lucastexas.us/service-tree-program/](http://www.lucastexas.us/service-tree-program/) to complete an online application. Nominations must be submitted by January 15, 2018. For questions contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.



## City of Lucas General Election

City elections will be held on May 5, 2018. There will be three seats on the ballot during the City's General Election that include the seats for Mayor, City Council Seat 3 and City Council Seat 4 each serving three year terms. Applications for a place on the ballot in the General Election will be available from the City Secretary's office beginning January 2 and candidates may file an application with the City Secretary beginning January 17 through February 16, 2018. To be eligible to be a candidate for office, the City Charter states the following criteria must be met:

- Qualified voter of the City
- Reside in the City for not less than one year preceding the day of election
- Not be delinquent on City taxes

For any election questions, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.



## Water Meter Replacement Project

In March 2017, the City of Lucas entered into a contract with HD Supply to purchase a new model of water meter, the Neptune water meter. This new meter has Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) technology that allows the City to continue to automatically collect consumption data from the water meter as staff drives by the meter location. This data is transferred to a central database for billing, troubleshooting, and analyzing. In addition, the City Council also approved an additional position in public works to facilitate the installation of the new Neptune water meters. The implementation of the Water Meter Replacement Program was necessitated by the failure rate of the City's existing water meters and the meters approaching the end of their useful life which is approximately 25 years.

Public Works staff received training on how to install and manage the new AMR Neptune water meters and expect the replacement process to take approximately three years to complete. To date, the City has installed approximately 623 Neptune Water Meters and have a goal of having 1,750 installed by October 1, 2018. The total number of meters scheduled for replacement is 2,420. What does this mean for the resident? A notice will be left on your door notifying you when your water meter is replaced. During the replacement process, water will be shut off for less than 30 minutes. No other action is needed and if any questions should arise, please do not hesitate to Contact Public Works Supervisor Jeremy Bogle at 972.912.1210.





The City will be working on park enhancement projects during the spring and summer of 2018. At the East Winningkoff Trailhead, a round pen will be added, an additional two hundred feet of split rail fence, and additional landscaping. At the Lucas Community Park adjacent to City Hall old bushes will be removed and replaced with dwarf bushes to prevent overgrowth. At Kenneth R. Lewis Park the City will be updating landscaping there as well, along with painting the dugouts, updating the existing scoreboard, and cosmetic updates to the pavilion. Lastly, at Forest Creek Park the City will be trimming trees, replacing the pavilion, restoring the existing park equipment and painting the swing set. If funds allow, a basketball court may be added. We hope that everyone will get out and enjoy the park improvements coming in 2018.

## A Message from the Collin County Sheriff's Office

The Collin County Sheriff's Office hopes you have had the very best holiday season ever. Many of you have probably received gifts that are web connected devices. These devices are often very entertaining and make life much easier through their convenience. But these devices like your computers, tablets, and smartphones pose security risks. These devices are often easily compromised by cyber-criminals who are constantly looking for vulnerabilities to exploit for their own gain. What are some examples of these devices? Thermostats, front door locks, doorbells, garage door openers, webcams, coffee makers, smart TVs, refrigerators, automatic devices that control household functions like lighting, printers, systems, and baby monitors to name a few. So you ask yourself, why do I have to worry about my web connected thermostat or doorbell.

Something as simple as a web connected thermostat can be a gateway for cyber-criminals to find a way into your home. After they have infiltrated your home, they can begin to easily compromise your network devices such as routers, laptops, phones, tablets, and hard drives. Once this is accomplished, it becomes very easy for them to steal your identity or access your most sensitive files and information. So how can you minimize these risks?

- Always employ strong passwords and only allow the device to work on a network with a secured router
- Protect your Wi-Fi networks by using firewalls
- Use multiple networks (if you have the capability) to separate your entertainment and security devices from your computing devices
- Disable the Universal Plug and Play protocol on your router as this is one method cyber-criminals to gain access to your home devices
- Only buy devices from reputable dealers
- Set your devices to accept automatic updates when available

Additionally, beware of children's toys that allow children to interact with the toy through the Internet. As Art Linkletter used to say, "kids say the darndest things" and those things are cute when they are being shared with family members. However, it is not so cute when a stranger is eavesdropping on your child through one of these toys. Sensitive information like your child's names, age, school, and sometime (if the toy has GPS capability) can be easily obtained through hacking these devices with your child being an unwitting participant. Just be diligent when allowing your children to play with these toys and employ the same safety measures already discussed with your home devices. A good rule of thumb is to simply turn off those toys when they are not in use.

Sheriff Jim Skinner reminds everyone to be safe and the Collin County Sheriff's Office is always at your service!

## Holiday Gift Giving

The City of Lucas wishes to thank everyone who participated in the holiday giving program this year. With your help, all of our Senior Angels from the Agape Home and Loving Care Home received some very special gifts delivered by Santa and his Elf. Family Promise of Collin County received several gift cards to help provide support services to homeless families with children as they regain independence, and Allen Community Outreach received food supplies to help stock the pantry for the communities of Allen, Fairview, Lucas, and the Town of Branch. Thank you Lucas for your generous support!

