

## National Night Out October 8

National Night Out is a community-building campaign and occurs annually on the first Tuesday of October in Texas. National Night Out is meant to enhance the relationships between neighbors and law enforcement and further our sense of community. The best way to have a safer community is to know your neighbors and your surroundings.

This year's National Night Out in Lucas is planned for October 8, 2019. Lucas Fire-Rescue would love to be a part of your neighborhood party! Please contact Devanie Stevens at 972.727.1242 or [dstevens@lucastexas.us](mailto:dstevens@lucastexas.us) if you would like us to stop by your National Night Out party. For more information on National Night Out, visit <https://natw.org/about/>.



### Scarecrow Contest Coming in October

Enjoy some family time and help decorate the Lucas Community Park this October by building a scarecrow. Prizes will be awarded based on creativity and effort. Registration will be held October 1 through 15 with scarecrows on display through October 31. Stay tuned for more information in the Lucas Leader next month.

### Tired of Bad Internet Service? So Are We!

The Technology Committee is working on finding possible solutions to improve internet service throughout Lucas. **You can help** by completing three simple steps:

- Go to <https://speedtest.lucastexas.us/>
- Select your address
- Run the internet speed test from your home computer and internet connection

The information from the speed test will help us understand the scope of the problem and move us down the path toward a solution. Quality internet service is important to us. Please run the speed test now. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3! If you have any questions or comments, please email the Technology Committee at: [technology@lucastexas.us](mailto:technology@lucastexas.us).



### Blondy Jhune Road

By the end of August, the future eastbound lane (southern half) of the roadway is scheduled to be complete with all traffic being switched to the southern side. The driveway culverts and headwalls should all be done as well. Traffic was switched to new pavement last month on the western end of the project and the milling and liming of the northern half started. The project is scheduled for completion in April 2020.

### Stinson Road

The contractor is planning to have the eastern half completed and open to traffic by the end of August. The removal of the western half of the pavement should begin as well. The project is scheduled for completion in December 2019.

### Winningkoff Road

In anticipation of the start of the roadway project, AT&T will be relocating its infrastructure along Winningkoff Road between Forestview Drive and Snider Lane in August and September. The utility contractor will be utilizing existing easements in the Huntwick II and Creekwood Estates neighborhoods.

### West Lucas Road

The old road (center 24 feet) constructed before 2012 in front of Willow Springs Middle School is scheduled to be repaired before the first day of school on August 19.

### Roadway Maintenance in Fiscal Year 2019-2020

The following streets are being considered for rehabilitation:

- East Winningkoff Road
- Forest Grove Road
- Lewis Lane
- Snider Lane
- Stinson Road
- West Lucas Road

### FM 1378 Improvements

FM 1378 is known as Country Club Road, West Lucas Road, and Southview Drive in Lucas. TxDOT will begin a project this month with three main objectives: 1) add narrow shoulders to FM 1378, 2) improve drainage, and 3) resurface the main lanes with high-friction asphalt. When TxDOT widened the White Rock Creek bridge just south of Forest Grove Road on FM 1378, these three objectives were accomplished north of the bridge. This new project is six miles long from the White Rock Creek Bridge to Parker Road. TxDOT selected Jagoe-Public Company who estimates that the construction will last about 12 months.

# LUCAS LEADER



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### Mayors Message

By Jim Olk

House Bill 2439 was signed into law by Governor Greg Abbott during this last legislative session and will become effective September 1, 2019.

House Bill 2439 applies to all residential, multi-family and commercial buildings AND severely limits the City's ability to require any sort of building materials in any of our zoning districts.

The bill states that "...a governmental entity may not adopt, or enforce a rule, charter provision, ordinance, order or building code, or other regulation that prohibits or limits, directly or indirectly, the use or installation of a building product or material in the construction, renovation or maintenance, or other alteration of a residential or commercial building if the building product or material is approved for use by a national model code published within the last three code cycles that apply to construction, renovation, maintenance, or other alteration of the building."

