

## Thanking our Technology Committee

By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele

A shout out of THANKS to the volunteers on our Technology Committee! The Technology Committee serves as an ad hoc committee to advise the City Council and make recommendations on all matters related to technology and internet services within the City. This committee was created after Councilmember Debbie Fisher brought to the Council her concerns regarding limited, unreliable and in some cases, unavailable internet service that many of our residents experience. The City Council responded by creating the Technology Committee. The City put out a call for volunteers and true to Lucas form many well qualified, well educated, tech savvy, Lucas residents answered the call. The appointed members have been hard at work gathering data, researching with internet providers and seeking solutions. In early September, the Committee is traveling to Mont Belvieu, Texas to have a first hand look at how this small Texas city has addressed this problem for their citizens.

Paul Rathgeb is the Chairman of the Technology Committee. He, his wife Marie, and their 3 children (Armand 17, Audrey 14, and Lucie 12) moved to Lucas six years ago. Previously from Plano, the family desired more open space where they could enjoy a hobby farm lifestyle while homeschooling their children. After looking and researching options, Lucas fit the bill! Paul says the surprising thing to most volunteers is the slower pace at which the public sector moves compared to the pace of the private sector. It can also be a challenge to figure out how to structure remedies to insure they are legal and meet citizen expectations. Volunteers are also there to serve the public and to accomplish something on their behalf. Therefore citizen feedback is critically important. In fact, the upcoming trip to Mont Belvieu is the result of our Technology Committee efforts. Therefore, we give a big shout out of THANKS to all members of this committee. Members of the Technology Committee include:

Paul Rathgeb, Chairman,  
Trey Sleeper, Vice Chairman  
Dennis Scully  
George Brody  
James Frazier  
City Council Liaison Debbie Fisher  
City IT Consultant, Bill Baxter with Baxter IT

## 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/>.

## Celebrating Lucas Fire-Rescue Volunteers

Medical Director, Dr. Scott Corcoran



Dr. Scott Corcoran has been the Medical Director at the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue since September of 2013, making this month his 6 year anniversary. Dr. Corcoran has played a key role in the advancement of our EMS structure throughout his years of service and continues to pass on his knowledge to enhance the practices of our Lucas Fire-Rescue members.

Dr. Corcoran is married to his high school sweetheart, Amy, who is a professional Theatre Director. Together they have a 5 year old little girl, Lucy, who will be starting kindergarten this year. Dr. Corcoran was born in Seneca, Kansas and attended the University of Kansas where he studied Biology in his undergraduate and Medicine in his graduate. Dr. Corcoran is an Emergency Medicine Physician and the Medical Director at the Medical City McKinney Emergency Room.

Outside of Lucas Fire-Rescue and his career at Medical City McKinney, Dr. Corcoran participates in multiple medical society organizations and is a member of the Kansas University Alumni Association. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family, traveling, and watching sports.

Dr. Corcoran pursued an interest in working with Lucas Fire-Rescue after his wife read in the Lucas Leader that Lucas was getting their first ambulance. He reached out to the City of Lucas and was fortunate to become the Medical Director for the City. When asked why he was passionate about working in the EMS/Fire industry, Dr. Corcoran said "I have gone to school for a long time, and I love passing on what I have learned to others. What the fire service does is vitally important to the community. We save lives and ease pain and suffering. Being a part of that in my own community is very fulfilling". Dr. Corcoran has given 6 years of outstanding service to Lucas Fire-Rescue and we are so grateful for the direction and medical leadership he has given to this department and community.



## Scarecrow Contest Coming in October

The City of Lucas' 5th annual Scarecrow Contest will begin on October 1. Families, kids, clubs - anyone can enter for no cost. The scarecrows will be displayed at the Lucas Community Park at City Hall through the end of October. Prizes will be awarded for the top three scarecrows based on creativity and effort. The top prize is a \$100 gift card. Help decorate the park for the fall season with your scarecrow! To register your scarecrow beginning October 1 visit the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us).

# LUCAS LEADER

A special thank you to Tricia Millsap for providing the beautiful scenic pictures of Lucas for our newsletter cover.



