



WINNINGKOFF ROAD

This project extends north from Forestview Drive to Snider Lane and has a tentative completion date of November 2020. This completion date is very compressed given the amount of work needed to reconstruct the culvert north of Manor Lane. The contractor, McMahon Contracting estimates that Winningkoff Road will be closed to all traffic at the culvert for 60 to 90 days, but they have not supplied a start date of the closure. Be sure to check the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/neighborhood-connector-street-projects/ for updates. A revised design was approved by the City Council to reduce damage to the trees on the east side of the project.

TxDOT SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS ALONG FM 1378

TxDOT estimates a completion date of late August for the safety enhancements along Country Club Road, West Lucas Road, and Southview Drive. This month, the focus will be on finishing up the driveway connections and starting the final asphalt overlay. The end will be in sight when the new striping is placed along the six-mile, \$6,000,000 project. The three main objectives of the project are 1) add narrow shoulders to FM 1378, 2) improve drainage, and 3) resurface the main lanes with high-friction asphalt.

ESTATES PARKWAY/COUNTRY CLUB TURN LANES

Originally, adding two left hand turn lanes to the intersection was a stand alone project, but TxDOT took the turn lane design funded by the City and incorporated it into the safety enhancements along FM 1378. A left hand turn lane is being added to northbound Country Club and to eastbound Estates Parkway. The goal is to reduce delay at this intersection in the same way that turn lanes were added to the West Lucas Road/Country Club Road intersection. This work should be completed by the end of August.

WINNINGKOFF REVERSE CURVE

During the initial design of the reverse curve project that opened to two-way traffic in May 2018, unusual soil conditions were not

discovered. The excessive amounts of moisture in the soil in the form of "mud veins" is causing the pavement to crack. Initially, the cracks on the south end of the project were thought to be caused by a workmanship error, but mud was determined to be a contributing factor to the cracking. The contractor is planning to have the initial repairs on the south end complete by the first week in June, but additional repairs might be needed to other sections. The City has not received the schedule for the additional repairs.

BAIT SHOP INTERSECTION

TxDOT has released a new schematic for the intersection. It can be viewed along with other construction information on the City website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/neighborhood-connector-street-projects/>. Property owners are being contacted about purchasing rights-of-way and other impacts to their properties. The final designs has not been 100% approved; TxDOT is still receiving public comment leading up to the final public hearing. If all goes well, they anticipate starting construction in mid-2022. The cost is still estimated to be \$4 million.

ANGEL PARKWAY (FM 2551)

TxDOT, Collin County, and the cities of Allen, Parker, and Lucas have been working closely to get the reconstruction of FM 2551 from Parker Road (FM 2514) to Main Street (FM 2170) underway. The proposed road will be six-lane divided and a portion in the City of Parker will be relocated to become part of the Parker Road/Hogge Drive intersection. TxDOT anticipated starting construction in mid-2022 at a cost of \$38.1 million.

PARKER ROAD (FM 2514)

The western section from Hogge Drive to Southview Drive now has two-way traffic on all new pavement. The project is scheduled to be complete in mid-2021.

New Water Meters Very Successful

The Neptune water meters was a phased project to replace all the water meters in Lucas. Since initiating this project approximately three years ago, the City has only experienced three meter failures. A meter failure is defined as a meter that will not function in a manner where the City cannot obtain any reading or usage information. Before the City had the ability to electronically read meters from software located inside City vehicles, it would take two employees working seven days to read all the water meters in the City. When the City switched to the electronic radio reads/drive-by system, the City was able to reduce the resources required to read meters to two employees working four days.

With the old meter system failures, the amount of resources it took to gather consumption data for billing was three to four employees working five days. During this period, it was difficult to read and then replace the failed water meters monthly. The City went through numerous change outs, bucket tests, and many estimated bills due to losing all usage information when a failure occurred. With the Neptune water meter system, the City has experienced three individual failures compared to approximately 100 to 150 individual failures a month with the old system. Staff is now able to read the entire City water meter system with two employees in five to six hours with zero unread meters each month. The Neptune meter system is paying for itself quickly and has dropped water loss from 12.42 percent to 7.69 percent.



