



## Meet Your Finance Director Liz Exum

Liz Exum has been the Finance Director for the City of Lucas since March of 2009. Ms. Exum has more than 11 years experience in municipal government finance. Her previous experience includes over 20 years of financial reporting and accounting in the private business sector. Liz attended Texas A&M Commerce (formally East Texas State University)

where she earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting in May 1986. She is a member of Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and Government Finance Officers Association of Texas (GFOAT).

As Finance Director, Liz leads the Finance team in providing all financial functions of the City and provides accounting and budget services to all departments within the City of Lucas. Responsibilities include:

- Preparation and oversight of the annual financial audit and comprehensive annual financial report
- Manages the City's investment portfolio and banking relationships
- Monitors budget compliance
- Performs necessary state and federal reporting requirements
- Prepares monthly and annual financial reports
- Prepares the annual operating budget

- Processes utility payments and City accounts receivable and payable
- Responsible for managing the procurement of goods and services for all City of Lucas operation

Members of the Finance team include:

- Utility Billing Coordinator – Delta Moody has over 14 years experience and handles all the utility billing functions including billing, payment processing, and customer relations.
- Accounting Specialist – Alicia Gipson has over 13 years experience and is responsible for accounts payable processing, accounts receivables, credit cards, and website updates.
- Purchasing Coordinator/Finance Assistant – Linezka Maduro has over 7 years experience and is responsible for purchasing, fixed assets, financial support for report, reconciling, budgeting, and audit.

The City of Lucas Finance team has dedicated employees with many years' experience that work hard to safeguard the City's long-term financial health, support the City's financial systems, and promote best practices, accountability, and transparency. Awards that the Finance team and the City has achieved include:

- GFOA award for Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for nine years.
- AA+ bond rating from Standard & Poor's, S&P Global Ratings.
- Texas State Comptroller – Transparency Star Award for Traditional Finances and Debt Obligations for three years.
- Texas State Comptroller – Leadership Circle Platinum and Gold Awards for six years.

## Lovejoy Graduation Parade



In partnership with the City, Lovejoy ISD held a graduation parade to celebrate this year's graduating seniors from Lovejoy High School. The graduation ceremony and parade took place on Saturday, May 30, 2020. The parade started at Lovejoy High School and moved east on Estates Parkway, south on Ingram Lane, east on West Lucas Road, north on Country Club Road, and west on Estates Parkway returning to Lovejoy High School. Parade viewers cheered the graduates who drove through the parade route in their decorated vehicles. Lucas Fire-Rescue led the parade of 300 to 400 graduates who participated in their vehicles and were followed by the Fairview Police and their Bicycle Squad. Collin County deputies and Fairview police officers managed traffic control to ensure safety and reduced traffic congestion. The graduation parade was a special highlight for the graduating seniors who were unable to participate in normal school activities and events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a special event that brought the community together to show support for the graduating seniors. Congratulations to the class of 2020!

## Outdoor Watering Schedule

On April 1 each year, required water restrictions begin for Lucas water customers limiting outdoor watering to twice per week. Outdoor watering is NOT allowed between 10 am and 6 pm on any day. To view the City's outdoor watering map, go to <https://www.lucastexas.us/watering-days/>.

- 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

## Annual Drinking Water Report

Each year the City of Lucas and the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD) produce a report to let our water customers know the condition and safety of our drinking water. The 2020 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report (Consumer Confidence Report) can be found on the City's website at the following link: <https://www.lucastexas.us/drinking-water-quality-report-ccr-latest/> after July 1, 2020. The source of drinking water used by the City of Lucas is purchased surface water from the NTMWD. The report describes the susceptibility and types of constituents that may contact your drinking water source based on human activities and natural conditions. The City of Lucas estimated that 43,303,000 gallons of water were unaccounted for during the 2019 calendar year. Unaccounted water use is attributed to leaks, hydrant flushing, water works maintenance, and fire-rescue operations. For more information contact City Engineer Stanton Foerster at [stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:stanton@lucastexas.us) or 972.912.1208.

# LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

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

July 2020

## Mayor's Message



Greetings fellow Lucas residents. I hope everyone has been staying safe.

Latest update on COVID-19...From the last reports that we received we have had a total of eight confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Lucas. Seven of those have recovered and I have not yet received a status update on the eighth person. For

the most up-to-date countywide numbers please feel free to visit this website at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c00baf45f12a4899aae1c812e29d6cde>.

In line with the Governors Executive Orders, the City of Lucas has started reopening facilities and some events. Although I missed it, on Saturday, June 13 the Lucas Farmers Market held its first spring/summer market of 2020. The market vendors were spread all around the walking path at the Community Park. I understand that we had good attendance and everyone was courteous with "social distancing".

Additionally, City Hall has reopened to the public and residents can use the Community Center, parks and playgrounds. Please enjoy and once again we encourage everyone to heed the guidelines from the CDC regarding safe practices when interacting with others.