A publication of the City of Lucas

[www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us)

September 2019



## Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Your City Council continues to invest in infrastructure while being sensitive to the amount of taxes you pay to the City. As the City Council prepares to review and update our Capital Improvement Plan at the September 5, 2019 City Council meeting, it is nice to reflect on the completion of recent projects that benefit our citizens, some of which include:

Winningkoff Reverse Curve  
Stinson Road/West Lucas Road Intersection Improvements  
West Lucas Road Widening and Maintenance  
White Rock Trail Reconstruction  
East Winningkoff Road Trailhead  
Parker Road 12-Inch Waterline Phase 1 – Section 1  
Parker Road Eight-Inch Waterline Phase 2  
Parker Road Eight-Inch Waterline Phase 3  
Snider Lane Eight-Inch Waterline  
Replaced every water meter with the upgraded Neptune Meter

In the May edition of the Lucas Leader, I discussed the City Council considering issuing certificates of obligation. The City Council obtained a structural analysis for the Winningkoff, Snider and Stinson bridges (this entire report is available on the City's website)

and considered other projects to determine the financial investment that would be required. Council debated and decided that the best way to fund these priority capital projects with minimal impact to our citizens was through the issuance of certificates of obligation. At the August 1 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to approve the issuance of \$9 million dollars of certificates of obligation. The "Series 2019" certificates of obligation will fund \$7.5 million in bridge and roadway improvements and \$1.5 million in water projects that will improve water flow and water quality. The following projects have been funded with the 2019 certificates of obligation:

### Bridges:

- Design for the replacement of the Stinson Road Bridge
  - Design for the replacement of the Snider Lane Bridge
- Note: Once the design is complete for both bridges, the City Council will evaluate the reconstruction of the bridge deemed the highest priority.

### Roadways:

- Winningkoff Road southern section culvert
- West/East Lucas Road intersection at the Bait Shop (TxDOT funding with 20% local contribution)
- West Lucas Road widening (seeking 2018 Collin County Bond funding with 20% local contribution)

Article continued on Page 2



The City is partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Public Lands Trail Cleanup on Saturday, September 21, 2019, from 9 am to 1 pm at Brockdale Park and Highland Park Trail Head. The cleanup event is being held as part of National Public Lands Day, which is the largest single-day volunteer effort for America's public lands. The Public Lands Trail Cleanup is a fantastic opportunity to step out onto the trails to help remove trash and debris as we continue to "Keep Lucas Beautiful."

Volunteers can participate individually or as a group with family, schools, or community organizations. We strongly encourage the community to participate in the Public Lands Trail Cleanup. We ask that all volunteers register at: [www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup-registration](http://www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup-registration). For those interested in participating as a group for a school or organization, please e-mail Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak at [kent@lucastexas.us](mailto:kent@lucastexas.us). 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 Trail Head for the cleanup event.

Lunch for volunteers will be located at the picnic pavilion of the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center at 1625 Brockdale Park Road from 12 pm to 1 pm. The Raptor Center will be providing a special interactive experience for volunteers with the raptors during lunch. For more information, visit [www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup](http://www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup). We look forward to having the community come together to participate in this special cleanup event in celebration of National Public Lands Day.



## September

- September 2 City Hall closed for Labor Day holiday
- September 5 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- September 10 Technology Committee Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- September 12 Joint Planning and Zoning/City Council Drainage Workshop City Hall | 7 pm
- September 19 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
- September 21 Public Lands Trail Cleanup Brockdale/Highland Park Trailheads 9 am - 1 pm
- September 24 Parks Board Meeting City Hall | 7 pm

### Upcoming Events

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

**National Night Out**  
October 8  
(See back page for more details)

**Farmers Market**  
October 12 @ 8 am - 12 pm

**Scarecrow Contest Coming in October**  
October 1 - 31  
(See back page for more details)

**Arbor Day Event**  
November 2

**Farmers Market**  
November 2 @ 8 am - 12 pm

## Mayors Message (Continued from Page 1)

### Water Projects:

- Rollingwood Circle/Choice Lane/Lakeview Drive 6-inch waterline loop
- Edgefield Lane/West Lucas Road and Cedar Bend Trail/East Lucas Road 6-inch waterline loop
- Graham Lane/Rock Ridge Court 8-inch waterline loop

