



FINDING JOY IN HELPING OTHERS

Written By City of Lucas Deputy Gillespie

This story starts back in 2010, when a 15 year old me was forced by my mother to serve as a volunteer at a family retreat for families affected by disabilities. I was nervous and a little scared because I did not know how to act around those affected by disabilities. I felt uncomfortable and awkward. All it took was one week. As soon as the retreat was over, I was begging to go back the next year. Eleven years and nine camps later, I can honestly say that Joni and Friends Family Retreats have been some of the most influential and joy-bringing events of my life.

Joni and Friends is a ministry founded by Joni Eareckson Tada to provide help and support for families affected by disabilities. Over the years, Joni and Friends has expanded internationally and grown in the services it offers, one of

which is the family retreats. At Family Retreat Texas, hosted by Camp Allen in Navasota, Texas, the entire family is able to attend. Volunteers, called Short Term Missionaries or STMS, are paired up with the campers (individuals of all ages affected by disabilities) to assist in various activities throughout the day. The parents are able to do whatever they like, whether it is attending camp activities, support groups, nature hikes, swimming, or just having some much needed rest and relaxation. Each night has an event like dance night, a special date night for the parents while the kids play messy lawn games, have a shaving cream fight outside, or a talent show.

Family Retreat is often described by parents as a small slice of heaven. It is a place where expectations and the world’s “norms” are removed and everyone is loved for who they are. I have never seen such pure joy than on the faces of campers, STMS, and families. We volunteer to serve the families, but often leave the camp being served ourselves. I have learned so much over the years and developed lifetime friendships with everyone who attends. When you attend, you learn to move past any stigmas associated with those with disabilities and you are able to see them for the absolutely wonderful human beings that they are. I can guarantee that I have learned more from my families at camp and been blessed by them far greater than I have blessed them.

This year I served as a high school sibling group leader. My co-leader and I were paired up with two boys and six girls for the week. I was a little concerned that I would not be “cool” since I was an “old” 26 year old, but, when they all ganged up on me during the shaving cream fight, I knew that we had finally bonded. We ended up having a wonderful week full of activities like kayaking, high ropes courses, and fishing. I would recommend everyone do more research on Joni and Friends and the many other ministries they have. To learn more about how to serve or support current volunteers go to joniandfriends.org.



COLLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES ADOPT A PET
MEET OZARKA!

Ozarka is a two year old female Tabby that has been spayed. She is friendly, energetic and loves keeping you company. If you would like to visit Ozarka or other animals at the shelter, Collin County Animal Services is located at 4750 Community Avenue in McKinney. You can view all animals up for adoption on the Collin County Animal Services website at www.collincountytx.gov/animal_services/Pages/default.aspx.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SET TO
DISCUSS BUDGET AND TAX RATE

A public hearing has been set for September 2, 2021 at 7 pm to consider and approve the fiscal year 21/22 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), a public hearing to consider and approve the City of Lucas proposed fiscal year 21/22 budget will take place.

Setting the tax rate for fiscal year 21/22 will occur following adoption of the budget. If the proposed tax rate does not exceed the “no-new-revenue” rate (the lowest tax rate option of \$0.288397) no public hearing is required. The City Council will then take a record vote on the proposed tax rate. 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.



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MAYOR’S MESSAGE

By Jim Olk

Thought I would break from my normal topics and write about something a little different that I have recently started paying attention too... We read and hear about the rise in confrontations on airline flights. Yesterday, I read a press release where a restaurant is asking patrons to stop being ugly to the

workers that showed up to provide the service. In a recent straw poll at City Hall, I find that our employees have seen a significant increase in curt, rude, and even belligerent behavior in their dealings with the public. I have even noticed this in the communications that I receive. People that would normally be rational and courteous about an issue are not always that anymore. Now this is not the entire population and City employees know they will have to deal with this type of reaction, but it seems that there is enough of a shift or a change in a considerable part of society that it is really standing out.

I have always felt that people are kind and good at their core. When you look at the past 1 ½ years at the strife we have dealt with on the national level, what is currently happening with our State Legislature and then how this pandemic impacts our daily lives, it is not hard to understand why

people are irritable. This most recent conflict between the Governors office, some Counties and School Districts leave us (you and me) not knowing what we are going to encounter when we try to live our daily lives.

