

LUCAS *Estate Life*

September 2017

A SOCIAL MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LUCAS

*Say Hello, Lucas, To
THE FALLAS FAMILY*



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History Of Lucas: Part 1

Parks & Recreation: Trees and Trails

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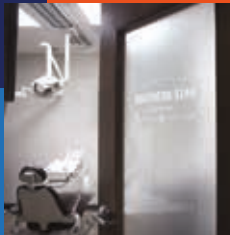
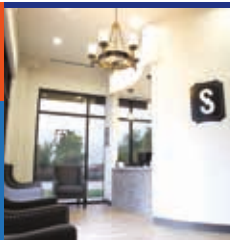
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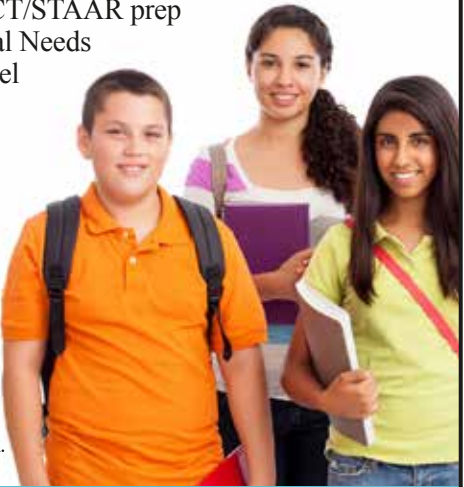
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New Editor

Howdy Lucas Residents!

Finally, the dog days of summer are giving way. Fall brings with it the fresh start of a new school year (with the kids out of the house). Those hours we spent luxuriously by the pool are traded for all the busy activities that rapidly fill our calendars.

As you take a quick breather, I hope that you will enjoy this issue of *Estate Life Lucas*. Reading about your community may help you feel more connected even if your life is a blur of activity right now. There are lots of great families, young people, businesses and pets that we feature!

Since I'm new to the N2 Publishing family, let me introduce myself to you. I'm Shelby Brooks, the Managing Editor of *Estate Life Lucas*. I'm a longtime Lucas resident, ever since my days as a first-grader at Hart Elementary School. During my years as a Leopard, I got involved in the music program through the various bands and loved my English classes so much so that I majored in Creative Writing in college. I've even kept up my passion for music by playing in college jazz bands and community bands. I graduated from Lovejoy High School as part of the Class of 2013, and a few months ago, I graduated from Austin College (up in Sherman, Texas) as Class of 2017. Currently, I'm attending Texas Christian University on my way to earning my M.S. in Strategic Communication.

With my own graduate studies classes in full swing, I know how easily those day-to-day to-do lists can consume time and energy.

All the more reason to peruse a few stories! Indulge yourself with trying out a new recipe or get to know a new face you haven't seen around before. Dive into this issue of *Estate Life*, and enjoy September in Texas!

Shelby Brooks

Shelby Brooks



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Got Luck?

I'll Take A Pot Of It Please.

DO YOU EAT SUPPER ON THURSDAYS?

With the influx of new families moving in to Lucas, it can be hard to maintain that small town, country feel, while getting to know your neighbors. One Lucas resident decided she would do something about that when she saw a grassroots effort for every town in America to have a summer potluck every week. Yes, every week. Thursdays to be exact.

WHAT: Lucas Community Potluck

WHERE: The pavilion in the park next to Lucas City Hall

WHEN: Every Thursday 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. during Daylight Savings Time months (Weather permitting – no thunder and under 100 degrees)

WHY: To strengthen our community by knowing our neighbors

Taking her lead from www.Potluckparty.us which shares that “Countless friendships have been created or cemented from breaking bread together over and over. New families are shocked by the welcome they receive and numerous times people have reached out for help and received it from the people in our Facebook group.”

This is exactly what Lucas already is! A community of wonderful people who would help their neighbors at the drop of a hat. All we need is a way to connect face to face in this digital, social media saturated world. And so, Lucas Community Potluck was born on March 23, 2017. Texas weather permitting, every Thursday 5:30 – 7:00 PM the entire town is invited to bring its supper to the pavilion by City Hall and spend a little time with other residents.

EVERY WEEK? If it is Thursday during Daylight Savings Time months and the weather is cooperating (heat index below 100 degrees and no thunder storms), then yes, it is potluck night. This year potlucks will be offered March 23rd – November 2nd.

SINCE IT COULD BE CANCELED FOR WEATHER, WHERE CAN I CONFIRM THAT POTLUCK IS ON EACH WEEK? Potluck is posted on Nextdoor.com and there is a Facebook page you can Like and Follow called Lucas Community Potluck. Every week that there is a potluck, there will be a message saying it's on.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT DISH YOU NEED ME TO BRING? This truly puts the “luck” in potluck. Just bring something to share for about 6-8 people. Not everyone eats everything. It doesn't matter what you



around town

bring; salad, entrée, sides, dessert, appetizer, it really doesn't matter. It can be as fancy or simple as you wish, but do be mindful of keeping things with mayonnaise on ice or find an alternative to a mayonnaise dish. Some weeks you may have time to make an amazing contribution, other weeks could just be one of those weeks and it is a hastily purchased bag of chips and pre-made dip because it has been “one of those weeks”. We really are here for the connection. The food is only the excuse to gather.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING BESIDES A DISH TO SHARE? Your picnic basket should include drinks, plates, flatware and napkins for your people. You should also remember a serving utensil; spoon, fork tongs, spatula or whatever your contribution requires. They have found too that it is a good idea to bring an empty plastic bag or two for your dirty serving items. That's it!

