

LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

April 2019



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

In the upcoming May election, there will be a "Special Election" that will provide the opportunity for the citizens of Lucas to vote to either keep or reject the ½ cent of sales tax that supports the City of Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District. (We need to come up with a shorter acronym for that.) In simple terms ½ of a cent in the 8.25 cents sales tax that we pay when we shop here in Lucas currently goes to help support our Fire Department. It has been 5 years since it was first implemented and we are required to bring it back for the voters to decide to keep it or reject it.

For the numbers part... ½ cent in sales tax equates to about \$330,000 annually. This year's budget for the Fire Department is \$2,246,000 so approximately 15% of the Fire Department budget is currently being funded by the sales tax collected from any and all retail sales in Lucas.

As a City, we cannot advocate for or against this ballot item, but we can and want to provide you with factual information regarding the issue. Please feel free to call or email me, or any of the City Council members or City Staff for further information that you may need to help you understand this ballot item. Most certainly, I can advocate that you do one thing and that is to make your voice heard by getting out and voting. By the way, there are also two City Council seats on the ballot. (For more information on voting dates and times, please see the voting section on page 2.)

Summer Help Wanted—The City of Lucas is seeking a Public Works Assistant to help with maintaining the City's parks and streets. For additional information, contact HR Generalist Janice Babcock at email jbabcock@lucastexas.us or telephone 972-912-1204. You can apply online at www.lucastexas.us

VOLUNTEERS

NEEDED

SPRING CLEANUP

Saturday, April 6

from 8 am to 12 pm

Meet at the Community
Park Pavilion



This Spring's 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 community to participate in this cleanup. **Blondy Jhune Road and Snider Lane will be closed from 9 am to 11 am to ensure the safety of the cleanup volunteers.** 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 at: www.lucastexas.us/dont-mess-with-texas-trash-off/.

ELECTRONIC RECYCLING

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. Please check the City's website to determine what items will have a fee:

www.lucastexas.us/electronic-waste-drop-off/

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, contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213.



APRIL

- April 4 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- April 6 Texas Trash Off/Spring Cleanup
Lucas Community Park | 8 am
- April 9 Technology Committee Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- April 11 Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- April 18 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- April 23 Parks Board Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 11 Founders Day Event
Lucas Community Park | 12 Noon

CURBSIDE RECYCLING

If you are interested in signing up for subscription based curbside recycling in the City of Lucas, call Republic Services at 972-422-2341.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY

(This is not a City of Lucas sponsored event.)

A local advocacy group called *Save Lucas Recycling* is offering to recycle your Styrofoam. Bring your clean #6 Styrofoam food containers, packing materials, and other Styrofoam products (no packing peanuts) to their monthly recycling drop off.

When: First Saturday of the month

Time: 1- 3 pm

Where: Starbucks parking lot
2680 West Lucas Road

CITY ELECTIONS ON MAY 4, 2019

The City's General and Special Election will take place on May 4, 2019. The General 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 Peel
(running unopposed)

The Special Election ballot will include the continuation of the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District for a 10 year period, along with the continuation of allocating a portion of the City's sales tax collected to the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District also for 10 years.

The Fire District was created in 2014 by the voters of Lucas in a Special Election. The Fire District was created to assist in funding equipment and personnel for the Fire-Rescue Department. The 2019 Special Election is an effort to continue to utilize a portion of the existing sales tax rate funding for Fire and EMS services for an additional 10 years. How that works is the City collects 2% of the 8.25% sales tax collected on goods and services sold. One percent is allocated to the City's General Fund, one-half of one percent is allocated towards street maintenance and the remaining one-half of one percent is earmarked to the Fire District that assists in funding the Fire-Rescue Department. The City is proposing that this sales tax allocation assists in funding the Fire-Rescue Department and will be maintained for a 10 year period. Early voting will take place at the Lucas Community Center located behind City Hall at 665 Country Club Road on the following dates and times:

Monday, April 22	8 am - 5 pm
Tuesday, April 23	8 am - 5 pm
Wednesday, April 24	8 am - 5 pm
Thursday, April 25	8 am - 7 pm
Friday, April 26	8 am - 5 pm
Saturday, April 27	8 am - 5 pm
Monday, April 29	7 am - 7 pm
Tuesday, April 30	7 am - 7 pm
Saturday, May 4	7 am - 7 pm (Election Day)



Lucas Community Blood Drive

Saturday, April 6, 2019
9:00am - 3:00pm

Sponsored by Living Young Adult Ministry and Good Shepherd United Methodist Church
Lucas Community Center @ City Hall
665 Country Club Road
Lucas, Texas 75002-7651



Your Watering Schedule

Our Apologies...