A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

June 2020



Mayor's Message

The City of Lucas residents have done a great job with staying safe. As of May 15, here in Lucas we have had only six confirmed cases of COVID-19 and all six have recovered. I can tell you that I hold my breath every day when I open the daily report from Collin County but, I let out a big sigh when I see our numbers holding solid and all of our residents have recovered. As

always, your safety is our biggest concern. This virus is certainly more difficult to battle than most anything else that we face. We are thankful to have Collin County and the State of Texas behind us. Judge Hill and Governor Abbott have put together some very diverse teams to help direct how we should reopen and help us get back to some normalcy in our lives. As a side note, the City of Lucas should receive \$361,355 from the Federal CARES Act to help us cover our expenses due to COVID-19.

As you may know we have reopened City Hall to visitors. We have added additional preventative screening to help protect the public as well as protecting staff. We still encourage you to use the telephone, email or online systems to communicate with us, but if you need to come in-person, we can now accommodate that. The Community Center and playground facilities are still closed to social gatherings but the walking trails and fields can be used. Please continue to practice social distancing while using those facilities.

Since April, the City Council and Planning and Zoning Commission have been holding virtual meetings with citizen participation through video conferencing, and we still appreciate any public input that you would like to provide. Links to those meetings can be found at <https://www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/>. The City Council is discussing a schedule for when we can go back to our regular in-person meetings and reengage our other Boards and Committees. We hope to finalize these plans soon as we carefully watch the regional numbers. I do want to remind everyone to protect yourselves and your family by wearing masks, washing your hands frequently, avoid crowds and practicing social distancing when you are out and about. If you have underlying conditions, please take extra precautions to keep safe. The one thing that I do not want to see are higher infection numbers, hospitalizations, or worse for any of our Lucas residents or our families. Please stay safe.

Fireworks are Illegal in Lucas

The City of Lucas wants everyone to have a safe July 4th holiday, but please do not include discharging fireworks as part of your festivities. We want to remind everyone that the use of fireworks within the City limits of Lucas 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. In addition to the stress incurred by our animal and livestock from the noise created using fireworks, the misuse of fireworks can cause significant damage to your home and property. The discharging of fireworks can also cause problems for our veterans and families with young children. The use of fireworks is not part of the Lucas culture. Last year, the City responded to 21 calls for service during the July 4th holiday.

If you witness a person setting off fireworks in the city limits of Lucas, you should report the violation by calling the Collin County Non-Emergency Dispatch number (972-547-5350) with the specific location. You may also file a citizen complaint with the City if you witness someone using fireworks. Filing such a complaint will include completing and swearing to a written witness statement with detailed information regarding what you observed, including any collaborating evidence. In addition, the witness must be willing to testify in Municipal Court if a case is filed. This information will be evaluated by the City's Fire Marshall to evaluate whether the situation is a viable case to proceed to Municipal Court. If the illegal fireworks may ignite a fire or cause harm, call 911.

Thank You Collin County

The City of Lucas would like to extend its appreciation to Collin County Officials for providing the City with Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding in the amount of \$361,355 for COVID-19 related expenditures. The Commissioners Court voted on Monday, May 11, 2020 to distribute \$50,000,000 of federal CARES Act funding directly to 20 Collin County cities.

County Judge Chris Hill
Commissioner Susan Fletcher, Precinct 1
Commissioner Cheryl Williams, Precinct 2
Commissioner Darrell Hale, Precinct 3
Commissioner Duncan Webb, Precinct 4
County Administrator Bill Bilyeu

June

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

During the month of June, meetings at City Hall will be available via Ring Central webinar through a link on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/>.

June 4	City Council Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
June 11	Planning and Zoning Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
June 13	Farmers Market Community Park 8 am - Noon
June 18	City Council Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
June 27	Farmers Market Community Park 8 am - Noon

Currently, meetings at City Hall will not be open to on-site visitors. However, please check the City's website for the latest information. The City Council continues to assess when City meetings will be open to on-site visitors. It is the goal of the Lucas City Council to encourage public participation while maintaining practices to safeguard public health.

