

CITY DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT: FINANCE

This month, the Lucas Leader is highlighting the City of Lucas Finance and Administration Department. The first of these two departments, Finance, is responsible for maintaining financial transparency across all departments of the City and helps City staff conduct projects that help improve quality of life. The Finance Department consists of Finance Director Liz Exum, Accounting Specialist Alicia Gipson, Purchasing Coordinator Linezka Maduro and Human Resource Generalist Alana Cohen. Finance Director Liz Exum and her team take their roles of creating a transparent budget that serves the citizens of Lucas very seriously. This takes the form of financial transparency through providing public records online and responding to inquiries from community members interested in how the work for our community budget gets done. The City of Lucas Finance Department has received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for 12 consecutive years. Those who are interested in learning more about the budget can access budget documents on the City of Lucas website at www.lucastexas.us/departments/finance.

CITY ADMINISTRATION

Creating a balanced budget is just one step in facilitating a high quality of life in our City. In fact, much work goes into serving the citizens of our City and making sure all ethical practices are exceeded in order to best serve you! The City Administration currently includes City Manager Joni Clarke, Assistant City Manager and Interim City Secretary Kent Souriyasak, and Management Analyst Joshua Menhennett. City Manager Joni Clarke has been with the City of Lucas since March 2014. The City Manager's focuses are on positive role-modeling, maintaining diverse perspectives, embracing transparency, having a desire to achieve and always maintaining a passion for helping others. The daily role involves managing our diverse City Departments and championing projects that meet the needs of our citizens.

The public servants of Lucas embrace a philosophy that focuses on providing essential services in a fair and equitable manner in the most cost-effective means possible. The City of Lucas staff are guided by five principles: Leadership, Understanding, Communication, Aspiration, and Service. The City of Lucas Finance and Administrative teams pride themselves on these principles and are honored to serve the City and the citizens that make it their home!

ELEVATED STORAGE TANK UPDATE

The City of Lucas has contracted with JTG Engineering, PLLC for the design of our new Elevated Storage Tank to be located at 325 West Lucas Road. As identified in the City's Water Master Plan, the new elevated tank will have a capacity of 750,000 gallons. Preliminary construction plans and specifications are currently under review by the Engineering Department and the design phase of the project is on schedule for completion in early August.

WATER CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

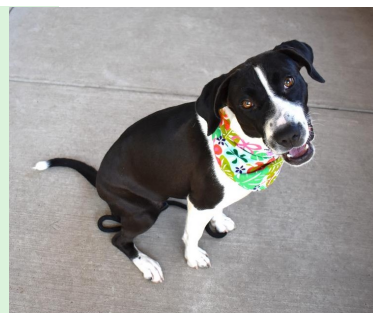
Recognizing the need for efficient use of existing water supplies, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) developed guidelines and requirements governing the development of water conservation and drought contingency plans for public water suppliers. The City implemented its Water Conservation Plan and Water Resource and Emergency Management Plan on October 17, 2019. Strategies include restricted and modified outdoor watering practices. The City of Lucas outdoor watering schedule allows watering twice per week from April 1 till October 31. Outdoor watering is prohibited between 10 am to 6 pm on any day of the week. The City of Lucas Water Schedule can be found at this link: www.lucastexas.us/watering-days

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

The City of Lucas is preparing updates to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP is a five-year planning document adopted by the City Council for capital improvements to the City's roadway, drainage, park and water systems. A capital project is defined as having a minimum cost of \$5,000 resulting in either the creation of a new fixed asset or an enhancement to an existing fixed asset. CIP projects are compiled and prioritized based on a variety of local plans and assessments, primarily the City of Lucas Comprehensive Plan. Adoption of the updated CIP is anticipated in Fall of 2023. If you have questions about the CIP, contact CIP Manager Patrick Hubbard at 972-912-1209 or email phubbard@lucastexas.us. You can also visit the City of Lucas website to learn more about upcoming meetings and capital projects at this link: www.lucastexas.us.

THE COLLIN COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER IS LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME FOR MALI

Mali is a female one-year-old American Staffordshire mix. She is located at the Collin County Animal Services at 4750 Community Boulevard in the Collin County Justice Complex in McKinney. For more information on how to bring Mali home, call Collin County Animal Services at 972-547-7292 or visit their website at: www.collincountytx.animalshelternet.com.