WHAT IS THE ATTIRE? This is a very open and casual potluck. Come as you are. It could be straight from work or shorts and flip flops. Again, this is all about connecting eye to eye with our community. Food, clothes. They don't matter. We want you. We want your lovely person to join us.

HOW MANY ATTEND EVERY WEEK? It varies. It has been dinner for two up to several dozen but the Pavilion by City Hall can easily accommodate 60 or more. Some come alone and others bring the whole family. All Lucas residents are welcome. If you have a guest in town visiting, bring them too.

So if you are looking for a way to meet new Lucas neighbors, greet newcomers, gather with old friends or just have an excuse to relax in the cool breeze under the shade of the pavilion, this is the place to be.

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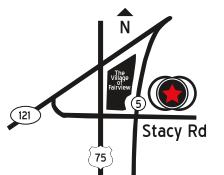
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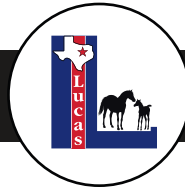


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history of lucas

By Debbie Fisher, Lucas resident



PART 1

IN THE 1840S, THE LAND AROUND PRESENT-DAY LUCAS WAS ABUNDANT, FERTILE AND FRIENDLY. MOST HOSTILE NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES HAD LEFT THE AREA, REMOVING SOME OF THE DANGER OF SETTLING IN A NEW LAND. THE OFFER OF LAND GRANTS BY PETERS COLONY FURTHER ATTRACTED SETTLERS TO THIS AREA. BUT THE OFFER OF FREE LAND ONLY BROUGHT ABOUT 150 PEOPLE TO THE COUNTY WHEN IT WAS FORMED IN 1846. MOST OF THE FIRST SETTLERS WERE FARMERS WHO CHOSE TO LIVE NEAR STREAMS FOR THE WATER AND TIMBER.

Three years prior to the county's establishment, Peter Fitzhugh Lucas and his brother George arrived from Kentucky. To their eyes, the land appeared to be untouched, untamed and rather wild. But the prairie with its rich grasses and vast fields offered them the opportunity to have their own land on which they could farm and raise their families. On April 3, 1846, Collin County was formed from Fannin County. In July of that same year, Peter Lucas was elected as one of the first Collin County Commissioners.

When Peter Lucas arrived, it is doubtful he ever dreamed of a city being named for one of his descendants. He was very much just an honest family man. He married Mary Elizabeth Coffman in 1845, and five years later, he was granted 640 acres of

land (Certificate #1140) near present-day White Rock Trail in Lucas. They had three children together: Sarah Elizabeth (b. 1848), George L. (b. 1850) and Gabriel Henry (b. 1855). Peter Lucas was a farmer and a Primitive Baptist minister. He was one of the founding members of the Orchard Gap Primitive Baptist Church established in 1853. Sadly, he did not live long enough to see the community that came to be called Lucas. He died in 1858 and is buried in Fitzhugh Cemetery (located at FM 1378 and Forest Grove Road).

Gabe Lucas (one of Peter Lucas' sons) and his family continued to live in the area. A humorist late in life, Gabe called himself the "Bumblebee Fighter from Lazy Neck," referring to a community who made their home along the East Fork of the Trinity River. He married Nancy Catherine Wetzel in 1875, and they raised a family of eleven children: Pearl, Cora Elisabeth, Silas Boyd, Peter, Urban Alexander, Tully Beverly, Gertrude, Florence Mae, Pauline, Gabriel Henry

Jr. and Ettie Catherine. In 1870, Gabe opened up and began operating a store. This store was the site of the first Post Office in 1888, and Gabe Lucas was named the first Postmaster. The Post Office and surrounding area were called "Lucas" from this time on. Gabe remained in the area until 1893 when he sold the store and moved his family to McKinney.

Gabe Lucas' popularity as a public figure increased exponentially as he became a much sought-after speaker and entertainer for local school events and picnics. His appearances were regularly announced in local newspapers. He was described in the McKinney Weekly Democrat-Gazette as "...a boon companion and popular entertainer..." The newspaper followed the progression of events in his life and the community, even reporting on his death. He passed away in his home on October 12, 1919, after several months of illness. He was buried in the Pecan Grove Cemetery (located in McKinney). His obituary was front-page news in the McKin-



Gabriel and Nancy Lucas around 1890



Gabe Lucas



Sons of Gabe Lucas, Sr.
Back row: Urban, Tully and Gabe Jr.
Front row: Silas and Peter

ney Weekly Democrat-Gazette, which stated the following:

"He had a wonderful faculty of word painting in the simplest language of rural life in its every feature – family circle, neighborhood social life, rural parties, courtship, church and farm life as actually lived by the early settlers of 50 years ago and more. His lectures never failed to grasp and hold interest throughout their delivery and he had the honor of being appreciated most by those who knew him longest and best and knew of the commonplace incidents of real life of which he so graphically told in his reminiscences. Therefore his passing will cause a cloud of sadness to envelop thousands of hearts over North Texas."

