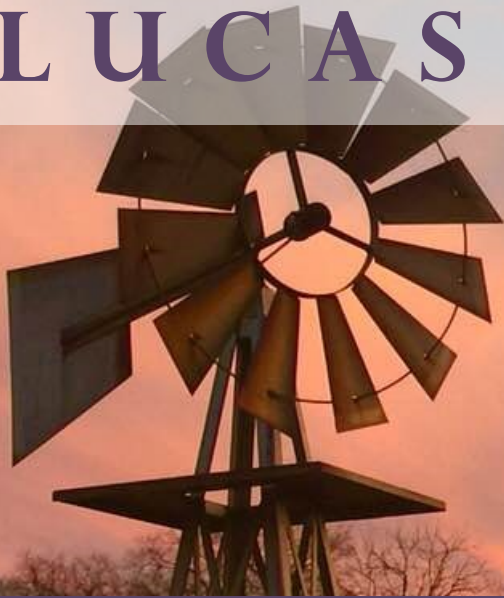


LUCAS LEADER



A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

September 2020



Mayor's Message

If you are on any type of local social media, you may have noticed some polarization going on regarding a fiber broadband internet project here in Lucas. At the August 6 City Council meeting, the City Council voted to put a General Obligation Bond for just over \$19 million dollars on the November 3 ballot. Since the inception of this concept, City Council has firmly stated that they want the

residents of Lucas to decide if this project would move forward. The best way for the residents to make their desires known is by casting a ballot either in favor or opposed to allowing the City Council to borrow money to build the infrastructure. Since the decision was made to put this on the ballot, the City (including the City Council as a group) cannot campaign "For" or "Against" this proposition. The City can provide factual information about the proposition in written documents, on-line or in public meetings. All of those will be forthcoming.

Let me provide a little background... Quite a while back, the City sent out a survey to gauge citizens' satisfaction with services such as technology, internet service and communication efforts. We received a lot of comments about poor internet service access and choices. Although internet access is not a City service, this service is normally provided by private industry, Council thought it was important enough to the citizens that it should be looked into further.

The City Council appointed a Technology Committee to study the issue. The Technology Committee spent months interviewing current providers, set up an internet speed test that captured internet speeds and looking into possible solutions. To keep this within my allotted space...in the end the committee recommended that the City Council conduct a feasibility study for a City owned fiber broadband utility.

The finalized report by Magellan Advisors is the result of that feasibility study. Please visit our website at www.lucastexas.us/

[lucas-broadband-project/](#) to read the entire report. I was going to try and encapsulate the findings but I want to be sure to keep away from any hint of electioneering, so please review the report.

So why the polarization? Well... the citizens will be telling the City Council if they can borrow \$19 million dollars using the tax base as collateral. Cities borrow money based on their ability to pay back the loans and lending institutions look to the tax base as that basis. Each of us, as residents, will need to analyze the risk and it will come down to each individual's acceptable amount of risk that they are willing to take. That risk is to the City's portion of your property tax bill.

I am hesitant to refer to or use the numbers in the Magellan report in this newsletter article because those may not be the end result but ... should a project that would provide the ability of each property in Lucas to access a fiber broadband network achieve enough subscribers to cover the costs of running the system and repaying the debt, there should be no impact to the City's portion of your property tax. Whereas on the other end, if the same project is undertaken and there are no subscribers or an insufficient number of subscribers to cover the operational costs as well as the debt, then there is a potential for impact on the City's portion of your property tax bill.

Because of the depth of the range related to this and the limited space in this newsletter, I am going to ask that you keep watch on our website for updated information. It may take us a little time to get it out there, as City Council wants to vet the information because we too have varying opinions on this issue. Even with that being the case, I truly believe that the entire City Council wants accurate information presented in the most understandable format so the residents can make their decision known come this November. Remember that it is perfectly fine that we have differing opinions on just about everything and in the end we are friends and neighbors and can respect each other's position without stooping to personal attacks or character bashing. Remember to fact check things that might show up on social media posts as they tend to mirror the thoughts of the original poster. Please consider referring to official information on the City's website to make your own informed decision.

Got a Question about Broadband?

The City is creating a Broadband webpage where you will be able to find information related to the broadband project and submit your broadband questions via a link on the City's website. The goal is to have a response to the requestor within five business days (depending on the number of questions received) and posted on the City's website. This Q&A feature along with additional information on the broadband project will be available no later than September 1.



MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Meetings will be available through a video conferencing webinar link on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/.

September 3	Lucas Fire District Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
September 3	City Council Meeting Video Conference 7:05 pm <i>(immediately following the Fire District Meeting)</i>
September 10	Planning and Zoning Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
September 12	Lucas Farmers Market Community Park 8 am-12 pm
September 17	City Council Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
September 22	Parks Board Meeting Video Conference 7 pm
September 26	Lucas Farmers Market Community Park 8 am-12 pm

Currently, meetings at City Hall are not open to on-site visitors. Check the City's website for the latest information. It is the goal of the City Council to encourage public participation while maintaining practices to safeguard public health.

PUBLIC HEARING SET FOR BUDGET AND TAX RATE

A public hearing has been set for September 3, 2020 at 7 pm to consider and approve the fiscal year 20/21 budget for the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District.

Immediately following the Lucas Fire Control, Prevention and EMS District meeting (approximately 7:05 pm), public hearings to consider and approve the City of Lucas proposed fiscal year 20/21 budget and set the tax rate will also take place.

Both meetings will be held by video conference. Links to the meetings can be found at www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/. For information on the budget process or the City's tax rate, contact the City's Finance Director Liz Exum at 972.912.1201 or lexum@lucastexas.us.



The City is partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Public Lands Trail Cleanup in observance of National Public Lands Day on **Saturday, September 26, 2020**. The cleanup event will be held from 9 am to 1 pm at the Brockdale Park Trail Head. We would like to encourage the community to participate in this

cleanup event to remove trash and debris from the trails as we continue to "Keep Lucas Beautiful." We ask that all volunteers preregister for the cleanup event. To register as a volunteer, visit www.lucastexas.us/public-lands-trail-cleanup/. All registered volunteers will be contacted prior to the event date with further event information. Sign-in will begin at 9 am at the Brockdale Park Trail Head. Lunch will be provided to all volunteers from 12 pm to 1 pm. The Blackland Prairie Raptor Center will make a special appearance during the volunteer lunch to provide a safe social distancing interactive experience with the raptors. The following is a list of safety precautions that will be required at the Public Lands Trail Cleanup:

- Volunteer cleanup groups must be smaller than 10 people and the groups must be limited to people within the same household.
- Maintain at least six feet of social distancing from other people not in the same household.
- Face coverings for over the nose and mouth wherever it is not feasible to maintain six feet of social distancing from another person not in the same household.
- Face coverings, antibacterial hand wipes, hand sanitizer, safety gloves, trash grabbers, and trash bags will be provided to volunteers by the City.
- City staff will safely transport volunteers onto the trail following safe practices such as maintaining social distancing, face covering, and limiting to small household groups.
- Handwashing stations will be available at the primary cleanup site for volunteers to utilize.
- All food will be pre-packaged and boxed for volunteers to ensure safe food handling.
- Safety lectures and information will be provided to all volunteers.
- First Aid Station will be set up by the City.



LUCAS FARMERS MARKET

Open August 22

The City of Lucas has announced the Lucas Farmers Market will be open August 22 at the Lucas Community Park next to City Hall. The market will operate under Stage 2 COVID-19 safety precautions. Stage

2 requires social distancing, masks for shoppers and vendors, hand sanitizing stations and controlled access with no more than 120 families allowed at one time.

Positive feedback was received from most everyone at the Market on August 8 with more than 250 cars with shoppers visiting the four-hour event. Despite an unexpected traffic delay on Country Club Road, high temperatures and school shopping, Lucas clearly is supporting our efforts and we appreciate that. The August 22 market has nearly 40 vendors. 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. Visit www.lucastexas.us/farmers-market/ for information on COVID-19 safety precautions, participating vendors and future market dates. Please check the website frequently to monitor how changing safety requirements affect market opening plans. The remaining dates for the season includes September 12, September 26, and October 10.

TRINITY TRAIL MAINTENANCE

The City of Lucas Public Works team plans to start trail maintenance on the Trinity Trail at the end of August, focusing on the area from the Brockdale Park Trailhead to East Lucas Road. Work will begin on any damaged/washed out culverts to make the trail safely accessible. Once the low areas have been filled in, brush and trees will be trimmed back to make an approximate eight-foot wide by 13-foot high path clearance. The City will be accessing the trail with a Kawasaki mule that will be trail-friendly, no large equipment or vehicles will be on the trail. All of this work will be completed before the September 26 Trail Cleanup event making it safer for everyone that enjoys and uses the Trinity Trail.



