

Feral Hog Alert! They Are Back!

By Councilmember Debbie Fisher



Have you noticed unusual digging in your yard or in your neighbor's yard? Have you been hearing your dogs barking late at night? Chances are you are seeing feral hog damage. This damage is widespread in the Christian Lane/ North Star/ Lakeview Road area and along the Trinity Trails. Feral hogs are a problem all across the United States but are especially a problem in Texas where over half the country's wild hog population can be found in 253 out of 254 counties. These wild pigs rampage through communities with their prolific breeding, keen sense of smell, huge appetites and uncanny athletic abilities and are a real problem to control. The damage to property, crops and livestock is estimated to be \$1.5 billion annually. They will eat the plants by the roots, eat seeds, nuts (acorns), seedlings, crops, hay, turf and gardens as well as damaging pastures, and irrigation systems.

Please be aware of your surroundings especially if you go outside early mornings or late at night. These hogs can be aggressive. While attacks on people are rare, in December 2019 a Chambers County Texas woman was killed by hogs when she got out her car early one morning where she worked as a home care attendant for an elderly couple. They will also kill animals with their razor sharp teeth and tusks. They are most active at night. (<https://www.thedailybeast.com/feral-hogs-experts-say-wild-pigs-that-killed-texas-woman-are-exploding-across-us>). The numbers of feral hogs grow at an alarming rate. Young pigs are considered mature at 6 to 8 months of age and sows produce two litters every 12 to 15 months with litters of between 4 to 12 piglets each time. Feral hogs can live from 4 to 8 years and the average population can double in size in 4 months. (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/nwrc/downloads/Feral_Hogs.pdf).

Feral hogs are not easy to kill due to their tough hides and speed. They are also trapped and destroyed as a way to control the population. Texas is exploring ways to control the rampant growth of the wild hog population. But property owners must protect themselves and a permit or hunting license is not needed in Texas to kill feral hogs. For more information visit these additional websites: https://tpwd.texas.gov/publications/pwdpubs/media/pwd_bk_w7000_0195.pdf and <https://feralhogs.tamu.edu/frequently-asked-questions/frequently-asked-questions-wild-pigs/>.

Outdoor Burning Regulations

In 2015, the City of Lucas discontinued issuing burn permits when the City became aware that Collin County was designated as a nonattainment area. The Clean Air Act and Amendments of 1990 define a "nonattainment area" as a locality where air pollution levels persistently exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards. When this happens, federal and state laws limit when outdoor burning can occur.

With Spring fast approaching, outdoor trimming and pruning might be the first step in your Spring cleaning plans. During the February 6, 2020 City Council meeting, the Council passed Ordinance 2020-02-00905 clarifying what is legal to burn and what is not and to ensure our local ordinance complies with federal and state requirements. Below is a list of the City of Lucas requirements that allow for outdoor burning:

- No County Burn Ban in effect
- Approved burn items include firewood and natural tree branches generated on your property
- Fire in approved fire ring container that is not less than 15 feet from any structure
- Minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet where the pile size is 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height
- Must have an extinguishment source (i.e., water hose, fire extinguisher, or shovel and dirt) at the fire location
- Fire does not cause nuisance smoke or traffic hazards, and must be constantly attended until fire is completely extinguished
- Must be 25 feet from the property line
- Must be located with a "clear sky view" meaning you cannot burn under a tree canopy.

For tree limb and brush disposal options contact Barnes Waste Disposal at 972.396.1139.

NTMWD Planning Annual Water System Maintenance March 2-30

The North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) will temporarily change the disinfectant in its water treatment process from March 2 through March 30, 2020. The annual, routine change is necessary to maintain the regional system and year round water quality. Disinfection is a critical part of the water treatment process that keeps drinking water free of harmful microorganisms, such as parasites and viruses. Disinfection involves a two-step process that first treats the water at the treatment plant and then chloramine disinfectant (chlorine + ammonia) is added to maintain water quality on its journey through the miles of pipes to homes and businesses. During the temporary change, NTMWD suspends adding ammonia and uses free chlorine to keep water disinfected as it travels through pipes. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, this temporary conversion is a common practice for many water providers using chloramines for disinfection and continues to meet safe drinking water standards earning recognition from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality as a Superior Public Water System. Visit NTMWD.com/safewater for more details and helpful resources.