To further grasp Gabe's true character, here is one of his funniest tales on the topic of Bumblebee Fighting, as written in the newspaper:

"Now John McAfee was my cousin. His father and mother were both dead, and Grandpa was raising him. So, Monday morning, Grandmother, I thought, kept us mighty busy for company to come. We got through by dinner; after dinner we was out to the woodpile."

"John says to me: 'Gabey, are you a good bumblebee fighter?'"

"Tsays, 'You bet I am! Well I know where one nest is, down in Uncle Tom Ratton's field; we can just get our hat full of honey, then all you got to do is kill the feed-

ers. Now, the feeders, that's the bumblebees that's out among the flowers coming in with their legs covered with bumblebee honey.' He went to a board pile and commenced whittling it down, making him paddles. I commenced pulling up broom weeds."

"He says to me, 'Gabe, them ain't worth shucks to kill bumblebees with.'"

"I says, 'O, yes they are. I always fight them with broom weeds.'"

"Well, alright," says he. 'All you got to do is kill the feeders.' Well, I will sure do that; he got his paddles ready; I got both hands full of broom weeds. We marched down to the corner of Uncle Tom Ratton's field where the bumblebees' nest was and slipped to the nest right easy."

"He says, 'Gabey, now you look out for feeders.'"

"I says, 'I will tend to them, John.'"

"Down on that nest pat-a-tu-pat whuch-a-tu-whach them bumblebees going woo-woo-zoo-oo."

"He says, 'Look out, Gabey; here's a feeder!'"

"I says, 'I see him, John.' Then, whach with my broom weeds; back he come, whach, whach, with both hands, the feeder trying to get in my face."

"John says, 'Gabey, here is another feeder!' Then, whach, whach."

"I says, 'I can't help it, John. I got one!' I had all I could tend to."

"Here's more feeders, Gabey!" says John. Whach, whach – down went my weeds. I took to the big weeds, and out ran my feeder. John had to use one hand to fight the feeders. Well, you can guess what happened; up he came, covered with bumblebees – with a string of bumblebees after him about 30 feet long."

"Bare footed and bare headed, coming down that path, them bumblebees taking time about hitting that boy, but he was simply flying. He got into the weeds and got shed of them bumblebees and came up to me, rubbing his self all over, water running out of his eyes like a little branch."

"He says to me, 'Gabey, you are a devil of a poor bumblebee fighter.'"

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Behind captivating blue eyes and sweet little smiles, Nolan and Ella D. have huge personalities and very fixed interests, making them the perfect pair to spotlight in Lucas’s first Kids 2 Kids column!

The popular saying, “good things come in small packages” was never more true as in the case of 2-year-old Ella. She may be a bit smaller than her peers, but she has a big personality, and if she could tell you her goals, I’m pretty sure “Princess” or “President” might be among them. She loves to dress up in tutus and fancy shoes, carrying her baby doll around and just being fabulous. She is described by her mother as “sweet and salty,” and she rarely asks for help when needed. Actually, she outright refuses offers of help because, “I do it!”

Like any brother and sister duo, Nolan and Ella have a loving relationship, and then they also have a fighting relationship. It kind of comes with the territory, but Mom treasures the sweet moments when she finds them cuddling on the couch together.

Name: Ella
Age: 2
Grade: Not yet
School: Future Lovejoy Leopard
Brothers or Sisters: One brother named Nolan
Sports I play: Baseball with my brother
Musical instrument I play: Don’t play an instrument, but love to sing “Let It Go” from the movie *Frozen*
Musical instrument I want to learn: Undecided
Something unique about me: Very strong-willed and insists on doing things for myself
When I grow up I’m going to be: The CEO of a company

FAVORITES

Activities/Hobbies: Playing baseball with my brother, playing dress-up with my princess dresses and taking care of my (pretend) babies
Animal: Fish
Color: Purple
Food: Chicken minis from Chick-Fil-A
Movie: *Frozen*
Music: “Let It Go” from *Frozen*
Place to play: Polka Dot Party + Play

Sports teams: Rangers
Subject in school: We’ll see
TV show: Sesame Street
Vacation: Climbing and exploring the Rocky Mountains when I was a one-year-old

Big brother Nolan is not yet 6 years old, but he pretty much is, if you ask him. Baseball is the name of the game when it comes to this preschooler’s favorite sports to play and watch. With a name like Nolan Brian, was anyone surprised? Aside from starring on the field, Nolan has recently become a star reader. Interesting fact: he practically taught himself to read at 5 years old! One of the motivating factors was (of course) baseball. He wanted to sound out baseball words and teams. Then he surprised his parents by reading all kinds of things. Who knew baseball could be so educational? Mom and Dad are very proud of him.



