



Lytle Police Dept.

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Richey Priest, Chief of Police



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Quarterly Newsletter

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LPD Takes Delivery of Grant Funded Rifle-Resistant Vest

A grant funded opportunity became available from the Governor's Office and we were quick to apply. The grant covered the cost of 8 rifle-resistant vest. These are commonly called "active shooter" vest and each officer will carry their assigned vest in their vehicle. They don't replace the regular body armor we have worn for years, which are ineffective against standard rifle rounds. They aren't something that could be worn on a regular basis either, they are just too heavy. They are designed to be deployed when the threat of an active shooter is present or at any time that there might be a known or possible high risk incident.



SIGN UP FOR EMERGENCY ALERTS ON OUR WEBSITE

www.lytle.tx.org

Follow the Chief on Twitter!

@lytlepdchief

Did you know you can access our weekly police blotter on our website? Not only the current one but going back as far as late 2009. Our monthly reports can be accessed back to 1999 (a couple are missing though) as well as all the past quarterly newsletters.

Recent Crime Trends (AKA What have the crooks been up to)

We are still seeing way too many victims of scams. These are being successfully committed both online and by use of the good old telephone. Thankfully more and more people are aware of how these scammers ply their trade. **PLEASE REMEMBER:**

- 1. If it sounds too good to be true it probably is. (We can't over emphasize this enough)**
- 2. Anyone wanting you to pay by Western Union, MoneyGram or any prepaid card is a good sign it's a scam.**
- 3. Anyone telling you that you have to do something "right now" or you are about to be arrested is another sign of a scam.**

Misdemeanor thefts are always something we encounter. The majority of our theft reports / investigations / arrests involve our local retail outlets. However, a thief is always looking for an easy target so keep those weed eaters out of sight and don't leave your purse in your vehicle.

We have been fortunate that burglaries have been very low. With only 2 burglaries of buildings reported and no home burglaries in the past 5 months (Oct. 2017 – Feb. 2018)



Officer J.W. Petrash

Officer J.W. Petrash to Retire

Officer J.W. Petrash has announced his retirement and will be leaving us at the end of April. J.W. joined our team in Feb. of 2010 after honorably retiring from the Alamo Heights Police Dept. with 20 years of service. He began serving as a Texas Peace Officer in Feb. of 1979. Thanks for all the years and we wish you success and happiness in the next chapter of your life. J.W. was a true “team player” he never minded last minute schedule changes and would often move his schedule so other officers could attend special family events or spend a holiday at home. We are going to miss that for sure!

We need your help!

Please continue to report suspicious activity. Only with the help of those that live, visit and pass through here can we make a difference and keep our town the nice place it is

TO REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY OR REQUEST AN OFFICER CALL 830-769-3434

Your call will be answered by the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Office. They have direct radio contact with the on-duty Lytle PD officers.



New Bike Added to the Fleet

We added a new bike to our fleet (well a 2015 model that was still in the box). We figured it was about time to start updating our bikes since the last two we bought over 12 years ago!

Message from Chief Richey Priest

Wow! Spring time is already here and summer will be here before you know it. I believe we are steadily moving forward to provide a higher level of service to our customers as well as providing a positive working environment for our staff. Our new reporting software is awesome and collects a lot of data. Add that to the new data collection requirements included in the changes to the racial profiling law and we have a solid source of information to use in planning department operations. As always if you have an issue you want to discuss or even a question you have been wanting to ask feel free to seek me out.

richard.priest@lytletx.org

(I check my email all day, every day!)
Or call the office 830-709-0277

Officer Luis Diaz Accepts Position With the Atascosa Co. S.O.

Officer Luis Diaz resigned in Feb. to accept a position with the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Office. He will be a patrol deputy assigned to the Lytle area. We wish him the best and we will still be working with him on a regular basis. In the PD we say “Luis will still be around but he will be wearing brown”

“What’s On Our Agenda? – What Will We Be Doing for the Next Several Months”

Due to a retirement and a resignation we will have two openings for full-time officers. We hope to advertise in a few months, until then the existing staff will be putting in a few extra hours. Hiring qualified TCOLE certified peace officers can be a challenge, while I believe law enforcement can be a very rewarding career it is not without its drawbacks. Shift work, including holidays, can take a toll on you and in a small department sometimes even the best case scenario can lead to mix and match shifts. Our biggest challenge is finding applicants that can pass the rigorous background checks.

We also have some training planned for the next several months. Ofc. Jose Guzman will begin an arson investigation certification course. The class is 120 hours and most of it can be completed online. Sgt. Gordon Hanson, Ofc. Jose Guzman and Ofc. David Lopez will be attending a 40 hour class in New Braunfels to receive their basic police instructor licenses. This is a prerequisite to obtaining a specialized instructor certification in areas such as firearms and electronic control devices (TASER). Having more instructors on staff allows us to provide more in-house specialized training and provides for a better rounded officer. Ofc. David Lopez is enrolled in a 40 hour bicycle patrol certification course for this summer, he will be out and about on his bicycle under the supervision of Lt. Dear as he prepares for what can be a very challenging course. We have a full calendar but that is okay, we can't accomplish anything by just talking about what we did two or three years ago.