Rate Changes for Curbside Recycling

The City of Lucas has been notified that Republic Services will be increasing the curbside recycling rate effective April 1, 2020 to \$8.15 per month and the cost for an extra polycart will be \$3.17 per month. These new rates include sales tax and customers will continue to be billed quarterly. If you are interested in signing up for this subscription based curbside recycling program, call Republic Services at 972.422.2341.

National Weather Service Updating Flash Flood Warning System

Currently, all flash flood warnings trigger the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) on your mobile device. Public perception is that the National Weather Service (NWS) over-alerts flash flood warnings, and FEMA has noted a large number of complaints about flash flood warnings. The NWS is updating and changing the warning format for Flash Flood Warnings where they will now be categorized into three threat levels – Base, Considerable, and Catastrophic. If the threat is "Considerable" or "Catastrophic", it will trigger a WEA that most of us get on our mobile devices. A "Base" level warning will not trigger a WEA. With this change, the NWS is aiming to improve the public response to Flash Flood Warnings by providing easily readable information and issuing WEA's only for flash flood events that require immediate life-saving action.

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Mayor's Message

By Jim Olk

So... last month I wrote about upcoming elections and how many opportunities we will have to make our desires known. This month, I thought I would expand a little on a couple (well actually 19) items that the City Council will be putting on the May election.

The first, "Prop A" will be asking if the residents would like to continue to collect the ½ cent sales tax that is dedicated to maintenance and repair of our municipal streets. The ½ cent sales tax equates to approximately \$370,000 dollars that is put directly into street maintenance. This is part of the sales tax that everyone pays when they shop at any retail establishment located in Lucas. Overall 2 cents of 8 ¼ cents sales tax that is collected when you purchase something in Lucas comes to the City. Currently, 1 cent is deposited into the City's general fund, ½ cent is dedicated to the Lucas Fire and EMS District and ½ cent is dedicated to street maintenance. Voting for "Prop A" will keep the ½ cent dedicated to street maintenance.

The next 18 propositions "Prop B" through "Prop S" are amendments to the language of the Home Rule Charter for the City of Lucas. The Home Rule Charter adopted in 2008 is the document that establishes the City of Lucas as a home rule municipality and declares how the City of Lucas should be managed. The Charter requires that any amendments be presented to the voters for approval so that the voters always determine how they want their City to conduct business. Additionally the Charter requires that the City Council review the Charter for possible changes every five years.

So, the City Council has spent the last 6 months reviewing all of the Charter provisions. The City Attorney assisted by showing the City Council where the Charter needed to be amended to be in concert with State Law. From this review, Council determined that some clean-up language was necessary to bring it up-to-date. The amendments showing what text would be deleted and what text would be added can be found on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/elections/>. Please feel free to review the proposed Charter amendments before you go to the poll in May. It may make the voting process a little easier.

Outdoor Watering Schedule Begins April 1, 2020

Beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2020 Lucas water customers are required to limit outdoor watering to twice per week. The outdoor watering schedule will help prevent stressing the capabilities of our water system. The City has established specific watering zones to help manage water usage. No outdoor watering will be allowed between 10 am and 6 pm on any day.

Zone 1	Tuesday and Saturday	West of Country Club - North of West Lucas Road
Zone 2	Monday and Friday	East of Country Club - West of Orr Road - North of Blondy Jhune
Zone 3	Wednesday and Saturday	East of Country Club - South of Blondy Jhune - East of Orr Road - North of West and East Lucas Road
Zone 4	Thursday and Sunday	South and West of East Lucas Road

A map identifying watering zones is available on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/watering-days/> to help you determine your watering days.