Name: Nolan
Age: 5
Grade: Kindergarten
School: Lovejoy Elementary
Brothers or Sisters: One sister named Ella
Sports I play: Baseball, golf and basketball
Musical instrument I play: None at the moment
Musical instrument I want to learn: Trumpet
Something unique about me: I learned to read and write almost completely on my own because I wanted to spell baseball words and write baseball stories
When I grow up I’m going to be: A Rangers baseball player and, when I can’t play baseball anymore, I want to be a banker just like my Dad

FAVORITES


Activities/Hobbies: Baseball, golf and basketball
Animal: Cheetah and leopard
Color: Green and blue
Food: Pizza
Movie: *Sandlot* and *Cars 3*
Music: AC/DC with my Dad
Place to play: DBATS in Allen
Sports teams: Rangers and OSU Cowboys
Subject in school: Science
TV show: *Dukes of Hazzard*
Vacation: Colorado



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Hi Lucas Friends and Neighbors

Rhonda and I moved to Lucas almost 20 years ago probably for the same reasons you did; we enjoyed the larger lots, the country feel, great schools, and proximity to city conveniences.

My biggest challenge in Lucas has always been keeping up with the demand for homes from others who want to experience this same lifestyle. This has been our best year ever but our inventory of available homes is starting to run low. It always does at this time of year.

If you're thinking about selling your home and would like a professional, no cost, no obligation, opinion of value, please give us a call. If we're at the historical top of the market as many experts believe, this might be the time to sell.

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691 Glenwood Circle, Fairview
Listed Price \$639,000



1350 Ramsay Drive, Lucas
Listed Price \$949,000

family spotlight

By **Shelby Brooks**, editor and Lucas resident
Photos by **Aimee Louise Photography**



Meet The *Fantastic* Fallas Family

Over the years we have watched the landscape of Lucas change. From rural to residential, the community has grown, while trying to stay true to its roots.

For Mike and Erika Fallas, owners of Fallas Landscape, a local landscaping company, they know a thing or two about roots.

Erika was born in Washington State where she lived for about a year and half, before moving to Montana. When she was four, her family moved to Plano, Texas, where they still reside to this day. Erica graduated from Plano Senior High School and went on to the University of Texas (Dallas campus).

Mike considers himself a native Texan, having grown up in Plano as well. Truth be told, he arrived here by way of Los Angeles, where he was born, and then New York, where his family lived for four years. As the bumper sticker says, “I wasn’t born here but I got here as fast as I could.” Mike graduated from Plano Senior High School as well (but a different year from Erika).

Small world, right? Mike and Erika living in the same city (Plano) growing up. I suppose when you think about it, not that uncommon given how large Plano is. However, the world as we know it is quite small, and for Mike and Erika, the phrase “six degrees of separation” is more like “six houses of separation.”

Unbeknown to either Erika or Mike, not only did they both live and grow up in the same city but they also lived only six houses apart at one point in their lives. Mike came back to Plano after college at the University of North Texas. He actually purchased the house just down the street from Erika’s mom’s house. Imagine living so close to your future wife and never even knowing it.

Mike, who was married once before, met Erika back in 2001. At the time he had two young sons, Steven and Josh. Mike and Erika dated for about five years before getting married. They lived in Plano for a couple of years, then Starwood in Frisco. Their oldest son Steven graduated from Frisco High School in 2011 before moving into his own place.

Josh, their middle son, was credited with finding Lucas. Before considering a move, it was crucial to find good schools for Josh and their youngest son, Spencer. The good news is for any family that has moved here or is moving here, we are surrounded by incredible schools, public and private, which is one of the reasons why Lucas has become such a desirable area to live. In 2012, Mike and Erika chose Saddlebrook Estates, and as a result, the kids went to school in Lovejoy.

Since those days, the kids have grown up fast: Steven (24), Josh (19), and Spencer (8). Steven now works for the family biz,

alongside his dad. “I couldn’t be more proud of my son,” says Mike. “He’s involved in all aspects of the business, but his main focus is on sales and permits. Steven is an integral part of what we do.”

Josh is a sophomore at Texas Tech University and is actively involved in their theater department, specifically Stage Management. When home during the summers, he works part time at Wendy’s.

Spencer, a third grader at Hart Elementary, is big into sports. He loves watching all sports but really enjoys playing juniors club soccer.

Mike, like so many successful business owners, would be considered a serial entrepreneur. He has invested in many companies over the years, but his primary focus is Fallas Landscape. “I attribute my entrepreneurial spirit to my mom and dad, who grew up owning small businesses of their own,” says Mike.