Under this new law, the City cannot require a builder/contractor to use certain materials. However, it is legal for homeowners associations to have these restrictions and deed restrictions on various items because the associations are private enterprises.

### Revised Date for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget Public Hearing

August 22 @ 7 pm

Due to the timing of when the City receives the certified tax roll from Collin County and when the City Council determines a proposed tax rate to be used and included as part of required public hearing advertisements, the City's budget public hearing dates have been moved from August 1 to August 22.

The public hearing notice for the budget requires special language regarding anticipated property tax revenue increases which will not be calculated until the City Council determination of the proposed tax rate.

### Blondy Jhune/Winningkoff Intersection Neighborhood Meeting Update

By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

Thank you to the approximately 40 Lucas neighbors who came out to attend the neighborhood meeting on July 10. The presentation provided an overview of possible intersection design elements and options to address safety concerns associated with the Blondy Jhune/Winningkoff intersection. For those of you who may not have been able to attend the meeting, an audio recording is available on the City website. The purpose of the meeting was to ensure that Lucas citizens had an opportunity to:

- 1) receive information regarding why specific recommendations were being made;
- 2) discuss other possible solutions that should be considered;
- 3) explore possible impacts regarding maneuverability of school buses, truck and horse trailers, and other farm equipment; and
- 4) address any potential impact to the rural atmosphere of the area.

In order to make an informed decision before moving forward with construction of the intersection, the City Council wants to ensure that they have a clear understanding of citizen concerns and the engineering recommendations to ensure the best possible outcome.

In response to the feedback received at the meeting, the following actions have been taken thus far:

- The approximate area on Blondy Jhune Road where a potential low-rise island would be placed has been painted on the road. The southern edge of the roadway has also been painted to show the potential for excess pavement beyond what is needed for a school bus or a truck pulling a horse trailer. This will give neighbors a visual representation of the proposed island and an opportunity to visually assess the maneuverability of the intersection.
- An item will be placed on the August 15<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda to discuss the Blondy Jhune/Winningkoff intersection. There will be a brief overview, opportunity for citizen input and Council discussion, followed by Council direction to City Staff on how to move forward.
- In an effort to address speed in the area, City staff has erected two additional speed limit signs on Winningkoff Road.

Your respectful feedback, input, and suggestions are always welcome and thoughtfully considered. You may reach out to me directly or contact any City Council member.



## August

- August 1 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 8 Planning and Zoning Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 13 Technology Committee Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 15 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 22 Special City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- August 29 Special City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm

## Upcoming Events

**Drainage Workshop**  
September 12 @ 7 pm

**National Night Out**  
October 8

*(See back page for more details)*

**Fire Prevention Open House**  
October 6 @ 12 pm - 4 pm

Lucas Fire-Rescue will be kicking off Fire Prevention Week with our annual Open House on Sunday, October 6 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the Lucas Fire Station. There will be lots of activities, snacks, and fun for all ages! We hope to see you there!

**Public Lands Trail Cleanup**  
September 21 @ 9 am - 1 pm

**Scarecrow Contest Coming in October**  
October 1 - 31

*(See back page for more details)*

## Upcoming Drainage Workshop

September 12 @ 7pm

The City Council will be conducting a joint drainage workshop with the Planning and Zoning Commission at their September 12, 2019 meeting. Many older neighborhoods in Lucas developed prior to 2012 were not required to comply with the City's current drainage requirements. This has caused a common drainage issue in a significant portion of the City. There will be an open discussion regarding drainage issues and challenges throughout the City and possible solutions to install, maintain, and promote drainage on both private and public property. The City currently faces many challenges with limited resources and limited staff to correct these issues. City staff will provide the Council with possible solutions to properly serve the citizens and help alleviate one of the largest ongoing issues pertaining to Lucas.

