

We Appreciate our Board/Commission Volunteers

By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

The Lucas citizens who serve on our boards and committees as volunteers are dedicated to maintaining our rural heritage while meeting and planning for current and future needs and challenges. We are blessed in Lucas to have many experienced and well educated citizens who volunteer their time, skills, and talent to advise the City Council on topics that impact us all. A big THANK YOU to all of them! The following information describes the City's current boards and the volunteers that serve.

Planning & Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission reviews rezoning applications, subdivision plats, site plans, replats, and development plans. The Commission also advises the City Council on planning issues. The City Council liaison to the Commission is Mayor Jim Olk and consists of the following members:

Peggy Rusterholtz, Chairman
David Keer, Vice Chairman
Andre Guillemaud
Joe Williams
Tim Johnson
Tommy Tolson

Board of Adjustments

The Board of Adjustment's role is to authorize, upon appeal in special cases, variances from the Zoning Ordinance and special variance exceptions to the City's sign ordinance to determine if there is a hardship in each case. The board also decides appeals regarding determinations made by the Administrative Official in the enforcement of the Zoning Ordinance. The City Council liaison is Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele and consists of the following members:

Chris Bierman, Chairman
Adam Sussman, Vice Chairman
James Foster
Brian Blythe
Tom Redman
Ron Poteete
Brenda Rizos

Parks and Open Space

This Board serves as an advisory role to the City Council in matters relating to the parks and open space of the City. They make recommendations for beautification programs and projects. They also make recommendations to the City Manager for projects or activities related to future parks, open space and beautification projects. The City Council liaison is Tim Baney and consists of the following members:

David Rhoads, Chairman
Chris Vanhorn, Vice Chairman
Ken Patterson
Bill Esposito
Debra Guillemaud
Tommy DeWitt
Christel Parish

Technology Committee – The primary focus of this Committee is to explore ways to deliver improved internet access throughout the City of Lucas. The City's IT Consultant, Baxter IT serves on this Committee and the City Council Liaison is Debbie Fisher. The following individuals volunteer on this Committee:

Paul Rathgeb, Chairman
Trey Sleeper, Vice Chairman
Mark Skaggs
George Brody
Dennis Scully

It's Baby Season at the Raptor Center And the Nest is Best!



It's that time of year at the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center when people start finding baby birds and aren't sure what to do. Should they be left alone? Do they need help? The Raptor Center gets hundreds of calls every spring about birds found on the ground. And the answer is, most of the time they are just fine. There are some basic things to look for to figure out what to do. First, does the bird look injured? Is it bleeding, been attacked by a cat or other animal, or some other obvious injury. If so, then it needs to get to us right away.

If you don't see any injuries, is the bird fully feathered? Many birds fall out of the nest or off a branch when they first learn to fly. It is just like riding a bike – you fall down a lot before you figure it out. As long as they have feathers it is best to leave it alone. The parents are nearby but won't feed or approach it when there are people around. If it has no feathers (or looks downy) then it needs to be in its nest! Look up in a tree or tall bush for the nest. If you find the nest and you can reach it safely, then put it back! It is a myth that birds can smell humans and won't take care of the babies. Most birds have almost no sense of smell, so gently put it back.

You can make a nest! If you can't find the nest or reach it, you can make a substitute nest. Use a berry basket for small birds and larger plastic basket for raptors. Attach it to the tree as close to the nest as possible with zip ties and rope. Fill it with leaves and grass and put the babies back in the nest. Then leave the area as the parent's won't come if you are still around. If you aren't sure about your situation, give the Raptor Center a call. They will ask you to send them a picture via text to have a better idea of your situation. The Raptor Center number is 972.442.7607 or go to www.bpraptorcenter.org to the rescue page to find more information about helping baby birds.

The Raptor Center has some upcoming events, for more information go to our website:

- Saturday, May 4 – meet our education raptors, take prairie hikes and do fun activities. \$5/adults, \$3/kids, under 3 is free.
- Saturday, May 11 – our annual Kids' Rods n' Raptors Fishing Derby open to the public, lots of prizes. \$5/person
- Saturday, May 18 – Raptor photo day. We have all our education raptors out for you to take pictures in the morning. You get very close to them in natural settings. \$20 per person.



Construction Update

Along with the paving work on Blondy Jhune Road, the contractor will also start the excavation and grading work for the new road and drainage ditches. Driveway culverts will be installed almost immediately following the grading work. A schedule for the driveway work will be sent out in the project email updates. Culverts will take two to four hours to install, and during this time period the driveway will not be useable. Accommodations for emergency access by first responders will be available for all driveways. Several rumors are floating around regarding the removal of all the trees on Blondy Jhune. **This is not true.** To date, we have removed two trees in the "canopy" area between Tokalaun Court and 250 E. Blondy Jhune Road. One was removed at the property owner's request to make room for the new driveway and the other tree was simply too close to the new pavement to survive. The roadway was narrowed from 24 feet to 22 feet through the canopy and in some areas, it was shifted away from trees during the design process to all but eliminate the impact to trees. **Preserving trees is a priority.** Construction on Stinson Road started on April 22 with one culvert site just south of Belvedere Park Lane.



