

NEWSLETTER:

2-17



City of Lytle

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<http://www.lytle.tx.org>

MAYOR

Mark Bowen

ALDERMEN

Sam Cortez

Ruble P. Farmer, Jr.

Kevin H. Keith

Ward Sanders, Jr.

Jerry Stone

CITY SECRETARY

Josie Campa

April 1, 2017

CITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Please be advised that the Council has a newsletter sent on a quarterly basis to inform and remind the public about important events.

UPCOMING CITY ELECTION

The City will be holding an election on Saturday, May 6th, this year. This election is for the purpose of electing an Alderman for District 3. A District 3 map is enclosed for your convenience. Please remember that early voting for this election will be held from April 24th thru May 2nd at the Lytle City Hall from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. On Tuesday, April 25th and Tuesday, May 2nd, early voting hours are extended to 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. On Election Day, the polls will also be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the City Secretary at 830-709-3692 option 7.

ALDERMEN ELECTED

The City Council had also called an election to elect Aldermen for Districts 1 and 2. However, those district races did not receive more than one candidate. Therefore, the Districts 1 and 2 unopposed candidates were declared elected at the March meeting, as per Section 2.053 of the Texas Election Code. Ordinance No. 394 adopted on March 13th declared the following elected:

District 1- Ruben Gonzalez

District 2- Sam Cortez

UPCOMING SCHEDULED CITY HOLIDAYS

City employees will have a holiday on Friday, April 14th, in observance of Good Friday.

The Memorial Day holiday falls on Monday, May 29th for the city staff.

In observance of Independence Day (4th of July), city employees will be off on Tuesday, July 4th. Since this holiday falls on a Tuesday, Council voted to give city employees Monday, July 3rd off, as well. Please mark these days on your calendar.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL RABIES VACCINATION CLINIC

The Lytle Veterinary Clinic will hold its annual Rabies Clinic on Saturday, April 8th, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This clinic will be held at Dr. Broach's Veterinary office located at 63245 Hwy 132.

2017 EASTER EGGS-TRAVAGANZA

This year's Easter Eggs-Travaganza is scheduled for Saturday, April 15th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This egg hunt will be held at John Lott Municipal Park, and is for children from ages 1 to 8. We are excited about this year's event since a few things have been changed to try to make this event better for the kids. We were able to purchase more prizes for this year's event due to shopping sales after Easter last year.

We have also changed the eggs this year, and even though they won't be candy-filled, as in the past, we were able to more than double the amount of eggs to be hunted.

As in the years before, the Easter Bunny will make a special appearance at Lytle's Egg Hunt. The H.E. Buddy and Little Caesar have also agreed to visit this year's hunt.

The following is information for this Easter Egg-Travaganza:

Date: Saturday, April 15th
Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place: John Lott Municipal Park
For: Children ages 1 to 8
Registration Fee: 1 can good or \$1.00 per child

Easter Bunny will arrive at 1:00 p.m. and will hand out candy to kids. Early Bird Prize drawings will start soon after 1:00 p.m. Hunts scheduled to start at 2:00 p.m.

Also, Boy Scout Troop #369 will have a food and drink booth available for those attending.

We encourage everyone to bring their kids, grandkids, nephews, nieces, etc. as this is a fun event for the little ones. Don't forget your cameras!

DELINQUENT CITY TAXES

If your 2016 city taxes have not been paid yet, please be aware that the city's delinquent tax attorney will be filing more lawsuits. To avoid this happening to you, please pay your taxes.

WATER CONSERVATION

We are happy to report that the level of the Edwards Aquifer is getting close to being thirty (30) acre feet above the conservation trigger point. If the rains continue, we may be able to get through this summer without a declaration for conserving water. We were lucky in 2016, and if rains keep happening like they have been, we may be able to avoid drought restrictions this year.

UPDATE ON ZIKA VIRUS

Last year we were hearing a lot about the Zika Virus. This year we haven't heard about it yet. The last report of the Zika Virus in South Texas was from Brownsville in December, 2016. The last known report of the Zika Virus in the San Antonio area was in September, 2016.

Now just because we haven't heard about it doesn't mean we won't see it again when mosquitoes return. Mosquito season starts when the temperature reaches 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Since mosquitoes thrive on hot weather, you will see them as the temperatures begin to rise. So, we ask everyone to assist us once again this year with monitoring of mosquitoes. Below is a list of things you can do to help us with mosquito abatement:

1. At least weekly empty or get rid of cans, buckets, old tires, pots, plant saucers and other containers that hold water.
2. Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water.
3. Remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
4. Change water in pet dishes daily.
5. Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
6. Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
7. Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
8. Cover trash containers.
9. Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
10. Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
11. Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticides if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
12. If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home.