## Technology Committee Update

The Technology Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, July 9 and met with Lucas resident Josh Mercer regarding internet services offered by Big Wave Wireless, a wireless internet service provider (WISP) with towers and base stations that provide wireless internet connection. Mr. Mercer discussed spectrum challenges such as many WISPs are deployed in unlicensed frequencies, the use of off-the-shelf inexpensive hardware, tower antennas at a 90-degree wide angle, and noise radio frequency environments. Mr. Mercer addressed how to mitigate spectrum challenges that included using RADWIN wireless carrier grade equipment that utilizes true beam forming technology for interference mitigation. Big Wave Wireless consists of base stations that can provide up to 750 Mbps per sector. Mr. Mercer indicated that subscribers can expect to see between 25 Mbps and 100 Mbps and that each tower site can reliably serve up to 200 users. Mr. Mercer explained that a base station on the Winningkoff tower was enough to cover most of the City, while the McGarity tower would be added service and a third tower could provide additional capacity as needed.

The Committee discussed the City of Mont Belvieu's fiber network which is Texas' first municipally owned fiber-optic broadband network that offers subscribers internet service with up to one gigabyte per second. City staff has been in contact with City of Mont Belvieu staff to coordinate a meeting to discuss the planning and implementation of a fiber network. The Committee has expressed interest in traveling to the meeting in Mont Belvieu, Texas, and a future meeting date will be coordinated.

The Committee also reviewed data collected from the speed test and the locations of reported internet speeds collected thus far. The Committee will be creating reports of a geographical map outlining speed results and provider information while protecting private information. The Committee will continue to collect more data to present a full representation of internet service throughout the City.

## Public Lands Trail Cleanup

Saturday, September 21

The City is partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a trail cleanup event as part of National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 21, 2019. The cleanup event will be held from 9 am to 1 pm at Brockdale Park and Highland Park trailhead. We encourage the community to participate in this cleanup event to remove trash and debris from the trails as we continue to "Keep Lucas Beautiful."

We ask that all volunteers pre-register for the cleanup event. The registration deadline is Friday, September 13 by 5 pm. Volunteers can sign up at the following registration link: [www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup-registration](http://www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup-registration). All registered volunteers will be contacted prior to the event date and grouped into cleanup teams to meet at either Brockdale Park or Highland Park Trailhead for the cleanup. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers at Brockdale Park from 12 pm to 1 pm. Please remember to register as a cleanup volunteer using the link. We look forward to having the community come together to participate in this special cleanup event.

## Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers

Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon McVean



Firefighter/Paramedic Brandon McVean is a fairly new volunteer with the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue, joining the department in September of 2018. He currently serves as a Firefighter/Paramedic volunteering over 1,300 hours since he's been with Lucas Fire-Rescue.

Brandon was born in Arlington, Texas, but spent most of his life moving every couple of years to various Texas cities for his mother's career. Eventually, Brandon decided to move in with his grandmother in Allen, Texas, and has spent the last eight years in this area. Brandon attended high school at a small private school in Plano called Great Lakes Academy. Immediately following high school, Brandon began studying at Collin College where he would obtain his EMT-Basic certification, his Texas Commission on Fire Protection certification, and his EMT-Paramedic certification. He would eventually like to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science or a related field.

Brandon recently accepted a full-time position as a Firefighter/Paramedic with Plano Fire-Rescue at just 21 years old. Brandon is also enlisted in the Texas State Guard, a state-funded military organization that provides support to the National Guard and the State of Texas in disaster relief and homeland security operations. He also volunteers with Lone Star Search & Rescue, a K9 search-and-rescue team based in Wylie, Texas and a close partner with Lucas Fire-Rescue. Outside of his career and his volunteer work with Lucas Fire-Rescue Brandon enjoys shooting various types of guns both leisurely and competitively. When he's not shooting, you can find him on a bike ride or tinkering with computers. When asked why he chose to pursue a career in the fire/EMS industry, Brandon stated, "The fire service is an incredibly unique and fulfilling occupation. It is one in which a distraught mother will hand you her ailing child without a second thought, and trust a complete stranger with her whole world, simply because of the uniform we wear and the logo on the door. In my opinion, the responsibility that comes with that is without comparison. When you're responsible for the safety of thousands of citizens in the event of an emergency, passion is essential, and improvement should be an unending process." He also stated in the limited experience he has had so far in this industry that he has learned two valuable points.