I happen to work in Dallas County, but I work for a municipal government. Dallas County has been saying wear a mask, but the Governor says cities cannot enforce a mask mandate. As I go from business to business or building to building, I question what am I going to encounter. These uncertainties and/or disruptions in our daily lives can impact our emotional wellbeing. (Yes, I have to choose for myself whether I wear a mask, or not, and a lot of times I wear one to make other people feel more comfortable.) So, now when I encounter a situation that seems to tickle at my senses, I pause and ask myself, would this have caused the same feelings or would I have reacted in this way two years ago. If the answer is “no” then I chalk it up to this life we are currently having to live and adjust my response accordingly.

I would ask the same of y’all. Before you send that quick response email or blast back at someone, think if there is a way to present the same information in a constructive manner rather than a destructive manner. I think we can have a much better outlook on life, even through all of this, if we remain compassionate and considerate regarding our neighbors and our community as a whole.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you.
Jim Olk - Mayor

KEEP YOURSELF INFORMED INSTANTLY - SIGN UP FOR NIXLE

The City of Lucas has partnered with Nixle to implement its Community Notification System to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories. You can sign up for both text and e-mail alerts by visiting www.lucastexas.us/nixle/ and submitting your information to Nixle. If you need assistance with setting up your Lucas Nixle notification, please contact the City of Lucas Fire-Rescue Department at 972.727.1242.



City meetings are open to the public and to protect the health of others, masks are encouraged. The City will continue with Zoom meetings to allow for public participation remotely. To download a video conferencing link, go to <https://www.lucastexas.us/zoom-link-for-city-council-board-meetings/>.

REGULAR MEETINGS	
September 2	Lucas Fire Control District Board Meeting City Hall 7 pm
September 2	City Council Meeting City Hall 7:05 pm
September 9	Planning and Zoning Meeting City Hall 7 pm
September 16	City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
September 22	Board of Adjustment Meeting City Hall 6:30 pm
September 28	Parks Board Meeting City Hall 7 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS	
September 2	Budget and Tax Rate Adoption at City Council Meeting City Hall 7 pm
September 11	Farmers Market Community Park 8 am - Noon
September 25	Public Lands Trail Cleanup Event Community Park 9 am - 1 pm
September 25	Farmers Market Community Park 8 am - Noon



of public lands. The City is partnering with the Trinity Trail Preservation Association and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove trash and debris from the Trinity Trail at Lavon Lake. To register online as a volunteer, go to www.lucastexas.us/event/2021-public-lands-trail-cleanup and click on the online adult or minor registration link to sign up. All volunteers should meet at the Brockdale Park Trailhead. Check-in and registration will open at 8:30 am. After check-in, cleanup supplies will be provided to volunteers. City staff will safely transport volunteers to and from designated trail cleanup areas. Boxed lunches will be provided to volunteers after the cleanup event. We encourage the community to participate in the Public Lands Trail Cleanup as the City continues to promote the beautification of Lucas and surrounding public lands.

NORTH TEXAS COMMUNITY CLEANUP CHALLENGE

The City of Lucas will be participating in the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge which is a friendly competition among North Texas communities to see who can pick up the most litter. At the end of the contest, the community with the most litter cleaned up per resident will receive the North Texas Community Cleanup award that they can proudly display at City Hall. Each year, the trophy will move from community to community, each adding their name to the legacy of litter cleanup efforts. The challenge timeframe runs between September 1 and October 31, 2021. The City is participating in the challenge as the Public Lands Trail Cleanup will take place during the challenge timeframe. Please sign up as a volunteer for the Public Lands Trail Cleanup to help Lucas win the North Texas Community Cleanup Challenge!

JOIN A CITY OF LUCAS BOARD OR COMMISSION

Would you like to serve your community and get involved? One way to do that is to serve on a City of Lucas Board or Commission. The Lucas City Council is always looking for dedicated individuals that are interested in preserving the quality of life in Lucas. One way to learn more about the City boards and commissions is to attend the Meet and Greet Open House scheduled for October 28 with the City Council where each board and its duties will be discussed. Applications will be accepted through November 1, prospective candidates will interview with the City Council in November, and the appointment process of selected candidates will occur in December. To serve on a City Board all candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a citizen of the City for twelve continuous months prior to appointment
- Be eighteen years old prior to the date of appointment
- Have not been convicted and are not currently charged with a felony or a crime involving moral turpitude
- Have no indebtedness to the City, such as delinquent taxes
- Be a qualified voter of the City

To learn more about the duties of each board and commission and to submit an online application, visit the City’s website at www.lucastexas.us/departments/boards-commissions/. For questions contact the City Secretary’s office at 972.912.1211.

