



LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

February 2018



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

So... I asked my wife, Joy, what should I write about this month? Issues like thoroughfares and regional mobility are in a holding pattern, waiting on the Regional Transportation Council to make some

decisions. By the time this publishes the Council will have hopefully addressed curbside recycling. The State Legislature is not in session. We are well into the fiscal year and all of the City finances are looking strong. We have updated the comprehensive plan. We don't have a water billing crisis and we are not updating any of the City's regulations. So there isn't much on informational side to write about.

Anyway, Joy said, "what about writing about being neighborly." At first, I sort of blew that off, but the more I thought about that, the more it intrigued me. As Mayor I do get to hear about the good and the bad. I get to recognize folks for acts of heroism when they save the life of a little child that almost drowned. I get to honor our firefighters/paramedics when they go above and beyond and put their lives in harm's way to protect ours. I get to applaud our City Staff for their work ethic and dedication to the residents of Lucas. I get to proudly watch your middle school and high school students stand before the City Council and make presentations about things that are important to them and to all of us. I get to recognize milestones in people's lives. All these joys that we get to celebrate make the hard decisions seem minor.

I am always so moved by our residents and their unselfish acts of kindness that I get to hear about. When neighbors help neighbors, we see the true face of humanity and we have a real community. We are a diverse community with different opinions, different upbringings, and different ideas and we don't always agree, but we are a compassionate community that desires a unique quality of life that we find here in Lucas. I am proud to be a part of this community.

Thanks for the suggestion, Joy!



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. Candidate applications for a place on the ballot can be filed in the City Secretary's office 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.

Texas Primary Election March 6, 2018

The Democratic and Republican Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 6, 2018, and early voting begins February 20 through March 2. The Lucas Community Center located at 665 Country Club Road will be a temporary voting location with voting taking place February 26 through March 2, 7 am to 7 pm each day and on Election Day March 6, from 7 am to 7 pm. If you are not registered to vote, the last day to register is February 5, 2018. For more information and a complete listing of early voting and election day voting locations, visit the Collin County Elections website at www.collincountytx.gov/elections/pages/default.aspx.



Lucas Fire-Rescue will be holding a free community CPR class on Saturday, February 3. This is a great opportunity for members

of the community to learn a life-saving skill and to become certified in CPR at no cost. The class will be held at the Lucas Fire Station located at 165 Country Club Road from 9 am - 3 pm. There will be an hour break for lunch from 12 pm - 1 pm to go out and grab a bite to eat or pack a lunch to eat in the classroom. To register or obtain additional information email cpr@lucastexas.us or call 972.727.1242.

Community Calendar

February

February 1	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
February 3	Recycle Drop Off 151 Country Club 9 am - 1 pm
February 8	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
February 15	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm

Recycling Drop-off Reminder

The City will conduct the next recycling drop-off event south of the Fire Station on Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. City staff will be available to assist with unloading vehicles.

Have a Heart Keep Pavements Clean

February is the month for Valentines Day, but its also the month that everyone shows they have a heart for our water resources. This month, you can adopt two rules-of-thumb, in an effort to minimize the problem of storm water runoff in our town:

- Keep as much water as possible off of paved surfaces.
- Keep the water that does run off, as clean as possible.

There are a few simple steps that you can take at home to keep water off of pavement, such as diverting rooftop runoff to a rain barrel or directing downspouts onto the lawn instead of the driveway or sidewalk. Washing your car at a designated car wash or on the grass – not in the driveway – and using a broom, instead of a hose, to sweep up, can also help. To keep the water that does run off clean, you can sweep spilled fertilizers, grass clippings, and soil off sidewalks and driveways back onto the lawn. Never put household chemicals down storm drains or indoor drains.



SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTALS

What are short-term residential rentals? This occurs when a homeowner rents out their home for short-term accommodations, most often through online services such as Airbnb, VRBO, FlipKey and HomeAway that are the most recognizable websites. Short-term rentals accounted for \$1.5 billion in economic activity in the State of Texas in 2015 and continue to grow. There are many challenges that can be associated with short-term rentals, such as noise, parking, and location within residential communities. With the ever-growing popularity of short-term rentals appearing throughout the State of Texas, cities are reviewing what types of local ordinances can be put in place to find a solution to these challenges. Various regulatory solutions other municipalities have enacted include permitting and licensing, limiting the number of occupants, strict noise and parking regulations and zoning that limits the area where short-term rentals are allowed.