Just to let you know, we are still live broadcasting the City Council meetings via Ring Central, so if you are interested in watching or just listening in you can find the link on our web page at <https://www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/>.

Things were changing so rapidly there for a while it was hard to catch a breath. It now seems to have leveled off somewhat, but as I watch the national and world news we may be in for another round of wild times. It is my hope and prayer for each of you to stay safe and healthy. Hopefully I can go back to writing articles on some of those more mundane things really soon.

## Farmers Market Open Again

The 2020 Lucas Farmers Market kicked off June 13 proving, once again, that the citizens of Lucas are proud supporters. With social distancing measures in place -- including tents placed six feet apart throughout the park, hand sanitizing stations and masks evident -- shoppers kept vendors busy! The 2020 season will continue with markets being held in the Community Park (next to City Hall) from 8am until noon on the following Saturdays:

June 27	August 8	September 26
July 11	August 22	October 10
July 25	September 12	

For upcoming markets, the City is working on securing overflow parking. If you are an agricultural producer and are interested in participating in an upcoming market, go online and complete an application at [www.lucastexas.us/lucas-farmers-market/](http://www.lucastexas.us/lucas-farmers-market/). Participating vendors can promote their farm by completing a vendor profile and the information will be shared on social media at [lucasfarmersmarket.com](http://lucasfarmersmarket.com).



CONGRATS GRADUATES  
*Class of*  
2020  
YOU DID IT!

*The Lucas City Council and City staff are proud of what you have accomplished and wish you a bright and successful future!*



## MEETINGS AND EVENTS

During the month of July, 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/>.

- July 2 City Council Meeting  
Video Conference | 7 pm
- July 3 City offices closed  
due to 4th of July holiday
- July 9 Planning and Zoning Meeting  
Video Conference | 7 pm
- July 11 Farmers Market  
Community Park | 8 am - Noon
- July 16 City Council Meeting  
Video Conference | 7 pm
- July 25 Farmers Market  
Community Park | 8 am - Noon
- July 28 Parks Board Meeting  
Video Conference | 4 pm
- July 30 City Council Budget Workshop  
Video Conference | 6 pm

Currently, meetings at City Hall are not open to on-site visitors. 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 City Council to encourage public participation while maintaining practices to safeguard public health.



- Destroying land, degrading plants, animal habitats, and contaminated soil/water sources, such as lakes, creeks and drinking water supplies
- Dumped items can alter the normal drainage course of runoff and make areas more susceptible to flooding and erosion when waste blocks creeks, stormwater drains and gutters
- Dump sites attract further dumping and other criminal activities, such as graffiti and arson, as well as rodents, insects and other vermin that pose health risks
- Dump sites with scrap tires provide a breeding ground for mosquitos, leading to illnesses like West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever
- Reduces aesthetics of the land and deters people from visiting areas where there is frequent illegal dumping

The City of Lucas has spent significant funds and time removing and properly disposing of illegally dumped materials, and the community bears the cost of lower property values in that area. Should you witness illegal dumping, call the City of Lucas Code Enforcement Department at 972.912.1207 or the Collin County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number at 972.547.5100. The North Central Texas Council of Governments also operates an Illegal Dumping Hotline, call 888.335.3867 and the appropriate authorities will be notified.

## Call 911 Don't Delay Emergency Care

Determining when its appropriate to call 911 can be challenging at any time, but with the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, people seem to be even more uncertain. The intense focus on COVID-19 leaves many wondering how to handle medical emergencies unrelated to the virus. National data on 911 calls show a 29% decrease in calls so far this year compared to the first four months last year. While there has been a drop nationwide in 911 calls, it is important to remember that medical emergencies haven't stopped for COVID-19 and treatment for these emergencies should not be delayed. This is especially true for people experiencing stroke or heart attack symptoms. Delaying treatment for either can be life-threatening or lead to more serious lifelong health problems.

Medical emergencies aren't always easy to identify. While physical injuries like severe cuts, burns or broken bones are obvious, stroke and heart attack symptoms can be confused with other less serious conditions.

Don't hesitate to seek emergency care and call 911 if you experience the following:

- Chest pain, pressure or tightness
- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Confusion or change in mental state
- Numbness or weakness on one side
- Slurred speech
- Sudden speech changes
- Sudden trouble walking, loss of balance
- Sudden vision changes
- Severe stomach pain

Lucas Fire-Rescue and our local hospital partners are prepared to safely care for patients with medical emergencies with protective gear and disinfecting protocols in place. We urge residents not to jeopardize their health by avoiding calling for assistance. When you call 911, be prepared to answer the call-taker's questions, which may include:

- The location of the emergency, including the street address
- The phone number you are calling from
- The nature of the emergency
- Details about the emergency, such as a physical description of a person who may have committed a crime, a description of any fire that may be burning, or a description of injuries or symptoms being experienced by a person having a medical emergency

Lucas Fire-Rescue is here for you, when you need us the most.