Landscaping for Mike started as a means to purchase his first car at the age of fifteen. What started with him and just a few pieces of equipment has

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turned into an operation of over 80+ employees and subcontractors. They have become the go-to for all things outdoors, from hardscapes to softscapes and everything in between. The only thing they don't do are residential swimming pools.

Something many don't know about Mike, is that he has a knack for poker. Mike loves playing sports but was sidelined after undergoing multiple surgeries for his back. Unfortunately, it prevented him from being able to participate on the field other than coaching his youngest son Spencer. So he got interested in poker and has even been to the World Series of Poker a few times.

While Mike and Erica are extremely proud of all they've accomplished professionally, they are most proud of the family they have built together. "Whether we are traveling together or just hanging out at the house together, we just love being together," says Erika.

"We love our home and we love our city...and for us, Lucas represents both," adds Mike and Erica.


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TYPES OF ARTICLES YOU WILL SEE IN THE PUBLICATION



Since this magazine is about you and your neighbors, we want and need your involvement. We are looking for several types of articles to be submitted each month. Please take a few minutes to get acquainted with the types of articles we normally include in the publication. If you have any other article or story suggestions, please email me. If you, or a family member, would like to be featured for any of the stories, just email me at **Jonathan.Price@n2pub.com** and I will send you the simple form for submitting the information.

Pictures Around the Village – We love pictures! This includes pictures of parties, graduations, family events, kids playing, holiday gatherings and more! One of the best parts about your new magazine is the involvement from residents. Pictures are an easy way to help support the look of the newsletter, as well as bring smiles to your fellow residents. Digital photographs with high quality capability are the way to go here - the more pixels the better! Simply send an attachment of the pictures in an email to to Jonathan.Price@n2pub.com.



Neighborhood News – This section features any activity going on in the neighborhood or surrounding area such as parades, block parties, barbecues, neighborhood clean-ups, school picnics, fundraisers, pool parties or golf events. We want to let you know what is going on and what has happened with these social events!

Kids – Make your kid the rock star of the neighborhood as we profile junior members of the community each month. We plan to feature several articles on the kids who live in Lucas. Does your kid play sports, play in a band, are they into acting, martial arts or anything else? We would love to feature your child and the activities they love!

Meet Your Neighbors – This is where we get to spotlight one of the neighborhood families each month. Have you always wished you knew your neighbors better? Well, here is a great way to get to know them. Each family is able to tell us

whatever they would like, but some popular questions to answer include: How long have you lived in the neighborhood? Where is your hometown? What's your education? What are your hobbies and interests? What is your career?



Precious Pets – Here is an award winner! If you have a pet and want them to be famous, just get them in the Precious Pets section. Pets are our pride and joy so let us know who they, and you, are! Past famous animals have been turtles, rabbits, birds, horses, dogs, cats, a pig and much more, so have fun with this one.

Resident Recipe – This is where you can let some of your cooking secrets out to the public! All that is required are the ingredients and preparation advice, but a photo is always nice too! This really spices things up a bit from the ordinary mac and cheese.

At Home – If you have an outstanding yard or garden or know a neighbor who does, we want to know about it. All you have to do is snap a picture and email it to us. Please include names and the address so we can give you the proper credit for all your hard work.



New Arrivals – This is a new section designed to welcome new babies into the neighborhood, as well as congratulate those proud parents.

Please include basic birth information along with those precious baby photos!

Kids' Corner – Send in your child's poem or artwork! Our goal is to help your neighborhood have the best newsletter possible. We always keep your needs in mind, so if you know of anyone, or if you want to fill one of these articles yourself just make sure you let us know.



Recognize Your Kids – Parents, do you want another way to recognize or congratulate your kids about any sport, academic, or other activity achievement? Use your newsletter. This should include pictures along with what they achieved. Examples include: black belt, honor roll, straight As, scholarships, state champs, volunteer

work, graduation, music, theatre or just simply wish them a "Happy Birthday."

Travel Tales – If you or anyone you know has gone on a vacation and would like to share their experience, this is the place to be. This gives your friends and neighbors the chance to feel your experience and see if it would be a good fit for their own vacation! Pictures can be included as well.



Making A Difference – We want to recognize the hardworking volunteers of the neighborhood. This is a chance to let others know about your passion for an organization. Giving back to the community is a big deal and we want to recognize you for it!

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Living Up to Those WESTERN ROOTS



precious pets

By **Shelby Brooks**, Lucas resident and editor



see everything for miles in almost every direction, making my job easier in some ways. When the herd of horses across the fence breaks into a gallop, I can prick my velvet ears up and kick my back hooves in the air to show my approval. When a car comes tearing up the gravel driveway, I can run over to the gate and give my most stern whinny in a loud voice.

But what I love most of all is the sky stretching to the horizon everywhere I look. Every evening, I am surrounded by the sunset's pink, purple and blue colors. I munch on green shoots of grass until dinner. I get to watch the sun rise up over the humans' house in the morning, stirring the birds awake. I know that my humans come feed me in those early hours so I wait and wait, ears forward. The day brings hours of grazing and snoozing underneath a large expanse of blue sky. Those days are my favorite. There's no rain to keep me inside my barn. There's no lightning and thunder to rumble up the walls. I can stretch my legs to keep them limber, swish my tail against the flies and breathe in the air through my nostrils.

