

# LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

[www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us)

September 2018



## Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

City Staff has presented the City Council with a balanced budget, now City Council gets to decide if the budget matches the Council's priorities. A tax rate of 1.4 cents lower from \$0.317948 to \$0.303216 than the current rate will be the starting point for the City Council. Street maintenance and capital expenditures

are a couple of the big ticket items that the Council will consider in the budget. Budget discussion will be ongoing until the final approval slated for the September 20, 2018 City Council meeting. Should you have any suggestions, comments, or concerns regarding how your tax dollars are allocated, please feel free to attend any of the upcoming City Council meetings, email me at [jolk@lucastexas.us](mailto:jolk@lucastexas.us) or any of the City Council members, we do value your input.

The City will be mailing out a survey regarding internet providers in September. I have received several emails from residents that have some valuable insight regarding internet providers as well as residents struggling with getting service. Check your water bill for the survey in September and please complete it and send it back in.

The City Council is still watching the transportation plans as they filter through the County and the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). The City Council met with a staff member of the RTC and reiterated that Lucas does not desire to have major thoroughfares traversing through Lucas, but that we were willing to continue to work within the system to alleviate bottleneck intersections in Lucas. We will continue to watch this.

Over the weekend with the rain, I received at least five notices about accidents in Lucas. All of them were on FM 1378. Please be careful on wet roads.

take our  
**survey**

*Technology and Communication*



The City would like to collect information regarding your internet service and communication preferences. The City has received feedback from residents that their current

internet service is not meeting their needs. By collecting this information, the City will be able to evaluate if there is a role the City can play in addressing internet service issues. The City would also like to receive your feedback regarding your communication choices. How would you like to receive information from the City? There are two methods for taking the survey. Residents will receive a paper copy with their water bill that they receive in late September. This can be completed and returned to City Hall (665 Country Club Road) in person, by mail or dropped in the night drop-box at City Hall. An online version of the survey will also be available on the City's website October 1 through October 19, 2018 at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us).

This information from the survey will be provided to the Lucas City Council to assist them with future decisions. Your time in completing this survey is appreciated!

## Development Trends in Lucas



We are not telling you anything you don't already know...Lucas is a great place to live! Lucas has always been a sought-after community with a rural atmosphere, great schools, close proximity to amenities, and Lake Lavon bordering the City. The City's current population is approximately 7,710. Because of all this, development has been steadily growing since 1996. Lucas has experienced a surge in development that has not stopped. Since 1996 the City has permitted 1,872 homes in the City and the extraterritorial jurisdiction. There are currently 762 lots available for build sites and there is also quite a few new developments on the horizon such as the Estates of Stinson Highlands located at Stinson Road and Highland Drive, Cross Creek Acres located on Blondy Jhune Road, and several other subdivisions with new phases scheduled to begin soon such as Inspiration Phase 8 and Enchanted Phase 2. The City of Lucas expects build out to occur in 2030 with an expected population of 11,165.



- September 6 Fire District Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- September 6 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm  
(immediately following  
the Fire District Meeting)
- September 13 Planning and Zoning Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- September 20 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm

## Save the Date

- October 13 Forest Creek Park Grand Re-Opening  
Orchard Gap Lane | 9 am
- 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

### Forest Creek Park Grand Re-Opening Ceremony & Ribbon Cutting

The City of Lucas Public Works Department spent time this summer restoring playground equipment, adding a new pavilion, installing new benches, trimming trees and updating the park sign at Forest Creek Park. Please join us at the park for coffee and donuts on Saturday, October 13 at 9:00 am as we celebrate the Grand Re-Opening.

## NIXLE EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

### *Your Help is Needed to Enhance the System*

The City of Lucas adopted the Nixle mass notification system to notify citizens of weather emergencies, traffic accidents, road closures, and other pertinent information such as water service interruptions. We currently have over 1,100 citizens that have opted-in to Nixle to receive these notifications via a text message sent directly to their mobile phone. The City would now like to take this to the next level of support. We are asking Nixle subscribers to log into the system at [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and complete their account with address information. This fine tuning of our system allows us to geographically code areas so that emergency notifications go only to the addresses where citizens will be impacted, rather than reaching out to all citizens who have only opted-in via text messaging. Please take a minute to login and complete your account information. To sign up for Nixle, text the word **LUCAS to 888777**. Then go online [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) and complete your account information. It's that simple. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Assistant Fire Chief Lance Gant at 972.727.1242 or [lgant@lucastexas.us](mailto:lgant@lucastexas.us).



Your water meter is located outside typically in your front yard in a black box with a transmitter (the round white button on top). Should there ever be a leak that needs to be repaired, City staff will need access to your water meter and transmitter to allow the City to effectively make repairs. Its best that vehicles are not parked over or near your water meter box blocking access. Please do not cover the meter box with soil or do anything that would impede access.