## What Is Illegal Dumping?

Illegal dumping is the improper disposal of waste at any location other than a permitted landfill or special facility. It is against the law and can pose serious threats to our rivers, creeks, and the environment. Illegal dumping typically happens in open areas such as fields, empty lots, abandoned industrial sites, along rural roads, in wooded areas, near creeks, lakes, and storm drains or other drainage inlets in neighborhoods. Dumping can include common household trash, construction debris, renovation materials, auto parts, tires, medical waste, furniture, appliances, and lawn materials such as grass clippings or tree branches. The cost of illegal dumping to our environment can be costly in many ways, not just monetary, and can include:

## What's Legally Required When You Have a Septic System

Part 2 of a 3-part Series  
by Development Services Director Joe Hilbourn

### Maintenance Contracts

Maintenance contracts are required for aerobic septic systems and go into effect the day the system is approved. The original installation contract is good for two years from that date. Maintenance contracts must always be maintained. After two years, the owner is responsible to renew the contract, but not required to use the original installer. Renewals must be submitted to the Collin County Development Services Department 30 days prior to the expiration of the contract.

### Testing and Reporting

At a minimum, maintenance companies shall inspect a system three times per year. This shall be done at four-month intervals, and copies of the report shall be sent to the Collin County Development Services Department and to the homeowner.

### Chlorine

Chlorine must always be maintained in surface irrigation systems. Chlorine is present to destroy any waterborne diseases that may be present. The homeowner is responsible to make sure the system always has chlorine (even if your maintenance contract includes adding the chlorine). Approved chlorine tablets must be used, not swimming pool chlorine.

### Problems

If a problem arises with a unit after installation, contact the maintenance company immediately. If at any time a problem is not corrected or the company fails to provide the required maintenance, contact the Collin County Development Services Department.

### Altering the Aerobic Unit

Once an aerobic unit has been installed and inspected, it may not be altered (by the owner or a licensed installer) in ANY way. This includes moving or changing the spray of the sprinklers or connecting another residence to the system. If something needs to be altered, you must go to Collin County Development Services and apply for a Septic Repair/Upgrade Permit.

Collin County Development Services Department is located at 4690 Community Avenue in McKinney. They can be reached at 972.548.5585 or [developmentervices@collincountytx.gov](mailto:developmentervices@collincountytx.gov).

## Top Five Reasons Why You Should Not Use Fireworks



1. **THEY ARE ILLEGAL IN THE CITY OF LUCAS.**
2. **Likelihood of Injury** - No one is surprised to hear about an injury from a firework, but everyone is surprised if they get injured by one. Thousands of people are injured every year by sparklers and firecrackers, which many people would consider nearly harmless. Children aged 10-14 years are most likely to go to the emergency room from firework injuries; the second most likely group was adults between 20-24 years old. These injuries are typically burns to the hands or fingers, but burns and impact injuries to the head, neck and eye area are also common.
3. **Fire Risk** - Fireworks cause significant property loss and damage. Every year, fireworks cause approximately 18,500 fires. More fires are reported on July 4 than any other day of the year.
4. **Pollutants** - Fireworks create airborne microscopic toxins that can be harmful to the environment. Individuals with asthma or chemical sensitivities may experience negative effects from firework materials regardless of any specific chemical toxicity.
5. **Veterans, Pets, Livestock & Children** - When you are blasting off fireworks on your own schedule, it can be very frightening to veterans, kids and fur-kids and cause them to be anxious and sleepless. You might be depriving a baby (and their parents) an entire night of sleep while all the neighborhood dogs cry and cower. Consider the golden rule before subjecting your community to an unscheduled and illegal fireworks display.

All of the major safety organizations agree... If you are looking for fireworks safety tips the first thing you will find is the overwhelming recommendation *not* to use fireworks at home. Enjoy a professional display instead - they employ complete safety protocols and commercial-grade pyrotechnics for a superior show.

## Ask the Code Enforcement Officer Dogs at Large



Leash laws are a common requirement in most communities. Current laws are put in place for the protection of both people and the animals themselves. Individuals are less likely to be bitten and/or attacked by animals that are leashed or confined and closely supervised by their caretakers. In addition to concerns about human safety, dogs running at large could possibly be injured by cars, subjected to abuse, or get hurt by other animals.

Running at large statutes are also meant to reinforce responsible pet care. Securing a pet in a safe place or walking a dog on a leash will reduce the potential anguish and expense of losing a loved pet. Confinement must be humane for the animal as well as secure and safe. The law is intended to address concerns regarding safety as well as population control. It is important for individuals to take responsibility for dogs in their possession.

The City of Lucas defines an at large animal as an animal off the premises of the owner and is not on a leash under the immediate control of a person physically capable of restraining the animal or is not restrained securely within an enclosure capable of fully and totally securing the animal.

If you have questions about any of the City's regulations regarding dogs at large or other animal related regulations, contact our Code Enforcement Department at 972.912.1207.