

**Honor Student James Brunson**  
Nominated for The Congress of Future Medical Leaders



James Brunson, a Freshman at Lovejoy High School served as a Delegate to the Congress of Future Medical Leaders on November 21 and November 22, 2020. The Congress is an honors-only program for high school students who want to become physicians or go into medical research fields. The purpose of this event is to honor, inspire, motivate and direct the top students in the country interested in these careers, to stay true to their dream and, after the event, to provide a path, plan and resources to help them reach their goal. James's nomination was signed by Dr. Mario Capecchi, winner of the Nobel Prize

in Medicine and the Science Director of the National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists to represent Texas based on his academic achievement, leadership potential and determination to serve humanity in the field of medicine.

During the two-day Congress, James Brunson joined students from across the country and listened to Nobel Laureates and National Medal of Science Winners talk about leading medical research; was given advice from Ivy League and top medical school deans on what to expect in medical school; witnessed stories told by patients who are living medical miracles; was inspired by fellow teen medical science prodigies; and learned about cutting-edge advances and the future in medicine and medical technology.

The National Academy of Future Physicians and Medical Scientists was founded on the belief that we must identify prospective medical talent at the earliest possible age and help these students acquire the necessary experience and skills to take them to the doorstep of this vital career. Based in Washington, D.C. and with offices in Boston, MA, the Academy was chartered as a nonpartisan, taxpaying institution to help address this crisis by working to identify, encourage and mentor students who wish to devote their lives to the service of humanity as physicians, medical scientists.



**Grace Church  
Gem Express  
Preschool & Kindergarten**  
Open Registration for 2020/2021

Grace Church Gem Express Preschool and Kindergarten begins their registration for the 2020/2021 school year on January 29 at 9 am. Gem Express exists primarily to be an evangelistic outreach ministry to those in our community without a church home, and secondarily to provide support to families of Grace Church of their preschool and kindergarten age children according to Biblical principles to provide a Christian environment for your child to grow physically, socially, academically, and spiritually, and to provide an opportunity for church and home to work together in meeting the needs of each child.

Gem Express classes run from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm Monday through Friday. Extended care hours are available from 8:00 to 9:00 am and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Two-year-old through Kindergarten class placements are based on age as of September 1, 2021.

Contact Gem Express at Grace Church, 2005 Estates Road at 972.727.0071 or [www.gemexpress.org](http://www.gemexpress.org) to schedule a tour.



**Winningkoff Phase 2 Traffic Management  
(Forestview Drive to Snider Lane)**

From the beginning of January to the end of September 2021, access to 1020 through 1545 Winningkoff Road will be impacted due to lane closures and traffic switches. There are three main stages for the Winningkoff Road Phase 2 project from Forestview Drive to Snider Lane:

**Stage I (January through March)**

There will be total closures of Winningkoff Road to "through traffic" in two locations: 1) between Forestview Drive and Ramsay Drive and 2) between Manor Lane and Snider Lane. Access to properties between 1090 and 1290 Winningkoff Road including all on Manor Lane will need to use Ramsay Drive. Access to 1246 and 1445 Winningkoff Road will be maintained from the Winningkoff Road/Snider Lane intersection. During this stage, new pavement in the closed areas as well as temporary detour pavement on the east side will be constructed. The small culvert crossing at 1020 Winningkoff Road will be reconstructed, and the large culvert north of Manor Lane will become a bridge class culvert. The Winningkoff Road/Manor Lane intersection will be built a half at a time.

**Stage II (April through June)**

Winningkoff Road will be one-lane northbound from Forestview Drive to McMillen Road. The western half of Winningkoff Road will be constructed. Ramsay Drive will be closed at Winningkoff Road. The driveways on the west side will be built a half at a time.

**Stage III (July through September)**

Winningkoff Road will be one-lane northbound from Forestview Drive to McMillen Road. The eastern half of Winningkoff Road will be constructed. Ramsay Drive will be open, and Snider Lane will be closed at Winningkoff Road. The driveways on the east side will be built a half at a time.

**West Lucas Road Reconstruction Project**

City staff will be delivering a recommendation to the Lucas City Council to engage an engineering design consultant this month to tackle the new design of West Lucas Road from Angel Parkway to Country Club Road. On December 7 and November 5, the Collin County Commissioner's Court and the Lucas City Council approved \$12.55 million in funding for the new four-lane, divided roadway. The new roadway will have two east- and westbound lanes with a median that will provide room for left turn lanes. Please contact City Engineer Stanton Foerster at 972.912.1208 or [stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:stanton@lucastexas.us) if you have any questions about the project. To keep updated on the City's construction projects, send an email to [stanton@lucastexas.us](mailto:stanton@lucastexas.us) requesting to be added to the email construction update list.



A publication of the City of Lucas

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

January 2021



**Mayor's Message**

I thought I would close out the year with a brief review. Great start, COVID, COVID, COVID, Election, COVID. As you can see COVID has played a big part of what we have had to address this year. It has altered the way the City interacts with the residents as well as how we interact with each other. In my mind some of the changes have been positive.

