



Contact Us:

15245 Hester St. (Physical) / P.O. Box 750 (Mailing), Lytle, TX 78052

Office (830) 709-0277

24 Hour Dispatch (830) 769-3434 Option #1

If you need a Police Officer it is always best to call the 24 Hour Dispatch #, you will reach the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Dispatch. They have direct radio contact with our on-duty officers.

LYTLE POLICE DEPT.

Quarterly Newsletter – Vol. 12, Issue 1, January 1, 2024

lytlepolice@lytle.tx.org / www.lytle.tx.org/police

Richard "Richey" Priest - Chief of Police & Fire Marshal



Message from the Chief of Police – My first newsletter of 2024! Our small town is growing for sure. There are now new homes going up in the Rosewood Estates subdivision (on FM 2790, behind Lytle State Bank). The construction hasn't slowed down in Saddle Ridge Estates either. On the commercial side we are still waiting for the truck stop on IH-35 and FM 3175 to complete construction, when it opens it will change the landscape out there for sure and I anticipate some interesting traffic patterns. Our city is prepared for the growth and public safety will always be a priority. I have no doubt that our department will receive the funding and support it needs to meet what lies ahead. We are constantly evaluating various options and scenarios, so we are prepared for the future.

In other news....

- We are still waiting on the 2 Tahoe police vehicles that were ordered 15 months ago. The latest update showed delivery around April.
- We are currently full staffed; and hope to maintain that status. There is an abundance of high paid police officer job openings in our state, especially if you are willing to relocate, so all the area departments are in the same boat fighting for applicants.
- When you get a chance, stop by and say hello to our new City Administrator, Zachary Meadows. We are looking forward to collaborating with him as he leads our city into the future. Break the ice by saying "Welcome to town, you sure are blessed to have a Police Chief like Richard Priest", or something along those lines.
- I try to be available to speak with any citizen that has a concern or issue that they want addressed or have questions on. Keep in mind I have a wife and five kids so there are times when I am not available 24/7. Not many, but there are some!
- Lytle has changed a lot in the last 24 years. I can do a lot, but I can't turn back the clock. Please don't ask.

– Richey

richard.priest@lytle.tx.org

The city tests the Tornado Warning Sirens on the First Wednesday of Every Month @ Noon

Upcoming Test Are Schedule for

January 3, 2024

February 7, 2024

March 6, 2024

Special Events – Call Us!

If you missed our National Night Out event in October, please think about attending next year. We had a wonderful time and a great turn-out. We always look forward to mingling with the community. Please let us know if you have a special event and would like us to attend. Schools, Church events, clubs, etc. We will even bring some free stuff!

Have you signed up for our mass notification system?

Our CivicReady / AlertSense system is now up and running:

Even if you are receiving emails and you have already provided us information, please go to our website, and sign up for our new alert system. This is the only way we can be sure you are in the system.

Visit the following link:

<https://public.alertsense.com/signup/?regionID=1618>

UPDATE ON STAFF, RECENT TRAINING & OTHER NEWS

Ofc. Sergio Pena Completes Drug Recognition Expert Training

Congratulations to Ofc. Sergio Pena who recently completed his training to become a State of Texas Certified Drug Recognition Expert. What is a D.R.E.? From the Texas D.R.E. website texasdre.org "Impaired drivers are responsible for the deaths of nearly 50 people a day and almost 18,000 people each year. The International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and state officials have teamed up to create the Drug Recognition Expert program. Drug recognition is a growing field in law enforcement and has demonstrated its effectiveness as a means of identifying and prosecuting drug-impaired drivers. A properly trained DRE can successfully identify drug impairment and accurately determine the category of drugs causing impairment. Since the first DRE program was started in the U.S. in the early 1970s, DRE programs have grown to include 49 states, the District of Columbia, Canada, and several other countries around the world."

Sergio completed approx. four weeks of training that included both classroom training and exercises as well as hands-on evaluations with impaired subjects at the Bexar Co. Jail. There are less than 400 certified D.R.E.s in the State of Texas. We are awful glad to have him on our team. In December, Sergio completed his 5th year of service with our department!



Ofc. Sergio Pena

Officers Complete 40 Hour Pedestrian / Vehicle Collision Investigation Course

During the week of Dec.4-8, 2023 **Ofc. Anthony Lopez** and **Ofc. Roger Garcia** attended a 40-hour course at the S.A.P.D. Academy. The course was taught by Delta Collision Consulting and Training <https://deltacct.com> This training will greatly enhance our ability to investigate collisions in our community.

Officers Attend Legislative Update Course

On Oct. 10, **Sgt. G. Hanson** and **Cpl. D. Robison** attended the 4-hour Legislative Update Course in Pleasanton, Pleasanton P.D. hosted it and the Texas Municipal Police Assoc. (TMPA). On Oct. 11, **Ofc. J. Cortez**, **Ofc. L. Diaz**, and **Ofc. R. Garcia** attended the same class. The Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Office hosted it.

4 Officers Attend 20-Hour Fire Marshal Conference in Pasadena

Chief R. Priest, Lt. M. Dear, Sgt. D. Lopez and **Ofc. R. Garcia** attended the annual Greater Houston Area Fire Marshal Council Conference. This was the 11th year we sent officers to this conference. The conference was held Nov. 7-9 and covered many topics such as food trucks inspections and fire code updates. This course included much of the required annual training for our officers who serve a dual role as Fire Marshals.

3 Officers Attend 24-Hour Training Course in San Antonio

Report Writing – De-Escalation – Duty to Intervene – Search & Seizure **Sgt. G. Hanson**, **Ofc. L. Diaz** and **Ofc. J. Cortez** attended a three-day training course in San Antonio. The course was hosted by UTSA PD and the instructor was Blue to Gold Training (bluetogold.com) (Nov. 11-16, 2023)

Important Reminders

- If you need an officer, please call **830-769-3434, option #1**. This is our "non-emergency" number and is answered 24/7 by the Atascosa Co. Sheriff's Office.
- If you have an emergency, please Call **911**
- Our office phone number 830-709-0277, it is just an administrative line and often there is no one in the office to answer. You can leave a message on subjects that don't require an immediate response.
- We have officers on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our police station is often unmanned due to the officers patrolling the streets and answering calls.

Captain Matthew Dear assumes position as 2nd in Command of the Lytle Police Dept.

Effective Monday Dec. 11, 2023, Matthew Dear officially transfers from the City Administrator position to that of the Police Captain. We welcome him back to the police dept. on a full-time basis.