



Lucas City Newsletter

August, 2010

newsletter@lucastexas.us

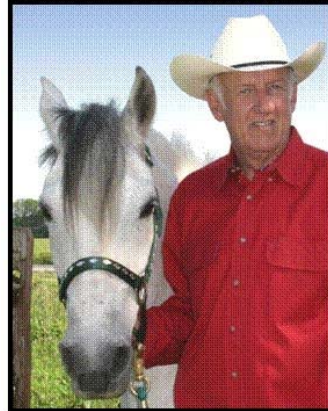
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City Council

- Bill Carmickle, Mayor
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- Kathleen Peele, Mayor Pro Tem
(kpeelee@lucastexas.us)
- Mark Barratt, Councilmember
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- Rebecca Mark, Councilmember
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- Don Zriny, Councilmember
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- Philip Lawrence, Councilmember
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- Debbie Fisher, Councilmember
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City Manager

Robert Patrick
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FROM THE MAYOR

We are all very proud of our City, and especially pride ourselves on our beautiful landscapes and inviting country roads. City staff and Council feel it would be desirable to have signs placed at various strategic entrance points to our City welcoming those who are visiting or just passing through.

We would like to invite groups to participate in this signage project by designing and building signs to be placed at approximately seven different locations around the City. Examples of groups that are invited to submit designs are Scout troops, churches, schools, or other similar non-profits, as well as businesses located in Lucas.

An example of the type of sign that might be appropriate is shown below. The signs should be 4' wide X 8' high, and must incorporate the City of Lucas logo into the design. Complete sign specifications can be picked up at City Hall, and will also be posted on our website at a later date.

As shown in the example below, the contributing organization's name should also appear on the sign.

All designs must be submitted by October 22. The selected designs will then be on display at our Founders Day event that is in the beginning stage of planning. It will be held on Saturday, October 30.

We hope to have great participation in this civic pride program.

Meeting Schedule

**All meetings begin at 7:00 PM
unless otherwise specified.**

City Council Regular
Thursday, August 5

Planning & Zoning
Thursday, August 12

City Council Workshop
Thursday, August 19



EXAMPLE ONLY



IT'S SUMMER! ARE YOU PREPARED?

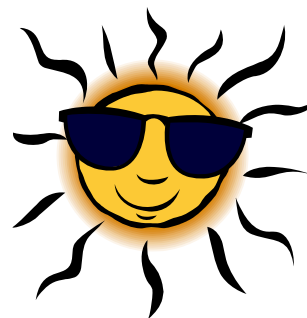
By Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen

Having lived in Texas for 25 years, I know how quickly the weather can change and how severe it can become.

The Dept. of Homeland Security has run a television ad campaign urging families to create a disaster/emergency plan. What isn't mentioned is the importance of including plans for the furry, hairy, feathery, or wooly animals in our lives. In my case that's 1 parrot, 4 dogs, and 3 horses. While the parrot and dogs don't present much of a problem – load them in the car and away we go – my much larger family members present more of a challenge. Many of my neighbors here in Lucas have the same issue, so I'd like to share some of the ideas I've gathered and give you a few resources to assist you in developing an emergency plan for those larger furry, hairy, or wooly creatures in your family.

- Find a safe place - Have a list of friends, relatives, boarding facilities, race tracks, show grounds, pastures, stables, fairgrounds, or arenas outside your immediate area and make arrangements ahead of time for them to be taken there. If these animals must be left behind make arrangements in advance with a trusted neighbor, friend or relative to look after them. Leave these people a list of your and your veterinarian and farrier contact numbers. Include information about the animal's food, vaccinations and any medication. Post a copy of this information visibly in your barn and your horse trailer. Keep a copy in the truck you use to pull that trailer.
- Develop an evacuation plan – Keep gas in your truck, keep the trailer ready to hitch up (know where that key to the trailer lock is), and tires inflated. Have maps of the local area and alternate evacuation routes marked to your designated safe place.

- Make sure that your animals are familiar with being loaded onto a trailer. If you do not have enough trailers to transport all of your animals, contact neighbors or local haulers and establish a network of available resources that will assist with transportation.
- Have an evacuation kit – you can purchase these already put together or make your own in an easy-to-carry, waterproof container. Some of the items to include for our equine family members are: bandannas (to use as blindfolds), duct tape, first aid kit, heavy gloves, hoof knife, pick, nippers, & rasp, halters & leads, and wire cutters. Consult your veterinarian when putting together the first aid kit.
- ID your animals – two inexpensive, easy ideas are to braid a luggage tag into tail or mane or use a permanent marker to mark hooves. Keep photo's and copies of vaccination records and registrations in a zip lock bag as part of your evacuation kit. This will help to identify your animal should they become loose.
- The following Web sites provide more detailed information:
 - ★ The American Veterinary Medical Association has a series of brochures on this topic. The text of these brochures can be found at: www.avma.org/disaster/.
 - ★ The American Red Cross has information on disaster & emergency planning for livestock and wildlife: <http://www.redcross.org>.
 - ★ The Humane Society also provides disaster / emergency planning: <http://www.hsus.org>.
- Enjoy the summer safe and secure in the knowledge that *all* those you care about have been planned and prepared for in case of emergency.





