

L I G H T U P L U C A S

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 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 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.

Don't Get Skimmed

By Councilmember Debbie Fisher

The US accounts for almost two fifths of all credit card fraud in the world according to an article in Forbes Magazine. The Federal Trade Commission ranks Texas at number 5 for identity theft. One of the big concerns for consumers in our area is the use of credit card skimmers at gas pumps and ATMs. While nothing is foolproof, there are ways to better protect yourself and your credit card information.

1. Select a pump or area that is not isolated, is well lit, and in a safe area.
2. Look before you swipe! Check the pump to see if the seal is intact (may not have seals at all stations) and make sure there are no pin holes for hidden cameras.
3. Make sure the card reader is not loose or appears to protrude unusually. Tug on it to be sure. If the card reader doesn't feel right, don't use it.
4. Turn on your phone's blue tooth to look for unusual devices in the area. The scammer must have their unit within 40 to 50 feet and may show up as a series of numbers or letters instead of a name.
5. Use a credit card rather than a debit card for further protection.
6. Check your account balances frequently.

To learn more, the Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller has an excellent video on his home page at <https://www.texasagriculture.gov/> to show you what to look for regarding these credit card scams.

November 5, 2019 Elections

The City of Lucas Community Center will be a voting location during the upcoming November 5, 2019 Texas Constitutional and special elections. The last day to register to vote for this election is October 7. For voter registration information and sample ballots, go to the Collin County Elections website at www.collincountytx.gov/elections/election_information/Pages/default.aspx. The Community Center will be open for voting on the following dates and times:

Sun - October 20	Mon - October 21 8 am - 5 pm	Tues - October 22 8 am - 5 pm	Wed - October 23 8 am - 5 pm	Thurs - October 24 8 am - 5 pm	Fri - October 25 8 am - 5 pm	Sat - October 26 7 am - 7 pm
Sun - October 27 1 pm - 6 pm	Mon - October 28 7 am - 7 pm	Tues - October 29 7 am - 7 pm	Wed - October 30 7 am - 7 pm	Thurs - October 31 7 am - 7 pm	Fri - November 1 7 am - 7 pm	
Election Day - Tuesday - November 5 7 am - 7 pm						

Property Tax Rate Set for 2019-2020

At a special meeting held on Thursday August 29, 2019, City Council adopted the existing property tax rate of \$0.303216 per \$100 valuation for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The tax rate remains the same while the City was strategically able to borrow \$9 million in Certificates of Obligation to fund future water and roadway projects. This adopted tax rate is comprised of \$0.184515 for Maintenance and Operations and \$.118701 for Interest and Sinking for Debt Services. Listed below is a ten-year history for the City of Lucas property tax rates. The City of Lucas has one of the lowest property tax rates in Collin County.

Fiscal Year	M&O	I&S	Total
FY 2019-2020	.184515	.118701	.303216
FY 2018-2019	.202346	.100870	.303216
FY 2017-2018	.198695	.119253	.317948
FY 2016-2017	.230371	.087577	.317948
FY 2015-2016	.215514	.105147	.320661
FY 2014-2015	.233068	.087593	.320661
FY 2013-2014	.254005	.101611	.355616
FY 2012-2013	.261218	.112959	.374177
FY 2011-2012	.257723	.116454	.374177
FY 2010-2011	.247231	.126946	.374177

Keep Yourself Informed

Sign up for Nixle

Correction: In the September edition of the Lucas Leader it was published to text your zip code to Nixle. However, to sign up for Nixle notification services specific to Lucas, you will need to text **Lucas** 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.

LUCAS LEADER



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October 2019



Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

Recently, the City Council sat down with the Planning and Zoning Commission to talk about the current regulations regarding drainage. Each time we have heavy rains we seem to get more complaints about drainage and the impact of storm water on our property. Although no decisions were made during the meeting it was noted that the current ordinances requiring drainage studies and drainage plans may not adequately address the issue. So the City Council has requested that the Planning and Zoning Commission review the current ordinance regarding drainage to see if they provide enough detail and assessment of existing conditions, and if they attempt to address the impact if or when conditions change.

In the interim, the City Council has authorized a drainage study of the area that drains into White Rock Creek. This area is normally called a "watershed". This watershed study should provide the City and the residents in that area with some information that could help us decide what improvements the City can make, what improvements neighborhoods could make, and what drainage improvements property owners might want to make. We hope it will identify key issues that may have an immediate impact as well as things to look out for as property in the area develops.

Drainage issues impact large areas and since the water only knows to travel downhill in the path of least resistance it touches every spot of land in its path. Storm water doesn't care who owns the property or what it runs into, under or over. *This why I thought I should write about drainage this month. Although right now I could us a little rain to close the cracks in my yard.*

The vast majority of the storm drainage in Lucas flows across private property to access the creeks that then direct the flows to the lake or out of the City. So all of us, as private property owners and as residents of the City of Lucas have a responsibility to understand how our properties handle our drainage as well as the water coming on to our property from areas that are higher than ours. *I guess that is why it is good to be king of the hill.* We need to think twice about filling in low areas that may actually be a channel for runoff water and what happens to the water if we fill that in. It may make a bigger problem for you or for your neighbor.