March EVENTS

March 5	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 10	Technology Committee City Hall 7 pm
March 12	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 19	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
March 24	Parks Board Meeting City Hall 7 pm



The *Don't mess with Texas Trash-off* cleanup event will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8 am to 12 pm. This annual spring cleanup event is part of the Keep Lucas Beautiful program to support efforts in clearing roadsides of trash. We strongly encourage the community to participate as a volunteer in the *Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off* as we continue to promote the beautification of the City, litter abatement, and sustainable practices.

For more information and to register online as a cleanup volunteer, visit www.lucastexas.us/dont-mess-with-texas-trash-off. Volunteers must also submit the adult or minor volunteer release form found on the above mentioned website. The volunteer release forms must be submitted to Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak via e-mail at kent@lucastexas.us or dropped off at City Hall.

We strongly recommend that volunteers register prior to the cleanup event. However, you may also register onsite at the event. Volunteer check-in will begin at 8 am at the pavilion of the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. Volunteers will be divided into cleanup groups, supervised by City staff and transported to the cleanup sites. Supplies, beverages and lunch will be provided to all volunteers. The cleanup sites will take place along the following roadsides: East Lucas Road, East Winningkoff Road, Estates Parkway, Estelle Lane, Forest Grove Road, Ingram Lane, Orr Road, Snider Lane, Stinson Road, West Lucas Road (between Angel Parkway and Country Club Road), and Winningkoff Road (between south of Christian Lane and north of Snider Lane). Road closures will include Snider Lane and Stinson Road during the hours of the cleanup event to ensure the safety of volunteers.



To coincide with the *Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off* and in support of the Keep Lucas Beautiful program, the City will also be holding a recycling event on Saturday, April 4, 2020 from 8 am to 12 pm. The City is partnering with United Electronic Recycling to provide a drop-off for residents to dispose of electronics and Proshed Security to provide a drop-off for paper shredding services. Both drop-off sites will be located in the

parking lot between City Hall and the Lucas Community Park at 665 Country Club Road.

To view the complete list of electronic items accepted by United Electronic Recycling, visit www.unitedelectronicrecycling.com/items-we-accept. For any questions regarding acceptable electronic items, please contact United Electronic Recycling at 855.837.8326. United Electronic Recycling require fees for disposing the following electronic items:

- Televisions – **Fee: \$20**
- Hard Drives (already loose) – **Fee: \$10**
- CRT Monitors – **Fee: \$5**
- Printer Copier, Fax Machines – **Fee: \$5**
- Fluorescent bulbs – **NOT ACCEPTING**

Proshed Security will be providing free onsite shredding services for residents at the event. Residents are welcome to drop off boxes of unwanted paper, documents, newspapers, magazines, books, etc. For any questions regarding acceptable paper for shredding, please contact Proshed Security at 972.232.7251 or visit www.proshred.com/dfw.

Can I Have a Storage Container on My Property?

The City of Lucas does not permit the use of storage containers, including PODs or similar types of commercial boxes as a permanent accessory building, with a few minor exceptions. Storage containers and similar types of commercial boxes are permitted for agricultural purposes on lots five acres or greater, or for commercial or industrial purposes temporarily for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Founders Day Celebration

The City's Founders Day Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, **May 9, 2020 from 9 am to 2 pm**. Founders Day will take place at the Lucas Community Park at 665 Country Club Road. Food, beverages and snow cones will be provided free to the public.

This year's celebration will feature the Lucas Farmers Market at the park from 8am to 12 pm and the Lucas Car Show at Hart Elementary School (450 Country Club Road). In addition to this, the Legacy 4-H Club will be holding their silent auction inside the Council Chambers at City Hall and the City's historical displays will be available for viewing in the Community Center. There will also be family-friendly activities such as mini-golf, a petting zoo, live music, face painting, balloon artistry, photo booth pictures, pet adoption, raptors display, stick horse rodeo and the pony hop derby.

