

LUCAS LEADER



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Thank you to each of you for your input on the recent internet service provider survey that was mailed out to you. We received over 400 responses, which was excellent! There was a lot of good input from the community. With the responses we now can tell where some of the internet service

providers start and stop and why some neighborhoods were left with almost nothing. Because of the robust reaction, the City Council decided to develop an Ad Hoc committee to look at what can be done and possibly make some recommendations to the City Council. If you are interested in serving on the committee there are Board and Commission applications online (if your internet is working ☹). Please complete the application and the City Council will be looking at appointments on December 6th for all the Boards and Commissions.

Once again, thank you for your input. From the entire City Council, we wish you a very happy and safe holiday season. I hope to see everyone at our Country Christmas event on Friday, December 7. I have confirmed that Santa and his elf will be arriving from the North Pole, and we may even have an appearance from the Grinch!

On the City Election Ballot May 2019

While City elections may seem far away, there are some deadlines approaching for the City of Lucas General Election set for May 4, 2019.

There will be two City Council seats on the ballot in 2019 that include the seats for City Council Seat 5 and City Council Seat 6. Candidate filing will take place January 16 through February 15, 2019. Candidate applications will be available online and at the City Secretary's office beginning January 2, 2019. For election information, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211 or shenderson@lucastexas.us.

Technology & Communication Survey Results

Be a Part of the Technology Board

The Technology and Communication Survey results were presented at the City Council meeting on November 1, 2018. The survey results are now available online to view on the City's website. The City Council voted in favor of establishing a Technology Committee which would include five residential members alongside Councilmember Liaison Debbie Fisher, Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak, and the City's Technology Consultant William Baxter. The purpose of the Technology Committee is to provide recommendations to the City Manager and City Council on issues of community-wide interests relating to information technology and internet services. If you are interested in becoming a Technology Committee Member, you can apply online at www.lucastexas.us. Applications will be reviewed and committee members will be appointed at the City Council meeting on December 6, 2018.

Lucas is Celebrating its 60th Anniversary

On February 19, 2019, the City of Lucas will host a 60th Anniversary Celebration at City Hall from 5pm to 7pm. City Hall will hold an open house for all residents as we celebrate the anniversary. Further information will be provided in the January newsletter and on the City Website. As part of the celebration, we will be decreeing a time capsule on display that will be later opened on the City's 100th Anniversary. We are asking the Lucas Community to be a part of this historic moment as we determine which items will be placed in the time capsule. Suggested time capsule items must be pertinent to the City of Lucas and its community. If your local neighborhood, school, or organization would like to be a part of this process, please contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at 972.912.1213 or ksouriyasak@lucastexas.us.

December Events

November 22	Thanksgiving Holiday
November 23	City offices closed
December 6	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
December 7	Country Christmas Community Park 6 - 9 pm
December 13	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
December 24	Christmas Holiday
December 25	City offices closed
January 1	New Years Holiday City offices closed

Submit Your Service Tree Award Application

The City of Lucas established a Service Tree Award Program that allows for annual recognition of an individual, business, youth or civic group who has contributed a significant and useful service to the community. The award consists of the planting a living tree at the Lucas Community Park and presentation of an award plaque by the Mayor that will be placed by the tree. The presentation will take place during the annual City of Lucas Founders Day event on May 11, 2019. The recipient will also be featured in an article in the City's monthly newsletter, the Lucas Leader. To recommend an individual, business, or group for recognition please fill out the Service Tree Award Nominating Form at www.lucastexas.us or stop by Lucas City Hall for additional forms. Nominations must be submitted no later than January 31, 2019 to City Secretary Stacy Henderson at shenderson@lucastexas.us or at City Hall, 665 Country Club Road.

Project Schedule Update

Since 2014, the citizens, City Council, and staff have been working diligently to improve the roads and water throughout the city. So far, we have accomplished replacement of the Blondy Jhune bridges, new wider pavement at the Winningkoff Road Reverse Curve, added a turn lane on Stinson Road, and installed four miles of waterlines. Next year there will be five large projects: 1) replace the Blondy Jhune Road asphalt with concrete, 2) improve drainage with new concrete roadway and a bridge along Winningkoff Road from Forestview Drive to Snider Lane, 3) improve drainage and replace narrow asphalt with wider concrete pavement along Stinson Road from Parker Road to Bristol Park, 4) add new turn lanes to the Estates Parkway/Country Club Road intersection, and 5) build a new water tower and pump station on Country Club Road.

These five project are estimated to cost north of \$9,000,000. The City has asked the Texas Department of Transportation to include the new turn lanes to the Estates Parkway/Country Club Road intersection into a TxDOT project that is scheduled to start in mid-2019. The new schedule for the other four projects as discussed in the October 18, 2018 City Council meeting include:

- Advertise all four projects during December 2018 and January 2019
- Receive and open bids in February 2019
- Start the Stinson, Blondy Jhune, and water tower construction in March 2019.
- Winningkoff work will follow the completion of the Blondy Jhune project in the 2021-2022 timeframe.

