

Sharing the Road With Horses

By Maureen Miller

Many residents and visitors enjoy riding horses in our City, but it can also be harrowing if drivers whiz past, honk, yell or just don't see us. Most riders will ride in the ditches to improve the odds for safe passage, but there are some places that just have no room and we are forced onto our roads. Below are a few tips on how we can work together to share the road.

Horse Facts

- Horses weigh an average of 1,000 pounds
- They are prey animals
- Their first and instinctual survival reflex when startled is to flee
- They are agile and fast and can become a half-ton missile

Drivers

- Slow down to 15 - 20 mph
- Do NOT honk
- If you see a rider having trouble, stop and wait a moment while the rider regains control
- Give a wide berth
- Accelerate slowly after you have passed
- Smile and wave, most of us are really nice

Cyclists

- Horses are animals of flight. Bicycles are a swift, silent and (as far as the horse brain is concerned) a bike is a deadly predator sneaking up to eat them.
- If you are approaching a horse, whether from the front or rear, begin to yell and announce yourself from a distance so the horse isn't startled. A hearty "good morning, approaching on your left" breeds goodwill with the rider and also allows the horse a moment to process that a cyclist is coming. Keep talking as you pass the horse even if it is just to your friend. It doesn't really matter what you say, well, as long as it's nice.
- Like cars, slow down if you can and give us a wide berth, of course keeping yourself safe, too.
- If you are part of the cycling community, please share this information with them as well. It makes a big difference especially in the big group rides.
- Smile and wave, most of us are really nice

Walkers

- STOP – STAND - SPEAK
- Similar rules apply to pedestrians. Announce yourself so the horse isn't startled. If you have a dog, keep it on a leash, step to the side and have your dog sit. Do not let it lunge at the horses.
- If you have children, do not let them run up to a horse. Ask permission from the rider if your child can approach the horse.
- Smile and wave, most of us are really nice

ATVs, Golf Carts, Dirt-Bikes on City Streets... Oh My!

Believe it or not, Texas Law defines all-terrain vehicle, golf cart, neighborhood electric vehicle, and recreational off-highway vehicle as very different vehicles and restricts the use of these vehicles to very specific locations. There are specific requirements in accordance with state law to operate a golf carts and neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) in the City of Lucas. The easiest way to determine if a vehicle is street legal is does it have a license plate issued by the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles. To obtain a plate from the Texas DVM, the vehicle must have the following equipment: headlamps, taillamps, reflectors, parking brake, and mirrors.

There are some exceptions involving beaches and golf courses, but none of these exceptions apply to the City of Lucas roadways. A person may not register an all-terrain vehicle or a recreational off-highway vehicle, with or without design alterations, for operation on a public roadway. Once Texas DMV issues the license plate, the vehicle can only be driven on the public roadway by a licensed driver. So, the vehicle must be legal to be on the roadway and the driver must be legal to operate the vehicle.

Loose Horses on the Road

There will be loose animals on the road. It is not a matter of IF, but a matter of WHEN, so know what to do. Most horse owners adore their animals and do everything they can to keep them safe and in their pastures, but sometimes they get out. I keep a small plastic coffee container, halter and lead rope in my car to help round up the inevitable loose critters I encounter every year on the roads. You certainly don't have to do that, but here are a few tips that you can learn to keep you and the animals from tragedy or property damage. If you have no horse experience, you can still help by doing the following:

- Stop your car in a safe spot and carefully warn other drivers of a hazard
- Be calm. Do NOT chase horses, they will run frantically
- Give the horse space and they will likely go where they can graze
- For now, there are still a lot of horse savvy folks in our area, who will also help you if they are passing by, let them approach the horse
- While you are waiting, speak in soft soothing tones such as Whoooooo and Eeeeeaaaasy
- Wait for others to help, horse people will stop

On the Trinity Trail

- No bicycles or motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail, it is for pedestrians and equestrians.
- If you see or hear a rider (or loose horse) remember these three words: STOP - STAND - SPEAK.
- Step to the side of the path if the rider is trying to pass you but stay visible to the horse.
- Don't hide in the bushes – the horse thinks you are going to jump out and eat them.
- Keep your dogs on a leash, have them sit quietly, and do not let them lunge at the horse and rider.
- Smile and wave, most of us are really nice

We all need to do our part to enjoy the many lifestyles our area affords us. Your choices make a difference.

VBS at First Baptist Church

Join First Baptist Church Lucas, 100 Stinson Road, June 3 - 6 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm as they host "In the Wild Vacation Bible School." Family Day will be June 8 from 9:30 am to Noon. For more information visit their website at www.firstbaptistlucas.com.