WHAT IS ON THE CITY'S BALLOT IN NOVEMBER

The City will be holding a General and Special election on the November 3, 2020 ballot. The General Election will consist of City Councilmember seats including City Council Seat 1 and City Council Seat 2. Candidates on the ballot include:

City Council Seat 1

Tim Johnson
Wayne Millsap

City Council Seat 2

Tim Baney
(Running Unopposed)

On the Special election ballot, the City will have two propositions to vote on. The first proposition, Proposition "A" will be the reauthorization of the one-half of one-percent sales and use tax to continue providing revenue for maintenance and repair of municipal streets. Sales tax is levied by the City on all goods sold within the city limits. Two percent of the 8.25% sales tax collected is dedicated to the City of Lucas, with .50% dedicated to the Lucas Fire District for the purpose of funding equipment and operation costs including fire safety and emergency medical programs, and .50% is dedicated to repair and maintain existing city streets. The dedicated sales tax for repair and maintenance of municipal streets is set to expire on December 31, 2020 unless the voters approve its continuation.

The second proposition, Proposition "B" on the ballot will be the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$19,190,000 to create a City of Lucas fiber optic broadband utility system to

provide broadband internet service. The broadband utility's network will be based on a recommended fiber-optic broadband platform that provides direct fiber-optic connections to homes, business, and community anchors across Lucas. Fiber-optic is the only current technology that provides long-term scalability for broadband networks to accommodate the ever-growing bandwidth needs of users. The conceptual network design would run approximately 107.85 miles which would consist of a fiber backbone and feeder distribution lines that would be available to connect to every residential household and business within city limits. For more information on the broadband project go to www.lucastexas.us/lucas-broadband-project/.

Early voting and Election Day voting will be held at the Lucas Community Center, located behind City Hall at 665 Country Club Road. Governor Abbott has extended early voting to begin on October 13, early voting times are outlined below:

Tuesday October 13 - Friday, October 16	8 am - 5 pm
Saturday, October 17	7 am - 7 pm
Sunday, October 18	1 pm - 6 pm
Monday, October 19 - Friday, October 23	8 am - 5 pm
Saturday, October 24	7 am - 7 pm
Sunday, October 25	1 pm - 6 pm
Monday, October 26 - Friday, October 30	7 am - 7 pm
Election Day, November 3	7 am - 7 pm



HIGHLIGHTING OUR PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Lucas is very fortunate to have some great partnerships to help us solve a variety of transportation challenges and implement

needed infrastructure improvements. As previously reported in the Lucas Leader, Collin County awarded the City of Lucas \$8,365,180 to help fund the total reconstruction of West Lucas Road from Angel Parkway to Country Club Road. This roadway project is estimated to cost \$12.5 million and will create a 4-lane divided roadway to help improve safety and mobility. While Collin County recognizes the importance of this roadway as a significant east/west connection, the City appreciates that it will help our residents not only get to work in the morning but get home to their families in the evening.

To address the occasional traffic jam that occurs at the intersection of Estates Parkway and Country Club Road, the City redesigned the intersection by adding two left-hand turn lanes: 1) northbound Country Club Road to eastbound Estates Parkway and 2) eastbound Estate Parkway to northbound Country Club Road. The Texas Department of Transportation is in the process of constructing these improvements to reduce congestion during peak hours and improve travel to Lovejoy High School.

The City is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on its redesign of Snider Bridge due to the environmentally sensitive area just south of the bridge. Currently, the City is working to obtain the Temporary Construction License required for the geotechnical boring and obtaining all available boundary documents from the USACE for parcels within the project.

LET LUCAS FIRE-RESCUE HELP YOU! CALL 911

It is incredibly important to call 911 when you need medical assistance or an emergency response from Lucas Fire-Rescue, instead of calling the fire station directly. Lucas Fire-Rescue is part of a regional dispatch system that includes Wylie, Fairview, Branch, and will soon include Parker Fire Departments. Several advantages to utilizing a regional dispatch system includes automatically sending the next closest fire department to you if Lucas Fire-Rescue is already on another call. This sophisticated dispatch system also programs the type of resources necessary based on call information and triggers an alerting system within the Fire Station facility and radio system to ensure you receive the quickest response possible. Our firefighters/paramedics are not always available to answer incoming telephone calls as they may be on another call for service, participating in a training event or performing checks and maintenance on equipment and gear. If you need Lucas Fire -Rescue but your call is not an emergency, call the fire dispatch system non-emergency number 972-442-8171 for assistance. Dispatchers are able to "stack" non-emergency calls for service (e.g. your smoke detector is beeping) and dispatchers will hold that call for service when personnel become available. If its an emergency, always call 911.