## Lucas Country Christmas



An estimated 600 people took advantage of the gorgeous weather on Friday evening December 1 to attend *Country Christmas*. Santa arrived at 6:30 and was welcomed by kids who were anxiously awaiting the chance to

sit on his lap and tell him their secret wishes for the things they wanted to find under their tree this year. With the help of his Elf, Santa made his way up the path to assist Mayor Pro Tem Peele in lighting the tree, and then to his workshop where parents took pictures of the little ones sitting on his lap. Visitors enjoyed hot dogs and hot chocolate while listening to the holiday music that filled the park. The ice skating rink was a big hit, as was the Trackless Train ride and the marshmallow roasting. It was a beautiful evening filled with holiday spirit and joy.

## Adopt a Pet

### Collin County Animal Services



Meet Velvet. She's an eight year old Husky mix that's very sweet but a little shy. Come visit Velvet at the Collin County Animal Shelter or to learn more visit the Collin County website at [http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal\\_services/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/](http://www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/).

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# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As Lucas continues to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure, you will see that 2018 brings new construction projects around town. To keep you informed on the latest infrastructure improvements, we've outlined projects that will be taking place this year. City staff is always available to answer any questions you may have regarding any of these projects.

## Waterline Projects

Waterline projects on Parker Road are underway. These waterline projects were needed to improve infrastructure and to accommodate the TxDOT widening of Parker Road. This widening is causing the City to abandon an existing six-inch waterline along Parker Road.

- **Parker Road 12-inch Waterline (Stinson to Enchanted Way)**  
The contractor has completed all the work between Stinson Road and Toole Drive. The next phase of the project will be between Toole Drive and Enchanted Way. The contractor is planning to have this section done by the end of January. He also plans to have all water services switched to the new waterline by the end of the month.
- **Parker Road Waterline (Lewis Lane to Santa Fe Trail)**  
The TxDOT right-of-way between Lewis Lane and Cimarron Trail cannot be used for the new waterline. City staff is reviewing two possible connections between Lewis Lane and Cimarron Trail: 1) north side of 3 Cimarron; or 2) north side of 11 Cimarron Trail. A decision on the alignment will be made in January.
- **Parker Road Waterline (Santa Fe Trail to Stinson Road)**  
To maintain water service to the homes along Parker Road (east of the Kirkland Estates West neighborhood and west of Stinson Road), staff will be requesting a 10-foot wide easement along the southern edge of each property (the first 10 feet north of the new TxDOT right-of-way line) to place a new waterline to serve these homes.

To improve the manageability of the water system and increase water storage capacity, the City will be adding a water tower, pump house and installing the pumps. The North Pump Station Water Tower Projects adds a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank at the North Pump Station (915 County Club Road, a few blocks north of Lucas City Hall). In January, the easement for the secondary waterline from Wiltshire Court will be finalized. Construction on this water project is anticipated to occur in the spring of 2018.

The Snider Lane eight-inch waterline project is complete between White Rock Creek and Lakeview Downs. Once required testing is completed on the waterline, the contractor will begin moving the exiting services from the old waterline to the new waterline in January.

## Roadway Projects

Many of the City's capital projects focus on our roadways including the West Lucas Road Project that reconstructed the roadway from

Willow Springs Middle School to Angel Parkway.

Currently, the Winningkoff Reverse Curve is under construction and is CLOSED to thru traffic. This means, unless you reside in the construction area, you will not be allowed access. The Winningkoff construction area is from Ramsay to Christian Lane. The City's contractor, GRod Construction, Inc., started work in December and Winningkoff will remain closed until next spring. The work scheduled for January includes installation of drainage culverts and starting the construction of the southbound lane.



The roadway project on White Rock Trail had issues involving the quality of the concrete and the City stopped all work. City staff and the contractor are reviewing various options to get the project moving forward.

The design phase on Stinson Road/W. Lucas Road Intersection is near completion. On January 4, the City Council will give direction to staff regarding which projects alternatives will be approved for construction as it relates to the intersection: 1) Stinson Road widening; 2) W. Lucas Road turn lane; 3) W. Lucas Road drainage improvements; or 4) All three.

The following roadway projects are currently under design. The goal is to complete the design on several roadway projects and bid them as a package to gain more competitive bidding and potentially reducing costs.

- **Blondy Jhune Road (West bridge to Winningkoff Road)**  
Lakes Engineering will be completing the design of this project. This project will reconstruct the roadway and remain two lanes wide. Staff will be bringing various elements before the City Council to discuss: 1) how to preserve the tree canopy, 2) how to lessen maintenance requirements, 3) how to improve safety. Design is scheduled to be completed in July 2018.
- **Country Club Road/Estates Parkway Intersection**  
Birkhoff, Hendricks & Carter, LLP have been retained for the design work. The goal of this project is to add a northbound to westbound left turn lane as well as an eastbound to southbound free right turn lane. Design work is scheduled for completion in March 2018.
- **Winningkoff Road (Reverse Curve Project to Snider Lane)**  
The services of Birkhoff, Hendricks & Carter, LLP have been retained for the design work. The purpose of the project is to reconstruct the roadway and remain two lanes wide. Staff will be bringing various elements before the City Council to discuss: 1) how to preserve the tree canopy, 2) how to lessen maintenance requirements, 3) how to improve safety. Design work is scheduled to be completed in June 2018.
- **Stinson Road (Parker Road to Bristol Park)**  
KCI Technologies, Inc. have been retained for the design work. The purpose of the project is to reconstruct the roadway and the design phase is scheduled for completion in June 2018.

For questions regarding these projects, contact Engineering Technician Adam Gerster at 972.912.1209 or City Manager Joni Clarke at 972.912.1212.