Credit Cards Accepted Here

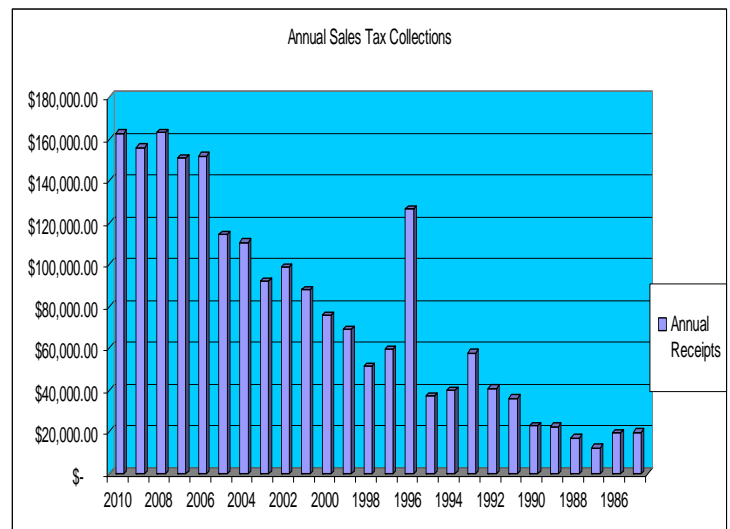
During the April 1st City Council Regular meeting, the City Council voted unanimously to accept payment of City fees, fines and other charges by credit card. The City of Lucas now accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards as a form of payment for City services and fees. The resolution passed by Council not only allows the city to accept credit cards as a form of payment but also allows for a recovery of the processing fee charged to the city. This fee is a flat 3% added to any credit card transaction. Also, citizens are encouraged to take advantage of our draft program that allows customers to pay their water bill by automatic bank draft, at no fee to the customer by the City.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS JULY 2010

- ★ Approved 2009-2010 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments.
- ★ Approved a Road Improvement Interlocal Agreement between the City of Lucas and Collin County renewing the current agreement to run for a period of four (4) years.
- ★ Appointed Mayor Pro Tem Kathleen Peele to serve as City Council Liaison for the Board of Adjustments.
- ★ Appointed Councilmember Mark Barratt to serve as the City Council Liaison for the Parks and Open Space Board.
- ★ Appointed Councilmember Debbie Fisher to serve as the City Council Liaison to the North Texas Municipal Water District (NTMWD).
- ★ Appointed Councilmember Rebecca Mark to serve as the City Council Liaison of the Founder's Day/Parade 2010.
- ★ Appointed Councilmember Rebecca Mark to serve as the City Council Liaison to work along side City Staff and all school districts.
- ★ Denied the construction of a fence within the City street easement at 1530 Snider Lane.
- ★ Approved Amendment No. 3 to an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Lucas and Collin County concerning On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF) extending the contract through and including September 30, 2011.

What Sales Tax in Lucas?

While there aren't a large number of conventional taxable businesses in Lucas, our merchants do appear to be selling more year after year. Lucas sales tax collections have steadily risen in recent years (see chart below), and haven't receded dramatically like many areas of the state. The sales tax receipts in Lucas have grown from less than \$40,000 annually in 1995, to an anticipated \$160,000 in 2010. The state of Texas collects a 6.25% sales tax on non-exempt items sold in the State, while local governments like the City of Lucas may charge up to 2% in local taxes. Currently, the City only charges 1% on items sold within the City limits for a total tax rate of 7.25%. Almost all other cities in the region have enacted the full 2% sales tax by utilizing sales tax for economic development initiatives, or sales tax for property tax relief measures. A recent proposal in Lucas to add the additional 1% sales tax failed during our May election. Many citizens expressed concern that economic development in Lucas may bring unwanted growth, and change our quality of life, but bringing in additional sales tax revenue does not mean you are required to spend it on growth issues. In fact, one of the proposed taxes could have been spent for parks, recreation facilities, and quality of life amenities like fine arts, or entertainment venues. In any situation, the local board would have the authority about how to expend the funds locally and ensure that the expenditures are on projects that our citizens want or need. Whether you are in favor or opposed to these types of sales taxes, remember that anytime you shop outside of the City of Lucas, you are paying to help citizens of those towns prosper. Please remember that while we do not have a large number of merchants in Lucas, our merchants are very valuable to our City, so shop at home whenever possible.



Summer Algal Bloom

It is that time of year again to dust off the yearly algal bloom fact.

NTMWD laboratory has seen an increase in the algal counts since the end of June. With the increase in algal counts come the frequent questions regarding taste and/or odor changes.

Please remember that algal blooms are a palatability issue and does not alter the quality of water, the water remains safe for use.

For more information:

Taste and Odor (General) - Includes a general fact sheet about taste and odor, a summer bloom information page, and a winter bloom information page.

www.ntmwd.com/taste_odor.html

Ozonation – Includes brief information about ozonation benefits and the NTMWD ozonation implementation plan at the Wylie Water Treatment Plants.

www.ntmwd.com/ozonation.html

CITY OF LUCAS
665 COUNTRY CLUB
LUCAS, TEXAS 75002

PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID ALLEN TX 75002 PERMIT 157
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POSTAL PATRON