Eagle Scout Project Enhances Community Park

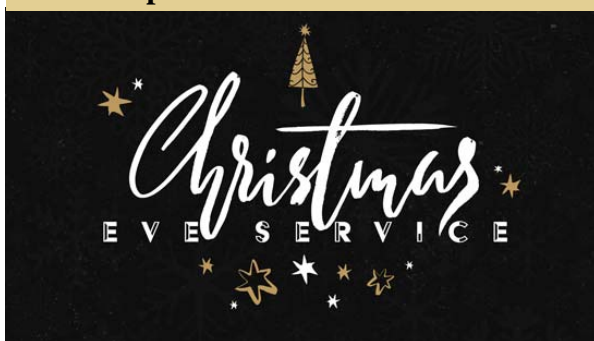


Allen High School Freshman Dylan Hayden recently completed his Eagle Scout project for the Boy Scouts of America. Eagle Scout is the highest rank in scouting with only approximately 7% achieving this honor. Dylan has been active in scouting since first grade, joining Troop 704 and then moving to Troop 131 in 2011. With this troop he has participated in over 72 nights of

camping, contributed to many service projects, and earned 29 merit badges. As part of his path to Eagle, Dylan completed a community service project for the City of Lucas. His project involved planning and building a fire pit in the Community Park next to Lucas City hall. The fire pit was built with materials purchased at local businesses and the help of over 20 Scouts from Troop 131. Donations were made towards the project by Home Depot and Walmart in Allen. During the last two summers Dylan attended Boy Scout Summer camps in Tennessee and Colorado. Dylan is currently part of the MCJROTC program at Allen High School and recently promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal. Dylan is the son of Aaron and Angela Hayden of Allen. Thank you Dylan for enhancing our Community Park.

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church

Good Shepherd United Methodist Church invites you to join them for a Christmas Eve service. The children's Christmas celebration begins at 3 pm with stories and music highlighting Jesus' birthday, and Candlelight and Carols: a service of story and song, from 3 - 5 pm. Good Shepherd is located at 750 W. Lucas Road in Lucas.



LUCAS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

December 7 | 6 pm

Please join us for our annual Country Christmas celebration on Friday, December 7 from 6 – 9 pm at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. Festivities include Santa's train ride, ice skating, roasting marshmallows by the fire and lighting of the Christmas tree. Food will be provided by In-N-Out Burger. Bring the entire family for good old-fashion fun in celebrating the holidays with the Lucas Community. Of course the evening would not be complete without a visit from Santa and his elf from the North Pole, and we may even have an appearance from the Grinch!

Event parking will be available at City Hall next to the Community Park on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional parking will be available at Hart Elementary located at 450 Country Club Road, where a patrolled crosswalk will allow visitors to safely cross Estelle Lane onto the pedestrian path to the event. Additional overflow parking options include Lovejoy ISD, 259 Country Club Road and Little Harts Preschool at 695 Country Club Road. A parking map for Country Christmas will be available on the City Website.



SENIOR ANGEL TREE

November 12 - December 7

The City of Lucas is sponsoring a Senior Angel Tree for the Agape Care Home and Loving Care Home. Both are residential assisted living facilities for senior citizens right here in Lucas. If you would like to be a Santa to one of our beloved seniors, stop

by City Hall beginning November 12 to get started. Select an angel from the Senior Angel Tree to help guide your gift purchase, and then drop off your new, wrapped gift at City Hall by Friday, December 7, and City staff will make their special delivery to our seniors the following week.



November 12 - December 7

The City of Lucas will be holding a toy drive benefiting the Collin County Toys for Tots campaign to coincide with Country Christmas. You may drop off your donations beginning November 12 at City Hall or there will be a Toys for Tots donation box set up during our Country Christmas event. Unwrapped gifts and cash donations will be accepted for Toys for Tots. This year's gift collection will be focused on collecting for older kids, between the ages of 11-18, that are often overlooked. Gift suggestions include electronics, sporting equipment, bags, balls, board games, backpacks, books, purses, wallets, bath gift sets, radio control cars, bicycles, clothes, curling irons, and hair dryers. Thank you for helping an older child have a happy holiday season as well.



The City of Lucas will be holding a food drive benefiting Allen Community Outreach Food Pantry and a gift card drive to support Family Promise of Collin County. Donations can be dropped off at City Hall between November 12 through December 7.

Allen Community Outreach provides services to those facing financial crisis in Allen, Fairview, Lucas, and Branch. The following canned foods and dry goods are recommended as donations:

Canned Foods: Tomatoes and pasta sauce, vegetables, fruit, beans, soups, chili, ravioli, and Spaghetti-O's.

Dry Goods: Cereal, oatmeal, spaghetti, mac and cheese, Hamburger Helper, instant potatoes, rice, sugar, flour, coffee, creamer, ketchup, mustard, sauces, and spices.

