

LUCAS' ENCOUNTER WITH BONNIE & CLYDE'S GANG

Raymond Hamilton and Ralph Fults, infamous for their association with the notorious Bonnie and Clyde Barrow Gang, left a trail of stories during the turbulent Great Depression era. These stories were woven into the broader tapestry of crime that held the nation captive. One of those stories has roots in Lucas.

Records from 1935 show that after the deaths of Bonnie and Clyde, Hamilton and Fults pulled off a daring heist at the Beaumont Armory. They stashed their haul with bootleggers in McKinney. On February 24, they drove a stolen 1935 Ford truck through Fult's hometown of Anna, aiming to meet the bootleggers and get back the weapons. Wanting to avoid attention, they drove through freezing rain using the less-traveled Weston cutoff, before reaching the Trinity River north of McKinney. When the bootleggers didn't show up at the meeting point, Fults grew suspicious of a trap.

His suspicions proved accurate. The stillness was suddenly shattered by gunfire from Collin County officers hiding in the shadows of the culvert. Instead of fleeing or surrendering, Hamilton and Fults fought back and managed to overpower some of their ambushers. Even though Hamilton sustained a gunshot wound, both evaded capture and left the stolen Ford truck behind in Weston. A February 25, 1935 clipping from a McKinney newspaper reported that "Raymond Hamilton and another gunman kidnapped a 16-year-old farmer boy late last night and escaped in his car after abandoning a bullet-torn car in which they fled from officers who tried to trap them near McKinney."

Local tales from a Lucas family recounts a fascinating prelude to the ambush. On the evening of February 23rd, the very same stolen Ford coupe slid off the road into a ditch along the frequently muddy Old McKinney Highway, now Country Club Road. Local farmer Thomas Barry was driving along the highway when he spotted the truck and its occupants. Barry not only pulled the truck from the ditch, but he also offered its passengers food and lodging in his barn located nearby. The passengers accepted Barry's invitation. At daybreak on the 24th, a peculiar sight greeted the welcoming farmer: two gold coins, dangling from a tree branch* – a thank you for his hospitality.

The mysterious payment piqued Barry's curiosity. In 1935, gold coins were uncommon in everyday transactions, and their possession was illegal for most individuals. In fact, gold coins, due to their rarity and the implications of illegal possession, might have been seen as more of a liability for criminals on the run. However, historians say that doesn't mean bank robbers wouldn't have taken gold coins if the opportunity presented itself, especially if they were robbing a private safe or safe deposit box.

The origin of the coins puzzled Barry, but upon hearing about the McKinney ambush the next day, he connected the dots. From that day forward, he and his family were convinced that they had unwittingly hosted two of the era's most dangerous and formidable bank robbers.

* Residents can still spot the tree once laden with gold on Jan Marie Road, though now it stands as a mere weathered stump.

Sources:

<https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5507017249>

<https://texashideout.tripod.com/fults.html>

FOREST CREEK PARK - AN OVERVIEW AND HISTORY



This month, the Lucas Leader is highlighting the history and amenities at Forest Creek Park. This park is located at 985 Orchard Gap Lane, Lucas, Texas.

Forest Creek Park ribbon cutting - 2018

Forest Creek Park is the last park to be part of the City of Lucas parks system. It was created as a part of an agreement when the nearby subdivision developed. In 2018, Forest Creek Park saw renovations to its amenities, including the addition of its current basketball sports court, playground, and pavilion. In addition, Forest Creek also has a large soccer field available for use.

If you have questions about the amenities at Forest Creek Park, contact Communications Specialist Joshua Menhennett at 972-912-1214 or by email at jmenhennett@lucastexas.us.

TXDOT UPDATE BAIT SHOP INTERSECTION & ANGEL PARKWAY EXPANSION

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has started both of its roadway projects at the Bait Shop Intersection (FM 1378 / FM 2551) and Angel Parkway (FM 2551) in Lucas.

The project at the Bait Shop intersection is officially under way. Relocation of electrical utilities have been completed and construction on the new intersection has already begun. More utility vehicle traffic should be expected in this area. The Angel Parkway expansion project is undergoing utility work, and the contractor is expected to mobilize soon.