Public Safety Response	Dispatch Provider	Phone Number
Lucas Fire-Rescue Emergency	Wylie Dispatch	Call 911
Lucas Fire-Rescue Non-Emergency	Wylie Dispatch	972-442-8171
Law Enforcement Emergency	Collin County Sheriff's Office	Call 911
Law Enforcement Non-Emergency	Collin County Sheriff's Office	972-547-5350

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Winningkoff Road Phase 2 - Forestview to Snider

This project extends north from Forestview Drive to Snider Lane and was awarded to McMahon Contracting LP. Per their bid documents, they plan to be done towards the end of December. This completion date is very compressed given the amount of work needed to reconstruct the culvert north of Manor Lane. The City is currently working with the contractor regarding project details and timeline.

TxDOT Safety Enhancements along FM 1378

TxDOT has substantially completed the safety enhancements along Country Club Road, W. Lucas Road, and Southview Drive. The three main objectives of the project were 1) add narrow shoulders to FM 1378, 2) improve drainage, and 3) resurface the main lanes with high-friction asphalt.

Winningkoff Reverse Curve

Each roadway project contains a two-year warranty period. Several areas of the new pavement have been cracking. The contractor and the City staff will continue to work together to address any deficiencies in the workmanship, materials, and/or design. The replacement of crack pavement must also be done in conjunction with the lane closures within the Winningkoff Phase 2 project.

Bait Shop Intersection

TxDOT released a new schematic for the intersection in June. It can be viewed along with other construction information on the city

website under <https://www.lucastexas.us/neighborhood-connector-street-projects/>. Property owners are being contacted about purchasing rights-of-way and other impacts to their properties. If all goes well, they anticipated starting construction in mid-2022. The cost is still estimated to be \$4 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 has revised its completion date from mid-2021 to late-2020.

Brockdale Park Road

In conjunction with the developer of Brockdale Estates, the City is developing plans for the reconstruction of the road from East Lucas Road to Cayden Trail. Details still need to be worked out among Collin County, Seis Lagos Utility District and Lucas. Construction is anticipated to start in the Spring 2021.

West Lucas Road

The City and Collin County are working on an interlocal agreement to fund the \$12.5 million project from Angel Parkway to County Club Road. The new road will be four lanes and constructed out of concrete. In the meantime, the City will be making temporary repairs to the road similar to what was done last July and August just before the start of school. The two main lanes (not the middle turn lane) will be repaired with a new overlay. The pavement failures we are experiencing today are unrelated to the work finished in August 2018.

Stinson Road

The section between Bristol Park Road and Bentwater Drive is scheduled for rehabilitation. The result will be similar to the work done on Stinson from Bentwater Drive to West Lucas Road a few years ago.

WELCOME DEPUTY GILLESPIE



The City of Lucas welcomes its newest member of our Law Enforcement Team, Deputy Daniel Gillespie.

Did you know that Deputy Gillespie’s Dad grew up in Lucas? Returning to Lucas has been like returning to his youth and having his Dad’s stories about Lucas come to life as he patrols the areas that his Dad talked about so often. Deputy Gillespie enjoys anything outdoors and loves the rural atmosphere of Lucas since he is country person at heart having grown up on a ranch in the Anna area. He is married and has two daughters. Deputy Gillespie is also a dog lover with two German Shepherd dogs in the family. His dogs are Nora and Bentley and he loves the shepherd breed for their looks, energy, and loyalty.

Deputy Gillespie attended Collin College and received an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and then attended Sam Houston State University and obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in business. Deputy Gillespie was a police explorer at the Collin County Sheriff’s Office (CCSO) in high school, interned with the CCSO for a college semester, and then was hired into patrol once he graduated. Deputy Gillespie has been on patrol for 2 years now and is super excited to be in Lucas!

The City of Lucas partners with Collin County Sheriff’s Office for the provision of law enforcement services. This contractual arrangement provides the citizen of Lucas with access to general crime prevention, answering calls for assistance, investigations, traffic control and enforcement and any other services related to law enforcement and the protection of the citizens of Lucas.