Here is a list of measures individuals can take to protect themselves from mosquito bites. They are as follows:

1. Wear insect repellent.
2. Cover up with long-sleeved shirts and long pants.
3. Keep mosquitoes out with air conditioning or intact window screens.
4. Limit outdoor activities during peak mosquito times.

If you see an area of concern, please call the City Hall, and let us know, so we can get someone to come out and treat these areas.

The Zika Virus can be a "deadly" infection, so we need to work at protecting our community. The City will try to assist with this by trying to educate the public, as well as taking measures to accelerate mosquito abatement. We encourage everyone's help in addressing the threat of the Zika Virus in South Texas.

FIREWORKS ARE BANNED IN CITY LIMITS OF LYTLE

In past newsletters, we have informed our residents that fireworks are banned in the City Limits of Lytle.

Apparently, we need to spell this out for a lot of people since the New Year's holiday proved that many residents of Lytle set off fireworks. Our Police Department was not able to keep up with all the complaints during this time.

So, to spell this out for everyone for the upcoming 4th of July celebrations. **FIREWORKS ARE BANNED IN THE CITY LIMITS OF LYTLE.** The word **"BANNED"** means the use of fireworks is **"PROHIBITED"**. Another synonym of the word **"BANNED"** is **"FORBIDDEN."** And in regards to our City Ordinance, the word **"BANNED"** means the use of fireworks is **"ILLEGAL."**

After all the complaints received the first part of this year, the Police Chief told Council at the January meeting, that the Police Department would have to step up patrolling for fireworks in July. So, if you are caught setting off fireworks in Lytle on July 4th, the police will issue tickets and you will have to appear in Municipal court and then have to pay a fine. To avoid this happening, do everyone a favor **"OBEY THE LAW" don't set off fireworks.**

NEW BUSINESSES FOR LYTLE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, O'Reilly's Auto Parts has come to Lytle. As of the date of this newsletter, they have finished construction of this store and are in the process of stocking it. We should see the store, which is located next to Sonic, opening around April.

The new dialysis center is also close to completion. They have received their "certificate of occupancy" and are in the process of getting necessary equipment and furniture.

The old Pyron's Variety Store on Main Street is being remodeled and we are being told it will be used for an "indoor" flea market.

PARK WALKING TRAILS FIXED

The walking trail(s) at John Lott Park had decomposed granite added to them in February. The recent rains had washed out a lot of this material and caused problems for walkers. At the time of this newsletter, we have a great number of people enjoying these walking trails.

UPDATE ON NEW WATER WELL

As reported in the last newsletter, the city is still working on acquiring land for a much needed water well. Negotiations are pending for this project at the time of this newsletter.

UTILITY RATES

In the last newsletter, it was mentioned that garbage and gas rates might be increased due to new contracts. At the time of this newsletter, these contracts have not been completed. Once these are done, customers will be notified if rates are raised.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED

The City of Lytle requires its residents and business owners to get building permits prior to starting building projects, whether it's a new dwelling, addition to dwelling or business, swimming pool, gazebo, deck, storage shed, etc. If you do not get a building permit prior to starting construction, the cost of the permit will be doubled. We urge everyone to comply with the city's building ordinance.

BULKY WASTE PICK-UP

Bulky waste is scheduled for the fourth Monday of each month. **REMEMBER THAT BRUSH IS NOT CONSIDERED** bulky waste. Also please remember, do **not** mix in brush with your bulky waste, or it will not be picked up.

Bulky waste includes old furniture, mattresses and other household items. Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, tires, large box screen tvs and paint are not picked up due to environmental issues. Also, construction debris is **not** included as part of bulky waste pick-up.

AGAIN, WE URGE EVERYONE TO PLACE BULKY WASTE AT CURBSIDE THE WEEKEND PRIOR TO THE START DATE, SO WE DO NOT HAVE THE CITY RIGHT-OF-WAYS LOOKING DIRTY AND UGLY FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME. ALSO, REMEMBER TO PLACE YOUR BULKY WASTE WHERE IT DOES NOT CAUSE A PROBLEM FOR YOUR NEIGHBORS, OR FOR PEOPLE DRIVING DOWN YOUR STREET.

CAR LICENSE PLATE STICKERS NOT AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL

Car license plate stickers are no longer being sold at the Lytle City Hall. The Atascosa County Tax office will be sending their representative to the new Atascosa County Precinct No. 2 Justice of the Peace office instead. Property taxes for Atascosa County can also be paid at that office. We realize this will be a bit of an inconvenience, however, the tax office will be open **every** Wednesday.