If you have questions on these projects or any other TxDOT roadway projects, contact their Public Information Officer Madison Schein by phone at 214-320-4483 or by email at madison.schein@txdot.gov. You can check on the status of these projects using the TxDOT Project Tracker located by following this link: <https://www.txdot.gov/projects/project-tracker.html>

LUCAS LEADER

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MAYOR'S MESSAGE

By Jim Olk



On December 1, 2023, the City of Lucas held its annual Country Christmas in the Community Park! The event kicked off with the ceremonial lighting of the Lucas Christmas Tree, followed by the arrival of Santa! Santa and one of his elf's stayed at Santa's Workshop to

take photos and hand out sweet treats.

This year's Country Christmas featured the always popular Holiday Market, an ice skating rink, and an array of food trucks and ready to eat food vendors that kept our attendants warm throughout the night. In addition to the festivities, Lovejoy Visual Arts students held a art show and sale in the Lucas Community Center and the sounds of Christmas were in the air thanks to a performance by the Lovejoy Orchestra.

Country Christmas is an amazing reminder of the community we share in Lucas! Thank you to our partners at Lovejoy ISD for helping with safe transportation to the event and to all those in attendance for making the night special! We are excited to see you all in spring for Founders Day!



CITY OF LUCAS

2024 GENERAL ELECTION

Candidate Filing Begins January 17, 2024

The City of Lucas general election will be held on May 4, 2024. There will be three City Council seats on the ballot, City Council Seat 3, and City Council Seat 4, as well as the seat for Mayor. Each City Council seat serves a three-year term. Applications for a place on the ballot will be available from the City Secretary's office beginning January 2, 2024. Candidates may file an application with the City Secretary beginning Wednesday, January 17, 2024, through Friday, February 16, 2024. 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 12 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 dates and information can be found on the City's website at www.lucastexas.us/elections. For election questions, contact City Secretary Toshia Kimball by email at tkimball@lucastexas.us or by phone at 972-912-1211.



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/>.

- January 4** City Council Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm
- January 11** Planning and Zoning Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm
- January 18** City Council Meeting
City Hall | 6:30 pm
- January 23** Parks and Open Space Board
City Hall | 6:30 pm
- January 24** Board of Adjustment
City Hall | 6:30 pm

- ### UPCOMING EVENTS
- January 1** New Year's Day
City Hall Closed
 - January 15** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
City Hall Closed
 - January 17** Election Candidate Filing Opens

THANK YOU TO LOCAL BOY SCOUT

Thank you to Devon Larimer and his family for repainting the pergola located in the Lucas Community Park. Devon had previously designed and constructed the pergola as a part of a Boy Scout project. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, Devon, his mom, and his three brothers brought the structure back to life with a new coat of paint, just in time for Country Christmas! The City of Lucas extends a big thank you to Devon!



HOLIDAY DONATION DRIVE RECAP

Thank you to all of our residents who participated in this years Holiday Donation Drive! As always, it was a huge success. The City received over 300 pounds of pet food for donation to local pet shelters, hundreds of dried and canned goods for All Community Outreach (ACO) along with tons of gifts for both Toys for Tots and for our local Sparks Loving Care Home.

We are abundantly grateful to have such thoughtful residents here in the City of Lucas. Thank you to everyone for supporting the Holiday Donation Drive and making this the most wonderful time of the year!



CWD UPDATES - CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL, 2024 HOLIDAY CALENDAR, AND HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

If you would like to dispose of your live or artificial Christmas tree, the City's trash provider Community Waste Disposal (CWD) will pick up Christmas trees on your regularly scheduled residential trash pick up days. Trees that are 10+ feet need to be cut in half and all ornaments and loose items must be removed and bagged. For easier handling of trees, please wrap the tree with rope or twine.

The City of Lucas trash/recycling provider Community Waste Disposal (CWD) will have a revised pick up schedule for the dates of January 1 to January 6 in observance of New Year's Day. The updated service days for this week are depicted below.

Normal Date of Service	Updated Date of Service
Monday, January 1, 2024	Tuesday, January 2, 2024
Tuesday, January 2, 2024	Wednesday, January 3, 2024
Wednesday, January 3, 2024	Thursday, January 4, 2024
Thursday, January 4, 2024	Friday, January 5, 2024
Friday, January 5, 2024	Saturday, January 6, 2024

CWD has released its updated holiday operation calendar for 2024. This calendar can be found and downloaded on the City of Lucas website using the following link: <https://www.lucastexas.us/cwd/>. If you have any other questions about trash service, recycling, or billing, please contact Delta Moody by phone at 972-912-1205 or by email at dmoody@lucastexas.us.

