

## IMPROVEMENTS MADE AFTER WINTER STORM

When the winter storm hit Texas on February 11, 2021 last year, cities across Texas were dealing with freezing cold temperatures, ice, and snow hammering the state. Rolling power outages and frozen water pipes were common throughout the community during the storm, with water pipes frequently bursting as the weather warmed up. The City of Lucas was able to maintain essential operations throughout the duration of the storm as City staff, Fire-Rescue and Public Works personnel worked around the clock in order to serve our citizens.

Following the incident, City staff met for an “after action review” to see how we could better prepare, respond, and recover from another incident like this. The City focused on communication, technology, vehicles and equipment, resources, and personnel to create an improvement matrix to allow the City to review procedures and response protocols. Each focus touched on a department and how that department made changes over the last year so that the City is better prepared for another extreme weather incident. Some of the focuses included:

- Education on the importance of knowing the location and operation of home water meters and fire suppression systems
- Opening the Emergency Operations Center to a greater capacity to handle calls for service and questions
- Options for city buildings with emergency power to avert any long term power outages that affected internet and phone service
- Additional systems and monitor sensors to protect the City’s water system from freezing
- Ensuring vehicles and personnel are prepared for the extreme weather and road conditions
- Creating extended work hour schedules to provide continuous service while not overworking City staff

With these additional changes, Lucas has made great strides to better serve our community and its citizens for future weather events.

## TXDOT HOLDING PUBLIC MEETING FOR COUNTRY CLUB ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

TxDOT is proposing a roadway expansion for Country Club Road (FM 1378) from Parker Road north to Stacy Road and will be holding a public meeting to gather input from residents. This meeting has been tentatively scheduled for February 24, 2022 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at Lovejoy High School. TxDOT’s goal for the expansion is to reduce congestion and improve safety on this roadway.

The proposed improvements include a four-lane divided, concrete roadway with a raised median to replace the existing two-lane asphalt road. Lucas City Council and staff have been in discussion with TxDOT to ensure that any project resulting from this process reflects what is best for the Lucas community and considers all of the available alternatives. The City will have more information on the website once additional information is received from TxDOT. A virtual option will also be available for the public meeting.



The City has some exciting new residential and commercial development coming to our community over the next few months. Residential communities include:

### Enchanted Creek Estates Phase 2

*Parker Road near FM 1378*

- 84 lots on 135 acres
- Zoned Residential 1-acre with an average lot size of almost two acres

### Barratt Lakes Estates

*Winninghoff Road near Forestview*

- 14 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre with an average lot size of almost three and a half acres

### Wendy Farms

*Located on Wendy Lane*

- 11 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre with lots averaging nearly four and a half acres

### Cameron Estates

*Northeast intersection of Shady Lane and Snider Road*

- 14 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre averaging two acres per lot

### New Castle Estates

*FM 1378 near Jan Marie Drive*

- 9 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre and should be selling lots in the next few months.

### Hendricks Farm Estates

*Country Club Road/Blondy Jhune Road*

- 35 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre

### Farmstead Estates Phase 2

*Estates Parkway*

- 7 lots
- Zoned Residential 2-acre

### Commercial Activity Includes:

#### Tractor Supply

The new Tractor Supply facility will be approximately 20,000 square feet of indoor retail space and a spacious area for exterior sales and storage located on Angel Parkway just north of Home Run Alley.

#### O’Reilly’s Auto Parts Store

O’Reilly’s Auto Parts is expected to open in March of 2022 and is located at 561 Angel Parkway.

#### Golden Chick

Golden Chick has obtained a specific use permit for a drive through restaurant in December 2021. Golden Chick will be located at 451 South Angel Parkway.

#### Panda Express

Panda Express has shown interest in coming to Lucas, carving out a pad site in the Walmart parking lot, this project is in the very early stages.



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

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Mayor Jim Olk

## MAYOR’S MESSAGE

By Jim Olk

We have started off the year with a fizzle in Lucas. COVID has been filtering through the ranks of the City staff. At any point in time we will have between two and five employees out due to contracting COVID or being exposed to COVID. Luckily it hasn’t gotten to a point where it has impacted City services. City Hall is

still open and functioning on reduced staff, the Fire-Rescue Department has limited public access to Fire Administration and the Fire Station. We hope this will keep our first responders healthy.

