

LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

August 2018



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

We really cherish our quality of life here in Lucas, the family friendly rural atmosphere, and the basic services that the City provides. Citywide, what we seem to hear the most complaints about is the lack of consistent internet service. Internet service is not a "City" service, just as telephone or TV is not provided by a City. With being this close to heavily populated areas the telecommunication companies supposedly have the infrastructure to meet this demand. But time and time again the City Council hears about residents not being able to get the desired service. We hear that company "A" has a "fiber line two doors down but will not provide fiber to this street." City Council members are in the same boat with their service providers. As we looked into this a little deeper the more disjointed the problem became. City staff contacted several providers and asked where they provide service, but none were willing to supply that data and attempts to meet with some of them were unsuccessful. The Council formed a 'technology committee' to see what options might be available, and to encourage providers to give our residents more options. The committee looked at what other communities have done and to see if there were options that we had not considered, but we kept coming up short because we couldn't see where we were starting from. So, with the help of our IT consultant we are developing a brief survey that we will be asking you to complete. The survey is intended solely to help us determine who is providing service to the residents of Lucas, if you are satisfied with the service, and ways to potentially improve the service. At this time this is just an information gathering exercise.

You will have two methods to choose from to encourage you to complete the survey, just select the one that is best for you. A paper copy of the survey will be included with the water bill you receive at the end of September. You can complete this document and return it to City Hall, or deposit it in the drop box where you drop off your water payments. If you prefer taking the survey online, the City will have it available during the month of October and we will publish the link in the September Lucas Leader. Once we have received your feedback, the City Council will be evaluating the information it receives and assessing if there are any options for us to consider.

Summer Safety

Everyone knows how hot Texas can get in the summer. While you might not be able to escape to cooler beaches, there are some guidelines to be safe this summer.

Stay hydrated with water. Avoid alcoholic beverages, tea, and sodas as they will often take away more water than they give you. If you're involved in a prolonged or intense activity outside, a mixture of 50/50 sports drinks to water ratio will help keep you hydrated and replace salt lost while sweating.

Recognize when someone is succumbing to the heat. Often we hear of heat cramps, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke. Each of these conditions is a result from a rising body temperature, and the danger increases from heat cramps to heat stroke. **Heat cramps** (least severe) usually causes muscle spasms that affects the abdominal muscles and legs, and can be treated by drinking cool water and moving under shade. **Heat exhaustion** (moderately severe) is a condition marked by profuse sweating, headache, dizziness, nausea, clammy or pale skin. Just like with heat cramps, drinking cool water and moving the person under shade can help lower the person's body temperature back to normal. Applying a cool, moist towel on the neck or taking a cold shower can speed up this process. **Heat stroke** (most severe) is where the body is overcome by the temperature. It can be recognized by the person having extremely hot dry skin, altered mental ability such as confusion, and can result in seizures, coma and death. Call for emergency medical help immediately. It is important to remove this person from the heat to shade or an air conditioned place because ridding the body of heat will be the safest way to help. Do not give them anything to drink or Tylenol. The best way to avoid a heat-related illness is to limit exposure outdoors during hot days especially during the hottest part of the day, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Air conditioning is the best way to cool off. Remember to wear loose, lightweight clothing and a hat with sunscreen.

What about our pets? Yes they can overheat too. But unlike people, they can't tell us when they are overheating. It is up to pet owners to take simple precautions to protect pets from the summer heat. Know the symptoms of overheating in pets which include excessive panting or difficulty breathing, increased heart and respiratory rate, drooling, mild weakness, stupor or even collapse. Pets can get dehydrated quickly, so give them plenty of fresh, clean water when it's hot or humid outdoors. Make sure your pets have a shady place to get out of the sun, be careful not to over-exercise them, and keep them indoors when it's extremely hot. Never leave your animals alone in a parked vehicle. Using these tips to be safe will ensure you have a long and fun summer!

Correction from Mayor's Article Regarding Aircraft

To report noise or low flying aircraft, call the North Texas Flight Standards District Office at 214.277.8500. The Dallas Flight Standards District Office has consolidated with the Fort Worth Office and is now located at 8500 Freeport Parkway in Irving.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- August 2 Fire District Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 2 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
(immediately following
the Fire District Meeting)
- August 9 Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 16 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm

Upcoming Special Events

- October 20 - Scarecrow Contest Display
November 3 Community Park
- November 3 Arbor Day/Fall Sweep Clean-Up
Community Park | 8 am - Noon
- December 7 Country Christmas
Community Park | 6 - 9 pm
- April 6, 2019 Texas Trash Off/Spring Clean-Up
Community Park | 8 am - Noon
- May 11, 2019 Founders Day
Community Park | 12 - 4 pm

CPR Training Class

Lucas Fire-Rescue will be holding a community CPR class open to the public on Saturday, October 6 at the fire station located at 165 Country Club Road. This class will certify you with the American Heart Association in CPR and AED use for adults, children and infants. The class will be from 9 am to 3 pm and there is no cost to sign up. There are 20 spots available for this class. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, send an email with your name and how many people you would like to enroll to cpr@lucastexas.us.



Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers

In July 2001, Gary Johnson began his public service with the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue and has been a dedicated volunteer emergency responder for 17 years. With many certifications and years of experience, he currently serves as Chief Engineer for the Fire-Rescue Department. Chief Johnson is truly an asset to the Department with an incredible wealth of knowledge and dedication evidenced by his willingness to respond to emergencies at all hours.

Chief Johnson's commitment to the City is demonstrated by his contributions to many department projects including the development of the specifications for the new engine and acquisition of several vehicles (B861, S861, BC861, and S862) as well as preparing them for service. He continues to be instrumental in making sure all our vehicles are maintained and serviced properly. Chief Johnson along with Chief Tellier created the current standards for the operation and training for all those who would like to be a driver/operator. Chief Johnson has also been influential in taking care of the Fire Station and recently remodeling the old training room and renovating the bay floors. Chief Johnson is the coordinator for the Lucas Fire Rehab group which includes conducting monthly meetings, training of personnel, and purchasing and maintaining supplies.

Chief Johnson was born and raised in Sweetwater, Texas where he went on to join the US Navy for three years. After serving his time in the Navy he worked as an Industrial Mechanic and decided to pursue a college education by attending Ector Junior College and then onto Texas A&M University where he obtained his Bachelor of Science in Industrial Technology. After graduation, he worked for DuPont for 17 years, the Union Pacific Railroad for 15 years, and then as a Safety Consultant for 10 years. His experience in the Navy and his job responsibilities with DuPont encouraged him to get involved with the fire industry. He served as a firefighter with the Camden Fire Department in Camden, South Carolina for over 7 years and with 17 years (and counting) with Lucas Fire-Rescue, he is nearing 25 years of service!

Chief Johnson's family include his wife, Marcia, son and daughter Kevin and Delynda and one grandchild Camden. Outside of Lucas Fire-Rescue, Gary is a faithful member of Good Shepard United Methodist Church in Lucas, Texas, and enjoys growing and taking care of plants during the summer, swimming in his pool with his wife Marcia, and taking trips to Kentucky to see his grandson Camden. Chief Johnson has put a lot of blood, sweat, and tears into the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department and we could not be more grateful for his service. He has put in countless hours for the last 17 years and has played a big part in making this department what it is today and continues to work hard to make improvements and to keep the Fire-Rescue Department moving forward.

Population Growth in Lucas



Today, the population in Lucas is approximately 7,800. This is a dramatic increase from 540 in 1970 and represents an annual growth rate of approximately 9.7%. This is a reflection of the desire of many people to live in a rural environment while keeping close to major urban cities. Continued population growth in Lucas is supported by forecast data for Collin

County, which is expected to increase by almost 54 percent by 2035. The average household size in Lucas is 3.22 persons and is projected to remain closely the same. The City of Lucas is projected to be built out by 2030 with population estimates outlined below.

Year	Population (City Limits)	Percent Growth
2018	7,800	NA
2020	8,500	10.8%
2025	9,704	11.4%
2030	11,165	11.5%

How Do I Rent Park Facilities

The City of Lucas has one softball field and three open areas at the Kenneth Lewis Park available for practice. The fields are available on a first come first serve basis and may be reserved for two uses at a time.