The new office is located at 1567 FM 3175, (on the left side of road) just past the Benton City Water office. The phone number for the new office is 830-772-5854. The office hours are: 9:30 am - 4:00 pm, with a lunch hour from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. This new office will be a **“full service”** tax office.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Lytle City Council meets on the second Monday of each month* at 6:30 pm at the Lytle City Hall.

*Note-December meeting is **usually** not held due to the holiday season.

CITY OFFICE HOURS

The City Office is open during the hours of 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The City Hall closes for the lunch hour between 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. in order for the office to run as efficiently as possible.

CODE COMPLIANCE

We have a Code Compliance Officer that will continue to drive around the city and see that people comply with the city's ordinances. We ask everyone to keep their lots free of debris and junk vehicles to avoid a visit from the city's code enforcement officer.

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

The City Hall accepts credit and debit card payments (Visa, Mastercard, American Express and Discover). You may pay your utility bills, taxes, fines and other fees charged by the city with these four cards in the lobby and the drive-thru window of the City Hall.

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

We'd like to remind everyone that the drive-thru window at the back of the City Hall building is open for their convenience during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday and is closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. We do accept credit card payments at the drive-thru window.

GAS EMERGENCIES

CPS Energy operates and maintains the city's gas system. If you have a gas emergency, please call, (210) 353-HELP (4375) or toll free at 1-800-870-1006.

NIGHT DEPOSIT

A night deposit box is available for the convenience of customers paying utility bills and taxes. This drop box is located next to the drive-thru window at the back of the City Hall building.

PHONE SYSTEM AT CITY HALL

The City Hall's new phone system has been completed, and can make things more efficient for our customers. Also, if the employee you are trying to reach is out of the office or busy, the new voicemail feature will let you leave a message for that employee.

The options for the new phone system are listed below:

- Option 1 – Utilities (Laura Rodriguez)
- Option 2 – Taxes & Building Permits (Angela Perdue)
- Option 3 – Municipal Court (Diana Salazar)
- Option 4 – Dumpster Service
- Option 5 – Assistant City Secretary (Virginia Medina)
- Option 6 – Payroll
- Option 7 – City Secretary (Josie Campa)
- Option 8 – Finances/Accounts Payable
- Option 9 – All Other Matters

OVERGROWN LOTS & YARDS

We'd like to remind everyone with property in the Lytle City limits that we do have an ordinance prohibiting lots and yards to become overgrown with weeds and debris (that includes old tires). If you are found to be in violation of the city's ordinance you will be notified to correct the situation within seven (7) days of the notice. If you do not clean the property within the allotted time, the city will be forced to send a police officer to issue a citation to you and then file a complaint against you in Municipal Court. This could lead to you being fined for every day your property is not cleaned up. We ask everyone to keep their yards free of weeds, trash and debris to keep our city looking neat and clean.

UTILITY ON-LINE PAYMENTS

The City of Lytle now has the capability for accepting "on-line" payments for utility bills.

WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our website at www.lytle.tx.org. We do update this website as often as possible with important news.

WORK ORDERS

All citizens are urged to call the City Office to turn in work orders for City-related matters. In the past, citizens have told laborers or Council members about things that needed to be done and since they were not in the office, a work order was not written and the work to be done was forgotten.

PLEASE REMEMBER, call the City Office if you have a matter that needs to be tended to.

MAYOR'S REPORT

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to spring weather. I know many of you have started or will be starting on that spring garden. Hopefully, along with the nice weather will come more rain and then the wild flowers should be great this year.

I encourage each of you to attend our Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, April 8th. This event helps us to clean up our town and get it ready for spring. Refreshments will be provided and we will start at the Lytle City Hall at 9 am. Please support this event.

Looking around town several new business projects have been completed or are very near completion. The new Taco Bell, which is already successful along with the new dialysis building nearing completion over by Best Western and the O'Reilly parts store is due to open in the middle of April will help in changing Lytle in a positive way. Lytle continues to be blessed.

Thank you again for all your support.

Mayor
Mark L. Bowen

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IMPORTANT CITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lytle City	(830) 709-3692
Lytle Public Works	(210) 251-8578
Lytle Police Dept.	(830) 709-0277
Lytle Animal Control	(830) 709-3832
Lytle EMS and Police	(830) 769-3434 or 9-1-1
Lytle Fire Department	(830) 709-2326 or 9-1-1
C.P.S. Energy	(210) 353-HELP (4357) 1-800-870-1006 – Toll Free

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