Landscape around your water meter box such as trees, shrubs, and other materials need to be placed at least three feet away to allow for easy access. Shrubs and trees can attract spiders, rodents, and wasps that can potentially pose a threat. In the event of a water leak in your home it is good to know where your water meter is and have it accessible to shut off in an emergency. Should an emergency arise, a meter valve key is needed to access your box that can be obtained at your hardware



The annual Blackland Prairie Raptor Center Ribs n' Raptors fundraiser event will be held Saturday, November 10, 2018. The day is filled with music, silent auctions, food, sponsorships and of course raptors. It's never too early to put it on your calendar! Last year at this event, the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center received matching contributions of \$10,000 which enabled the BPRC to completely meet their match. Their goal this year is to raise \$40,000 to help cover the costs of raptor rehabilitation in Texas. This is a Lucas non-profit organization.... Let's all show them our support. For more information email Erich Neupert at [info@bpraptorcenter.org](mailto:info@bpraptorcenter.org).

### Census Representatives in Lucas

Throughout the next month you may receive a telephone call or a visit from a field representative with the United States Census Bureau. Representatives are in the Collin County/Dallas area conducting surveys in preparation for the 2020 Census. All representatives should have a badge for identification. Should you have any questions or need to verify badge information, please call the US Census Bureau at 800.852.6159 or you can also visit the Census Bureau website at [www.census.gov/en.html](http://www.census.gov/en.html).

## What to Do with Your Household Hazardous Waste

Did you know that Barnes Waste Disposal offers free curbside pickup of household hazardous waste to Lucas residents? Household hazardous waste is collected the first Wednesday of each month. Lucas residents must call in advance to schedule a pickup. When you call you will be placed on their schedule, provided information about what is accepted and how to prepare items for collection. To find out more or to schedule an appointment for collection, call Barnes Waste Disposal at 972.734.3333.

### How Should I Dispose of My Used Batteries?

*Ordinary batteries* such as regular alkaline, manganese, and carbon-zinc batteries are not considered hazardous waste and can be disposed of with ordinary trash. *Rechargeable* and specialty batteries should NOT be placed in the trash. These can be recycled, but only at battery recycling drop off location. Batteries Plus Bulbs accepts the following batteries for recycling:

- Lead acid (Pb) Batteries – cars, trucks and emergency lighting
- Nickel Cadmium (NiCd) Batteries - cordless phones, tools and two-way radios
- Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) Batteries - camcorders, cameras and bar code scanners
- Lithium Ion (Li Ion) & Lithium Polymer (Li Poly) - cell phones and laptops

At participating Lowe's stores, customers can drop off any rechargeable battery up to 11 pounds, along with unbroken CFLs, used cell phones, and plastic shopping bags. The products are shipped to recycling facilities for processing.



Due to Texas Department of Transportation construction of State Highway 121 around the North Texas Municipal Water District's 121 RDF landfill in Melissa, Collin County Public Works is suspending the monthly First Saturday Free Citizen Trash Drop-Off Day beginning August 2018. The landfill will still accept trash from citizens willing to pay. For more information, visit the North Texas Municipal Water District website at [www.ntmwd.com/facilities/](http://www.ntmwd.com/facilities/).

### Scarecrow Contest

Enjoy some family time and help decorate the Lucas Community Park at City Hall this October by building a scarecrow. Prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 will be awarded based on creativity and effort. Bring your scarecrow to City Hall and register at the City Secretary's office October 15 - 19 and have a display space assigned to you. Scarecrows will be on display at the Lucas Community Park

beginning October 20 through Arbor day, November 3 when the winners will be announced at the Lucas Arbor Day event.



Keep Lucas Beautiful is proud to host our second annual Fall Sweep Clean Up and Arbor Day event on Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 8 am – 12 pm at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. Volunteer check-in begins at 8 am at the pavilion. After checking in, volunteers will pick up their supplies, listen to a short safety speech, divide into teams, and be driven to their drop off locations for work assignments. At the end of the event, teams will be picked up and returned to the pavilion where lunch will be served. In support of Arbor Day, members of the Legacy 4-H Club will be on hand giving away tree saplings, along with a small bag of mulch. Representatives from Texas Pure will be available to talk about their products for organic gardening, and members of the Collin County Master Gardeners Association will be on hand to share information about the proper planting and care of the trees, and answer questions about becoming a Master Gardener. This is a great opportunity to show your support in helping to keep Lucas a beautiful place to live. Boy/Girl Scouts, students, church groups, and individuals can pre-register beginning in mid-September using the volunteer release form from the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) and email to Special Projects Coordinator Cathey Bonczar at [cbonczar@lucastexas.us](mailto:cbonczar@lucastexas.us). All volunteers must complete this form to participate. For more information contact Cathey at 972.912.1213.