- "The minute you stop learning and improving, you're sunk."
- "Nobody cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

Brandon has shown the department nothing but outstanding dedication over the last 10 months and he has amazed us in the accomplishments he has achieved. We are incredibly fortunate and grateful to have him as a part of the Lucas Fire-Rescue family.

## July 4th Activities

On July 5<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10 pm, the City of Lucas concluded its annual fireworks patrol. Over the two days of patrol, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and 911 received 21 calls for service. The City passed out 12 letters of warning for the illegal use of fireworks. With the continued effort from the community, we hope that next year there will be no illegal use of fireworks and zero letters of warning or citations issued. The overall operations was successfully completed with the help of City departments from Public Works, Code Enforcement, Lucas Fire-Rescue and assistance from the Collin County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and CCSO Citizens on Patrol.

## Thanking our Parks and Open Space Board

By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

This month I give a big THANK YOU and shout out to the members of our Parks and Open Spaces Board. This board advises and makes recommendations to the City Council on all matters relating to the City's parks and open space. The Board also makes recommendations to the City Manager for projects or activities to be included in future parks, open space and beautification projects or programs. The Parks Board and City staff create community activities that include:

- Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off Cleanup Event
- Founders Day
- Public Lands Trail Cleanup Event
- Scarecrow Contest
- Arbor Day
- Country Christmas

The Parks Board also facilitates the creation of the City's Trails Master Plan. Our Parks Board has an important role in keeping Lucas a unique gem in Collin County!

David Rhoads serves as Chairman of this board. He has been a Lucas resident since 1993. He retired from the IT Department of J.C. Penney in 2011 and is also a U.S. Air Force veteran and lives here with his wife Susan. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

Joe Hilbourn, the City's Development Services Director, first encouraged David to get involved with the City and David chose the Parks Board. He thought the Board had a tremendous opportunity to improve Lucas parks and open space. David has seen the biggest improvement with the implementation of the bi-annual clean-up events held throughout the City keeping roadways and parks clear of trash. He is also proud of the completed and updated Master Trails Map that designated and prioritized current and future goals for Lucas trails.

Not only is David a regular attendee at the City Council meetings, he is also an active member on the Friends of the Lucas Fire Rescue Board, the Lucas Fire-Rescue Rehab Team, the Lucas Amateur Radio Club, and in the Audio Visual Department with his church. David's advice to anyone seeking to serve on a City board or commission is they should have a real desire to work with City officials and be willing to make a commitment to spend the time to support it.

So a big THANK YOU to David and all those on the Parks Board for your commitment and dedication to our wonderful, unique, gem of a City. Parks and Open Space Board members include: Chairman David Rhoads, Vice Chairman Chris Vanhorn, Kenneth Patterson, Bill Esposito, Tommy DeWitt, Debra Guillemaud, Christel Parish, and City Council Liaison Tim Baney.

## Blackland Prairie Raptor Center Fundraiser



The annual Blackland Prairie Raptor Center fundraiser is now a Second Chance Gala, an all new and fun event. The gala will be held at Cross Creek Ranch located at 3406 Dublin Road in Parker, Texas on September 14 from 6:30 pm - 10:30 pm. Tickets are \$90 each and a sponsor table is \$1,000 for eight guests. The event includes dinner, silent and live auctions and much more. For more information call

the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center at 469.964.9696 or go to <https://bpraptorcenter.org/a-second-chance-gala/>.