Family Promise of Collin County has been serving Collin County residents since 2011 providing services to homeless families as they regain sustainable independence. The organization is requesting Walmart and Target gift cards in addition to gas gift cards to Race Trac and QT. Any denomination of gift card is welcome, but \$25 gift cards are recommended. Gas gift cards are used as weekly rewards to families for meeting assigned goals, assist parents in traveling to job interviews, transport their kids to school and to churches as shelter.



The grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony of Forest Creek Park took place on Saturday, October 27. The park is located on Orchard Gap Lane and park improvements included a new basketball court, soccer goals, and pavilion with picnic tables. Thank you to the Lucas residents who attended the ceremony. We appreciate the community's support.

Scarecrow Contest in the Park



The fourth annual scarecrow contest wrapped up this weekend with the announcement of the results at the Arbor Day event. Thanks to everyone that created a scarecrow to decorate the Lucas Community Park and congratulations to the winners!

- 1st Place – Pam Poteete - The Mayor Gone Fishing
- 2nd Place – Shanon Farrell - Big Tex Heat
- 3rd Place – Brooke McKee - Camping Scarecrow
- 4th Place Tie – Legacy 4-H - I Dig 4-H; and Kyle Olson - Scary Pumpkin Head

Our 1st Place winners stated “The Scarecrow Contest was another example of the benefit of living in Lucas. Access to the “big city” but we have opportunities like the Scarecrow Contest that make our community feel like a small home town”.



On November 3, the City held its Fall Sweep Clean-Up and Arbor Day Event. All the volunteers did an amazing job in their clean-up efforts around the City and approximately 1,680 pounds of trash was collected. Thank you to our volunteers and the Lovejoy High School Majestics Dance Team for participating in the clean-up! Another big thanks to the Legacy 4-H Club, Texas Pure, and Collin County Master Gardeners for their collaboration with Arbor Day. Lastly, thank you to the City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Board for their leadership and participation in this event. The day truly exemplified what it means to Keep Lucas Beautiful.

Upcoming Capital Projects

By Councilmember Wayne Millsap

In previous issues, we discussed the budget including revenue sources such as sales and property taxes. We also discussed where your dollars are being spent – such as Lucas Fire-Rescue, maintaining roads and parks. In this issue we will focus on capital projects. Capital projects are long-lived projects, which in our case are roads and the water system. The funds come from long-term debt, Certificates of Obligation or Bonds, impact fees and to a limited extent reserves we have built up over the years. The money is set aside in the Capital Projects Fund. This year we are continuing the plan established in 2017 to address road and water system issues. This plan included \$8.1 million in road projects and \$3.3 million in water projects. The City issued Certificates of Obligation in the amount of \$6 million for road projects and \$3 million for water projects. The remaining \$2.4 million came from reserves. Two road projects were completed this past year: 1) the replacement of the two Blondy Jhune bridges; 2) the Winningkoff reverse or “S” curve. Planning and engineering for the remaining projects listed below are all underway. Construction will probably begin Spring 2019 once the bidding and contract award processes are complete.

General Fund:

Country Club/Estates Parkway Intersection	\$ 267,300
Winningkoff Road - Forestview to Snider	\$1,184,150
Stinson Road - Parker Road to Bristol Park	\$2,002,090
Blondy Jhune - West Bridge to Winningkoff	<u>\$2,584,685</u>
	\$6,038,225

Utility Fund:

Elevated Water Tower	\$2,777,240
Water Meter replacement	<u>\$ 130,000</u>
	\$2,907,240

The Winningkoff and Blondy Jhune Road projects will be done sequentially as only one can be closed at a time. One project will start in 2019 along with the Stinson Road project with completion of all these projects in 2020 or possibly 2021. The water tower project is also in the design phase and is expected to go under construction January 2019. Two road projects were considered, but not included as part of the 2017 plan due to funding limitations. The Stinson Road project from Bentwater to West Lucas Road and the Winningkoff Road project from East Lucas Road to the reverse curve will each cost approximately \$2 million. Planning and engineering will start in late 2019 or early 2020. The \$4 million for these projects will most likely be long-term debt, though we may be able to fund a portion with reserves. We will be discussing these two projects and other projects in early 2019 as the planning and execution process takes time. A key consideration will be the impact on the tax rate and how much we can absorb to minimize the increase in the rate. Each \$2 million of debt can increase the tax rate by 1.5 cents, so the \$6 million debt issue had a potential of raising the tax rate 4.5 cents (\$225 per year for a home assessed at \$500,000). By balancing the funding, substantial growth in new construction and increases in home values, the debt service portion of the tax rate is only 1.3 cents over the rate in 2016. As a result the overall tax rate was actually reduced 1.5 cents for 2018. We hope these articles about the City budget and finances have been informative. We welcome you to attend City Council meetings and provide input. The City Council meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month and Council agendas are available the Friday before at www.lucastexas.us. We also welcome your input by email at CityCouncil@lucastexas.us. You, the residents of Lucas, are the “customer” and the City Council and City Staff are here to serve you, so let us know what is important to you and how we are doing.