The City received an excellent bond rating report of AA+ from Standard & Poor's. The report showed strong management, very strong budgetary performance and flexibility, very strong liquidity, and good financial policies and practices. Because of the City's AA+ financial rating the City was able to receive a very low interest rate of 2.34 percent. The report dated July 26, 2019 can be found on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/documents/standard-poors-bond-rating-report-july-26-2019/>.

Due to the great interest rate that they City received on the issuance, the proposed tax rate in the draft budget for FY 2019-2020 remains the same at a rate of **\$303216**. City Council's goal is to provide a way to fund essential capital projects with minimal financial impact to our citizens. That means we strategically borrow money with our eye on how to make the biggest impact with each dollar to provide our citizens with the best value.

## Lucas Announces Farmers Market

The City of Lucas is pleased to announce the grand opening of the Lucas Farmers Market, October 12 from 8 am to Noon at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall. Another City-sponsored market is scheduled for November 2. These two markets are trial runs to measure whether local citizens and farmers will support a regularly scheduled market beginning next spring.

"Lucas is a farming community, so it only seems natural that we help our local farmers sell products to neighbors who want a convenient place to buy healthy, fresh food," said Councilmember Tim Baney. "We are excited the City Council has agreed to sponsor this grassroots project and invite everyone to come out and support the market." A recent Parks and Open Space Board meeting was attended by many enthusiastic supporters, 17 of whom agreed to serve on a steering committee to get the project underway. The committee is currently working to establish market rules, identify vendors and create market awareness.

Fees will be waived to area producers for the first year. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a vendor, please fill out an application form that can be found on the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) under the News section of the homepage. Questions may be sent to [farmersmarket@lucastexas.us](mailto:farmersmarket@lucastexas.us). All applications will be reviewed by the committee and vendors will be notified if they have been approved. For more information on the Lucas Farmers Market go to [www.lucastexas.us/news](http://www.lucastexas.us/news).

## Free Tree Saplings at Arbor Day Event

Arbor Day is an annual holiday that celebrates the role of trees in our lives and promotes tree planting and care. Previously, the City of Lucas held its Fall Sweep cleanup event in conjunction with Arbor Day activities. This year, Arbor Day will be held as its own event on Saturday, November 2, 2019, at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. There will be more information, including the event time, that will be posted soon on the City website. In support of Arbor Day, members of the Legacy 4-H Club will again be on hand giving away tree saplings, along with a small bag of mulch. Please be on the lookout for more information regarding specific Arbor Day activities in the October newsletter. Arbor Day is a great opportunity to promote tree planting and the beautification of Lucas.

## Fire Prevention Event

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!

## The Truth About Recycling

The entire industry of recycling has changed throughout the years, and U.S. recycling facilities are facing challenges in collecting and disposing recyclable materials. The current effects of recycling challenges have caused higher costs in labor, technology and equipment, as well as increased contamination levels amongst collected materials that require more transport and disposal. For decades, China has been the largest importer of the world's recycled commodities and 40 percent of those commodities were exported by the U.S. However, China has adopted new acceptance criteria for imported recyclables which includes banning all mixed paper from import. Reductions in accepted recyclables took effect in March 2018, which affected costs and changes at most U.S. recycling facilities to meet new standards. Due to changes in recycling demands, it is important for the public to know which materials are recyclable and non-recyclable and how it impacts U.S. recycling facilities. For instance, batteries are not recyclable. Batteries can combust during the recycling process and damage equipment and facilities. Other non-recyclable materials include pizza boxes covered with food or grease residue and liquid-filled bottles and containers.

