



LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

March 2018



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Well... I waited long enough to write this article that we now have our first resident signed up for our reinstated curbside recycling program.

After several months of being mired down in trash (yes, you can smile at the wordplay) the City of Lucas is now partnering with Republic Services to pick up your recyclable waste from your home. Although some of you (including Council and staff) may be disappointed that we will lose our social time at the drop off station, the curbside recycling program was a desired service by many of our residents.

So, now we will have two service providers for household waste. Barnes Waste Disposal Service will continue to provide the quality customer service that we have held so dear for the past 16 years while they collect your regular trash. There will be no change in that service or their pick up schedule.

Republic Services will begin collecting recyclable material every other Friday starting on April 13. (Let's not take the Friday the 13th as an omen.)

If you desire to participate in curbside recycling, you will need to contact Republic Services at 469.443.7009 to start the service. They will deliver to you a recycling container to handle your recyclable material and since it is an automated collection truck, the cart will need to be placed at the curb on the day of pick up. There will be a monthly charge for this service. There should be more information on the specifics in this newsletter and postcards were mailed to every house.

I certainly appreciate your patients with us as we worked hard to maintain our relationship with our quality waste provider and to bring back curbside recycling. I can say, I truly appreciated all of the input we received from our residents, and if you still would like some social time, the City Council holds meetings twice a month, sometimes we even have popcorn. Thanks again for allowing us to serve.

SIGN UP FOR CURBSIDE RECYCLING

The City of Lucas is pleased to announce that you can now sign up for curbside recycling with Republic Services. Simply call in and setup your account. Container delivery begins the first week of April with curbside pickup service beginning on Friday, April 13.



CALL 469.443.7009 and sign up today.

A monthly rate of \$7.64 for one container will be charged, and each additional container will be at a rate of \$2.98 per month. Customers will be billed quarterly and pricing includes sales tax.



Pay Your WATER Bill Online

The City of Lucas is excited to announce that the Utility Billing Online Bill Pay portal is now available. Customers are encouraged to register for the service by going to <http://www.lucastexas.us> and selecting the online payment portal. There is no charge to register for the service, however, there will be a 3% processing fee associated with the payment. Initial setup of up your account will require your account number and last payment amount. Once registered future logins will only require your email and password. Please check your spam/junk mail if you do not receive the verification email during the registration process. The new system does not affect current auto-draft accounts. If you have questions while registering for the new online payment service, call 972.912.1205 for assistance. The online service is accessible 24 hours a day, allowing customers to make utility payments at their convenience. Online payments can be made by credit or debit card, with payments being posted the next business day.

Service Tree Award Winners Announced



Congratulations to Tracy Matern and Tonda Frazier, the 2018 recipients of the City of Lucas Service Tree Award. The Service Tree Award program was established in 2015 to recognize those individuals or groups who have contributed a significant and useful service to the community. **Tracy Matern** was honored for her service and commitment to the community through her work on the Parks and Open Space Board, her volunteerism with the Trinity Trails Preservation Association, her dedication to preserving the City's rural lifestyle, and the countless volunteer hours spent documenting Lucas' history that can be found on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/history-of-lucas/>. **Tonda Frazier** was honored for her leadership and service to the community as a past City Council member, Founders Day Committee member, the City's newsletter editor, initiating the City's first recycling program, and her commitment to open communication and government transparency. A Service Tree will be dedicated and planted at the Lucas Community Park in honor of both of these women and their commitment to the community.



MARCH

March 1	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 3	Recycle Drop Off 151 Country Club 9 am - 1 pm
March 8	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 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, March 3, 2018 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. City staff will be available to assist with unloading vehicles. **Please note that this will be the final drop-off recycling event.**

Open House for Street Projects

The City Council will be holding an open house on the dates listed below for updates on the following street project from 6-7pm at City Hall:

- April 19 Blondy Jhune Road
- May 3 Winningkoff Road
- May 17 Stinson Road

Spring Clean-up Event

The City will host a spring clean-up event on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 8:00 am until Noon. More details and information will be coming soon.