As the Governor relaxed the open meetings regulations and allowed City Council meetings (and other boards and commissions) to move to on-line participation we have seen a noticeable increase in people watching and participating in the meetings. Residents, from the comfort of their homes, can tune in and speak on any item that may interest them and then go back to their families or whatever they want to do. I can say that this has allowed me to hear from parts of our populace that may otherwise have gone unheard. I think this is especially true for the families with younger children that need attention during the evening hours which is when the City holds their meetings. As this legislative session moves forward, I sincerely hope that the State Legislature will allow us to continue to allow on-line participation at our meetings. Although the meetings are running a little longer, I am enjoying hearing from all of our residents.

In conjunction with the on-line meetings, the City has improved the technology in videotaping and video streaming of meetings. We now live stream meetings and have a recorded back up. This recording is indexed so that someone wanting to find information on a specific topic can quickly find the agenda item and listen to what was discussed/decided. I can't think of a way that the City can be any more transparent than to have discussions recorded for posterity.

Because of COVID we have truly seen what our emergency response is capable of. I am very proud of our Lucas Fire-Rescue Department and their response, but I have also seen how this response works from the City, County, Region, and

State levels. It is truly something to be in awe of when you look at the big picture and try and figure out how all the parts are supposed to fit together. I do think there has been some stumbling along the way, but we have gotten back up, learned lessons, and kept moving forward. As it stands, we have had 188 positive COVID cases in Lucas. Nineteen are still active with zero deaths. I suspect that we will hit 200 cases for 2020 which is under 3% of the population.

Blondy Jhune reconstruction is finally complete and some major repairs on West Lucas Road were completed. Additionally, this week, the City of Lucas entered into an inter-local agreement with Collin County to reconstruct West Lucas Road from the Country Club intersection to Angel Parkway. The new road will be a 4-lane divided road with left turn lanes to improve safety along that stretch of roadway. I would love to hear from our residents as to what they would like to see in the new medians. As you drive through our neighboring communities please take notice of which medians you like and which ones you don't. Since West Lucas Road is a City roadway we can treat those medians how we feel they would improve our community. So keep that in mind as we move forward with the design of West Lucas Road.

To improve runoff water issues, the City sponsored a drainage study for part of the Muddy Creek water shed. I am hoping that this will be a model as to how the City and private property owners can work together to improve drainage around the City.

Overall, City Staff and City Council have been very busy with the day to day operations of the City. COVID has played a major part with closings, partial openings, openings, cancellations, etc. but overall, Staff has done a great job, insuring that our core functions have performed at top levels. Staff has tightened their belts and we have a very lean budget this upcoming year but the goal of the City of Lucas is to provide an unmatched quality of life in Collin County and I do not see that changing.

I do want to wish each of you a very happy holiday season and hoping each of you have a safe and prosperous New Year.

# January

City meetings have opened to the public with limited capacity. To enter City Hall, you are required to wear a mask or face covering. To ensure safe social distancing, capacity is limited to 15 audience members. The City will continue with Zoom meetings to allow for public participation remotely. To download a video conferencing link go to [www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/](http://www.lucastexas.us/download-a-meeting-video-conference-link/).

December 24-25 City offices closed

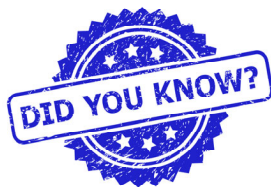
January 1 City offices closed

January 7 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm

January 14 Planning and Zoning Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm

January 21 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm

January 26 Parks Board Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm



## City of Lucas Logo is Trademarked

The City of Lucas logo was updated in 2016 and is a trademark logo that is indicative of the Lucas community. Any use of the City's logo or a portion of the logo requires permission from the City to avoid trademark infringement violations. The City's trademark logo also helps identify the City in its formal communication to the public. If you ever have a question if something was sent to you by the City of Lucas, please call 972.912.1211 to verify.



## Remember the Birds this Winter

With winter weather coming, remember the birds and other small animals by providing shelter and food in our landscapes. We want that manicured lawn, but sometimes a little mess during the winter months helps the birds and beneficial insects. Bird Feeding Basics by the Texas Audubon Society is a great resource for providing important habitats for native birds during the winter in North Texas.



This year's Country Christmas was modified as a drive-through event as a public health safety precaution during this pandemic. The drive-through event was held on December 4 from 6 to 8 pm in the parking lot of the Community Park. Visitors had the opportunity to drive through the event to see the holiday lights, park decorations, and the North Pole. Santa, his Elf, The Grinch, and Olaf were at the North Pole waving to visitors and giving away treat bags to children in their vehicles. As visitors drove around the North Pole, In-N-Out Burger provided free meals to families. As visitors were leaving the Country Christmas drive-through, the City gave away special holiday items. The City is very thankful to In-N-Out Burger for their in-kind donation to provide free meals to the community. We loved seeing the community stop by the Country Christmas drive-through for some holiday cheer.