That big, open sky reminds me of the history of my name. When people from other states think of Texas, they imagine cowboys



riding across the plains and swinging their lassos up at the sky. There is some truth in that image, but there's more than that. Beyond the cowboys are the horses that carry them across the length of Texas. I am a Western horse by my fiery blood. When I was given the name, Duvall, I took on the responsibility and joy of the cowboy's lifestyle. I may not go racing after straying cattle or hook up my reins to a trough by the saloon, but I can still live up to my name by taking long rides at Trinity Trail and traveling with my humans. I even team up with other horses who bring their humans along. We are mighty steeds taking cowboys into the thick of sweaty, bulky animals running in a cattle drive. We are the speedy getaway for outlaws on their way out of town after a nasty run-in with the local sheriff. We are the trail companions to travelers lounging around a campfire as they swap grub and tall tales. Who's to say we aren't?

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You may know Robert Duvall as one of the actors in The Godfather films that humans seem to love so much. He plays the cunning, charming and clear-headed family lawyer, Tom Hagen. But did you know that he's been in several Western movies, too? He played a Texas Ranger in Lonesome Dove, a former gunslinger in Open Range, and a notorious outlaw in True Grit. His eyes just visible under the brim of his Stetson, a bandana looped loosely around his neck, hands folded comfortably on the horn of his saddle, Duvall is the spitting image of your typical Western cowboy.

That's why my name, Duvall, suits me just right. The dusty, hardened cowboy may not know that he gave his name to a trusty Texas steed, but I aim to live up to the name nonetheless as the spitting image of a Western reining horse. I may look sweet when you come bearing grain and a flake of alfalfa hay. But do not be fooled. I have Duvall's spirit and skill. I can rush down the length of my fence and screech into a sharp sliding stop that sends black dust flying. I can spin fast in tight, controlled circles with my long gleaming tail whipping around and my powerful legs twisting. One of my grandsires is the famous Smart Little Lena. My other grandsire is the famous Peppy San Badger of the King Ranch. I am a Western horse by my fiery blood.

Nowadays, I oversee the affairs of the Lazy B Acres, taking note of the comings and goings. I saw the houses being built in the subdivisions and the people moving in to their new homes. I looked with interest at the furry pets they brought with them that barked and bounded through their yards. From my barn, I can



Rescue Roundup

Meet Trip! This awesome boy was rescued from the Fort Worth animal shelter's urgent list by Paws of Love Animal Rescue. He was surrendered by his owner's family after they could no longer care for him, and no information was given on how he lost his leg. Don't let this tripod fool you, though! He is a happy boy, and gets around just like

any other four legged dog! He is a fawn colored pit mix, around 5 years old, up to date on shots, neutered, heart worm negative, and micro-chipped. He's also house and kennel trained. Per his previous owners, he prefers a home without cats. He's a little picky about his canine friends, and prefers the laid back type. Trip is a true velcro dog, and is happiest when he's right by your side. Whether it's a short walk, keeping an eye on you while you make dinner, or just laying around the house, he truly enjoys being with his humans. He loves to talk to you, especially when he thinks he needs more attention. His fur is like velvet, and he will happily take all of the belly rubs and massages you're willing to give. He loves children, and even though he's a big boy, he's extremely gentle and patient. If you're looking for a dog that wants to be your best friend, Trip definitely won't disappoint. He has an amazing amount of love to give, and is always happy to be by your side. **Contact Rhonda Grisak 214-912-3331 to set up your meet and greet with Trip!**

making a difference

international Student Exchange



As people were unwinding during the last lazy days of summer, Teal Scott was working overtime at her job as an iE-USA local coordinator for exchange students. "We have over 40 students looking for a host home this year," shares Teal. "But I know so many of the families in our area who would be blessed by the chance to host. So I'm out there spreading the word!"

Teal loves making personal connections and providing hands-on support to each of her families, a trademark of the iE organization. "We're all about living real life together," says Texas Regional Director Susan Krneta. "Our families keep coming back because of the close-knit bonds they form with these brave kids."

As a small organization, iE is able to maintain unrivaled standards of care and quality, including selection, communication and support. Coordinators like Teal are able to provide on-the-ground support, enabling iE to fulfill their mission to be "a unique organization where people come first." Their consistent "excellent" rating with the Texas Department of State attests to the organization's good reputation and credibility. Each family and student is fully vetted, approved, trained and equipped, ensuring everyone gets off on the right foot.

A Lucas host family, Ken and Kelly Eberhart, welcomed an exchange

student named Leoni into their home a couple years ago and enrolled her at Lovejoy High School. "The beautiful part about the whole thing was that it wasn't a job. It was an experience," reflects Kelly. "Leoni seized every opportunity given to her and was hungry to experience it all and tell others."