Right now, the Planning and Zoning Commission is reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is the guide that the City uses in making decisions regarding how the City should develop. It is reviewed and updated every five years. It establishes guidelines for large scope areas such as land use, streets and drainage, parks and open space, water systems, and economic development. After the Planning and Zoning Commission has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and made suggestions, it will be forwarded to the City Council for final approval. So if you have any suggestions on how the City should plan for the future, this is the time to make your desires known. If you think that we should have more parks and trails; that we should have smaller or larger thoroughfares; or that we should restrict or allow more commercial development; now is the time to speak up. Now is when we establish the long term growth plan for the City of Lucas. You can attend the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting in person or virtually, or you can write or email your comments. We do want to hear from you.

Thanks so much for allowing me to serve!

## Mayor Jim Olk Retiring After 38 Years of Service

For 38 years, Mayor Olk has been a leader in municipal government serving the communities of University Park, Farmers Branch and Garland by providing expertise in building and safety standards. His distinguished career will end on January 21, 2022 when he officially retires. Thankfully, he will continue to serve the citizens of Lucas as Mayor.

Mayor Olk serves on several local, regional, and national boards and councils including:

- Vice Chairman of the North Central Texas Council of Governments Regional Code Coordinating Committee
- Member of the International Code Council Code Correlation Committee
- Co-Chair of the Building Officials Association of Texas Professional Institute
- Chairman of the Building Officials Association of Texas Disaster Response Team

Mayor Olk helped Texans when they were the most vulnerable and during the most difficult circumstances by acting as the lead responder for damage assessment in many disasters in Texas some of which included:

- The fertilizer plant explosion in West.
- Tornado disasters in the cities of Cleburne and Garland.
- Hurricane Harvey along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Mayor Olk was named by Texas Municipal League as one of their State and Local Leaders for his leadership in implementing the Disaster Response Team and testified before a Texas Senate Committee regarding the impact natural disasters have on a community, the need for damage assessment and safety evaluations, and the data collection of damaged structures.

The City of Lucas is grateful to have an elected official with the knowledge and expertise that Mayor Olk brings to the Lucas community. If you see Mayor Olk around town, please thank him for his service and join us in wishing the best with his retirement.



# calendar of events

The City continues to use Zoom to allow for remote public participation. To download a video conferencing link, go to <https://www.lucastexas.us/zoom-link-for-city-council-board-meetings/>.

- February 3 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- February 10 Planning and Zoning Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- February 17 City Council Meeting  
City Hall | 7 pm
- February 23 Board of Adjustment Meeting  
City Hall | 6:30 pm

## CANDIDATE FILING THROUGH FEBRUARY 14 - 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

The City of Lucas general election will be held on May 7, 2022. There will be two City Council seats on the ballot; City Council Seat 5 and City Council Seat 6. Each City Council seat serves a three year term. Applications for a place on the ballot are available from the City Secretary's office and candidates may file an application with the City Secretary through Friday, February 18, 2022 for a place on the ballot. 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
- Have 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

More election and information can be found on the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us/elections](http://www.lucastexas.us/elections). For elections questions, contact City Secretary Stacy Henderson at 972.912.1211 or [shenderson@lucastexas.us](mailto:shenderson@lucastexas.us).



The City of Lucas received notice from Barnes Waste Disposal indicating that they were unable to continue to provide solid waste services to Lucas residents. The current agreement for residential solid waste services expires on September 30, 2022. The City appreciates Barnes Waste Disposal for their partnership over the past 20 years.

In preparation for the upcoming selection of a new company, the City has been working on a Request for Proposal (RFP) to seek proposals from solid waste service providers who are interested in providing services to Lucas. The City has taken into consideration in the scope of services that Lucas has unique features such as large lots, small roads, and natural environment. Many Lucas residents have homes farther away from the road and accumulate large amounts of brush throughout each season. It is important for the City to emphasize these needs for enhanced services in the RFP.

The City will also be asking proposers to include information for additional services such as concierge service for pickup near the home, excess brush/bulky item removal, residential recycling services, and commercial solid waste collection. The City is interested in learning about how the inclusion of residential recycling services and commercial solid waste collection would affect the overall rates for Lucas residents. The City would like to review all options for future services that could potentially lower costs for residents.

The City anticipates releasing the RFP by the end of January with a closing date of February 28, 2022. In March, the City will evaluate all submitted proposals and provide recommendations to the City Council for consideration. The City will keep residents informed of the selection process for a new solid waste service provider to help ensure there is a smooth transition for new services beginning October 1, 2022.

## WATER CONSERVATION NEEDED DURING WATER TOWER REPAIRS February 14 through 28



Repairs are being made to the McGarity Water Tower during the week of February 14 through February 28, 2022. These repairs are not expected to result in water service disruption, but customers are encouraged to limit their water use during the construction period to reduce strain on the system.

