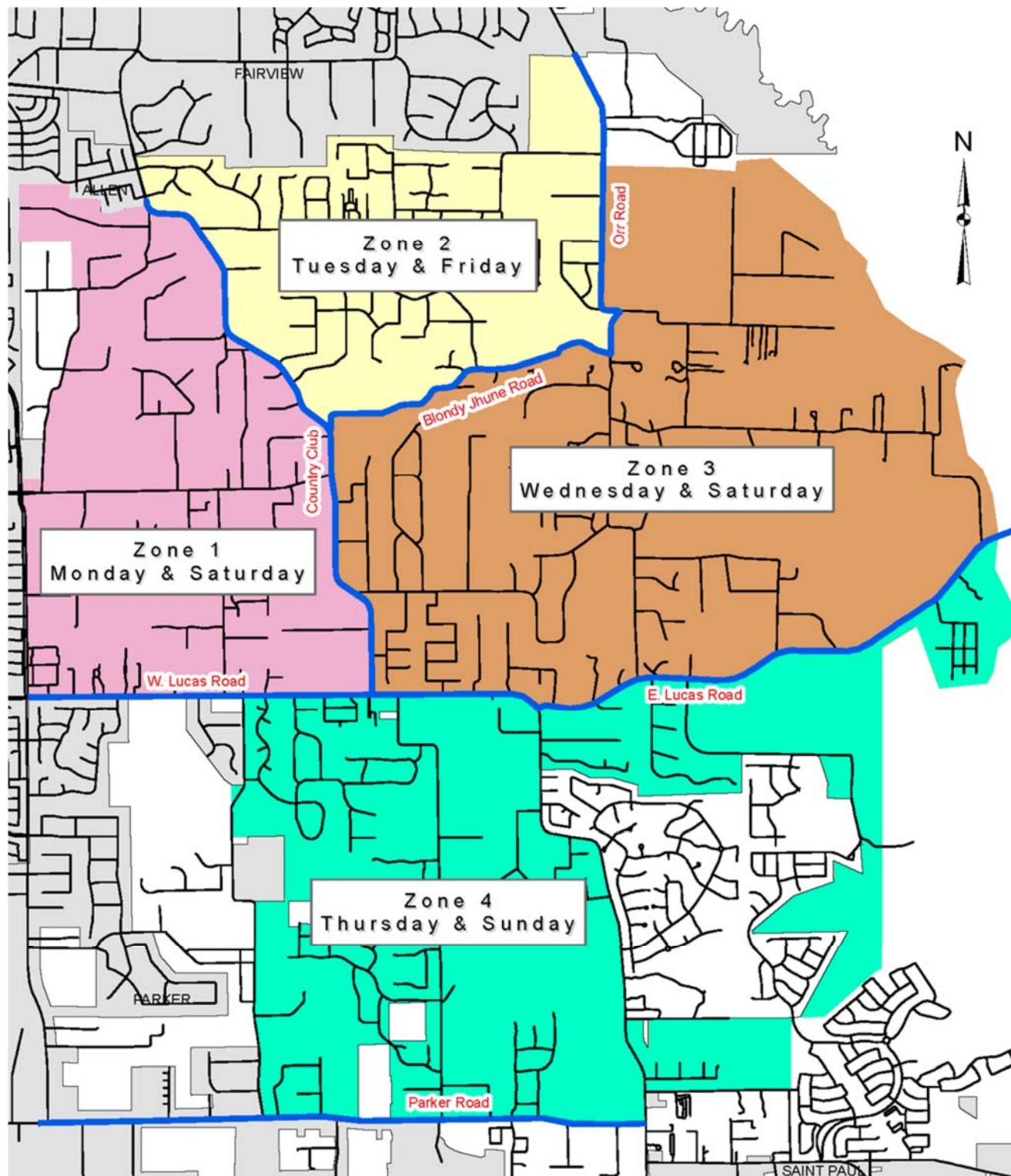


Outdoor Watering Schedule - Begins April 1, 2019

Beginning Monday, April 1, 2019, Lucas water customers are required to limit outdoor watering to twice per week. The outdoor watering schedule will help prevent stressing the capabilities of our water system. The City has established specific watering zones to help manage water usage. Please refer to the map below that identifies watering zones to help you determine your watering days. **NO OUTDOOR WATERING WILL BE ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 am and 6 pm ON ANY DAY.** This map is also available on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/watering-days/.