But what is it about iE that promotes such strong bonds? The answer might be found in the fact that, for over a decade, the focus of the organization has been on quality, not quantity. Every student receives a unique placement, and every host family works closely with a local coordinator to find just the right match. Host families can be any shape and size, from single adults with no children to a family with young children to an older retired couple. Host families provide meals and a spare bed. Since the goal is for real-life cultural immersion, host families aren't expected to provide extravagant vacations or lavish experiences — just the warmth of a family and a place to call "home."

Prospective hosts often have many questions: "What if we're traveling during the year?" "What if we're very busy?" "What if I run into a difficult situation with my student?" The employees at iE are quick to assuage concerns, and they aim to be as helpful as possible in answering any questions. "We work with each person to find the best solution," says Krneta.

"That might mean working through travel logistics, finding the student a place to stay during travel or troubleshooting a surprise issue. That's one of the benefits of our smaller size; we really can support each placement on a case-by-case basis."

Teal says the most exciting part of her job is facilitating the process of helping a student find a new home.

Since student exchange affects the whole community, many schools are taking notice of the educational benefits as well. As the world becomes more and more integrated, cultural competency has taken on renewed importance as a valuable skill to cultivate. Schools are active in making it a priority to equip their students for the increasingly global marketplace.

Lovejoy High School has been positively impacted by the presence of students participating in a foreign exchange program. The experiences they bring from their home country help give our students a better understanding of the world around them," notes Chris Mayfield, Principal at Lovejoy High School. "The only way many of our students can get exposure to the world and develop global awareness is to have people from different countries come to them. We've seen that when students learn alongside international students, they start thinking about the world differently."

iE is seeking host families for students arriving over the next several months, and they're looking for Texas families in Lucas who are willing to open their homes and hearts to a student. "It's really pretty simple," says Teal. "And it's such a great adventure!"

If you would like to host an exchange student, know somebody who would like to host, or have any questions about hosting, please contact Teal Scott at 214-282-8011 or email her at teal@international-experience.net.



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This month's recipe is courtesy of Magda Grunin. Most people think of crepes as part of French cuisine. But actually, in Poland, crepes are a staple food for dinner or supper. We eat them savory (with meat or mushrooms) or sweet (with fresh fruit, marmalade, sweet cheese filling). Making crepes was a whole family event. They are wonderful eaten straight from the pan, so we would all gather in the kitchen and make crepes together.

This time, I want to share with you the savory recipe with mushroom filling. The recipe comes straight from the kitchen of Helena Krzyzanowska of Pabianice, Poland. There are a few different ways to finish and garnish the dish, but the recipe for the crepe batter and filling is standard. Having personally sampled these crepes, I can highly recommend them to you. They taste especially great when you add a cup of tea as they would be served in Poland.

CREPES:

- 2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1/2 cup water (can be carbonated)
- 2 eggs
- Tiny pinch of salt
- Vegetable oil for frying

FILLING:

- 1 lb mushrooms (white/button, cremini or portabella)
- 2 medium onions
- Olive or vegetable oil
- Salt
- Pepper

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR CREPES:

Put all ingredients together and mix with a mixer on low until combined (don't over mix). Set aside for 20 minutes. Heat up a frying pan, pour a little oil, and spread on the pan evenly. Ladle a THIN layer of batter onto the hot frying pan. Every time you dip the ladle in the batter, stir a little before ladling. To achieve thin crepes, the batter cannot be thick. If it feels too thick, add a little water or milk. Keep making crepes until you run out of batter.

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING:

Wash and dry the mushrooms. Chop into small pieces. You can also shred them in a food processor, if you want smaller pieces. Chop the onion. Sauté in a frying pan with a little oil until transparent. Add chopped mushrooms. Sauté together, uncovered until all liquid evaporates. Add salt and pepper to taste.

FINISH:

There are a few ways to finish the mushroom-filled crepes.

OPTION 1:

Spread the filling evenly on a flat crepe. Avoid going all the way to the edges. Roll each crepe, and place them next to each other in a baking dish. Sprinkle with shredded cheese, your favorite kind (gouda or muenster work best). Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes until cheese is melted and nicely browned. Serve with ketchup.

OPTION 2:

Place the filling in the center in a rectangle or square. Fold one side towards the middle. Then fold the two adjoining sides, then the remaining side (see image with each step). Whisk an egg in one bowl (you can add a little milk). Pour breadcrumbs in another bowl. Dip the folded crepe into the egg/milk mixture, then dip into the breadcrumbs. Fry the folded, breaded crepes in a little oil; turn on both sides till brown.



Would you like to have your favorite family recipe featured in the neighborhood publication? Email us at jonathan.price@n2pub.com

parks and recreation

TREES & TRAILS



The second largest sycamore tree in Texas can be found on Trinity Trails, a 25.5-mile trail bordering Lake Lavon that runs through Lucas, Fairview, Wylie and St. Paul.

Trinity Trails is maintained by the Trinity Trails Preservation Association. Founded in 1984 by Janice Hirmon, the TTPA is an all-volunteer equestrian organization under contract to maintain the trail on Corps of Engineers land. Duke Monson serves as the current president of the organization.