SPRING FORWARD



Sunday,
March 11
2 AM



In December, an injured Snowy Owl was brought to the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center in Lucas for rehabilitation. This rare visitor to Texas was found at an airport in North Texas with a wing injury and emaciated. Snowy Owls are very sensitive around humans and many don't survive when their body weight gets too low. He was close to that point of starvation, so the Raptor Center has been keeping him out of the public's eye making sure he would regain his weight and strength as well as heal its wing. Once the owl is strong enough, the Raptor Center plans on sending it to a facility up north for a release in an appropriate habitat. Visitors are not allowed to the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center hospital so updates are being provided on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Blackland-Prairie-Raptor-Center-293353771975/>. Last year, the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center received 764 patients. This made the Raptor Center the 3rd largest raptor center in the country based on quantity after just two years.

Keep Your Water Meter Visible

Every month the City of Lucas is required to read all of the water meters located within the City. Readings from your water meter are taken to learn how much water your household consumes so that we can send out a bill with an accurate account of water services used monthly. Meters that are obstructed by objects – such as cars, trash cans, or even landscape - prevents meters from being read and time spent looking for the meters, digging them up, removing obstacles, or even trimming back bushes. All of these obstructions add up to time paid by the City from your water services bill to cover these costs. Keeping meters clear can help keep water costs reasonable. Here are a few tips to maintain easy access to your water meter:

- Trim bushes and grass that cover your meter
- Reduce plants on the path to your meter
- Remove all branches hanging six feet or lower, above the meter
- Please work with the City if you have any issues that would impact accessing your meter, such as a locked gate, fencing or unfriendly pets

Engineering Summer Internship Opportunity

The City of Lucas has posted an opportunity for an engineering summer internship. The intern will work closely with City Staff and directly with the Public Works Director /City Engineer. The internship will provide a college student with the practical side of municipal engineering. This will be a hands-on opportunity to be involved with technical professional work, development projects, operations, and constructions projects, along with protection and oversight of public utilities infrastructure. The work will begin in May or June depending on the student's class schedule, and end in August. The deadline to apply is March 15, 2018.

Hydrant Maintenance Begins



How many years has it been since anyone checked the operation of a fire hydrant near you? From the moment a fire hydrant is installed, it begins to rust. In time, the caps become so tight, they cannot be removed. That's why in 2016, the City initiated a fire hydrant and valve maintenance program. Preventative maintenance has been completed on approximately 1,000 fire hydrants and valves thus far. The remaining 1,400 fire hydrants and valves are scheduled to be completed by September 2018.

Texas Primary Election

March 6, 2018

Early Voting February 20 - March 2

Early voting will take place for the Democratic and Republican Primary Election beginning February 20 through March 2, with Election Day on Tuesday, March 6, 2018. The Lucas Community Center located at 665 Country Club Road will be a temporary voting location for the Democratic and Republican Election with early voting available February 26 through March 2, 7 am to 7 pm each day and on Election Day March 6, from 7 am to 7 pm. For a complete listing of what's on the ballot and all early voting and election day voting locations, visit the Collin County Elections website at www.collincountytx.gov/elections/pages/default.aspx.

No Butts About It Cigarettes are Litter

Everyone can agree that smoking increases the chance for cancer, but it also can lead to fines as well. Texas is getting more serious about littering and a hefty fine of up to \$500 for litter can be given as well as the possibility of 60 hours of court assigned litter clean up on state roads.

According to the "Don't Mess with Texas", 71% of litter consists of microlitter such as cigarette butts. The number of cigarette butts found on the side of Texas roads has increased 42 percent since 2005, and 62% of Texas smokers admit to tossing their cigarette butts out of the window of their cars. Not only are littered cigarettes ugly, but they take up to 6 years to biodegrade so all those butts can really start to add up. Besides being a eyesore and bad for the environment, cigarettes also can lead to damaging deadly fires. Before state laws were enacted to require a self extinguishing cigarette many fires were directly linked to discarded or unattended cigarettes. Cigarette started fires cause close to 1,000 deaths and 3,000 injuries each year in the United States, according to the National Fire Protection Association, and the ignition source in cigarette fires are responsible for over 20% of all fire deaths. Cigarettes are the nation's largest single cause of such deaths.

So you might be asking what can I do to help? If your a smoker, please use the ashtray provided in your vehicle, or if you see someone litter, TxDOT will help remind litterers for you by going to www.dontmesswithtexas.org/get-involved/report-a-litterer. Just safely take down the following information - license plate number, make and color of vehicle, date and time, location, and what was tossed. TxDOT will then match the report to the vehicle registration and address, and send a Don't mess with Texas litterbag along with a letter reminding them to keep their trash off of our roads.