All public parking will be available at Lovejoy High School where shuttle buses will transport visitors between the high school, Lucas Community Park and Hart Elementary School. There will be no available public parking at the Lucas Community Park or Hart Elementary School. Onsite parking at the Lucas Community Park is reserved for vendors, volunteers and handicap parking. If you or your business/organization is located within the City of Lucas and would like to participate as a Founders Day booth vendor, download the application www.lucastexas.us/founders-day-celebration and submit to foundersday@lucastexas.us. Booth vendor space is very limited and applicants will be notified if selected to participate at Founders Day.



The City sponsored Lucas Car Show will be held in conjunction with Founders Day on **Saturday, May 9, 2020**. The Lucas Car Show will be open to the public at 10 am

and the awards ceremony will begin at 1 pm. The Lucas Car Show will take place in the parking lot of Hart Elementary School located at 450 Country Club Road. The Lucas Car Show is hosted by Lucas Fire-Rescue and the Friends of the Lucas Fire-Rescue, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All proceeds from the Lucas Car Show will directly benefit the Friends of the Lucas Fire-Rescue to support the restoration of Ole' Streaker, the City's first fire engine.

All interested participants are welcome to register for the Lucas Car Show. Early registration will be March 9 through May 1 at www.lucastexas.us/lucascarshow. The minimum donation for early registration is \$25. After May 1, the minimum donation for registration will be \$35. All fees to register for the Lucas Car Show are nonrefundable. There is a limited number of 75 spots available to participants. The registration form will be available beginning March 9.

The category awards for the Lucas Car Show are: Modern Car (Current – 29 years old), Classic Car (30 – 49 years old), Antique Car (50 years or older), Truck, and Custom Car (significant modification from original manufactured equipment). There will also be a Best in Show Award announced at the awards ceremony. For more information regarding the Lucas Car Show, email carshow@lucastexas.us or call 972.727.1242.



Save the date for **Tuesday, March 17, 2020** for the opening reception of Art in Public Places. The event will be held throughout City Hall from **5 pm to 7 pm**. During this time, we invite the community to stop by and view student artwork from participating local schools. The Art in Public Places program provides an opportunity to highlight exceptional student artwork in the community. All artwork will be displayed at City Hall throughout the entire year and will be rotated for new artwork each year. We encourage the community to attend the opening reception to view the selected artwork from local talented students.

Do You Know about Brush Removal Options from Barnes Waste Disposal

Barnes Waste Disposal, your trash service provider, offers free brush removal as part of your monthly trash service. Tree limbs/brush must be placed curbside for pickup, bundled and cut no greater than 4 feet in length up to two cubic yards, and weigh no more than 40 pounds per bundle. Brush removal will take place as part of your normal trash pickup day.

At the request of the customer, Barnes Waste Disposal will collect up to 10 cubic yards of brush curbside twice per calendar year. This complimentary service must be scheduled and is on a first come, first serve basis. For more information on trash services offered by Barnes Waste Disposal go to <https://barneswds.com/> or call 972.734.3333.

Come Join Us For Movie in the Park



The City of Lucas Parks and Open Space Board will be holding its first ever Movie in the Park event that will feature a special presentation of Disney's Frozen II. Movie in the Park will be held on **Friday, April 17, 2020 at 7 pm**. The special event will take place at the Lucas Community Park located at 665 Country Club Road. Admission is free to the public. Movie in the Park is the perfect opportunity to enjoy the spring evening weather at the park with your friends and family. We encourage everyone to come out to the park and bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the outdoor movie. Concessions will be provided by the Legacy 4-H Club.

SAVE THE DATE

March 3	Presidential Primary Election Voting at Community Center
April 4	Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off Cleanup Event Community Park 8 am - Noon
April 17	Movie in the Park Community Park 7 pm
April 25	Farmers Market Community Park 8 am - Noon
May 2	Lucas General and Special Election Community Center
May 9	Founders Day Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers Market • Lucas Car Show • Mini Golf • Activities for the kids • Entertainment