Message from the Chief

It’s hard to believe it is already 2015. I can say for sure that 2014 was a memorable year. We moved into a brand new police station and in October I completed 15 years of service as the Chief of Police. I would have never predicted that. (Both the new station and my 15 years). I feel that I am more than qualified to say that this is an awesome community to both live and work in. I look forward to accomplishing more goals and improving / expanding the services we provide to this community. Hopefully 2015 will be a great year for us all. Don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or concerns.

Chief of Police / Fire Marshal
Richey Priest

Body Worn Video Cameras are a Win - Win for the Police & the Public

Recent events across the nation have highlighted the advantages of body worn video. We can tell you first hand that it is a great tool, we should know because we have been using them in a limited capacity for about 6 years. Technology has rapidly evolved, problems early on were finding devices that had a battery and storage capacity that would last a full shift. Is there a downside? Yes, managing & storing the video does require resources. When the video is evidence we also have to make DVDs for the court case and this too requires resources. They are also like any device, they can fail or the officer could forget to activate it, etc. Is it worth it? Yes! Cameras don’t lie, they show the good and the bad. There are nationwide debates on pros and cons but for our department it has been totally positive so far. All of our officers should have body worn cameras effective January 1, 2015. If you have any questions or want to take a closer look feel free to contact the Chief.
Heating Safety Tips
According to the NFPA heating equipment fires are the leading cause of home fire deaths. Here are a few tips to always keep in mind when trying to keep warm during the cold winter months:
1. Never use your oven to heat your home.
2. Keep anything that can burn at least three (3) feet away from your heating equipment.
3. Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
4. Always follow the manufacturer’s instructions.
5. Restrict wood burning to clean and properly functioning fireplaces or other approved equipment.

You can visit the NFPA website and find a wealth of information on fire safety during the winter months. www.nfpa.org/safety-information

Looking for something fun to do in 2015? Attend a City Council Meeting at City Hall. Watch your government in action! Regular meetings are usually held on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM.

Our National Night Out in Oct. was an awesome event. We utilized the new Gidley Town Square and we had a lot more room. The Lytle Fire Department used the Jaws of Life to cut open a vehicle. It was really a crowd pleaser. Lytle VFW served over 350 hotdogs! (That was a real stomach pleaser!)

Our Plans for the New Year!
We already have a lot planned for the New Year. We will be placing a radio antenna on the water tower near our facility. This will improve our radio repeater system coverage, which in turn enhances the safety of our officers and the public we serve. Another project we will be working with the Mayor on is updating our emergency alert system, both the siren and phone/text notification. It is also hard to believe that it is time for a new 5 year strategic plan for the Lytle Police Department. The old plan ends on September 30, 2015 so we need to get to work. It was our first 5 year plan ever and it was a very useful tool. Our main goal is to always work to improve our service to the community.

Want more info. on LPD Activity?
Visit our homepage www.lytletx.org/police and scroll to the bottom. You can access current weekly and monthly reports as well as past reports going back about 5 years for weekly reports and 15 years for monthly reports.