The sycamore tree was discovered back in 2009 when Charlie Gaines, Tracy Matern and other members of TTPA were working on an expansion project to add several miles to the hiking and horseback riding trails.

The state's forest service determined that this giant sycamore tree is the second largest of its kind in the state of Texas. The tree is 101 feet tall with a trunk circumference of 25.5 feet and a crown spread of 126 feet. It is estimated to be between 200 to 400 years old.

The tree is happily at home and thriving on the banks of Wilson Creek. In the winter it stands out among surrounding trees on account of the sunlight's reflection off its white bark. To help people find this local treasure, Trinity Trails Preservation Association provides a map on their website (www.trinitytrailriders.org/).

It's a beautiful trip to see the sycamore! The Sycamore loop ride is about a 10-mile round trip and while close to civilization, there's a tendency to sometimes get lost. But a little preparation and knowledge should keep everyone safe. Refer to the following tips as you make your plans.

TIP #1

Horse trailers and cars should be parked at Highland Park Trail Head. Horse and foot traffic are welcome on the trail, but no wheeled or motorized vehicles are allowed. If you see bikes or motorized vehicles on the trail, please call the Collin County Sheriff.

TIP #2

Keep in mind these trails are home to feral hogs, coyotes, bobcats, deer, an occasional mountain lion and other wildlife. Be aware that copperheads and water moccasins are indigenous to this area as well. For this reason, walkers should stay in the middle of the trails where they can see clearly what is in their path.

TIP #3

Make sure to bring plenty of water (especially on warm days). It's important to stay hydrated in the hot temperatures. To be extra prepared, you should also consider packing a cell phone and a basic first-aid kit. Be sure to give yourself ample time to make the round trip before it gets dark.

TIP #4

All dogs must be on a leash at all times. Also, walkers and riders should avoid wearing ear buds that might prevent them from hearing approaching horseback riders or wildlife. Likewise, walkers should loudly greet approaching riders so they are aware you are ahead.

TIP #5

Stay visible in the middle of the trails. Stepping off into the brush not only puts you at risk of a snakebite but also makes it appears to horses as if a predator is hiding and waiting to pounce. Should you ever need assistance, TTPA has marked the trail with mile markers to help emergency teams find you or give directions.

Every year emergency personnel are called out on the trails for accidents. By observing these tips we hope to reduce injuries. In the next few months, look for an article on a new Volunteer Mounted Patrol of Collin County that has just started in Lucas. These volunteers will be available to assist the City of Lucas Emergency Response Teams and will provide community education on trail safety!

Real Estate Resource

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Address	Neighborhood	List Price	Beds	Baths	SqFt	Parking	Pool
14 Graham Lane	Grayum Jas	\$510,000	4	2	2,550	4/0/3	No
8 Choice Lane	Choice Acres	\$510,000	3	3	2,985	2/0/2	No
1055 Scarlett Drive	Tara #2	\$511,000	4	3	2,390	3/0/3	Yes
206 Strain Lane	Cimarron #2	\$525,000	4	3	3,198	3/0/3	Yes
213 Lago Grande Trail	Seis Lagos #3	\$600,000	4	3.2	3,648	3/0/3	Yes
1650 Zilker Court	Estates At Austin Trail #2	\$608,000	4	3	4,053	3/0/3	No
262 Estelle Lane	Huntwick	\$610,000	4	3.1	3,145	3/0/3	Yes
405 Pennington Drive	Fox Glen	\$660,000	5	3.3	4,846	3/0/3	No
2705 Wolf Creek Drive	Wolf Creek	\$660,000	4	4	3,683	3/0/3	No
411 Oak Brook Drive	Forest Creek Estates	\$746,000	4	3.1	3,905	3/0/3	Yes
2095 Toulouse Court	Claremont Spgs #2	\$753,500	5	5	4,932	4/0/4	Yes
660 Saddlebrook Drive	Saddlebrook Estates #1	\$755,000	5	4	4,861	3/0/3	Yes
1209 Samantha	Brockdale Estates	\$778,000	5	5.1	4,369	3/0/3	No
1226 Hicks Trail	Brockdale Estates #1	\$788,000	4	5	4,504	3/0/4	No
601 Hayden Lane	Edgewood Estates	\$962,500	5	6	5,932	4/0/4	Yes
1570 Silver Creek Circle	The Creeks of Forest Grove	\$1,200,000	5	4.1	4,726	2/3/05	Yes
2205 Lucas Creek Drive	Lucas Creek Estates	\$580,000	5	3.1	3,832	3/0/3	No

RENOVATION HOME LOANS FROM PRIMELENDING

PrimeLending's renovation loan enables you to make repairs and/or improvements right after closing, and the renovation costs are spread throughout the mortgage term.

- Improvement costs are spread throughout the term of the loan
- One application, one closing, one monthly payment
- May feature a lower interest rate than financing the remodel with a credit card

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Branch Manager | NMLS: 179597
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