The City of Lucas maintains an agreement with Republic Services to provide subscription-based services for curbside recycling to

What Can Be Recyclable		Non-Recyclable	Special Handling
<b>Paper</b> Brochures Envelopes Junk Mail Magazines Paper (staples okay) Phone Books Newspapers <b>Cardboard</b> Cardboard Boxes File Folders Frozen Food Boxes Milk Cartons Poster Board Ream Wrappers	<b>Plastic</b> Bagged Film Plastics Soda Bottles Take-Out Containers Water Bottles <b>Metals</b> Aluminum Cans Food Cans Scrap Metal <b>Glass</b> Bottles (clear, green & brown) Jars	Aerosol Cans Aluminum Foil Batteries Food Waste Mirrors or Ceramics Stickers & Address Labels Styrofoam Tissue, Paper Towels or Napkins	<i>These items should never be mixed with regular recycling and require special handling.</i> Computers & Electronics Fluorescent Tubes Hazardous Waste Incandescent Light Bulbs Needles or Syringes Paint Toxic Material Containers



## Keep Yourself Informed Instantly Sign up for Nixle

Recently, the City experienced a water line break at the McGarity water tower. This break affected many residents throughout the City with low water pressure. City staff began working on the break around 9:30 pm and finished making repairs at 1:00 am. Because of staff's quick response, no resident was ever without water.

This is a great example of why Nixle, the City's emergency notification system, is a great tool to sign up for. Residents that have signed up for Nixle, were notified within minutes of the water main break, aware that the problem was being addressed, and notified when the repairs were complete.

Signing up for Nixle will keep you informed with up-to-date information. To sign up for Nixle, text your **zip code** to 888777 and hit send, you will receive a text confirmation that you have been added to the Nixle sign up for Lucas. Its that easy! If you need assistance with setting up your Lucas Nixle notification, contact the Fire-Rescue Department at 972.727.1242 for assistance.

residents. There are 736 out of 2,563 homes utilizing curbside recycling in Lucas. It is important for residents to sign up for curbside recycling to help protect the environment and eliminate waste. The City currently has a 31.6 percent contamination level in the recycling stream. To help reduce residual waste and contamination, *Recycling Simplified* is a new educational initiative created by Republic Services to educate residents on the new way of recycling. Recycling is simple as three steps: (1) know what to throw away, (2) empty, clean and dry all recyclables, and (3) do not bag any recyclables. For more information about recycling best practices and *Recycling Simplified*, visit [www.recyclingsimplified.com](http://www.recyclingsimplified.com). Republic Services has built a new recycling facility in Plano (4200 14th Street, Plano) that includes space to educate children and adults on recyclable and non-recyclable materials. To receive a private or group tour of the Plano facility, email Rick Bernas at [rbernas@republicservices.com](mailto:rbernas@republicservices.com).

To sign up for curbside recycling, Lucas residents can call Republic Services at 972.422.2341. For more information about curbside recycling provided by Republic Services, visit [www.lucastexas.us/sign-curbside-recycling](http://www.lucastexas.us/sign-curbside-recycling) or [www.republicservices.com](http://www.republicservices.com). You may also email Kent Souriyasak at [kent@lucastexas.us](mailto:kent@lucastexas.us) to resolve any issues with signing up for curbside recycling. The below table shows a complete list of what can and cannot be accepted for recycling.



Let's brighten the holiday season by decorating your neighborhood with festive lights for the entire City to enjoy. For the purpose of this activity, a neighborhood can be one house, a group of homes, or a subdivision.

### What do I need to do to participate?

1. Get your neighbors involved... this is a great way to get to know one another.
2. Once you have your "neighborhood" defined, visit the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us](http://www.lucastexas.us) to register your neighborhood. Registration for this fun event will be from November 22 through December 12.
3. Once decorating is complete, take some pictures (a maximum of three is allowed) and submit to City Secretary Stacy Henderson at [shenderson@lucastexas.us](mailto:shenderson@lucastexas.us) who will post it on the City's website.
4. The Parks and Open Space Board will judge the submitted pictures and select a winner.

### What does the winner receive?

A special delivery from Santa Claus himself!!! Santa Claus and the Grinch will deliver delicious hot chocolate to the "Light Up Lucas" winning neighborhood on Friday, December 20 in the early evening.