The City also has two pavilions and a Community Center that are available to be reserved as well. These facilities are available on a first come first serve basis and are available for two reservations at a time. The Community Center may not be used for commercial activities. Lucas facilities available for reservation include:

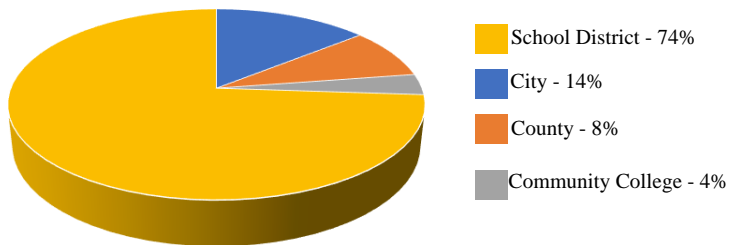
- **Lucas Community Center (665 Country Club Road)**
Only Lucas residents can reserve this building, free of charge
- **Lucas Community Park Pavilion (665 Country Club Road)**
Lucas residents \$25 for 4 hours/\$50 all day
Non-residents \$25 per hour
- **Lewis Park Pavilion (820 Southview)**
Lucas residents \$25 for 4 hours/\$50 all day
Non-residents \$25 per hour
- **Lewis Park Ball Fields (820 Southview)**
Lucas residents Free of charge
Non-residents \$25 per hour

For more information or to make a reservation contact Donna Bradshaw at 972.912.1206, or dbradshaw@lucastexas.us.

Property Taxes

Property tax, which is sometimes referred to as ad valorem tax, is the largest source of revenue for the City of Lucas. Certified estimated tax values for the City of Lucas adjusted for frozen tax is \$1,119,293,691 this includes new construction values of \$47,101,000, annexations of \$53,690,890 and a 3.31% change in existing property tax value. Local taxing units, including the school district (we are using Lovejoy ISD in this example), county, city, and community college decide how much money they must spend to provide public services. Property tax rates are set according to taxing unit budgets. The total combined property tax rate for 2017 for a City of Lucas property taxpayer was \$2.26 per \$100 assessed value. The school district accounts for approximately (74%), city (14%), county (8%), and community college (4%). See the chart breakdown below.

2017 Combined Property Tax Rate



Key dates to keep in mind regarding the fiscal year 18/19 budget process include:

July 19	Budget workshop starting at 6:00 pm
August 2	City Council meeting to adopt tax rate
August 16	Public hearing on proposed tax rate and discuss FY 18/19 budget
September 6	First public hearing on FY 18/19 budget and TENTATIVE second public hearing on the proposed tax rate
September 20	City Council pass ordinance adopting the FY 18/19 budget and setting the tax rate for FY 18/19

Should you have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact Finance Director Liz Exum at lexum@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1201, or City Manager Joni Clarke at jclarke@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1212.

Reporting an After-Hours Water Emergency

Should you experience an after-hours water emergency such as a leak, water outage, or low pressure, call Lucas City Hall at 972.727.8999 and select option 2 from the voicemail prompt. This selection will forward you to the on-call personnel. Should you reach their voicemail, please leave a message that includes your name, a call back number, and a brief description of the problem and the after-hours staff person will call you back to address your issue.

Reporting Non-Emergency Law Enforcement Concerns

To report non-emergency issues to the Collin County Sheriff's Office, please call their non-emergency line at 972.547.5350.

Fire-Rescue Volunteer Recruitment

Lucas Fire-Rescue (LFR) is accepting applications for Volunteer Emergency Responders. With Collin College opening their new campus in McKinney this Fall, we are excited to announce that Volunteer Emergency Responders for LFR again fall into two categories. One category is a fully certified Texas Commission on Fire Protection (TCFP) firefighter, or a certified State Firefighters' and Fire Marshals' Association of Texas (SFFMA) firefighter. The second category is a non-certified person who is pursuing a fire certification, either TCFP or SFFMA. One of our hopes is to enlist Lucas residents who either want to pursue a career in EMS or firefighting. For additional information, please call the station at 972.727.1242 or swing by your fire station at 165 Country Club Road and visit with us about this opportunity. Don't wait too long however, as we hope to have new volunteer emergency responders enlisted by the middle of August.

New Recycling Opportunity

A local advocacy group called Save Lucas Recycling is offering to recycle your Styrofoam. Bring your clean Styrofoam food containers, packing materials, and other Styrofoam products (no packing peanuts) to the monthly recycling drop off.

When: The first Saturday of each month (check the Save Lucas Recycling Facebook/Twitter pages for updates on cancelations)

Time: 1- 3 pm

Where: Starbucks parking lot - 2680 W. Lucas Road in Lucas - Look for the banner

This is not a City of Lucas sponsored event.

Construction Updates

The next construction update will be available in the September Lucas Leader.

Why is My Water Bill High?

Did you know that the average family uses between 4,000 and 5,000 gallons of water per month for normal household needs? Higher water bills during the summer months are common primarily due to higher consumption attributed to pools and outdoor watering.