April 14, 2018

Founders Day planning is now in full swing. Mark your calendars for a day of family fun! Founders Day is April 14, 2018 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall at 665 Country Club Road. Activities kick-off at Noon with the parade, then come enjoy the always-popular stick horse rodeo for the kids, and a new edition to the stables this year will be the pony hop event for the adults. There will also be a bounce house obstacle course for the kids, pony rides, petting zoo, face painting and live music. Our fresh new spring approach will include a focus on beautification of our City, sustainable landscape practices, water conservation, and litter abatement. We are seeking craft vendors wishing to sell homemade items, as well as groups looking to promote their school, church, etc. For information on becoming a vendor at Founders Day (and by the way, booth spaces are free!) contact Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar at cbonczar@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213. Applications for booth space and parade registration can be found on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us.

Lucas is a Firewise Community

In 2013, Lucas was designated a Firewise community. But, just what does that designation mean to homeowners? The purpose of Firewise is to promote fire safety in areas that have a combination of homes and wildland. Wildfires can move at speeds of 9 to 12.5 miles per hour or faster. Which is why Firewise communities strive to educate homeowners on how to make their immediate area around their home (0 to 5 feet) a non-combustible area. Some things you can do to make your property firewise safe include:

- Keep roofs and gutters free of leaves, twigs and debris
- Replace or repair loose or missing shingles and roof tiles
- Vents on eaves and attic vents should be kept clean and 1/8" metal mesh screening should be installed to keep embers out of home.
- Damaged or loose windows or screens need to be replaced or repaired. Any box areas around homes, under decks or porches should be cleaned and covered with 1/8-inch wire mesh to keep debris and combustible materials from accumulating.
- Move flammable material away from exteriors such as wood mulch, flammable plants, leaves, firewood piles, wood furniture or anything that can burn. Do not store anything underneath decks or porches such as grills with propane tanks.

As part of a Firewise community, the City of Lucas would like to track how much time our community spends cleaning debris from around their home, and you can report your Firewise activity at www.lucastexas.us/fire-rescue-community-projects/. For further information, contact Lucas Fire-Rescue at 972.727.1242 or visit their booth at Founders Day on April 14.

A Message from the Collin County Sheriff's Office

As Valentine's Day approaches, the Collin County Sheriff's Office wants to remind you there are potential dangers lurking in the wings for the millions of people who are looking for their next relationship through online dating. Your future soulmate may not be the only person traversing your online dating world. Criminals are also using online dating websites looking for their next victim. Is it ever a good idea to send money or anything of value to someone you really don't know or have never met? Is it ever a good idea to exchange intimate photographs of yourself to someone you really don't know or have never met? Is it ever a good idea to use online dating websites that are not considered reputable by social norms? The answers are NO, NO, and NO!

It sounds simple doesn't it, but every year the Sheriff's Office receives complaints from people who are only thinking with their hearts and end up being exploited. It is difficult to calculate the number of actual online dating victims as many do not report their crime(s) because they are embarrassed and/or feel foolish for being so easily duped. We are not only talking about naïve teenagers here either, but professional and educated adults who are just looking for companionship. Criminals troll social media websites and can fool you to into thinking they are interacting with you right here in Collin County. With proxy servers, voice over Internet protocols, and pseudo identities do you really know who the person is you are interacting with or where they are located? The answer is NO!

A real life case example will help validate these talking points. Recently, a middle aged divorced male living in Collin County began chatting with what appeared to be a very attractive female in her early twenties whom he had met on an online dating website. Our friend was very comfortable texting her as she had a mobile telephone number with a 469 area code. Within the first three text messages, she expressed a desire to meet him in a more intimate setting like a local hotel. Now, our friend is really optimistic about this arrangement. To seal the deal, she insisted he send her a photo of himself (let's say in his birthday suit) and to make him feel more comfortable she would first send him a similar photo of herself which she did. Since it appeared he was about to meet the love of his life who seemed to be very accommodating, our friend sent her the photo she desired. What could possibly go wrong with this scenario as you know everyone on the Internet is credible and trustworthy?

As an additional token of his love, she asked our friend to send her money. This was supposed to be true love (sarcasm duly noted) so he graciously refused her request. She reminded him in the friendliest way she had a photograph of him she would gladly share with the world if he did not comply. That was not how it was supposed to work out so he contacted the Sheriff's Office looking for assistance. Unfortunately, the investigation was stalled as it was determined the number she was texting from was actually from out of the country. Like anything else you post on the Internet, the photo of our friend was now clearly out of his control and could be used for any nefarious purpose. Clearly, our friend was targeted by a criminal who had posted a bogus online profile and received photo that was probably captured from some other website.

You may want to reconsider a relationship with anyone you meet online who instantly falls in love with you, sends you a risqué photo, wants to communicate with you outside of the parameters of a dating website, or requests money for any reason. Maybe, tempering online dating with reality will help you find your next soulmate without being victimized. Sheriff Jim Skinner reminds everyone to be safe and the Collin County Sheriff's Office is always at your service!

