

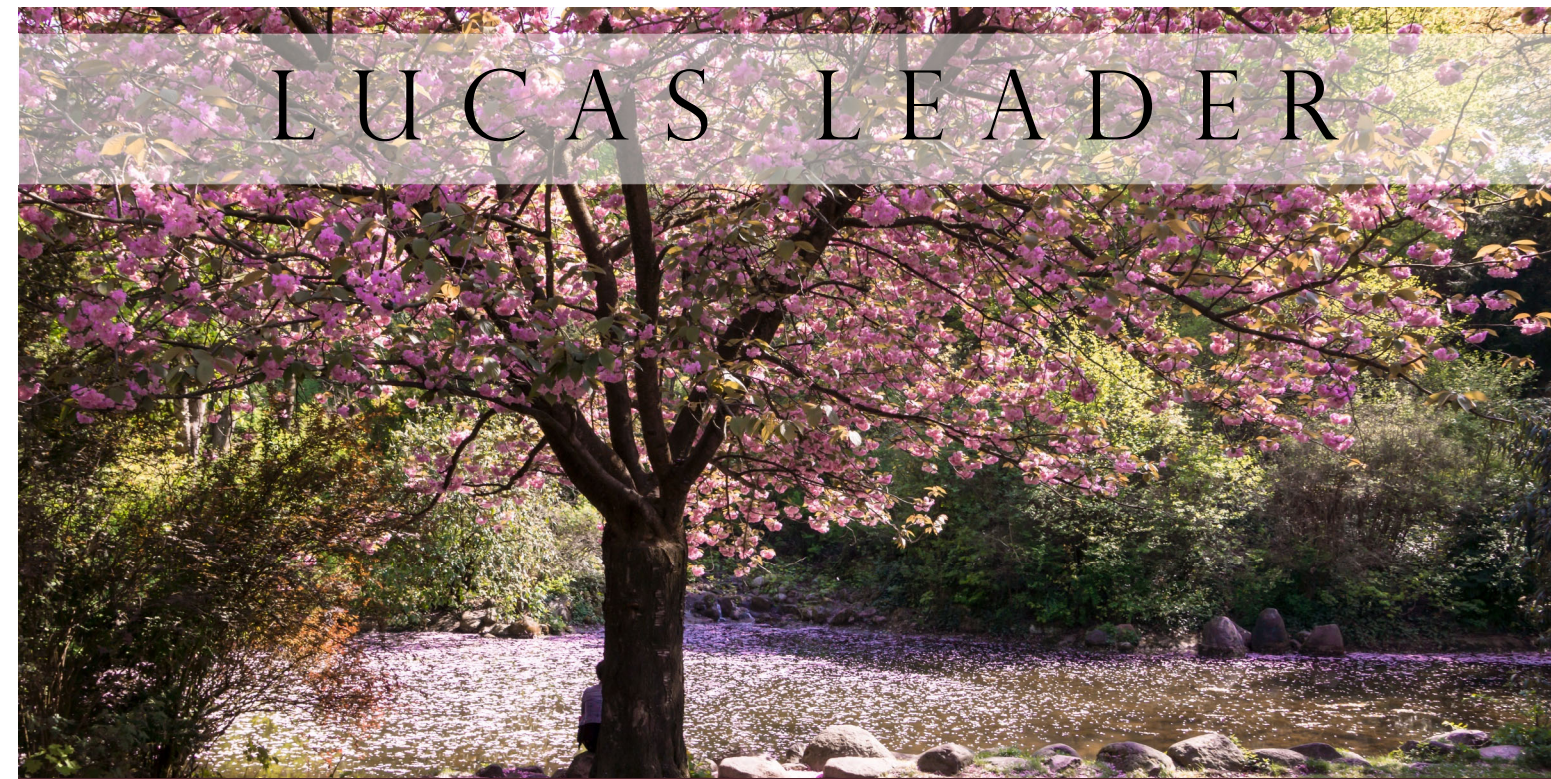
EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT FOR LUCAS FIRE-RESCUE

Dawton Bruner, Lovejoy High School Sophomore and member of Troop 224, made the most of his 2020 year. Along with school and sports he recently completed his Eagle Scout Project. Dawton believes the Fire Department is a very worthy group to be honored and appreciated for all they do for us. This is why he chose to custom build a picnic table for our own Lucas Fire Department. With materials donated from Tower Extrusions in Wylie and financial support from the City of Lucas and several generous citizens, some of who remain anonymous, made this endeavor possible. He used forest green planking on a carefully constructed frame. The bracing, made from raw angle and flat stock was carefully measured, cut, filed and drilled. Polished Diamond Plate displays several Dura--Black plates, which include the names of the firefighters, donors, a note of appreciation and a Bible verse, Isaiah 43:2. A plate with the words, "In Honor of Our Hometown Heroes" can be found in the center of the table. It also brandishes the Maltese Cross, the Star of Life and the various symbols which represent our Fire Station. Facing the unforeseen challenges of the year, he constructed this one of a kind table.