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Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk



Well spring is finally here! Although we have had our share of rain and rough weather, I thought I would take this space to let you know that the City Council is considering issuing Certificates of Obligation (borrowing money) to complete some needed maintenance on our streets and water system. As a Council, we have generally agreed to use Certificates of

Obligation to perform maintenance on our infrastructure and to use Municipal Bonds for projects like building construction or asset allocation such as equipment or fire apparatus (when we can't pay cash). The main difference in the two types of borrowing is: the City Council can issue Certificates of Obligation and the voters must approve Municipal Bonds.

As it stands, the City Council is working on a list of maintenance projects that include road, intersection and bridge construction on East and West Lucas Road, Lucas Road and Southview/Country Club intersection, Stinson Road and the Stinson Road bridge, along with a culvert on Winningkoff. These projects total just over \$7.5 million dollars. Additionally, there are several water line projects that will improve water flow and water quality that include Rollingwood, Choice, Lakeview, Edgewood, West Lucas, Cedar Bend, Graham, and Rock Ridge Court. These projects total just under \$1.5 million dollars.

As you can see, this list of projects total \$9 million dollars. This is a portion of our overall Capital Improvement Plan that extends out for 30 years with 5, 10 and 20 year projected capital projects. It is always Council's goal to attempt to provide a way to fund the projects with minimal impact to our citizens. That means we strategically borrow money with our eye on how to make the biggest impact with each dollar and it does not impact your, or my, tax bill. If you would like a detailed estimate on the breakdown of these projects or of the entire Capital Improvement Plan, please see our website at www.lucastexas.us/documents/capital-improvement-plan or contact City Hall. As always, we value your input and feel free to email your City Council or attend a City Council meeting to have a say in what happens here in Lucas.

Technology Update

The Technology Committee met on April 9 to discuss the creation of an internet coverage map of the City, a volunteer-based Lucas broadband website, and to establish task leaders with assigned responsibilities. Committee Member Dennis Scully discussed a coverage map of Frontier internet service and Nannette Ash-Gantt, Frontier Supervisor of Network Engineering OSP, attended the meeting to provide information regarding Frontier's requirements. Ms. Ash-Gantt indicated that Frontier looks at building costs, shared costs with neighborhoods or subdivisions to offset costs, and a rate of return when considering new customers. In order to help provide possible internet solutions, Frontier needs specific locations of where fiber is absent throughout the City and the number of homes in the given area to determine costs of installing fiber. Ms. Ash-Gantt also indicated that she will ask her department to create a more detailed coverage map of Frontier internet service throughout the City.

Committee Member Mark Skaggs has developed a volunteer-based website called Lucas Broadband (<https://www.lucasbroadband.com/>) that will act as a primary source of communication to share information and receive feedback from residents regarding internet service. The Committee will adhere to the Open Meetings Act and will not be facilitating discussion on the website.

Baxter IT, the City's IT consultant, has developed an internet speed and mapping application that will be included on the City website to collect internet speed and location data from residents. The current launch date for the website application is scheduled for May 6, just in time for Founders Day. Some of the Technology Committee members will be volunteering at Founders Day to collect more information from residents as they continue to analyze data and research possible internet solutions.

The Technology Committee voted to move next month's meeting date to Thursday, May 30 at 7 pm. The City's Attorney will be attending the meeting to provide legislative updates regarding the Open Meetings Act and to inform the Committee on how other cities are implementing 5G.



MAY

- May 2 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- May 4 City Election Day
Community Center | 7 am - 7 pm
- May 9 Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- May 11 Founders Day Celebration
Lucas Community Park | 12 Noon

- May 16 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm
- May 30 Technology Committee Meeting
City Hall | 7 pm

JUNE

- June 15 Summer Cleanup & Electronic Recycling Event
Lucas Community Park | 8 am

BLACKLAND PRAIRIE RAPTOR CENTER Kids Fishing Derby

Join the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center on Saturday, May 11 from 8 am to 11 am for a great morning of catch and release fishing. Prizes for many categories. Poles and bait will be available on a first-come, first-served basis or bring your own equipment. No reservation is necessary, its open to the public. Fish until 11:00 am and then enjoy a raptor center presentation. Fee is \$5.00, kids under 3 are free. For more information visit www.bpraptorcenter.org.

STYROFOAM RECYCLING
(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



**Saturday, May 11
12 to 4:00 pm**

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 is 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 supporting local businesses and organizations. The sale of flowers and plants will benefit Legacy 4-H.

PARADE - This year, the Grand Marshal for the parade will be Mrs. Lee Ford leading the parade in the City’s new fire engine. 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 are 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.