LUCAS LEADER

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Jim Olk

The summer continues to provide opportunities to be outdoors. Everyone is out and about and enjoying Lucas' parks and open spaces. While we all love using our open areas, we must be extra attentive to their care.

Every year since 1994 National Public Lands Day is held all across the United States. This event, led by the National Environmental Education Foundation and the National Park Service, is the largest single-day volunteer effort in the nation. This national event inspires education and stewardship of the public lands our citizens use for education, recreation and physical wellbeing. Public lands consist of parks, monuments, forests, grasslands and lakes and city including Lavon Lake, the Trinity Trail, trailheads and our parks here in Lucas.

In 2018, the Trinity Trail Preservation Association (TTPA) President Duke Monson proposed a trail cleanup event with the City of Lucas in order to help preserve the Trinity Trail at Lavon Lake. This event was established in observation of National Public Lands Day. In 2019, the City of Lucas partnered with TTPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to hold the first Public Lands Trail Cleanup event. In previous years, there has been over 190 volunteers who have collected more than 5,400 pounds of trash and debris from the Trinity Trail.

The Public Lands Trail Cleanup event is a true community partnership. All of our partner organizations who participate in the event are a wonderful part of the community we share in Lucas, and provide extra educational opportunities to participating volunteers during the provided lunch at the Public Lands Trail Cleanup.

This year, the Public Lands Trail Cleanup will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023. This will celebrate the 30th anniversary of National Public Lands Day on the 30th of September! The event will be held from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Highland Park Trailhead. All volunteers will be provided free cleanup supplies including safety vests, gloves, trash grabbers and trash bags.

For more information and volunteer registration, go to the City of Lucas website by following this link: www.lucastexas.us/event/2023-public-lands-trail-cleanup. If an error with registration occurs or you have any questions regarding the event, contact Management Analyst Joshua Menhennett by email at jmenhennett@lucastexas.us or by phone at 972-912-1214.

We hope to see you at this amazing event this year!

PHOTOS FROM PREVIOUS PUBLIC LANDS TRAIL CLEANUPS



UPCOMING EVENTS

All meetings are held at Lucas City Hall located at 665 Country Club Road in Lucas. To watch City of Lucas public meetings via livestream, go to <https://www.lucastexas.us/departments/public-meetings/>.

August 3 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm

August 10 Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm

August 17 City Council Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm

August 23 Board of Adjustment Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm

EMERGENCY ALERTS WITH NIXLE

The City is encouraging all Lucas residents and businesses to sign up for city emergency alerts with Nixle. You will receive important alerts such as road closures, traffic accidents, flooding issues, water service disruptions and much more. The City partners with Nixle to implement a community notification system to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories. Sign up for Nixle with your email address to receive detailed alerts and mobile phone number to receive text alerts at: www.lucastexas.us/nixle/.

TREE CARE WORKSHOP

On September 9, 2023, join Texas A&M Agrilife Extension and the Collin County Master Gardeners for a Tree Care Workshop! This extensive demonstration will cover a range of topics to enhance your understanding of trees in your yard and landscaping. These topics include tree selection, planting tips, benefits of trees, ensuring proper irrigation and integrated pest management. If you are a homeowner, HOA manager, residential or commercial landscaper or city contractor this event is perfect for you!



The cost of this event will be \$20 dollars, and will include drinks and light snacks, digital materials used in instruction and to take home, along with Continuing Education Credits for Master Gardeners who attend. Register today as seats are limited! Use the QR code to the right or go to bit.ly/2023TreeCareWorkshop.com to purchase your tickets!



Scan To Register

LUCAS FARMERS MARKET

We don't know about everyone else, but are we glad the Lucas Farmers Market is in the morning! The summer is heating up! Produce is in full swing. We are swimming in peppers, okra and other produce from local growers and melons are as sweet as always here in Texas! If you missed the amazing Build-a-Birdhouse and Chef Demonstration in July, don't worry, we have some great August events that you don't want to miss! Don't forget, the Lucas Farmers Market is held every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Lucas Community Park (665 Country Club Road). We hope to see you there!