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

LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

June 2019



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Recently Collin County rereleased their Thoroughfare Plan. I know this because I have gotten several emails about it and there is some misinformation floating around on social media citing Collin County's Thoroughfare Plan as the City of Lucas' plan. I just want to say that is nowhere near the truth. Now, Collin County does have a Thoroughfare Plan that would like to direct a

bunch of traffic through Lucas. They would like to see several 4-lane and 6-lane divided thoroughfares bisect the community. At one time they even wanted to run a highway right through the heart of Lucas. The Lucas City Council has steadfastly opposed the vast majority of what Collin County thinks Lucas' streets should look like. The City of Lucas Thoroughfare Plan is predominately 2-lane roads with the exception of Country Club, Lucas Road and Estates Parkway which are all listed as 4-lane. The City of Lucas' Thoroughfare Plan has NO 6-lane roads through Lucas. Although TxDOT is currently widening Parker Road on our southern border to accommodate 6 lanes and I think they have worked out all the bugs for Angel Parkway on our western border to be 6 lanes. But we feel that it is perfectly fine to take the traffic around (not through) Lucas.

I can tell you that this is a constant battle for your City Council and City Staff to stay on top of what Collin County, the Regional Transportation Authority and TxDOT think should happen in Lucas. We fight to keep Lucas, Lucas. We believe that we have successfully pushed the proposed highway to the other side of Lake Lavon, but we continue to be vigilant. We continue to debate with Collin County on what the City of Lucas needs to service our community. We do understand that we have to accommodate some cut through and commuter traffic as we cut through Allen, Wylie or McKinney to get to work, shop or play, but in our mind it should be proportionate. Additionally the City of Lucas' Thoroughfare Plan recognizes that the intersections are the most troublesome congestion points and that we need to specifically look at these to improve movement through the community. I can tell you that every time I, or any of the City Council members interacts with the County, State or even Federal elected officials we are making a point to discuss our views on transportation and the Thoroughfare Plan as they impact Lucas.

We love to hear your input on this topic (or any other topic) but if you read a post and think that doesn't seem right, it probably isn't. Please contact City Hall at 972.727.8999 or any City Council member if you have any questions regarding our Thoroughfare Plan or how we work to maintain our gem of a community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

No Fireworks Allowed in the City of Lucas

By Fire Chief Ted Stephens

The City of Lucas wants everyone to have a safe Fourth of July holiday, but please do not include discharging fireworks as part of your festivities. We want to remind everyone that the use of fireworks is illegal. More importantly, the City of Lucas prides itself on being animal-friendly and fireworks can be very dangerous to our pets and livestock. The City is also blessed with beautiful trees; and the risk of fire from the use of fireworks is significant and presents a substantial risk to your home. Last year, the Lucas Fire-Rescue responded to three grass fires caused by fireworks. Discharging fireworks can also cause problems for our veterans and families with young children; using fireworks is not part of the Lucas culture!

Using fireworks is prohibited by City ordinance in the City limits of Lucas. Law Enforcement, Citizens on Patrol, Code Enforcement Officers, Fire-Rescue personnel and City Staff will be out patrolling July 4th, July 5th, and July 6th and violators will have their fireworks confiscated and may also receive a citation. City staff will place signage in strategic locations reminding everyone that using fireworks in Lucas is illegal.

If you witness a person setting off fireworks in the city limits of Lucas, you should report the violation by calling 911 with the specific location. Shooting fireworks from a public roadway, public park, or U.S. Corps of Engineer property is also a violation of City ordinance and U.S. Corps 36 CFR 327.13(b) and a citation may be issued.

Residents are encouraged to celebrate the Fourth of July holiday without the use of fireworks. There are many Independence Day celebrations that include a professional fireworks display within close proximity to Lucas.

PUBLIC MEETING
Intersection Improvements
(FM 1387/Lucas Road and FM 3286/Southview Drive)

Tuesday, June 18 from
6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Lovejoy Elementary
256 Country Club Road, Allen, Texas
next to the little red schoolhouse building



JUNE

- June 6 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- June 11 Technology Committee Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- June 13 Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- June 15 Summer Cleanup & Electronic Recycling Lucas Community Park | 8 am
- June 18 Public Meeting for West Lucas Road/Southview (Baitshop) Intersection Lovejoy Elementary 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
- June 20 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm



The City of Lucas held its General and Special Election on May 4, 2019 for City Council Seats 5 and 6 and Proposition A that put the voters whether the City of Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District should be continued for 10 years, and the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District sales tax should also be continued for 10 years. Candidates in the race for City Council Seat 5 included Incumbent Debbie Fisher and Phillip Sheppard. Incumbent Debbie Fisher was declared the winner for City Council Seat 5. Incumbent Kathleen Peele running for the position of City Council Seat 6 ran unopposed and was declared elected. Below are the voting results for the May 4, 2019 election.