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



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

There is a lot of talk and press lately about property tax reform and revenue caps on municipal government. I can't open a publication without reading about the pros and cons regarding property taxation. So, I thought I would share some thoughts on this for my article this month. Under the current system, each year the Lucas City Council holds multiple budget work sessions and public hearings. Council then sets a tax rate that is intended to meet the expenses of the City. If that tax rate exceeds the rollback rate of 8%, the citizens can petition for an election. If there is no petition, the tax rate goes into effect. Right now, the State Legislature is holding hearings on two identical bills (SB-2 and HB-2) that will attempt to limit the amount of increase in property taxes without an election being held. There are two categories; small taxing entities (those that raise less than \$15 million in property tax and sales tax revenue) and large taxing entities (those over \$15 million). The bill proposes to set 8% rollback rate for the small taxing entities and 2.5% for the large ones. These limits only impact the maintenance and operation (M&O) portion of a budget not the debt portion. The maintenance and operations (M&O) portion of our budget that pays for services like street maintenance, administration, fire services and police services, totals \$2.5 million. For the City of Lucas an increase of 8% to the maintenance and operation (M&O) budget revenue would equate to \$200,000. As the proposed bill stands, the implication for Lucas would be IF we needed to raise our revenues by more than \$200,000 for M&O (8 percent of \$2.5 million) the City would be required to hold an election and have the voters decide to allow the increase.

When I look at this from the big picture I can tell you, I am somewhat conflicted on this. On one hand, the State is proposing to establish a limit for tax increases without voter approval. I'm okay with that...if I can't justify that increase to you in an article like this or in a conversation, then maybe we shouldn't be spending that money. But the current system provides for transparent local government spending and an election if the people demand one. Whereas, on the other hand, I feel that the State is attempting to diminish the representative form of democracy that we have at the local level. They are saying the people you elected into office at the local level are not representing you and not listening to you and can't make budget decisions.

Three things that have come up recently that would be impacted by this come to mind. The City of Lucas recently purchased a new Fire Engine from our budget reserves. This was just over a \$737,300

purchase. We decided to pay for it out of reserves for several reasons, we got discounts for ordering before the end of the year, paying cash and we saved interest by not borrowing money. The second thing that has come up was a left turn lane on Parker Road into a subdivision in Lucas. TxDOT would not install the second turn lane as part of their reconstruction, so, for safety of those residents the City Council funded \$200,000 from the budget reserves to provide the necessary access. One other item, is that we have been putting money aside to purchase a new ambulance which we know will be needed very soon. This will be about a \$400,000 vehicle, which we will not borrow money for.

When you look at our M&O we need to have about a 3% increase just to cover the increases in cost of goods we purchase including things like concrete and asphalt, as well as keeping our staff salaries in line with the economy. Every budget year I suggest that we look more toward a "pay as you go" program, putting more money aside and earmarking it for purchases and expenses like the ambulance. I believe this type of revenue cap may hamper planning for future needs and push us toward borrowing more money. I believe that should the proposed election requirements be implemented for revenue increases we will have to take a longer look at issuing debt as it may be cheaper to borrow the money than it is to pay for an election.

I thought about touching on school tax reform, but I better not. Let me just say that on my tax bill, the City taxes equate to 13.5% of the total tax bill. For round numbers let's just say that the M&O for the City of Lucas is 50% of that (it is actually 48%). That means an 8% increase on the City M&O taxes equates to less than \$49.00 on my tax bill excluding all exemptions. I'm not sure I would call less than \$50 a year, tax relief or tax reform. And, in the bigger picture, isn't that why we select people to represent us, for them to gather all the facts and make these types of decisions so that we the residents don't have to get into the weeds of the day to day operation of running a city?

I do want to end on the bright side...the residents of Lucas have a very engaged and conservative City Council. Over the years they have managed to move forward with paid EMS/Fire staffing, increase our street maintenance budget, purchase a new fire engine, increase our partnership with the Sheriff's office by adding an additional deputy to patrol our community and are saving money for a new ambulance. These are just a few of the things that we have accomplished all while lowering the tax rate. As I see it, the proposed 8% rollback rate probably should not really have a significant impact on the day to day operations of the City. However, it may have an impact as we look at growth in the City and the potential for expanded public safety needs and/or infrastructure maintenance and improvements. As always we will continue to communicate these issues with you. Thank you for allowing me to serve you.

March EVENTS

March 7	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 12	Technology Committee Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 14	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 21	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
April 6	Texas Trash Off/Spring Cleanup Lucas Community Park 8 am
May 11	Founders Day Event Lucas Community Park 12 Noon

Upcoming Events



Rate Changes for Curbside Recycling effective April 1, 2019

The City of Lucas has been notified that Republic Services will be increasing the curbside recycling rate to \$7.89 per month and the cost for an extra polycart will be \$3.07 per month. These new rates include sales tax and customers will continue to be billed quarterly. If you are interested in signing up for this subscription based recycling program, please call Republic Services at 469.443.7009.