Adopt a Pet Collin County Animal Services



Meet Anastasia. She's a one-year old Tabby that's very sweet and loves to cuddle. Come visit Anastasia 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 or visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/CollinCountyAnimalServices/

Have you Signed up for Nixle Notifications

The Nixle community 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 over 1,000 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 9,900 residents that we can reach in an emergency situation. The City 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, 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 and keep them safe and informed. So please continue to **"Stay Informed"** by texting **LUCAS** to **888777** or go online at www.nixle.com to sign up.

Welcome to our Newest Lucas Board Members

At the January 4 City Council meeting, new board members Tommy DeWitt and Debra Guillemaud were appointed to the Parks and Open Space Board, and current Parks Board members Ken Patterson and Bill Esposito were reappointed for a 3-year term. Also reappointed were current Planning and Zoning members Peggy Rusterholtz, David Keer and Scott Sperling for another 3-year term, and Board of Adjustment member Chris Bierman was reappointed for a 3-year term, James Foster was promoted to regular member status and Brenda Rizos was appointed as an alternate member to the Board of Adjustment. Welcome to our newest and returning board members.



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 have 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

Near completion is the Snider Lane eight-inch waterline project between White Rock Creek and Lakeview Downs. Lakeview Downs is a new development with 106 1-acre lots and one 8-acre commercial lot located on the corner of East Lucas Road and Snider Lane. Once required testing is completed on the waterline, the contractor will be moving the exiting services from the old waterline to the new waterline, which is scheduled for completion by the end of January 2018.

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 and Pump House Project** 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 February, the easement for the secondary waterline from Wiltshire Court will be finalized. Construction on this water project is anticipated to begin in the spring of 2018 and anticipated to be completed by December 2018.

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. During the holidays, City Staff requested the Contractor, BSK Infrastructure, to discontinue work to ensure citizens would not experience water service interruption. The contractor is planning to have this section done by the end of February (originally scheduled for completion in January). The contractor will be testing the line from Stinson Road working on transferring water services to the new waterline by the end of February.

• **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. Staff will be pursuing a new alignment between Lewis Lane and Cimarron Trail in between 3 and 5 Cimarron. The plans are scheduled to be completed in spring 2018 with a subsequent solicitation for qualified contractors to bid on the project.

• **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. Staff will be notifying the property owners along Parker Road from Santa Fe Trail to Stinson Road regarding the need for narrow easements along their southern property line just north of the TxDOT right-of-way. These easements are necessary to maintain water service to these properties.

Roadway Projects

Near completion is the West Lucas Road project, which included the reconstruction of the roadway west of the middle school to Angel Parkway that added a middle turn lane as well as a right turn lane at the West Lucas/

Angel intersection. The only remaining item is to install sod and hydro mulch along the shoulder/drainage slope, which is weather dependent so it may be March before the final finish work can be completed.

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. City staff has received information that some individuals are illegally entering the construction site on motorcycles and in vehicles. Not only is this illegal, it is unsafe to do so and puts construction workers at risk. The Collin County Sheriff's Office has been notified and will be monitoring this situation. **FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY, PLEASE REFRAIN FROM ENTERING THE CONSTRUCTION AREA. IT IS CLOSED TO TRAFFIC.** 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 spring. The work scheduled for February is as follows: complete drainage culverts and ditches and completion of the southbound lane.

Due to issues involving the quality of the concrete, all work has stopped on White Rock Trail. Staff will be advertising the project for bid in late January. None of the existing work is salvageable. Once the bidding process is completed and a contractor is selected, work will resume. We sincerely apologize for this unfortunate delay.

On January 4, 2018, the City Council gave direction to staff to proceed with acquiring bids to make improvements to the West Lucas Road/Stinson Road intersection. The project will include the widening of Stinson Road at West Lucas Road to improve the ability of larger vehicles such as school buses and trucks to negotiate the turn by providing a sufficient turning radius. This project addresses the functionality of this intersection and improves the safety of the traveling public.

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. The designers have submitted the 60% complete plans to the city for review. 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 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 lane on Country Club to make a westbound (left) turn lane onto Estates Parkway; and
- an eastbound lane on Estates Parkway to make a southbound (right) turn onto Country Club.

Staff will be reviewing preliminary 60% plans and there will be coordination with Lee Engineering for signalization as requested by TxDOT. 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. Survey and environmental work is underway and topographical information with property overlaid has been reviewed. 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. The designers have submitted the 30% completed plans to staff with review to be finished in February. The entire design phase is scheduled for completion in June 2018.

For questions regarding these projects, contact Public Works Director/City Engineer Stanton Foerster at stanton@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1208.