The Public Lands Trail Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2021, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Brockdale Park Trailhead. The Public Lands Trail Cleanup supports National Public Lands Day, which promotes both popular enjoyment and volunteer conservation



WINNINGKOFF ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction on Winningkoff Road between Snider Lane and Forestview Drive is nearing completion well ahead of schedule despite supply shortages and weather delays. The project was originally planned to be completed in November 2021. All of the concrete work for the roadway and drainage improvements has been completed. The remaining work consists of drainage improvements, cleaning up and restoring vegetation along the road, along with any necessary additions needed based on the final inspection. The road is expected to be fully opened by the end of August.

WEST LUCAS ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND WIDENING

In July, the City’s design consultant submitted 30% construction plans for West Lucas Road reconstruction and widening from Angel Parkway to Country Club Road. The current roadway pavement is asphalt containing one lane in either direction with a center turn lane. The proposed roadway pavement is reinforced concrete containing two lanes in either direction with a raised median. Included with the 30% construction plans are the existing land rights with ownership information, the proposed alignment of the roadway, tentative locations of left turn lanes, median openings, and a drainage area map. Stormwater drainage will be conveyed by roadside ditches primarily to Muddy Creek before discharging to the south. City staff is reviewing the 30% construction plan submittal and providing comments to the design consultant.

CULVERT MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY FUNDED

The Lucas City Council approved funding for two maintenance projects: 1) maintenance and repairs of the Stinson Road culvert; and 2) maintenance and improvements of the Winningkoff Road culvert located approximately 800 feet north of East Lucas Road. The City received a report from BCC Engineering that made recommendations regarding maintenance activities that should be completed.

For the Stinson culvert, the following maintenance activity will be performed:

- Fill and protect all four corners of the crossing where there has been erosion and loss of backfill at or near the pavement edge.
- Inject grout to fill all voids. Large void noted under the northbound lane.
- Shore the existing east headwall with new concrete head wall and wing walls as detailed in the repair plan.
- Protect the slope on the east side of Muddy Creek with riprap revetment.

For the Winningkoff culvert, the maintenance that was identified included filling and protecting both sides of the culvert and channel to repair the loss of backfill and protect against future erosion and to add a guardrail along both sides of the roadway.

**UPCOMING EVENTS
AT THE
LUCAS FARMERS
MARKET**

The Lucas Parks and Opens Space Board and the Lucas Farmers Market Committee continue to create opportunities for a wonderful family experience by including some special events in the upcoming markets.

September 11

On the 20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001, Lucas Fire-Rescue will be our honored guests at the market for a 9/11 ceremony that will include the fire engine and other apparatus. Fire Chief Ted Stephens will lead in a moment of silence after giving a short synopsis of the events of 9/11. In addition, the engine horn and bell will be used to mark the significant timeline of events during that morning. Let us never forget.

September 25

Join us for a Summer Ice Cream Crank Off/Contest in the Pavilion at the Community Park next to City Hall. The heat is cranking up, and so should those ice cream makers at home. We know you are out there, so come show off your best ice cream recipes for a chance to **win prizes and bragging rights!** Votes can be cast with “dollars” rather than “tickets”, as ALL proceeds from the Ice Cream Crank Off will be donated to the Allen Community Outreach Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Food Donation Drive. This is a great organization that gives back to our local communities.

- Set up at 9:30 am with People’s Choice judging from 10 am - 11 am during the Lucas Farmers Market and winners will be announced at 11:30 am
- What do I need to bring? You will need to be able to transport a minimum of one gallon of finished ice cream in a cooler with a small amount of dry ice; plastic tablecloth and scoop.
- The City will provide picnic tables, tasting spoons, serving cups and voting jar for your table.
- What do I need to do? Register by sending an email to farmersmarket@lucastexas.us and include ice cream maker name, cell phone number, email, and name of ice cream

October 9

Join us for a fall-themed harvest market with special entertainment. See the October Lucas Leader for more details.

October 23

Planning for the Pumpkin Carving Contest is underway for this market. This will be the last market of the season so it will be especially fabulous. Stay tuned for more information to come in the next newsletter.

For questions on the farmers market or any upcoming events, contact the farmers market at farmersmarket@lucastexas.us.