### Update Your Alarm Monitoring Company

Effective October 1, 2018, all fire and medical alarm companies will need to contact Wylie Fire Dispatch as it relates to monitoring fire and/or medical alarm systems within the City of Lucas. Lucas Fire-Rescue will no longer use Plano Public Safety Communications as our dispatch agency for the Fire-Rescue Department. To enhance the response of the Fire-Rescue Department, please have your monitoring company change the agency they call to Wylie Fire Dispatch at 972.442.2222. This only affects fire alarm systems. If you have an emergency, still call 911. Should you have any questions, please call Lucas Fire-Rescue at 972.727.1242.

### Styrofoam 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 UPDATE

## **NORTH PUMP STATION WATER TOWER AND PUMP HOUSE**

The design of this project is underway and may be ready for bid in September. The construction start for this project will be determined towards the end of this year.

## **PARKER ROAD 12-INCH WATERLINE PHASE 1-SECTION 1**

*Stinson Road to Enchanted Way*

The waterline from Stinson Road to Enchanted Way is operational, and the old two-inch and six-inch waterlines in this area have been abandoned. This month, the final grading and sod work will be taking place.

## **PARKER ROAD SIX-INCH WATERLINE PHASE 2**

*Lewis Lane to McCreary Road*

The new six-inch Parker Road Phase 2 waterline is operational from Lewis Lane to the south end of Santa Fe Trail. A new fire hydrant has been installed at 1 Cimarron Trail. TxDOT is reviewing a City of Lucas permit request to open cut the last 300 feet of the Phase 2 project from Santa Fe Trail to McCreary Road.

## **PARKER ROAD EIGHT-INCH WATERLINE PHASE 3**

*McCreary Road to Stinson Road*

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is installing a waterline from McCreary Drive to Stinson Road as part of their Parker Road widening project at no cost to the City of Lucas. This represents a cost savings to the Lucas water customers of \$250,000. TxDOT will be installing the permanent eight-inch waterline for the City.

## **BLONDY JHUNE ROAD**

*West Bridge to Winningkoff Road*

The design plans are 100% complete. Staff continues to develop the traffic control plans and sequence of work for this project. The goal is to maintain access to all homes within the project. Through traffic will not be possible on Blondy Jhune Road during the construction. The construction start for this project will be determined towards the end of this year.

## **PARKER ROAD WIDENING BY TxDOT**

*Murphy Road to Southview Drive*

In June, the Texas Department of Transportation awarded the FM 2514 project from Murphy Road to Southview Drive to Mario Sinacola & Sons Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$21,833,190.16. The project is 4.899 miles long. Sinacola's bid was 7.03% less than the engineer's estimate. The cost of the right-of-way acquisition and utility adjustments to date is

\$2,213,395. The project is estimated to take 430 working days, which equals 645 calendar days. The start date is projected to be September 6, 2018. Clearing of the right-of-way and utility relocations have been underway for the past year.

## **STINSON ROAD**

*Parker Road to Bristol Park*

The design plans are 100% complete. Staff continues to develop the traffic control plans and sequence of work for this project. The goal is to maintaining access to all homes within the project. Through traffic will not be possible on Stinson Road during the construction. The construction start for this project will be determined towards the end of this year.

## **STINSON ROAD/WEST LUCAS ROAD INTERSECTION**

This project is scheduled to be substantially complete in September.

## **WEST LUCAS ROAD WIDENING**

*Angel Parkway to Country Club Road*

This project is substantially complete. An additional \$45,689 in full-depth (7.5 inches) was complete in August to repair the unforeseen base failures. The contractor replaced and funded about \$60,000 of 1.5-inch overlay as well in August.

## **WEST LUCAS ROAD/COUNTRY CLUB ROAD INTERSECTION**

This project is scheduled to be substantially complete in September. The new driveway on the south side of the intersection will open after TxDOT has completed the reconstructed traffic signal in October/November. Some TxDOT drainage and utility relocations may start in September.

## **WHITE ROCK TRAIL PAVEMENT REPAIR**

*Country Club Road to 12 White Rock Trail*

This project is complete. No further work is planned nor budgeted for White Rock Trail.

## **WINNINGKOFF ROAD**

*Forestview Drive to Snider Lane*

The design plans are 100% complete. Staff continues to develop the traffic control plans and sequence of work for this project. The goal is to maintain access to all homes within the project. Through traffic will not be possible on Winningkoff Road during the construction. The construction start for this project will be determined towards the end of this year.

***For the safety of the traveling public, the only access into a construction area that will be allowed will be to those citizens that live in the restricted area.***