April 14, 2018

Founders Day is just around the corner! The date has been set for April 14 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall at 665 Country Club Road. Our fresh new spring approach will focus on beautification of our City, sustainable landscape practices, water conservation, and litter abatement. Whether you are new to Lucas or a long time resident, mark your calendars and plan to join us for a day of family fun!

PARKING - Founders Day attendance has grown over the years and one of our biggest challenges has been the limited parking available at City Hall. The safety of our residents is always paramount as we plan community events. With that in mind, we are pleased to announce that this year the City of Lucas is partnering with Lovejoy ISD to provide shuttle bus service from Willow Springs Middle School to the Community Park. Shuttle service will run from 11:30am - 4:30pm, and residents can park at the school and hop a ride over for the afternoon. Parking at City Hall will be limited to handicapped or individuals needing a little more assistance, City staff, elected officials, public safety vehicles, and vendors. Parking Permits will be issued in advance and will be required to park at City Hall.

ENTERTAINMENT - Activities and entertainment this year will include a mix of Lucas favorites, in addition to some fun and educational items.

- Lucas Parade
- Stick Horse Rodeo
- Pony Hops Rodeo
- Obstacle Course Bounce Houses
- Pony Ride
- Petting Zoo
- Live Music by Carly Reign
- Mr. Diggs from CoServ
- CoServ Gas Display/Demo
- CoServ Cook Trailer
- Cowboy Church Chuck Wagon Cooking
- Historical Display in Community Center
- Collin County Sheriff's Office patrol car display
- Collin County Animal Services Adoption Trailer
- Photo Booth
- Face Painting
- Balloon Twister
- Blackland Prairie Raptor Center Display
- Vintage Cars/Trucks/Tractors

FREE hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos, chips, brownies and drinks

PARADE - Folks interested in participating in the Lucas Parade should pre-register by completing a parade application form. Maps will be available showing the parade parking, line-up, and route. The parade line-up begins at 11:00am, judging begins at 11:30am, and the Parade begins at 12:00 noon to officially kick-off Founders Day. Prior to the start of the parade, City Council will be judging parade participants and handing out ribbons to the "winners" for various fun categories. Recipients will be able to display their ribbons as they traverse the parade route.

VENDOR BOOTHS - Craft vendors wishing to sell homemade items, as well groups looking to promote their school or church are invited to participate. Booth spaces are 10x10 and are free of charge.

APPLICATIONS - For more information on registering for the parade or reserving booth space, contact Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar at cbonczar@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213. Applications can be found on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/>.

LEGACY 4-H CHILI COOK-OFF - The Legacy 4-H Club of Lucas will be hosting their annual fundraiser Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction again this year at Founders Day. 4-H is a non-profit youth organization that provides experiences where youth learn by doing. Competing in the Chili Cook-off is free to enter and open to individuals, companies, restaurants and clubs. Prizes will be awarded for categories that include Hot To Trot, Texas Chili, Faux Chili and Way Out & Wild. Silent auction items can also be donated that include homemade items or merchandise of any value. Come support Legacy 4-H on Founders Day by Tasting all the Great Chili and bidding on the Silent Auction items. Proceeds from the Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction will help fund projects for Legacy 4-H members. For more information or questions about the Legacy 4-H Chili Cook-off, contact Bill Esposito at billespo1@gmail.com or go to <http://legacy4h.club/>.

Outdoor Watering Schedule Set

Beginning Sunday, April 1, 2018 City of Lucas water customers are required to limit outdoor watering to twice per week. The outdoor watering schedule will help prevent stressing the capabilities of our water system. The City has established specific watering zones to help manage water usage. Please refer to the map below that

identifies watering zones to help you determine your watering days. **NO OUTDOOR WATERING WILL BE ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 am and 6 pm ON ANY DAY.** This map is also available on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/watering-days/.

Zone 1	Tuesday and Saturday	West of Country Club - North of W. Lucas Road
Zone 2	Monday and Friday	East of Country Club - West of Orr Road - North of Blondy Jhune
Zone 3	Wednesday and Saturday	East of Country Club - South of Blondy Jhune - East of Orr Road - North of W. and E. Lucas Road
Zone 4	Thursday and Sunday	South and west of E. Lucas