Working on a Broadband Solution

The City is continuing efforts to pursue a broadband solution to resolve internet problems throughout Lucas. The City selected Magellan Advisors, a broadband planning and development firm, to develop a broadband study to include a fiber-to-the-home network design. The broadband study will determine the best approach for the City to deploy broadband services to the community. The Technology Committee, City Council and City staff participated in a kick-off meeting to discuss key aspects of the conceptual network design, fiber-to-the-home, connectivity, and municipal broadband planning. Magellan Advisors anticipates completing the preliminary network design by mid-May and will present the preliminary work to the City for feedback. The broadband study is anticipated to take four months to complete with a goal of presenting the broadband plan to the City in July.

Lucas Farmers Market Returns June 13



The City of Lucas has announced the Lucas Farmers Market will open June 13 at Lucas Community Park located next to City Hall. The market will open with a goal toward following the Texas Health and Human Services (THHS) checklist for retail shopping. Vendors will be placed at least six feet apart along the Lucas Community Park sidewalk and no vendors will be allowed to exhibit in the outdoor pavilion due to concerns for social distancing.

The Lucas Farmers Market supplies fresh, local food to our city and surrounding areas, and we rely on both our vendors and our shoppers to follow the following guidelines:

- Wash or disinfect hands upon entering the market area and after any interaction with employees, other customers, or items in the retailer.
- Maintain at least 6 feet separation from other individuals not within the same household.
- Wash or sanitize hands after the payment process.
- Consider wearing cloth face coverings or masks (over the nose and mouth) when entering the market.
- Other measures such as wearing gloves, cough etiquette, and good hygiene should be rigorously practiced.

As the first market opens, shoppers can look forward to browsing among a variety of products including locally grown produce, honey, syrup, herbs, flowers, jams, breads, free range eggs, salsa, beef, lamb, chicken and pork. Several vendors will offer teas, olive oils, soaps, cutting boards, and other artisan products.

The Lucas Farmers Market is still accepting **produce vendors**. Interested produce suppliers may apply by filling out the online application at <https://www.lucastexas.us/lucas-farmers-market/>, and be sure to visit the City website for updates or send questions to farmersmarket@lucastexas.us. The 2020 Farmers Market Season includes:

- June 13 (2nd Sat.) and June 27 (4th Sat.)
- July 11 (2nd Sat.) and July 25 (4th Sat.)
- August 8 (2nd Sat.) and August 22 (4th Sat.)
- September 12 (2nd Sat.) & September 26 (4th Sat.)
- October 10 (2nd Sat.)
- November (no market scheduled)
- December 4 (Indoor Holiday Market at Country Christmas)



Barnes Has Resumed Bulk and Brush Collection

Bulk and brush collection has resumed for City of Lucas customers. Citizens will need to call Barnes Waste Disposal at 972.734.3333 or email at wastedpl@swbell.net to schedule their bulk or brush items. If bulk and/or brush are not scheduled, items may be left depending on route demands. Items will be scheduled on a first-come/first-served basis. Brush and bulk items in excess of two cubic yards will not be collected in a single pickup. All other standard bulk and brush guidelines apply. Barnes Waste Disposal will not be responsible for collecting any lawn debris, brush/tree trimmings, or construction/remodel debris generated by a lawn-service or any contractor acting in the interest of the homeowner.

Living with a Septic System or Aerobic Treatment Unit

Part 1 of a 3-part Series
by Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

You may not realize it, but if you have a septic system in your backyard, you are the owner of a small-scale wastewater treatment system. As the owner, you are responsible for maintaining a properly operating system to protect the health of you, your neighbors, and the environment. A malfunctioning wastewater treatment system can release nutrients and pathogens which harm water quality and pose a threat to public safety.

The essentials for operating and maintaining a conventional septic system or an aerobic treatment unit start at the source of the wastewater stream. The occupants control the amount of water, organic material, and chemicals that enter the waste stream. A wastewater treatment system is designed to accept a specific volume of water and organic material. Exceeding these design volumes can have a significant impact on the performance of your system.