Storm water issues are very dynamic and complicated and there is no magic potion that can cure what ails us in the way of drainage. As a City, with its residents, we will need to study the symptoms as they come up and see what options are available for treatment. Then we hope that the treatments work, but in some cases we may not know for years to come. I guess overall it is good to know that we are all in it together and we are looking forward to see where we can improve the City of Lucas. Thanks for allowing me to serve.



Feeding Wildlife Can be Harmful

The City of Lucas encourages individuals to avoid feeding wildlife. Human food is not healthy for wild animals and they do not need food from humans to survive. Wild animals have specialized diets, and they can become malnourished or die if fed the wrong foods. When wild animals begin associating humans with food, they don't become less wild; they lose their inherent fear of humans. Thus, with animals and humans in close proximity, increased chances of wildlife biting or attacking individuals can become a possibility. Next time you see a wild animal, be sure to keep your distance.



CORRECTION: This year's National Night Out in Lucas is planned for **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2019** we previously noted that it was being held the following week. Lucas Fire-Rescue would love to be a part of your party! Please contact Devanie Stevens at 972.727.1242 or dstevens@lucastexas.us if you are planning a National Night Out party so we can attend your event.



October

- October 3 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
October 8 Technology Committee Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
October 10 Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall | 7 pm
October 17 City Council Meeting City Hall | 7 pm

Upcoming Events

National Night Out October 1 (See front page for more details)

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

Farmers Market October 12 @ 8 am - 12 pm

City of Lucas Fall Parade October 19 @ 9 am - 1 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

Shop, Sample, Browse Lucas Farmers Market Fall Grand Opening



The City of Lucas announced recently it will sponsor two fall Farmers Markets. Dates are scheduled October 12 and November 2 from 8 am to 12 pm at the Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall.

These two markets are trial runs to measure whether local citizens and farmers will support a regularly scheduled market beginning next spring. Committee members are currently recruiting and approving vendor applications in three categories: agricultural products, cottage food producers and artisans.

In addition to browsing vendors, families can stroll among the creative Scarecrow Contest entries scattered throughout the park, all while listening to a local musician and enjoying free coffee and donuts.

'You don't have to be a big farmer,' said Guillemaud. 'We offer co-op booths where backyard gardeners can sell a bumper crop of zucchini, alongside neighbors who have more tomatoes or basil than they know what to do with.'

City of Lucas Fall Parade Children & Dog Costume Contest

On Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 9 am - 1 pm at Hart Elementary, 450 Country Club Road, the City of Lucas is holding a fall parade with help from local volunteer groups. The parade event will also include a Halloween costume contest for children and dogs.

All parade participants must download and fill out a parade application at www.lucastexas.us/fall-parade. All parade applications can be sent to Parade Volunteer Brenda Rizos at Brenda@LakeLavonStables.com.

Arbor Day Celebration at the Farmers Market

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.

Lucas Firefighters Use Microchip Readers to Reunite Lost Pets with Owners

The City of Lucas is rolling out a new program effective October 1, 2019 to help expedite the reunification of lost pets with their families. Through a partnership with the Angel Parkway Pet Hospital and the Lucas Veterinary Hospital, Lucas Fire-Rescue has acquired two pet microchip scanners at the fire station.

Citizens who lost a pet or found one had to rely on social media to reunite pets with their owners. With the new microchip readers, residents can bring found pets to the Lucas fire station, where firefighters can scan the pet for a chip.

The fire station is not equipped to board any animals, but will check the animal for a microchip and attempt to contact the owner of the animal. Lucas Fire-Rescue is tasked with protecting area families, and for many people, pets are a part of the family.

LUCAS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

The City of Lucas will be hosting its annual Country Christmas celebration on Friday, December 6 from 6 pm to 9 pm at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. There will be the Christmas tree lighting, ice-skating for all ages, pictures at Santa's workshop, train rides, marshmallow roasting, and holiday music.

Fire Prevention Open House October 6

Lucas Fire-Rescue will kick off the 2019 Fire Prevention Week with an Open House on Sunday, October 6 from 12 pm to 4 pm at the Fire Station. Special guests will include the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center, Collin County Sheriff's Office, CoServ, Firewise, Lone Star Search & Rescue, OPD Smiles of Lucas, Farmers Insurance and Kona Ice.

Friends of Lucas Fire-Rescue Efforts to Restore 'Streaker'



The Friends of Lucas Fire-Rescue is excited to announce that they are officially starting a fundraising campaign for the restoration of 'Ole Streaker'.

Ole Streaker is the original 1949 City of Lucas fire engine that needs some TLC and has become a Friend's priority project. Some work has already been done to assess Streaker's current condition and identify the restoration efforts that will take place.

The 'Friends of Lucas Fire Department' is a not-for-profit organization that is completely separate from the Lucas City government. The purpose of the organization is to promote the mission of Lucas Fire-Rescue and to provide support in time of need to the Lucas community.

Scarecrow Contest Starts in October



The City of Lucas' 5th annual Scarecrow Contest begins October 1. Families, kids, and clubs are encouraged to enter a scarecrow into the contest, and there is no fee to enter. The scarecrows will be displayed at the Lucas Community Park at City Hall through the end of October.

Come Join St. Stephen's Anglican Catholic Church Blessing of Animals

In October there is a special ceremony in the church called the Blessing of Pets in remembrance of St. Francis the Patron Saint of Animals. This blessing is conducted outdoors where our priest offers prayers and gently sprinkles pets with holy water.