Normally pools see one-quarter to one-half-inch loss of water per day due to evaporation. For a normal sized pool, 25,000 to 50,000 gallons of water are lost per year due to evaporation. This mostly takes place between the months of May and September. The average family can nearly double its normal water use by refilling their pool due to evaporation alone.

How long do you run your sprinklers to get one inch of water? Running your irrigation system 20 minutes, three times per week will get one inch of water on your lawn, and 30 minutes three times per week will get 1½ inches of water. If you have a one-acre lot and run each zone for 20 minutes, three times a week, you will be using 27,154 gallons of water on your lawn. Should you have a two-acre lot watering 20 minutes, three times a week, you would be using 54,308 gallons of water per week on your lawn.

Leaks can have an impact on your water consumption and depending on the size of the leak, it can increase your bill. A continuously running toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day.

In March 2017, the City of Lucas began a three-year water meter replacement program to replace all the existing water meters with the new Neptune meters. Approximately 1,000 of the 2,500 meters have been replaced and the new meters have already demonstrated increased accuracy in measuring consumption data.

The demand for water in the North Texas region continues to grow and the cost of water continues to rise. The City purchases water from the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD). Currently,

NTMWD has a \$75 million pipeline extension project connecting 48 miles of pipeline near the Sister Grove Creek to the water treatment plants in Wylie. The Army Corp of Engineers will be constructing a new reservoir to meet future demand. Due to these types projects, the cost to purchase water from the NTMWD will increase.

Did you know that the City does not use property taxes to fund the water system? The City's water fund is set up as an enterprise fund to account for water operations. The cost of operating the system is paid by the fees collected from those who receive water from the City. The City of Lucas conducted a rate study to determine water rates for the next five years. You can view the City's water rate information at www.lucastexas.us/water-rates. For your August invoice, water consumption data is collected from June 15 through July 15, and the invoice is generally delivered by July 25 with payment due August 10.

If you are experiencing higher than normal water costs, here are some things you can do. First, you can check for leaks within your household and your irrigation system. If you have a leak with an RG3 meter it will say "leak" on the meter. A Neptune meter shows a faucet icon indicating a leak. You can also perform a "bucket test" to determine if your meter is accurately measuring consumption. You can read your meter, then fill a 5-gallon bucket, and then check your meter again to ensure it is measuring the consumption correctly. You can always call the City and request the consumption data which will demonstrate water usage over a 30-day period every hour of each day. There is a \$25 fee assessed for this report. If there is a deficiency with the City's equipment, then this fee will be waived.

Please do not hesitate to contact Utility Billing Coordinator Delta Moody at 972-912-1205 or email at dmoody@lucastexas.us should you have any questions or concerns regarding your water bill.

Planning Continues for Emergency Preparedness

The City of Lucas Office of Emergency Management (OEM) is constantly moving forward to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate natural and man-made disasters. The City is working towards Debris Management Plans and contracts associated with those plans, working with the private sector on contracts for emergency response during a disaster. The City of Lucas just recently sent three people down to the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) Conference in San Antonio. The personnel that attended were Jeremy Bogle from the Public Works Department, Scott Dejong Building Inspector and Code Enforcement, and Captain Aaron Alderdice Lucas Fire-Rescue and Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator. OEM is also working with Lovejoy ISD and Fairview Fire Department on campus safety and response during an event. The City was tested as well for emergency procedures following the lengthy power outage that occurred on May 25. The power outage allowed the City to examine its emergency power operations. The City continues to review our Nixle system for the best ways to send out emergency information and how to use it operationally during an event, as well as having City departments re-working our pre-event checklists to ensure the department has everything needed prior to an event occurring. Through this coming year, OEM will continue to update our Emergency Operations Plan and schedule exercises later in the year.



As North Texans get set to dive into longer days and 100 degree-plus temperatures, the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) has announced the launch of a new "Water IQ" summer awareness and conservation campaign called "Love Lavon Lake." The campaign's call to action, "Conserve your water source. Love Lavon Lake," makes the connection between enjoying the lake in the hot summer months, and appreciating its importance as a water source for everyday use such as gardening, clean laundry, a hot shower, and even a glass of Texas sweet tea.

North Texas is home to some of the nation's fastest-growing cities. Having a safe, clean, reliable water source is critical to our region's economy and quality of life. Over the hot summer months ahead, it's critical to be efficient with the limited water sources we have. Love Lavon Lake launched June 18 and includes billboards, print ads, movie theater ads, digital ads, and social media. Since NTMWD launched the first Water IQ campaign in 2006, the district has been able to curb projected peak day consumption in the region by 200 million to 400 million gallons every summer.