Collin County Boards Seeking Volunteers

The Collin County Commissioners Court members appoint citizen volunteers to a number of County boards and commissions. If you are interested in serving your community on a Collin County board, go to <https://www.collincountytx.gov/government/Pages/boards.aspx> to learn more about the various boards Collin County has available. There is no deadline to submit, and residents may submit applications at any time throughout the year. Most board terms consist of three year terms and are staggered by precinct expiring on December 31st of each year. Applications are kept on file for one year from the date it is received. For additional information, you may contact Collin County at 972.548.4632.

Service Tree Award Winners

Congratulations to Peggy Rusterholtz and Mrs. Lee Ford. These outstanding individuals are recipients of the 2019 City of Lucas Service Tree Award. Their contributions to the City of Lucas, countless volunteer hours, and their commitment to the community is what made them standouts to receive this award. A Service Tree will be dedicated and planted at the Lucas Community Park in honor of these individuals who have given so much of their time to the City of Lucas and the community. Formal presentations will be held at the May 2, 2019 City Council meeting and trees will be planted and on display during the Founders Day event.

What's on the Ballot for the May 4, 2019 Election

The City's general and special election will take place on May 4, 2019. The 2019 election has two City Council seats on the ballot that include the following candidates running for office:

City Council Seat 5
Debbie Fisher
Phillip Sheppard

City Council Seat 6
Kathleen Peele
(*running unopposed*)

Also on the ballot will be the continuation of the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District, along with the option to continue allocating a portion of the City's sales tax to the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District. The City receives two percent (2%) of the sales tax collected, one percent goes into the City's General Fund, 0.5 percent is allocated towards street maintenance and the remaining 0.5 percent is allocated to the Fire District. The sales tax allocated to the Fire District helps to fund EMS and Fire Department expenses. Early voting will take place at the Lucas Community Center beginning April 22 through April 30 and on Election Day May 4. For more information on elections visit the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/elections or contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211 or by email at shenderson@lucastexas.us.

Know What's Below - Call 811 Before you Dig

By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

Whether planting a tree, grading for a drive or walkway, installing sprinklers, replacing fence posts, putting in new garden beds, or drilling for oil ... You get the idea... call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig. This local one call utility service will arrange for marking underground utilities so you can stay safe, service is not interrupted, and you can avoid potential fines and repair costs. I know from personal experience.

A few years ago, I arranged to replace fencing along the back of my property. I was advised to call 811 before work began. I thought it was unnecessary, and made no sense to me that a cable would be buried in the remote corner of my pasture. Nevertheless, I called and watched various utility companies come mark their lines; all in the front of my property. With confidence we proceeded. Boy, were we surprised when we dug up and cut through a cable which in turn disabled service to a portion of the neighborhood. But not as surprised as the impacted utility company that discovered the cable in question had not been properly marked in the company documents, and thus wasn't marked on my property making the utility company, not me, liable for the repairs. Know what's below, before you dig and call 811. When you see flags around town or in your neighborhood, the color coding chart below is used for marking underground utility lines:

White: Proposed excavation
Pink: Temporary survey markings
Red: Electric power lines, cables, conduit and lighting cables
Yellow: Gas, oil, steam, petroleum or gaseous materials
Orange: Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables or conduit
Blue: Potable water
Purple: Reclaimed water, irrigation and slurry lines
Green: Sewer and drain lines

Technology Committee Investigates Internet Deficiencies

The newly formed Technology Committee held its first meeting on January 25. The primary focus of the Committee is to explore ways to deliver improved internet access throughout Lucas. Serving on the Technology Committee are Paul Rathgeb, Chairman; Trey Sleeper, Vice Chairman and members Mark Skaggs, Dennis Scully, and George Brody. Councilmember Debbie Fisher serves as the Committee's liaison to the City Council. The Committee's first order of business is to identify residents and neighborhoods experiencing poor internet access. Representatives of Homeowners Associations and individual residents are encouraged to attend the next regular meeting of the Technology Committee scheduled for March 12 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. Information desired by the Committee includes: street address, current internet service provider, and any other specific technical information regarding your internet service.

The Committee strongly encourages all Lucas residents to provide this information regarding their current internet experience. It is vital for the Committee to understand precisely the extent and location of internet problems in order to pursue solutions. Information can be submitted online at the Technology Committee's webpage at www.lucastexas.us/technology-committee/. If you have any questions, contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at 972.912.1213 or email inquiries to kent@lucastexas.us.



Set for May 11, 2019

calendars and join us at our Founders Day Celebration!

PARKING – Founders Day attendance has grown over the years and with that in mind, shuttle bus service will be offered from Willow Springs Middle School to the Community Park. Shuttle service will run from 11:30 am to 4:30 pm. City Hall parking will be limited to handicapped, individuals needing more assistance and vendors. Parking Permits will be issued in advance and will be required to park at City Hall.