The existing pipe that moves water up and down the tower, is damaged but remains in operation with a field repair. Repairs are being scheduled during the lowest period of the year for water use.

You may experience fluctuations in water pressure during this time. As part of this repair, fire hydrants west of Country Club will be releasing water as a way to relieve water pressure.

## UTILITY BILLING AT YOUR SERVICE

*Why is it important to update your contact information with the City of Lucas?*

To ensure that we can contact you in the event of a water emergency, please ensure that the City has your updated email address and telephone number in your water utility file. We rely on this information to notify you if we see water consumption information that is indicative of a water leak. **All contact information will be kept confidential.**

*Did you know there are five methods you can use to pay your utility bill?*

- **U.S. Mail** - Send check or money order to: City of Lucas, 665 Country Club, Lucas, Texas 75002-7651
- **Automatic Bank Draft** - You can choose to pay your account automatically each month by completing an Automatic Bank Draft form and returning it to City Hall.
- **Credit Card** - These are accepted by phone or in person. A 3% processing fee will be added when paying with a credit card. Cards accepted are MasterCard, Visa, Discover, and American Express.
- **Utility Online Bill Pay** - You can make payments through the online water bill pay system using debit/credit cards. A 3% processing fee will be added to each transaction. Simply go to: <https://www.municipalonlinepayments.com/lucastx/>
- **Hand-Deliver** - Bring your payment to City Hall Monday - Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Payments can also be made 24/7 in the drive-through drop-off box located in the City Hall parking lot (below the flags). Your payment will be processed the next business day.

### Need Assistance?

Utility Billing Coordinator Delta Moody has been with the City for 16 years and is an expert with the City's utility system. Please do not hesitate to contact her if you need any assistance at [dmood@lucastexas.us](mailto:dmood@lucastexas.us) or 972-912-1205.



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE 2022 FARMERS MARKET



It is that time of year already! The Farmers Market volunteers, City Staff and Parks Board Members have been busy planning the 2022 farmers market season. We are recruiting great, new vendors and will have our returning favorites as well.

This year the market also plans to have special events in the Pavilion during each farmers market. Save the date now to enjoy the highly rated Lucas Farmers Market and the fun, interactive special events at each market.

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| April 9      | Plant Sale and Backyard Gardening Tips           |
| April 23     | Back Yard Chickens                               |
| May 14       | <b>Founders Day – Too Much to List!</b>          |
| May 28       | Memorial Day Picnic                              |
| June 11      | Ice Cream Crank Off Competition                  |
| June 25      | Bird House Building for Kids                     |
| July 9       | AgriLife Demonstration                           |
| July 23      | Chef Demonstration                               |
| August 13    | Back to School Event                             |
| August 27    | TPWD– Gun safety/Hunting Regulations             |
| September 10 | Lucas Fire Rescue Event & 9-11 Memorial          |
| September 24 | Bee Keeping 101 Demonstration                    |
| October 8    | World Food Day Celebration                       |
| October 22   | Pumpkin Decorating for Kids                      |
| December 2   | <b>Holiday Market (6-9 pm) Too Much to List!</b> |



The Keep Lucas Beautiful (KLB) Spring Cleanup event will be held on Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. KLB is committed to ensuring the Lucas community remains a clean and beautiful place to live. KLB programs are focused on efforts to keep the community litter-free, preserving the natural environment, and promoting sustainable practices. The KLB Spring Cleanup event is an opportunity for residents to volunteer for cleanup efforts within our local community. Here are the specifics for this year's event:

- Sign up online by submitting an adult or minor volunteer form located on the City's website at [www.lucastexas.us/klb-spring-cleanup](http://www.lucastexas.us/klb-spring-cleanup).
- Indicate on the online form what area within Lucas that you would like to cleanup. We encourage residents to clean up their neighborhoods, public parks, and other safe areas.
- You may pick up your cleanup supplies at City Hall during business hours the week of March 28. Beginning at 9:00 am on the day of the event, you may also pick up your free cleanup supplies in front of Lucas City Hall located at 665 Country Club Road.
- During the cleanup event in your chosen area, place all trash bags centrally located together on the side of the road. You may also keep your cleanup supplies or leave them with the trash bags for pickup.
- Beginning at 1:00 pm, City staff will drive to the pickup locations to collect trash bags.

The City encourages residents to support the KLB Spring Cleanup by participating as a cleanup volunteer at the event. If you have any questions regarding the KLB Spring Cleanup, please contact Assistant to the City Manager Kent Souriyasak at [kent@lucastexas.us](mailto:kent@lucastexas.us) or 972.912.1213.