In the March Lucas Leader, the City posted an incorrect outdoor watering schedule. The following watering schedule begins on April 1, 2019:

- Zone 1—Tuesday & Saturday
- Zone 2—Monday & Friday
- Zone 3—Wednesday & Saturday
- Zone 4—Thursday & Sunday

There is no outdoor watering allowed between 10 am and 6 pm on any day.

The watering schedule map is available on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/water-days/ and it illustrates the geographical areas of the zones.

Should you have any questions on what day is your day to water, please contact Utility Billing Coordinator Delta Moody at 972-912-1205 or email her at dmoody@lucastexas.us

FOUNDERS DAY

**Saturday, May 11 from Noon to 4:00 pm
at the Community Park next to City Hall**

The Founders Day celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 11 from 12:00 pm 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 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. A map of parking and shuttle service will be available on the City's website at: www.lucastexas.us/founders-day-celebration/.

HISTORICAL DISPLAY – The Community Center will feature an exhibit regarding the history of Lucas. It is a great educational opportunity for Lucas citizens to discover the treasures of Lucas and get to know those individuals that were instrumental in creating this gem we all call home.

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 am and the parade will kick off at 12:00 pm. 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/.

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.



For more information on Founders Day, contact Special Projects Coordinator Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213.



**Welcome to Lucas
Firefighter/Paramedic**

Cory Graham

Lucas Fire-Rescue would like to introduce our newest member, Firefighter/Paramedic Cory Graham. He brings with him over 11 years of experience in the fire service along with many certifications and trainings that make him a great asset to this department.

Cory, his wife Courtney and 2 ½ year old son Wesley, will be welcoming another baby boy this July. His family currently lives in McKinney. Courtney works as a nurse in the operating room at Parkland Hospital in Dallas and Wesley is living Cory's dream of being surrounded by his father's interests of cars, trucks, motorcycles, and of course fire engines!

Cory was born in Dallas and grew up in East Plano. He attended Winston School in Dallas for his Freshman and Sophomore year where he was a part of their Solar Car team. He then completed his High School education through correspondence courses to allow him to pursue his passion of racing motocross at a higher level.

Cory went on to attend Collin County Community College where he completed Fire Academy in 2005 as well as additional course work in Fire Science. He obtained his paramedic in 2009 from Grayson County College.

His passion for the fire service stems from the various unknowns that could be encountered on the job, the challenges of problem solving in critical situations, and the satisfaction he receives of making a meaningful positive impact in people's lives. He has spent most of his career as a Firefighter/Paramedic at Denison Fire-Rescue. He was promoted to the position of Engineer and filled the position of Captain as needed. During his time in Denison, he was nominated by his peers for Paramedic of the Year and Firefighter of the Year. He also worked part-time jobs as a Firefighter/Paramedic at the Pilot Point Fire Department, Texas Vital Care, and Colbert EMS.

We are very fortunate to have Cory as part of our Lucas Fire-Rescue family. We know he will be a wonderful asset to this department. We look forward to working alongside him and serving this great community for years to come.

"I've long said that due to my personality type that working a desk job would likely kill me long before being a firefighter would."

-Cory Graham



**New Pump House and Water Tower
(at the North Pump Station on Country Club)**

The following schedule has been established for the new pump house and water tower at the North Pump Station:

Advertise – March 7 and 14

Open Bids – March 26

Award Contract – April 4, 2019



At the City Council meeting held on February 21, 2019, the City Council selected McMahon Contracting to reconstruct Blondy Jhune Road (Hendricks Farm to Winningkoff), Stinson Road (Parker Road to Bristol Park), and Winningkoff Road (Forestview Drive to Snider lane) roadway projects. To ensure mobility in the neighborhoods, the Winningkoff Road project is tentatively scheduled to start in mid to late 2020 after substantial completion of the Blondy Jhune Road.

