

NEWSLETTER:

3-17



City of Lytle

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MAYOR

Mark Bowen

ALDERMEN

Dist. 1-Ruben Gonzalez
Dist. 2-Sam Cortez
Dist. 3-Jamie Dahler
Dist. 4-Jerry Stone
Dist. 5-Ruble P. Farmer, Jr

CITY SECRETARY

Josie Campa

July 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 matters.

FIREWORKS BANNED IN CITY LIMITS

In the last newsletter, we notified our residents and customers that the use of fireworks is illegal in the city limits of Lytle. Police Chief Richard Priest told Council at the January meeting that the Police Department would step up patrolling for fireworks in the city after all the complaints they received for New Year's Day celebrations.

We urge everyone to obey the law by not lighting fireworks during the 4th of July holiday. We haven't had enough rain recently to help lessen the chance for fires, so please don't be increasing these chances by setting off fireworks.

AGAIN, IT IS ILLEGAL TO SET OFF FIREWORKS INSIDE THE CITY.

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, city employees will have holidays on Monday, July 3rd and Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day (4th of July.) Please mark these days on your calendar.

City employees are also scheduled to have Monday, September 4th off in observance of Labor Day.

CITY ELECTION RESULTS

At the City election held May 6th for District 3, Jamie Dahler was elected to the City Council. The Council has not had a woman serve on it since 1991. As reported in the last newsletter, Ruben Gonzalez was elected as District 1 Alderman and Sam Cortez was re-elected to his District 2 seat.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS

At the June 12th City Council meeting, Council voted unanimously to have the City's delinquent tax roll printed in the City's official newspaper, The Leader News. The City's delinquent tax roll reflects all taxes due after June 30th. If you have not paid your taxes for 2016, as of this date, your name will appear in the Leader News. Soon after July 1st, the City will start work on preparing their delinquent tax roll for publication. **TO AVOID HAVING YOUR NAME APPEAR ON THE CITY'S DELINQUENT TAX ROLL AND IN THE PAPER, WE URGE YOU TO PAY YOUR TAXES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

WATER CONSERVATION

At the time that this newsletter was being written, the level of the Edwards Aquifer was about eight (8) feet above the Stage 1 trigger level. If the level of aquifer continues to go down like it has in the past week, by the time you receive this newsletter, the Stage 1 conservation stage will be in effect. We will keep hoping for rain, so we can try to avoid asking our water customers to cut back on their water usage. You can stay abreast of the aquifer level by listening to the daily weather forecasts on all of the San Antonio news stations. We will also have this request put on the City's marquee when Stage 1 is declared.

ZIKA VIRUS UPDATE

The Zika risk in Texas will continue to rise as the temperatures go up. We urge everyone to be cautious with mosquito bites, as they are the primary reason for the spread of the Zika virus. As of the week ending June 9th, fourteen (14) Zika cases have been reported for 2017 in Texas. Bexar County has reported one (1) case of this virus with the other thirteen (13) cases being reported in nine (9) other Texas counties. The closest other county is Brazos County, which includes College Station and the City of Bryan. The most Zika cases reported in these counties is four (4) and these were in the southern most county in Texas. 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 and remove standing water around structures and from flat roofs.
3. Change water in pet dishes daily and cover trash containers.
4. Rinse and scrub vases and other indoor water containers weekly.
5. Change water in wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
6. Maintain backyard pools or hot tubs.
7. Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
8. Screen rain barrels and openings to water tanks or cisterns.
9. Treat front and back door areas of homes with residual insecticides if mosquitoes are abundant nearby.
10. If mosquito problems persist, consider pesticide applications for vegetation around the home.

Zika virus continued

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.

Again, 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. Please be aware that the Zika virus can be a “deadly” infection. The City will try to assist with this by trying to educate the public, as well as taking measures to accelerate mosquito abatement. We urge everyone to help in addressing the threat of the Zika virus in the Lytle area.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4TH OF JULY-Again, the City will hold its annual 4th of July celebration on July 3rd. This year the celebration will start on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. The Lytle VFW Post #12041 and its auxiliary will once again assist the city with the preparations and serving of hot dogs, chips, snacks and drinks. These items will be served on a “first come, first served” basis. The fireworks are scheduled to start at 9:30 p.m. this year. We will have bouncers for the kids along with face painting and balloons. Everyone is asked to bring their lawn chairs and blankets for this event. An insert about this event is enclosed with your newsletter.

2017 PAWS OF SUMMER-The City of Lytle’s Animal Care & Control Department will be holding the 8th Annual PAWS of Summer fundraiser on Saturday, July 15th. This event will be held at the Lytle Community Center starting at 5 PM. This year this event is in partnership with Lytle Animal Allies. This year’s theme for the event is “50’s Poodle Skirts and Bobby Sox” so you can be sure that the music will be enjoyable. Some of the things slated for this year’s event include:

- **VINYL 45’S BAND** from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **SILENT AUCTION** that includes: bikes, bird houses, antiques, gift cards to various businesses and restaurants and much, much more.
- **LIVE AUCTION** includes: handmade knife, BBQ pit and Fire pit made by Lytle High School Ag Dept. and much more.
- **HAMBURGER PLATES**-\$5.00
- **COKE FLOATS**-\$2.00
- **BAKE SALE**
- **QUILT RAFFLE**Quilt donated by The Plain Jane Quilters
- **5 IN 1 RAFFLE** that will include a Samsung 55 inch UHDTV; a Yeti 65 Tundra, a Diamond Circle Pendant; a \$250.00 HEB Gift Card, and a \$100.00 Visa Gift Card.

2017 PAWS of Summer continued

If you are interest in donating something to this cause or need more info on this event, please contact Betty Kroeger, 830-709-3832 or 210-289-3566.

