

NEWSLETTER:

3-18



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, 2018

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.

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, city employees will have a holiday on Wednesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day. Please mark this holiday on your calendar.

The next holiday that city employees are also scheduled to have is Monday, September 3rd off in observance of Labor Day.

FIREWORKS BANNED IN CITY LIMITS

A reminder to our residents and customers that the use of fireworks is illegal in the city limits of Lytle. The Police Department will be 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.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS

At the June 11th 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 2017, 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 at about five (5) feet above the Stage 3 trigger level.

Therefore, this means we were in Stage 2 of water restrictions when writing this newsletter. If we are still in Stage 2 when you receive this newsletter, we are needing you to cut back your water usage by 30%. If we are in Stage 3, then we need you to cut back water usage by 35%. Our Code Compliance Officer will be monitoring when people water, so please remember your watering days. They are as follows:

If Last Digit Of Your Address Is:	Watering Day Is:
0 or 1	Monday
2 or 3	Tuesday
4 or 5	Wednesday
6 or 7	Thursday
8 or 9	Friday

Please remember that there is no watering allowed on Saturdays or Sundays (weekend). We have enclosed a Critical Period Stage chart showing trigger levels and cut back percentages for each stage. 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.

UPDATE ON NEW WATER WELL

At the time this newsletter was being written, McKinley Drilling has finished cementing the new well and will drill through to the Edwards Aquifer. The next phase of this project will be a transmission line being installed from the well to our existing pipeline. If you will remember, a year ago we were in the midst of purchasing land for this project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

4TH OF JULY-Once again, the City will hold its annual 4th of July celebration. This year the celebration will start on Wednesday 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 for your convenience.

ZIKA VIRUS UPDATE

As of the week ending June 8th, three (3) Zika Virus cases have been reported in Texas for 2018. One case was reported in Collin County (Plano area). Two cases were reported in Williamson County (Georgetown-Round Rock area). All of these cases are associated with travel. However, the Zika virus cases will continue to increase as the temperature goes up. We urge everyone to be cautious with mosquito bites, as they are the primary reason for the spread of the Zika virus. Below is a list of things you can do to help the city with getting rid of mosquitoes.

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 are some 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.

The City will be monitoring mosquito activity more closely and has already ordered fogging for mosquitoes to start to try and accelerate mosquito abatement. The City has also purchased larvicide to place around town where water tends to stand for a long period of time. The City is also asking people to assist in letting us know about areas of concern. The City has already reached out to the school district to assist with this endeavor.

UPDATE ON GRANT PROJECT

In the last newsletter, we reported that construction had started on replacing some of the city's older water lines. We had also said that this project should be completed in the next three to four months. We are very close to this time now and the project had to be halted due to rock. We are now waiting on permits from Union Pacific Railroad and TX Dot that will allow our contractor to do horizontal bores to complete this project. We must have this project completed by September to receive the grant funds.

NEW ADDITIONS TO JOHN LOTT MUNICIPAL PARK

New scoreboards have been added to two of the ball fields at John Lott Municipal Park. Unfortunately, the score boards were not installed in time for this past season, but they will be a welcome addition for next year. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Lytle State Bank for their generous donation. This project would not have been possible without the bank's sizable contribution to the city.

UPDATE ON CITY BUSINESSES
APARTMENTS NEXT TO MCDONALD'S

Hopefully, by the time you read this newsletter, the new apartments by the McDonald's on Lytle-Somerset Street will be completed. The owner has told us that they are already taking rental applications for the sixteen (16) units.

DAYS INN

The Days Inn has a new owner and you probably have already seen the improvements he has made to the motel. The new paint job and lighting really makes this business look better.

NEW APARTMENTS COMING TO LYTLE

Recently, the Country View Apartments got a new owner. He has been working hard to renovate these apartments over the past few months. He also has plans to build a new apartment complex. We are being told that plans are for a 36 unit complex. We hope to see construction start by the end of this year.

SPEED HUMPS APPROVED FOR JUAREZ STREET IN COAL MINE

At the June 11th Council meeting, speed humps were approved for Juarez Street in Coal Mine Subdivision. We are hoping that the installation of these humps will keep drivers from speeding on this street. This is the first street in Lytle that will have these speed deterrents on it. The Police Department will be making a traffic study on N. Prairie Street in the months to come and then speed humps may be placed on this busy thoroughfare. Please keep in mind that the City is working to make our town as safe as possible by keeping speeders from endangering lives for pedestrians as well as property owners on these streets.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:

BRUSH PICK-UP

The City will be having someone pick-up brush starting July 16th. 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.

BRUSH/BULKY WASTE PICK-UP

DO NOT MIX YOUR BRUSH AND BULKY WASTE, if you want them picked up. Our contractors will **not** separate your discarded items if they are mixed together in the same pile. Also, if you place items that you have been told to not put out for pick-up like old tires, the contractor will not pick any of the stuff in your pile. Please remember to separate your discarded items, since our brush & bulky waste contractors are **not** obligated to sort through your trash.

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 between 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. 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.

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.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.

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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's obvious Lytle has been truly blessed.

Currently the new apartments over by McDonald's are close to being finished with others planned in another location in the near future. We also have a new owner at the Days Inn. They are currently working on painting, new lights for the outside and a new sign. Their next step will be remodeling of the rooms with a grand opening and open house in the near future.

We will be having our Annual 4th of July fireworks show at the Lytle City Park this year on July 4th, so we can bring in our 242nd year of independence. Please plan on attending; it should be the best fireworks show yet along with free hot dogs, chips and drinks to the first 1000 people. Lytle's VFW will be cooking the hot dogs along with the ladies auxiliary serving them. The VFW continues to do an outstanding job in our community.

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 21st at the Lytle Community Center with doors opening at 5 PM.

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