CWD also picks up household hazardous waste and used electronics. Twice a year, residents can request special pickup by calling CWD two weeks in advance to schedule for a specific monthly date. The table (right) depicts the last day to schedule pickup and which days each month that electronics and waste will be picked up. The calendar can also be downloaded using this link: <https://www.lucastexas.us/cwd/>

Your household hazardous waste and used electronics must be visible from the public road, but set away from your trash/recycle carts. Please ensure your items are packaged/labeled correctly and accessible to the driver. All hazardous waste and used electronics must be placed outside *no later* than 7:00 am on your scheduled day of service. For additional information regarding Christmas tree disposal, holiday hours, or hazardous waste pickup, please call CWD at 972-392-9300, Option 2.

LUCAS FARMERS MARKET UPDATES

The new year is here, and with it comes the 2024 Lucas Farmers Market season! Remember, applications are open now, and the market is always looking for new vendors!

The Lucas Farmers Market hosts both Adult and Youth vendors. If you are looking to apply, visit www.lucastexas.us/lucas-farmers-market/. When applying, be sure to carefully review our Farmers Market Rules and Regulations and be sure to provide all important information in the Vendor Application Form. Once completed, email your application and other documentation to farmersmarket@lucastexas.us for review.

The Lucas Farmers Market will host family friendly special events throughout the 2024 season, along with a highlight of Lucas history from our Councilmember and City Historian Debbie Fisher. The 2024 market season will continue to be held at Lucas Community Park (665 Country Club Road, Lucas, Texas) on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, beginning on April 27, 2024. Each day, the market will begin at 8:00 am and continue until 12:00 pm (noon).

For more information on the 2024 Lucas Farmers Market, contact Communications Specialist Joshua Menhennett by phone at 972-912-1214 or by email at jmenhennett@lucastexas.us.

CITY OF LUCAS PARKS SURVEY

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2023 City of Lucas Parks Survey. We are so thankful for everyone who took the time to share their experience in our public spaces and shine light on their hopes for the future. We will publish the results of the survey in the February 2024 issue of the Lucas Leader!

Thank
you

CWD HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DATES

Last Date to Schedule	Date of Hazardous Waste Pickup
January 4, 2024	January 18, 2024
February 1, 2024	February 15, 2024
March 7, 2024	March 21, 2024
April 4, 2024	April 18, 2024
May 2, 2024	May 16, 2024
June 6, 2024	June 20, 2024
July 3, 2024	July 18, 2024
August 1, 2024	August 15, 2024
September 5, 2024	September 19, 2024
October 3, 2024	October 17, 2024
November 7, 2024	November 21, 2024
December 5, 2024	December 19, 2024

WELCOMING NEW FACES TO PUBLIC WORKS

In December 2023, the City of Lucas Public Works Department welcomed its new Public Works Specialist August Rodriguez to the City of Lucas team. August is originally from Fredericksburg, Texas. Before working for the City, August has previously worked as an automobile mechanic and helped renovate and rebuild a home. When August is not working, he enjoys playing board and card games with friends. Welcome to the team August!



MEET YOUR NEWEST LUCAS FIREFIGHTER - ZACH WINANS

Lucas Fire-Rescue would like to introduce its newest team member, Firefighter Zach Winans! Zach comes to the City of Lucas from the Lavon Fire Department where he worked since 2022, along with experience as an EMT in Wylie. Zach attended and completed his EMT and Fire Academy at the North Texas Fire Academy. When he is not working with the Lucas Fire-Rescue team, he loves to go to spend time with friends and family, play golf, and spend time outdoors! Zach is excited to begin serving the Lucas community!



13 YEARS OF FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

At the December 7 City Council meeting, Mayor Jim Olk presented the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award to Finance Director Liz Exum. This is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. We are proud to have such distinguished professionals looking out for the fiscal health of our community. Thank you to Liz and our entire Finance team!



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

Sprinter is a 2 year old German Shepard mix. He 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 Sprinter home, call Collin County Animal Services at 972-547-7292 or visit their website at: www.collincountytx.animalshelternet.com.