On December 7, 2020, Pearl Harbor Day, Dawton Bruner went on to achieve the Rank of Eagle Scout. The evening ended by Bruner retiring a very special American Flag which had been flown over Pearl Harbor in June 2006 in honor of Aviation Radioman 1st class Petty Officer James Elvin Sellers, a WWII veteran. Mr. Sellers served in the U.S. Navy from 1942---1945. He was the father of Mrs. Janet Tillman, a much loved and retired Lovejoy ISD Librarian, whom we would like to thank for entrusting us with this honor. Dawton would like to thank those who supported this meaningful project include:



- City of Lucas
- Lucas Fire-Rescue Chief Ted Stephens, Chief Engineer Gary Johnson, and Devanie Stevens
- Donna and Lloyd Bruner BSA Troop 224
- Dr. Adam Smith, MD
- Danielle T. Tranchina
- Michael Shull
- Tower Extrusions of Wylie, Texas
- Travis Weaver
- Bill Mitchell --- MB&B Trophies
- Renee Jones
- Landon Bruner
- Ben Thompson
- Dr. Karen Neat, DDS, MSD, PA
- Carolyn Rasmussen



LUCAS LEADER

A publication of the City of Lucas

www.lucastexas.us

February 2021

WELCOME THE CITY'S EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INTERN



Lucas Fire-Rescue would like to welcome Josh Tincopa to the City of Lucas. Josh is a senior at the University of North Texas earning his degree in Emergency Administration and Disaster Planning. Josh is completing his capstone course with an internship with the city where he will be working with LFR and other city departments. Josh wanted to come to a smaller city so he could be exposed to more aspects of city functions besides emergency management. We are looking for Josh to work on several projects within emergency management as well as seek smaller projects maybe within the city to broaden his horizons. Josh comes to us from Katy, Texas prior to living in Denton to attend UNT. He recently married his high school sweetheart, Brooke. They both enjoy camping and hiking and Josh loves to play the piano. Josh is passionate about the emergency management field as it allows him to help people by doing "behind the scenes" work. Following his internship with the city and graduating from UNT he wants to work in local or county government in emergency management. We are glad to have Josh aboard.

WELCOME PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION MEMBERS

In December, the City Council made appointments of new and returning volunteers to the Planning and Zoning Commission. At the January 21 City Council meeting appointments will be made to the Board of Adjustment and Parks and Open Space Board. The City appreciates the abundance of interest shown from our citizens volunteering to serve their community, there was a large pool of talented volunteers and for those not chosen to serve this time, we hope you continue to apply again in the future. New and existing members appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission include:

- Joe Williams
- Tommy Tolson
- Adam Sussman
- Dusty Kuykendall
- James Foster

THANK YOU, LUCAS VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PENSION BOARD

The City would like to thank the Lucas Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board for their service over the years. The Board was established in 2001 as a local board to the Texas Emergency Services Retirement System (TESRS). In lieu of the TESRS program, the City now provides the Length of Service Award Programs to volunteer firefighters as their pension program which offers a better alternative for the City's volunteer emergency responders.

On January 11, 2021, the Pension Board members voted to disband the Board as the City no longer participates in TESRS. Thank you to all the board members who have served on the Lucas Volunteer Firefighter Pension Board through the years and most recent members consisting of former Chair Larry Bowman, Vice Chair Jamie Kilpatrick, Wayne Millsap, Russell Chandler, and Alejandro Contreras for your work in helping volunteer firefighters at the City.