City Council Seat 5
 Debbie Fisher 725 votes (75.76%)
 Phillip Sheppard 232 votes (24.24%)

City Council Seat 6
 Kathleen Peele 783 votes
Running unopposed, declared elected

Proposition A:
 Whether the City of Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District should be continued for 10 years, and the Fire Control, Prevention and Emergency Medical Services District sales tax should also be continued for 10 years.

For: 1,025 (92.09%)
 Against: 88 (7.91%)

Budget Workshop Date Set July 18 at 6:00 pm

The City Council will hold a budget workshop on Thursday, July 18 at 6 pm to discuss the budget for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020. The City Council would like to encourage interested Lucas citizens to attend this important meeting. The Workshop will be held at City Hall located at 665 Country Club Road in the Council Chambers and will begin at 6 pm.

Founders Day



Founders Day was held on Saturday, May 11 at the Lucas Community Park despite inclement weather. The heavy rain on Saturday morning caused the grass to become saturated and have areas of standing water. Due to this, Founders Day was scaled down and centralized around the park pavilion and City Hall. Although the parade and many vendors were cancelled because of inclement

weather, this year's Founders Day consisted of a new fire engine ceremony, providing food to the community, a western themed mini-golf course, balloon artist, face painter, plant sale and a silent auction benefitting the Legacy 4-H Club. We are greatly appreciative of our City staff for assisting in the planning and setting up of the event. All the hard work came to fruition seeing the community attending and enjoying Founders Day.

West Lucas Road

The City receives feedback from both its citizens and the traveling public on a regular basis regarding the condition of West Lucas Road so we thought it was important to understand the goals of the City Council on this important roadway.

The City Council directed staff to prepare a request to Collin County for funding from the 2018 bond program for the reconstruction of West Lucas Road from Angel Parkway to Edgefield. The proposed design of this roadway would be a four-lane divided concrete roadway. We have started negotiations with a design engineer for this work. We are hopeful that Collin County will fund 80% of the project with the City funding the remaining 20%. Between now and the beginning of that construction project which may take place in late 2020 or early 2021, the City will continue to perform basic maintenance to the roadway. The intersection improvement project at FM 1387/Lucas Road and FM 3286/Southview Drive, which is a TxDOT managed project, will include roadway improvements from the intersection to Edgefield.

Staff also receives questions regarding the maintenance activities that were completed in June 2018. All of the work done by the contractor on the West Lucas Road was done according to engineering plans. The contractor was under contract to "overlay" a significant section of West Lucas Road. The overlay is not a structural portion of the road. It is the riding surface. Think of the overlay as the frosting on the cake, and in this

situation, the contractor did not bake the cake, he simply applied the frosting.

However, the City discovered that there were sections of the overlay portion that was too thin. The contractor was required to meet the City's specification of 1.5" of overlay. This project also included the installation of the outside edges of the original 36-foot road, the City noticed several locations in the existing 36-foot roadway that were exhibiting signs of base failure. The City added maintenance work to the original project to correct these areas. The contractor completed repairs on at least 20 feet on either side of the base failures before the overlay was installed. To date, none of the locations where the contractor fixed the base has failed.

The failures seen today are taking place under the overlay the contractor installed and are unrelated to the contractors work. The existing 36-foot road continues to fail, unfortunately, the City had no way of knowing the failures would continue. The geotechnical information that took place prior to the project did not show any evidence that the base would fail in the original road.

The maintenance of West Lucas Road from Angel Parkway to Country Club Road is the responsibility of the City of Lucas. We will continue to repair the road as repairs are needed. If we find a location where the contractor did work to the original 36-foot road and his work is not meeting specifications, we will require the contractor to fix his work.