ENTERTAINMENT/FOOD – Activities and entertainment this year will include a mix of Lucas favorites that include the Founders Day parade, historical display in the Community Center, stick horse rodeo and pony hop derby, petting zoo, bounce houses, pony rides, animal adoption hosted by Collin County, the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center and live music by Carly Reign. Free food will be provided which includes hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, and more.

GARDEN TENT – As part of our focus on city beautification, we will be setting up a special garden tent to support local businesses and organizations in selling flowers and plants.

PARADE – Individuals, groups, or organizations participating in the parade should pre-register. Parade line-up will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the parade will kick off at 12:00 p.m. Maps will be available showing the parade parking, line-up, and route. Prior to the start of the parade, City Council will be handing out ribbons to parade participants for various categories. Recipients will be able to display their ribbons as they traverse the parade route. To register for the parade, applications can be found at www.lucastexas.us/founders-day-celebration/.

VENDOR BOOTHS – Businesses and organizations looking to promote, offer information, or craft vendors wishing to sell homemade items are encouraged to participate as a vendor booth. Booth spaces are 10x10 and free of charge. To register for a vendor booth, applications can be found at www.lucastexas.us/founders-day-celebration/. For more information on Founders Day, contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213.

The Founders Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall at 665 Country Club Road. Founders Day will continue to focus on the beautification of our City, sustainable landscape practices, water conservation, and litter abatement. Whether you are a new or longtime resident of Lucas, mark your

Public Works Assistant Opening

Currently the City of Lucas has a position available to join the Public Works team as a Public Works Assistant. This position will assist with maintaining the City's parks and ball fields, mowing, and street maintenance activities. For more information, go to www.lucastexas.us to apply online by March 8, 2019.

NTMWD Annual Change In Disinfectant to Treatment Process

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will temporarily change the disinfectant in its water treatment process from March 4 through April 1, 2019.

The annual, routine change is necessary to maintain the regional system and year round water quality. Disinfection is a critical part of the water treatment process that keeps drinking water free of harmful microorganisms, such as parasites and viruses. During the temporary change, NTMWD suspends adding ammonia and uses only free chlorine to keep water disinfected as it travels through pipes. NTMWD and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) confirm that NTMWD has maintained high water quality each year during its annual disinfectant change. The absence of ammonia during these few weeks may make the chlorine disinfectant more noticeable. There are simple steps to minimize taste, odor or skin sensitivities, including placing a pitcher of water in the refrigerator overnight or adding a slice of citrus to the water. Adding a crushed 1000 mg Vitamin C tablet to bath water will remove the chlorine. For more information, visit www.ntmwd.com/safewater.

Mosquito Prevention



Not all mosquitoes are the same. Different mosquitoes spread different viruses and bite at different times of

the day. There are several viable options available to homeowners that can keep mosquitoes at bay. Remove mosquito habitat by removing any standing water so they don't have a place to lay their eggs. Keep swimming pool water treated and circulating. Use structural barriers such as window and door screens and cover all gaps in walls, doors and windows to prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. Plant herbs and flowers that give off scents that mosquitoes dislike and avoid, such as basil, lavender, mint, citronella, rosemary, and marigold. Use insect repellent that is safe and effective (www.epa.gov/insect-repellents/find-insect-repellent-right-you). Treat clothing and gear with permethrin.

The City of Lucas uses "mosquito dunks" to assist in controlling the mosquito population. Mosquito dunks contain BTI which is a natural larvicide which kills mosquito larvae, but is harmless to birds, fish, wildlife, and pets. When a dunk is placed in standing water, it will control mosquito larvae for up to 30 days.



community to participate in this cleanup as we continue to promote the beautification of the City, litter abatement, and sustainable practices. For the safety of our volunteers, Blondy Jhune Road and Snider will be closed from 9 to 11 am to through traffic. The following roads are also scheduled as cleanup areas: Country Club Road, Estates Parkway, West Lucas Road, East Lucas Road, Southview Road, and Stinson Road.

To become a cleanup volunteer, sign up on the City Website under the "Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off" at www.lucastexas.us/dont-mess-with-texas-trash-off/. To coincide with the cleanup, the City will also be partnering with United Electronic Recycling to provide a recycling drop-off for residents to dispose of electronics. Residents may drop off their electronics between 8 am and 12 pm on Saturday, April 6. Many items are free to dispose of, but please check the link below to determine what items will have a fee, such as larger televisions. The drop-off location will be in the parking lot at City Hall close to the Community Center. For more information regarding the e-waste drop-off, visit www.lucastexas.us/electronic-waste-drop-off/ or contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213.

Our Keep Lucas Beautiful Spring cleanup event "Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off" is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 from 8 am to 12 pm. As an affiliate member of Keep Texas Beautiful, the City participates in this annual cleanup to support efforts in clearing City-maintained areas and roadsides of trash. We strongly encourage the