## Holiday Donation Drive Success



This year's Holiday Donation Drive was held from November 9 through December 4 to help support the Collin County Toys for Tots, Allen Community Outreach, Family Promise of Collin County, Senior Angel Tree for Loving Care Home, and Lucas Veterinary Hospital. We received enormous amounts of food donations and gift cards for families, toys for children, gifts for teenagers and seniors, and food for pets. We are grateful to have thoughtful and supportive residents that give back to those in need within our community. Santa will be making a special delivery to the senior angels at Loving Care Home to drop off their gifts at the door. Thank you for supporting the Holiday Donation Drive and making it a special time of year for those in need during this pandemic.

## Christmas Tree Disposal

If you would like to dispose of your live or artificial Christmas tree, the City's trash provider, Barnes Waste Disposal will pick up Christmas trees as part of your regular trash service. If your live tree is over six feet in height, please cut the tree in half. If you have an artificial tree, please break down the tree into pieces before placing out for trash pickup. For additional information regarding trash services call Barnes Waste Disposal at 972.734.3333.

## Candidate Filing for City Elections

May 1, 2021 General Election

The City of Lucas general election will be held on May 1, 2021. There will be two City Council seats on the ballot, Seat 3 and Seat 4, as well as the seat for Mayor. Each position serves a three year term. Applications for a place on the ballot will be available from the City Secretary's office beginning Monday, January 4. Prospective candidates may file an application with the City Secretary beginning Wednesday, January 13 through Friday, February 12, 2021. Please note that electronic application submittals will not be accepted.

To be eligible for office, the City Charter states the following criteria must be met:

- Resident of the City for twelve (12) continuous months
- Qualified voter of the city
- Never been convicted or not currently charged with a felony or crime involving moral turpitude
- 18 years of age
- Not delinquent on ad valorem taxes due to the City of Lucas

For any election questions, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211.



In the first quarter of 2020, the City received ten calls for service regarding illegal outdoor burning. As we approach 2021, the City would like to ensure everyone's safety and avoid these types of calls.

In 2015, the City discontinued issuing burn permits when the City became aware that Collin County was designated as a nonattainment area. The Clean Air Act defines 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. In February of 2020 the Lucas City Council passed an ordinance clarifying that outdoor burning is illegal unless you follow all of the following requirements:

1. No County Burn Ban is in effect.
2. Fire shall be constantly attended.
3. Pile shall be 3 feet or less in diameter and 2 feet or less in height.
4. Fire shall only contain firewood and/or natural tree branches generated on your property.
5. Fire in approved containers no less than 15 feet from a structure.
6. Fire shall be minimum of 25 feet from property line.
7. Extinguishment source such as water hose, fire extinguisher or shovel with dirt at site of fire.
8. Fire shall not cause nuisance from smoke or traffic hazards.
9. Fire shall be located with a "clear sky view" and not located under a tree or canopy.

## 2021 Events Calendar

Annually, the City of Lucas organizes community events to sponsor social activities for citizens to enjoy and to create a sense of community. Some events focus on environmental issues such as litter abatement or to encourage tree conservation. Many events require preplanning to ensure vendors are secured, resources are allocated, and contracts are in place. The calendar is for planning purposes and future events could possibly be impacted due to COVID-19 public safety concerns and modification or cancellations may occur.

April 3	Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off Cleanup Event & Electronic Recycling/Paper Shredding
April 16	Movie in the Park
April 24	Lucas Farmers Market
May 8	Founders Day & Farmers Market
May 22	Lucas Farmers Market
June 12	Lucas Farmers Market
June 26	Lucas Farmers Market
July 10	Lucas Farmers Market
July 24	Lucas Farmers Market
August 14	Lucas Farmers Market
August 28	Lucas Farmers Market
September 11	Lucas Farmers Market
September 25	Lucas Farmers Market
September 25	Public Lands Trail Cleanup Event with TTPA & USACE
October 5	National Night Out
October 9	Lucas Farmers Market
October 10	Fire Prevention Week Open House
October 16	Movie in the Park
October 23	Lucas Farmers Market
November 6	Arbor Day
December 3	Country Christmas & Holiday Market

*Volunteers Needed!*

## Lucas Farmers Market Committee

The Lucas Farmers Market Committee (LFMC) is seeking committed, dependable volunteers for the upcoming season. Members of the LFMC are required to work a minimum of two to three markets (depending on the number of volunteers willing to serve on the LFMC) from set up which starts at 6:00 am through tear down which usually concludes at 1:00 pm. You must be a Lucas citizen to serve on the Lucas Farmers Market Committee and be willing to attend occasional Lucas Farmers Market meetings. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Lucas Farmers Market by serving as a volunteer, please send an email to [farmersmarket@lucastexas.us](mailto:farmersmarket@lucastexas.us) with your name, address, telephone number and email address and if you are able to attend a planning session on January 12 at 5:30 pm at City Hall.