Thanking our Planning and Zoning Commission By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

It is with deep appreciation and gratitude that we thank our volunteers who serve on the City of Lucas Planning and Zoning Commission. Members of the Commission hear and make recommendations to the City Council on matters relating to rezoning applications, site plans, replats, or subdivision control as specified or required under ordinance, the City Charter, or the laws of the State of Texas. Because of our Planning and Zoning Commission members' dedication and commitment to consistently adhere to the Comprehensive Plan and equitably apply zoning ordinances, they help Lucas shine as a unique and precious gem in Collin County. The Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission is Peggy Rusterholtz. Peggy and her husband Brian moved to Lucas in 1985, and their twins, Kayla and Nathan, were born here in 1989. The following is more information about Peggy in her own words:

"Over the years, I have served on Planning and Zoning Commission, Lucas Water Review Board, Board of Adjustments, City Council, Capital Advisory Board and worked on Comprehensive Plan. I truly feel honored that Lucas has chosen me to serve in multiple areas within the City. The first time I was appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission, I was surprised as to the lack of ordinances, subdivision regulations and review process for subdivision platting. At the same time, the first Comprehensive Plan was being formulated, and the Commission was tasked with formulating the ordinances and regulations to support the new Comprehensive Plan. At that time, the City was not large enough to have staff review, thus this fell to the purview of the Planning and Zoning Commission. When I was reappointed to the Commission in 2009, I was surprised at how much less time it took to review plats as staff was available to do the hard work!"

Peggy states "My advice to someone considering volunteering for the Planning and Zoning Commission is to be prepared to listen to your constituents on the Commission as well as the community. Take advantage of the training that is offered so that you can better understand the Commission's role in balancing the public good with private rights and furthering the interests of the community."

Thank you Peggy and all the members of our Planning and Zoning Commission for your dedication in supporting the City of Lucas and helping to make it such a wonderful place to live!

Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission include:

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



roadsides of trash. We encourage the community to volunteer in the cleanup as we continue to focus on little abatement and the beautification of our City. Volunteers can sign up on the City website at www.lucastexas.us/summer-cleanup-electronic-recycling/. All volunteers should check-in at the pavilion of the Community Park at 8 am on June 15.

To coincide with the summer cleanup, the City is partnering with United Electronic Recycling to provide a drop-off for residents to dispose of electronics. The electronic recycling drop-off will be located in the parking lot next to the Community Center at the Community Park. Residents may drop off electronics between 8 am and Noon. Residents can view the list of accepted electronics and associated fees at www.lucastexas.us/summer-cleanup-electronic-recycling/.

If you have any questions regarding the summer clean-up or electronic recycling event, please contact Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas or 972.912.1213.

Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers Firefighter/ECA Jim Hurley



Firefighter/ECA Jim Hurley has been a volunteer with the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue for over 8 years, joining the department in December of 2010. He currently serves as a Firefighter/Driver-Operator/ECA volunteering an average of 540 hours annually. He also holds many other certifications that make him a great asset to the department.

Jim and his wife have been married 34 years and together they have a pug/beagle mix fur baby named, Goldie. Together they enjoy gourmet cooking, fascinating

dinner conversations, traveling, and taking Goldie for walks. Jim currently works as a Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Inspector in the Development Services Department at the City of Lucas where he has been employed since October 2013. Jim was born and raised in Lubbock, Texas and attended Texas Tech where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. Eight years after graduation and working full-time, Jim achieved a Master of Science in Electrical Engineering at Southern Methodist University.

Jim moved to Garland, Texas in 1975 to work for an electronic systems company in Greenville, Texas. Besides moving to Omaha, Nebraska in 1977 for 9 months, Jim has lived in the DFW area his entire adult life. Outside of his career and his volunteer work with Lucas Fire-Rescue, Jim enjoys spending time with his wife and Goldie, working puzzles and math problems. He admits, "He can sometimes be a math geek."

When asked why he is passionate about working in the fire industry, Jim replied, "Witnessing huge operations, such as the 2011 Magnolia, Texas wildfire and experiencing the gratitude toward the firefighters from many of the people whose homes were saved." He also mentioned the enjoyment he gets from driving the apparatus' to emergencies and attending to the details of pumping water at an optimum flow and pressure. Throughout the last eight years Jim quoted that the biggest take away from working in the fire industry was the "importance of training, communication, and teamwork can never be overemphasized."

We are truly grateful for the hard work, and outstanding dedication Jim has provided Lucas Fire-Rescue for the last eight years. He is an absolute joy to work with and we are truly thankful to have him as part of the Lucas Fire-Rescue family.

The summer clean-up and electronic recycling event has been rescheduled to Saturday, June 15 from 8 am to 5 pm. The spring clean-up and electronic recycling event was canceled on April 6 due to inclement weather.

The summer cleanup will focus on clearing city-maintained areas and roadsides of trash. We encourage the community to volunteer in the cleanup as we continue to focus on little abatement and the beautification of our City. Volunteers can sign up on the City website at www.lucastexas.us/summer-cleanup-electronic-recycling/. All volunteers should check-in at the pavilion of the Community Park at 8 am on June 15.

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