A wastewater treatment system relies on calm conditions to allow the separation of solids from the wastewater. These calm conditions are disrupted by excessive water usage or hydraulic loading. Doing several loads of laundry back to back in a single day can create a hydraulic overload and turn the calm conditions in the tank to whitewater rapids. When this happens, solids are not allowed to settle and will travel further down the system, possibly clogging pumps, spray heads, or drain fields.

Both conventional septic systems and aerobic treatment units are full of numerous microorganisms that are actively digesting and breaking down organic waste. These microorganisms are naturally occurring; therefore, it is not necessary to pour additives, yeast, or any other materials down the drains. Avoid excessive use of cleaners or toxic chemicals which can kill microorganisms. The microorganisms in an aerobic treatment unit rely on the right mixture of food and air to stay alive and actively treat waste. A system is organically overloaded when there is more organic material than the microorganisms can treat and digest. This results in a quicker accumulation of solids and the need for more frequent maintenance. A kitchen garbage disposal can significantly increase the amount of organic loading and may reduce the pump out intervals by 1 to 2 years.

Even though an aerobic treatment unit contains a disinfection device such as an ultraviolet lamp or chlorine, the water exiting the spray heads may still contain potentially harmful pathogens. Maintaining a healthy vegetative cover in the spray field will remove excess water, nutrients, and allow the final treatment processes to occur in the soil. Being mindful of what goes down your drain is a simple yet important step in managing your septic system or aerobic treatment unit. Maintaining your system will result in higher satisfaction, improved performance, and protect environmental health. In the July Lucas Leader, Part 2 will focus on the legal requirements of maintaining your septic system.

Public Works

The City of Lucas would like to welcome two Public Works Assistants for the summer of 2020. Welcome back Mitchel Chaney and new employee Will Kelly. The Public Works Assistants are responsible for assisting in maintaining the parks and ball fields, and other facilities within the city. Also, please welcome Eduardo Guadron who joined the Public Works team as a Specialist I on April 20. We currently have one position open for a Public Works Assistant (summer) position. If you know someone who loves working outdoors, ask them to contact Janice Babcock at jbabcock@lucastexas.us or 972-912-1204.

Ask the Code Enforcement Officer



What is a code violation?

A code violation is a nuisance which can occur on private or public property that may cause a diminution of property value in the area, impacting lifestyles and/or negatively impacting the quality of life.

How do I report a code violation?

Code violations can be reported 24 hours a day seven days a week by filling out a citizen complaint form on the City's website at <https://www.lucastexas.us/citizen-complaint-form/>.

Do I have to identify myself when reporting a violation?

No, however Code Enforcement may need to follow up or ask further questions about your complaint, so your information would be appreciated. All efforts will be made to keep your name anonymous. However, always remember that whatever you report is public record.

What are the more common violations reported?

- High grass and weeds
Maximum height permitted is 12 inches unless you have an agriculture exemption.
- Junk cars/inoperable cars/unlicensed cars
Cars must be kept in an operable condition, with current license and registration visible from a public right of way.
- Trash, junk, and debris
Keep your property clean.
- Noise complaints
A noise violation is any noise that is offensive to people with ordinary sensibilities.
- Lighting complaints
Lights installed after 2007 must comply with the City's lighting ordinance that requires light fixtures to project all light in a downward direction, with the exception for security lighting.
- Home based business violations
Home based businesses must be conducted entirely within a building with no signs of the business visible from the property lines. A home-based business may not create noise, dust, light, debris, or employ any person that does not reside in the residence.

How long will it take to get my complaint resolved?

A Code Enforcement Officer will respond to a complaint within 24 hours after receiving the complaint. Compliance times vary, however, as most code violations are given written notice such as seven business days for high grass and weeds, every violation has its own notice requirements.

I turned in a complaint six months ago and the violation still exists, why?

Frequently, property owners refuse to comply within the time frame required. Code Enforcement will then use the Court system by issuing citations with Municipal Court. This process is lengthier and may encompass a "per day fine." All violators are encouraged to settle the matter before involving a Judge, as in most cases fine amounts may exceed the cost of abating the violation.