August 12, 2023 - Back to School Event and Dunk Tank - 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

Step right up! All local school staff and coaches willing to take a plunge in the dunk tank to raise money for Allen Community Outreach. Vendors will focus on back-to-school items for children returning this month. Further, shoppers can find some local steaks, brisket and barbecue to end a wonderful summer!



August 26, 2023 - Historical Display and Presentation - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Councilmember Debbie Fisher has done an amazing job of documenting and cataloging our City's rich history! Discover our history beginning with 1800s era homesteads to retired post offices, local names like Winningkoff, Christian, Fitzhugh and Lovejoy. Come learn amazing facts about Lucas!



Liquid Agriculture

This year, the Lucas Farmers Market is offering liquid agriculture! The market will host several local North Texas wineries and craft beer vendors. *Selling only, consumption is limited to tastings.*

Market Date	Special Event
August 12, 2023	Back to School Event
August 26, 2023	Texas Parks and Wildlife Presentation
September 9, 2023	Lucas Fire-Rescue 9/11 Ceremony
September 23, 2023	Robotics Competition
October 14, 2023	Pumpkin Decorations / Mushroom Foraging Part 2
October 28, 2023	Bee Demonstration / Sidewalk Art Contest

LUCAS FARMERS MARKET HIGHLIGHT - BIRDHOUSES AND SMILES

On Saturday, July 8, 2023, the City of Lucas held its sixth Farmers Market this season. The morning consisted of an informational table by the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center and materials donated by Home Depot were used to make wooden birdhouses. Over 30 birdhouses were constructed and decorated by children in attendance! A special thank you to Parks Board Member Joan Phillips for leading this fun activity and securing donations. We appreciate our wonderful vendors, customers, partners and participants who always make the Lucas Farmers Market a great success. We are beyond excited to see you this August!



2023 LUCAS CAR SHOW PHOTOS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE



Did you miss the hot rods at this year's Lucas Car Show? Not to worry, all the professional photos taken during the event have now been uploaded to the City of Lucas website for viewing! If you are interested in seeing the cars you missed, or looking for your own vehicle on display, follow this link: www.lucastexas.us/2023-lucas-car-show. We hope to see everyone at next year's car show!

APPLY NOW FOR A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

The City of Lucas is accepting applications from residents who are wanting to serve the community on a board or commission. The City has several boards and commissions whose duties and tasks range on various topics important to the citizens and everyday functions of the City. Below are brief descriptions of each of these groups, what they do for the City, and when they meet.

Planning and Zoning Commission - The Planning and Zoning Commission serves as an advisory board to the City Council on matters related to development, use of private property and implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Commission considers requests for zoning changes, site plan approvals, platting of land, etc. The Commission then provides recommendations to the City Council on these requests. The Commission also reviews rezoning applications, site and development plans and conducts periodic reviews of the Comprehensive Plan. There are seven members, five of which are regular members and two that are alternate members. All members are appointed by the City Council and serve for a two year term. The Planning and Zoning Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Board of Adjustment - The Board of Adjustment is a quasi-judicial body with the jurisdiction to grant variances from the City's zoning ordinance and other special variance exceptions. The Board reviews each appeal to determine if a hardship exists to grant a variance. Each request to the Board requires the applicant to demonstrate that a hardship exists. Board members receive training from the City Attorney on what exceptions are acceptable. There are seven members, five of which are regular members and two that are alternate members. Each member serves for a two year term. The Board of Adjustment meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm on an as-needed basis.

Parks and Open Space Board - The Parks and Open Space Board serves in an advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters relating to the parks and open areas of our City. The Board reviews, studies and makes recommendations to the City Manager for priority of projects or activities to be included in future parks, open space, beautification projects, and programs. The City's Parks and Open Space Master Plan is also considered, revised and maintained with technical assistance and recommendations to the City Manager. The Board reviews the Master Plan annually. There are seven members, five of which are regular members and two that are alternate members. Each member serves for a two year term. The Parks and Open Space Board meets on the fourth Tuesday every other month at 6:30 pm.

If you are interested in volunteering for a board or commission, visit our website to apply at www.lucastexas.us/boards-commissions-volunteer-application, or stop by Lucas City Hall at 665 Country Club Road or email Assistant City Manager Kent Souriyasak at kent@lucastexas.us to learn how to apply.