Mayor's Message

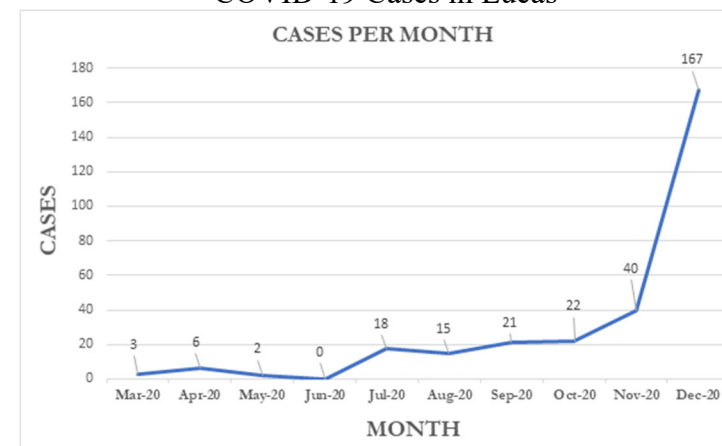


New Year's greetings neighbors!

Well, I was hoping not to have to write about COVID-19 and our numbers for a while, but we are really seeing a spike in cases here in Lucas. So, I feel that I need to provide an update.

I think I predicted that our positive case count here in Lucas would be at 200 by the end of the year. Well, now we are at January 15 and we have exceeded 300. Cases have really spiked. Check out this graph.

COVID-19 Cases in Lucas



Normally our active cases (those that have symptoms or are still in quarantine) were staying in the teens. Now our active

case count is over 30 and pushing 40. These are not good signs.

I was so glad to get a call from Collin County Judge Chris Hill asking if we would like to partner with County Health Department in putting on County-wide vaccine events. I thought it was a great idea so that if people wanted to get vaccinated, they could have a place to sign up. I personally have called my health care providers and so far, I have not been able to find any with available vaccines.

If you are at all interested in getting vaccinated for COVID-19 please use this link to get on to the County's waiting list at https://www.collincountytx.gov/healthcare_services/Pages/COVID19vaccines.aspx.

Right now they are taking all the 1A and 1B people that need to get the shot. Please read the information that is on the County's link if you are unsure if you qualify.

The Texas Department of State Health Services has created a COVID-19 vaccine provider location map to assist in finding distribution sites that may have vaccines at <https://txdshs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=91ac7fb5e5fd47e7ada4acfe4a05920a>. You can also visit the Texas Department of State Health Services website for more information on the vaccine at <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/tools/vaccine-comm.aspx>.

Information is changing daily so check back to these websites frequently.



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/.

February 4	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
February 11	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
February 18	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
February 24	Board of Adjustment City Hall 6 pm

Candidate Filing for City Elections

January 13 - February 12, 2021

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 are now available from the City Secretary's office as well as the City's website election page. Prospective candidates may file an application with the City Secretary January 13 through 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 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.



The Lucas Farmers Market Committee is gearing up for an exciting 2021 season with lots of great new vendors! Mark your calendars now for the first market on Saturday, April 24 at the Lucas Community Park from 8 am to Noon.

“We will have fantastic mix of agricultural vendors, cottage food specialty vendors, as well as artisan vendors,” said Bill Esposito, Lucas Farmers Market Committee Chair. “You can look forward to an increasing variety of locally grown produce, honey, jams, free range eggs, salsa, beef, chicken, and pork, as well as specialty type items.”

A complete list of vendors will be posted soon on the Lucas Farmers Market website, (<https://lucasfarmersmarket.com>) so be sure check it out. Besides vendor lists, the website spotlights participating vendors so that you can learn more about their products. The market also has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram, be sure to follow the Lucas Farmers Market to stay up to date on the latest information.



New things to look for this season are signs that identify local Lucas vendors, as well as local garden co-op tables.

“ ‘Eat Fresh, Buy Local’ is a focus this year, because we want to highlight our rural culture.” Esposito said. “We really want to encourage people to participate in the market. Currently, the committee is exploring how to set up co-op tables to support local gardeners who may have more produce than what can be used by their families. These co-op tables are a way for them or school clubs to sell their surplus of goods. Watch for more details in the March Lucas Leader.”

The Lucas Farmers Market Committee has already received applications from over twenty agricultural producers which will provide our community with access to high quality produce and meats. Vendor applications are being accepted through January 24, 2021 and vendor selection will be finalized at the February 2 Committee meeting.