McMahon Contracting is planning to start with culvert work along Blondy Jhune Road and Stinson Road. There are seven culvert crossings along Blondy Jhune Road, and this work is being planned to occur from March 25 to April 10. **There will be at least five days during this two-week period that Blondy Jhune Road will be CLOSED while the culverts are cut into the road, and travel from Country Club Road to Winningkoff Road will not be possible.** The City Engineer will ensure that citizens who own property on Blondy Jhune will have access. The Stinson schedule has not been determined yet. The contractor and City Engineer Stanton Foerster will be visiting each property owner along Blondy Jhune Road and Stinson Road to discuss driveway connections and drainage.

For project updates, visit:

www.lucastexas.us/neighborhood-connector-street-projects/



Please contact Stanton directly at Stanton@LucasTexas.us and 972-912-1208 with any questions.

WHEN SECONDS COUNT

There are many factors that contribute to the time it takes for emergency personnel to arrive on-scene. It all starts with the 9-1-1 call. During this call, dispatchers ask a series of questions to get pertinent information that will allow them to discern the type and severity of the emergency. The dispatcher alerts the appropriate emergency agency (Police, Fire-Rescue, or both) and emergency responders quickly respond to the location. First responders will respond expeditiously without compromising the safety of themselves or the traveling public. Unfortunately, there are barriers that prevent emergency personnel from arriving on-scene. Here are a few recommendations to consider to ensure the quickest possible response to an emergency situation.. These simple actions can mean the difference of life and death in some scenarios and could potentially save a life.

The Call to 9-1-1 - When you place a call to 9-1-1, a dispatcher will answer your call. Once the dispatcher has analyzed the information you have provided, they will ask a series of questions to be able to dispatch the proper personnel and equipment. It is important to remember that the sooner you answer the dispatcher's questions, the sooner they can relay this vital information to the proper agency. It is helpful to remain as calm as possible, speak clearly and concisely, and to answer their questions to the best of your ability. Do not waste time going into details that may not be needed. Let the dispatcher lead the call and ask you the information they need. During an interview with 911 Dispatcher Aaron Oleson, Aaron mentioned three critical things that callers can do to aid dispatchers in alerting emergency personnel as quickly as possible:

1. Know your location. The dispatcher needs to know where you are before they can send any help.
2. Please stay as calm as possible. Dispatchers have to be able to understand what you are saying to ensure the proper emergency response.
3. Dispatchers are trained to ask a lot of questions to help both the patient and give valuable information to responders. This does not slow down the response time.

Emergency Location - Sometimes emergency personnel arrive on-scene and are met with an obstacle that prevents them from accessing the property. This could include overgrown trees and low hanging limbs that do not allow apparatus access. Lucas Fire-Rescue's largest apparatus is 12-foot tall and 10-foot wide. This gives a good idea of how much space is needed. Gates that are locked or narrow will also slow response times. Even though emergency vehicles are equipped with special tools that will allow a forceable entry, that is certainly not ideal. If you have a gate code for entrance to your property, please share that with Lucas Fire-Rescue by calling 972-727-1242 so it can be programmed into the dispatch system. If you are unsure about access to your property, Lucas Fire-Rescue would be happy to come out and assess the access to your home.

First Responder Action On-Scene of Emergency - When we arrive on-scene, make sure we will have access into your home by unlocking the door and restraining animals that may prevent quick-access. Be accessible to answer any questions we may have, but stay back and allow us plenty of room.

Community Action - There are many things that you can prepare for to make a positive impact on the response time of Lucas Fire-Rescue. We encourage you to think seriously about the specific tasks mentioned above because they could eliminate wasted time, allow emergency responders to arrive to emergencies quicker, and potentially save someone's life.

Lucas Technology Committee Investigates Internet Deficiencies

The newly formed Technology Committee held its first meeting Thursday, January 25, 2019. 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. Council Member 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 **Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 pm**. Information desired by the Committee includes:

- ◆ What is your street address?
- ◆ Who is your current internet service provider?
- ◆ Are there other internet service provider(s) that offer service to your location?
- ◆ What is the maximum internet speed your internet service provider offers?

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.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you may provide this information via email at technology@lucastexas.us.