NEW FIRE ENGINE CEREMONY - At this year’s Founders Day, there will be a ceremony for the new fire engine. The ceremony will take place at 1 pm in the parking lot of City Hall and the Community Park. There will be a “wet-down” ritual ceremony to bless the new fire engine into service. After the “wet-down” ritual, the new fire engine will remain on display during Founders Day for viewing and pictures. The traditional “wet-down” ritual occurs when firefighters commission a new fire apparatus by anointing it with water sprayed from the retiring pumper’s tank water. Neighboring firehouses, department chiefs, and citizens attend the ceremony to celebrate the new addition to the firehouse. The “wet-down” ritual also includes bestowed blessings from the Lucas Fire-Rescue Chaplain to bless long life, strength, speed and good health. We hope you will be able to come and participate in the ceremony.

For more information on Founders Day, contact Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us or 972.912.1213 or visit the City’s website at www.lucastexas.us.

**Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers
Firefighter/EMT Alejandro Contreras**



Firefighter/EMT Alejandro Contreras has been a volunteer with the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue for over four years, joining the department in July of 2014. He currently serves as a Firefighter/EMT volunteering an average of 1,150 hours annually. He also holds many other certifications that make him a great asset to the department. Alejandro was born in Metairie, Louisiana, but was raised in Guatemala, Central America. Family is very important and he considers his older and younger brother his heroes. Alejandro currently is employed with Frisco ISD in the Human Resources Department as an HR Specialist. He was previously employed with Dallas ISD where he served four years as the Financial Clerk as well as assisting in the Athletics Department with volleyball, softball, and basketball. He is currently enrolled in Collin College with the intent of transferring to UNT to pursue a degree in Kinesiology and obtain a teaching certification in Physical Education. He also has future interests of obtaining a Master’s degree in Counseling. Outside of his career and his volunteer work with Lucas Fire-Rescue, Alejandro enjoys photography, riding his bike around White Rock Lake, participating in Jiu-Jitsu, and visiting his family in Guatemala. He is also a member of the Allen Masonic Lodge No. 1435.

Alejandro joined the department so he could help others that couldn’t help themselves and it is still one of the driving forces behind why he is still an active member. Lucas Fire-Rescue has become Alejandro’s family and he quotes, “It doesn’t matter how bad my day is at work or how horrible the drive was from work to Lucas, the moment I walk through those station doors, I feel the love of my Lucas Fire-Rescue family and it completely washes it all away and I’m ready to help others.” Alejandro has shown the department nothing but outstanding dedication over the last four years and we are incredibly fortunate to have him as a part of the Lucas-Fire Rescue family.

Service Tree Award Winners Announced



Congratulations to Peggy Rusterholtz and Mrs. Lee Ford, the 2019 recipients of the City of Lucas Service Tree Award. The Service Tree Award program was established in 2015 to recognize those individuals or groups who have contributed a significant and useful service to the community.

Peggy Rusterholtz was honored for being a devoted advocate in maintaining the City’s rural lifestyle through her leadership in the Comprehensive Plan and countless volunteer hours serving over 30 years on various boards of the City.

Mrs. Lee Ford was honored for her work in preserving the historic Fitzhugh Cemetery, working with the North Texas Municipal Water District to preserve the quality of life in Lucas, and generously donating to the Fire-Rescue Department for a new ambulance.

Service Trees will be dedicated and planted at the Lucas Community Park in honor of both of these women and their commitment to the community. Trees will be on display at our Founders Day event.

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 Peele
(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 - 5pm
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)

You May Experience Higher Water Bills

In January 2017, City staff brought forward a proposal to replace the City’s water meters in a phased program. The water meters at that time were not accurately measuring water consumption. The meters were under registering water consumption and in fiscal year 2015/2016, the City of Lucas averaged 94 register failures monthly which is a failure rate of 3.9% per month. The industry’s average rate of failure is 1% annually. Generally, the life of a water meter is 25 years and the City had approximately 1,200 meters that were 25 years or older. To ensure a reliable water system and accurate consumption data, staff recommended standardization of our meters and to implement a phased replacement program. During the 2016/2017 fiscal year budget process, the City Council approved \$500,000 for a phased water meter replacement program. The City awarded a contract to Professional Meters, Inc., who provides Neptune meters, and City Staff had the opportunity to view the Neptune meters in the ground at the City of Frisco. Frisco has had Neptune water meters for over ten years has experienced a failure rate less than a half of one percent. In fiscal year 2016/2017 the City started the phased replacement program, in fiscal year 2018/2019 the City finished the program, and now we have over 2600 Neptune meters installed throughout the City. The new meters register water consumption accurately, with a very low failure rate. Some customers may see a rise in their water bill this summer as Neptune meters register all water use, a significant percentage of the previous meters were not reading water usage accurately and water bills were underestimating water use.