Lucas Love ON VALENTINE'S DAY 2021

As we are all aware, Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14, and it is day where we express our love and appreciation to our significant others. With 2020 behind us, let us think of how we can celebrate this day of love in some new and interesting ways. Isn't it always exciting to see what new traditions are included or created year after year? Please consider incorporating some Lucas Love into your celebration by exploring ways to make a difference in your community:

TAKE CARE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT by signing up for curbside recycling by contacting Republic Services. Simply call 972.422.2341 to setup your account, and Republic Services will deliver a new recycle container to your home. Bi-weekly curbside pickup service begins on Friday. The current monthly rate of \$8.15 for one container will be charged, and each additional container will be at a rate of \$3.17 per month. Customers will be billed quarterly, and pricing includes sales tax. To view the 2021 curbside recycling calendar go to www.lucastexas.us/republic-curbside-recycling/.

SIGN UP AS A VOLUNTEER for the upcoming Don't mess with Texas Trash-Off Clean Up event scheduled for Saturday, April 3 from 8:00 am to Noon. This is an annual spring cleanup event that is part of the Keep Lucas Beautiful program to encourage the community to support the beautification of the City through litter abatement and sustainable practices. Details will appear in the March Lucas Leader on how to sign up.

ADOPT A ROADWAY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD and keep it litter free. This is already happening along many roadways in the city. When your out for your walk, simple grab a trash bag and remove trash along our roadways as you go.

BECOME A SUPPORTER for any or all the following local nonprofits:

- **Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA)** was established in 1996 as a non-profit volunteer organization. TTPA maintains Trinity Trail which is a 25-mile trail on U. S. Army Corps of Engineers land along Lake Lavon. Trinity Trail provides pedestrian and equestrian access to the natural beauty along Lake Lavon.
- The **Blackland Prairie Raptor Center (BPRC)** is dedicated to environmental preservation through public education and the conservation of birds of prey and wildlife in their natural habitat. Named after the tallgrass prairie that once covered more than 23,500 square miles of Texas from the Red River to San Antonio, Blackland Prairie Raptor Center is a rehabilitation and conservation education organization, specializing in fostering better public understanding of the relationship between birds of prey and healthy ecosystems. BPRC is in need of volunteers to help with their park maintenance/trail work.
- The **Friends of Lucas Fire-Rescue** is a non-profit charitable corporation that provides the citizens of Lucas an opportunity to support the Lucas Fire-Rescue Department that is separate from the Lucas City Government. The purpose of the Corporation is to promote the mission of Lucas Fire-Rescue and to provide support in time of need to the Lucas community. One of their premier projects is the restoration of Ole Streaker, an antique fire engine.

ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT or enhance your yard by following these tips from the Collin County Master Gardeners:

February

- Prune rose bushes by 30-50% around Valentine's Day. Make each cut just above a bud.
- Prune shrubs: first remove any dead or damaged branches, then thin out by removing 1/3 of the oldest stems at ground level and shape the rest of the plant following its natural form.
- Plant cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, and potatoes.
- Feed the birds. Do not forget fresh water!
- Begin clean-up in the garden and landscape. Remove weeds and debris, prune out dead foliage and cut back perennials.

March

- Begin pruning to shape spring flowering shrubs and vines as they finish blooming throughout the season.
- Pruning of evergreens and summer flowering trees should be completed by early March.
- Begin planting shrubs, perennials, and annuals.
- Late in March, begin planting warm season vegetables: tomatoes, peppers, beans, corn, cucumbers, and squash.
- Perform an audit of the irrigation system.
- Dig and divide summer and fall flowering perennials just before they initiate their spring growth.

April

- Install sod.
- Plant warm season annuals such as Angelonia, begonias, coleus, fountain grass, pentas.
- Hummingbirds are arriving. Hang feeders filled with 1-part cane sugar to 4 parts water. Boil to dissolve sugar and cool. May be refrigerated for 2 weeks.
- Plant dill, fennel, and parsley as host plants for swallowtail butterflies.
- Plant spring containers with good quality potting mix. Choose plants that share the same water and light requirements. Water root balls slowly. Use a good quality, time-released fertilizer once a month and water-soluble fertilizer every 2 weeks to keep plants in containers healthy.
- Fertilize shrubs and perennials with slow-release fertilizer.
- Stay on top of weeds; do not make new plants compete for space and nutrients.

Although Valentine's Day is still several weeks away, we wanted to get you thinking about how love and appreciation can be translated into your community work. How do you celebrate the relationship you have with your community?

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY EVERY DAY. Giving your community a Valentine once a year is a nice gesture but finding ways to show your neighbors how much you love them on a regular basis should be what you strive for. Apply your creative energy to think of new ways to accomplish mutual goals and appreciation for our community. And, heck, who does not enjoy making someone smile with an unexpected gift?