Admission to this event is FREE. However, we do ask that you please bring an animal related item such as: canned/dry dog/cat food, pet toys, peepads, etc.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

At this time, the City is making plans for some upcoming events. These events include the unveiling of a new park sign; and a festival following the Lytle Ex-Students' Homecoming Parade on September 9th.

The Lytle VFW Post #12041 is also working with the City on a Flag Pole Dedication and VJ Day Ceremony on September 2nd and is holding the Annual Freedom Walk on September 9th. More details on these events will be available on the city's website and the Leader News. If you have any questions you may contact Josie Campa at 830-709-3692, option #7.

NEW BUSINESSES IN LYTLE

O'Reilly's Auto Parts opened its doors the latter part of April and had its grand opening June 14-27th. This store is located by the Sonic Drive-In on FM 2790 East (AKA McDonald Street).

Jardin de Mexico has opened its business in the old Pyron's Variety Store building located on Main Street at the intersection of Somerset Street. Interesting items such as Mexican pottery and art can be found at this location.

The City also has a new barbershop located in the Hack building on Main Street next to Naomi's Diner. The 888 'Classics' Barbershop opened its doors in late March of this year.

The Lytle Community Health Center has now relocated to the former Kellum Medical Clinic. This new clinic is across the Main Street from the Valero Station. They have assured us that they are here to take care of Lytle's medical needs.

UPDATE ON NEW WATER WELL

We are hoping that the land for the new well has been purchased by the time you read this newsletter. As soon as the land deal is finalized, our hydrologist and engineering firm will start working on plans for our much needed well.

CITY OF LYTLE GAS CUSTOMERS

EXCESS FLOW VALVE CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION

Excess flow valve customer notification. In accordance with recent Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), the City of Lytle is required to notify all natural gas customers (new or existing), about excess flow valve (E.F.V.) requirements. Effective April 14th, 2017, PHMSA expanded the use of E.F.V. installation requirements to new or replaced gas service lines to single family residence, multi-family residence, and small commercial customers with natural gas volumes not exceeding 1,000 S.C.F.H. (standard cubic feet per hour).

SAFETY BENEFITS OF AN E.F.V.-E.F.V.'s are a mechanical shut-off device. They are designed to shut off the flow of natural gas automatically if the service line is cut, torn apart or broken, for example, by an excavation accident. Stopping the flow of gas from a broken service line significantly reduces the risk of a natural gas explosion, personal injury and/or property damage.

WHAT WON'T AN E.F.V. DO?-E.F.V.'s are not designed to close if a leak occurs beyond the gas meter (on house piping or appliances). E.F.V.'s also may not close if the leak on the service line is small.

POSSIBILITY OF CLOSURE IF THE CUSTOMER ADDS LOAD- If you add additional gas appliances, for example, a pool heater, emergency generator, etc. the additional gas flow may cause the E.F.V. to close.

Customers may request the City of Lytle to install an E.F.V. on the gas service line to their property. You will be billed for the cost of an E.F.V. installed in your new, replaced or existing gas service line. The cost of the installation will be based on a case by case basis, and could cost anywhere from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00, depending on the difficulty of installation. We will inform you of the actual cost before you make the final decision.

MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENT-If it becomes necessary to maintain or replace the E.F.V. on your service line, you will be billed for cost of replacing the E.F.V. Replacing an E.F.V. can cost from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00, but the actual replacement cost will depend on the difficulty of replacement.

E.F.V.'s cannot be installed on your service line if:

1. The service line operates less than 10 p.s.i. throughout the year.
2. The E.F.V. could interfere with proper operation or cause loss of service.
3. An E.F.V. could interfere with necessary operation or maintenance, activities.
4. The capacity of the meter on the service line exceeds 3,000 cubic feet per hour.

If you request an E.F.V., we will inform you if your service line meets any of these conditions.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:

BRUSH PICK-UP

The City will be having someone pick-up brush starting July 17th. The brush trucks will go down each street **one** time, so we urge everyone to take advantage of this service. We ask that the brush not be placed at the street until the weekend before the pick-up is scheduled.

We ask everyone to follow these rules: (1) cut up their brush to a size where our brush contractor will not have a problem picking it up; (2) place your brush along the city's right-of-way, **not** on your property; (3) make sure the area where you place your brush is not blocked by vehicles or other objects; and (4) do **not** mix your brush with bulky waste.

If you want your brush picked up by Waste Management on Wednesdays and Saturdays with your regular garbage, please remember that you **must** bundle it. The length of this bundle cannot exceed 4 feet in length or thirty-five pounds (35 lbs.) in weight.

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 NO LONGER 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 the 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 p.m. 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 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 PM 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 CARD 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 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and is closed for lunch between 12:00 noon and 1:00 PM.

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.

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.

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

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.lytletx.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.

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IMPORTANT CITY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Lytle City	(830) 709-3692
Lytle After 5 & Weekends	(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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MAYOR'S REPORT

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to summer. It is truly amazing all the new businesses we have had come to town over the course of the past year. It is obvious Lytle has been truly blessed.

We will be having our annual 4th of July fireworks show at the Lytle City Park this year on July 3rd, so we can bring in our 241st year of independence. Please plan on attending, it should be the best fireworks show yet. Also, free hot dogs, chips and drinks.

Please remember our annual “PAWS of Summer” event. This is a great event to help our animals along with getting to bid on some great items for your home. The event this year will be on Saturday, July 15th at the Lytle Community Center with doors opening at 5 PM. I hear it has a 50’s theme this year. Will be a great time.

I want to thank our great volunteers for all you do for our community. Without your help and dedication we could not get many things accomplished. If you would like to help on future projects, please let us know.

Thank You.

Mayor Mark L. Bowen