

NEWSLETTER:

3-20



City of Lytle

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P.O. Box 743
Lytle, Texas 78052
(830) 709-3692
www.lytletx.org

MAYOR

Mark Bowen

ALDERMEN

Dist. 1-Ruben Gonzalez
Dist. 2- Sam Cortez
Dist. 3-Laura Reyna
Dist. 4-Jerry Stone
Dist. 5-Erik Dahler

CITY SECRETARY

Josie Campa

July 1, 2020

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.

COVID-19 AKA CORONAVIRUS

At the time this newsletter is being written, the Council had adopted the latest declaration on June 2nd. We have the entire declaration on the city's website for your convenience. Some of the highlights of this declaration are as follows:

1. City Hall is now open;
2. Utility Cut-offs and late fees will resume with your July 1st bill;
3. Past due amounts for utility services during February, March, April and May will be due and payable by September 1st;
4. City facilities such as the Community Center, Annex, park pavilion and park gazebo are not available for renting or use until September 1st;
5. Court has resumed, but is now being held at the Community Center;
6. City Council meetings are now being held at the Community Center;
7. City park is open except for the pavilion, gazebo and multi-purpose court;
8. Playground equipment and restrooms at park are open. However, signs have been posted to warn people that these amenities are not sanitized on a regular basis and users should take appropriate precautions;
9. All organized sports activities on baseball and softball fields are prohibited until September 1, 2020.

UPCOMING CITY HOLIDAYS

As mentioned in the last newsletter, city employees will have a holiday on Friday, July 3rd in observance of Independence Day.

The next holiday that city employees are also scheduled to have is Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. Please mark these holidays on your calendar.

HOLIDAY PARK CLOSURE

John Lott Municipal Park will be closed for July 4th. Again, this is due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The park will reopen on Sunday, July 5th.

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. If you are caught **USING** fireworks you could be given a ticket for violating our city ordinance.

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.

CHANGES TO YOUR GARBAGE SERVICE TO START JULY 20TH

Waste Management is hoping to get the new 96-gallon containers delivered to Lytle garbage customers by the middle of July. An insert from Waste Management is enclosed with this newsletter. By now, all garbage customers should have received a door hanger advising of the change in garbage service. This new garbage service has come about due to Waste Management trying to make conditions for its employees much safer. The container now being provided by Waste Management is three (3) times the size of a normal 32-gallon container. For the first few months, if you have more than the one (1) can, Waste Management will pick up the bags and/or cans you place besides your container. However, once we get past that time, you may be required to get another container. The cost for the second container is \$5.00 per month. Also, at this time, Waste Management will continue to pick up "bulky" waste. Bulky waste will be held the last Monday and Tuesday of the month. (See Enclosures)

RECYCLING COMING TO LYTLE

We are excited to announce that a "recycling" station will be set up at the city's Public Works' shop in the coming months. We are still trying to get things set up such as days and times of the week that this service will be available, as well as getting people trained to see that the recycling is being done properly. We will probably have some news about this service with your August bill. A flyer is included with this newsletter to inform the public about items that will and will not be accepted at the drop off recycling center.

NOTICE TO DELINQUENT TAXPAYERS

At the July City Council meeting, Council will be considering having the City's delinquent tax roll printed in the city's official newspaper. The City of Lytle has been printing its delinquent tax roll in the newspaper for many years now, so this document will likely be printed again. This tax roll reflects all taxes that are due after June 30th. If you have **NOT** paid your 2019 taxes yet, we urge you to do so to avoid having your name appear in the paper.

WATER CONSERVATION

At the time this newsletter was being written, the level of the Edwards Aquifer was at about 663 feet. This means we are only three feet away from Stage 1 Water restrictions. If we don't get rain soon, we will probably be under restrictions come July 1st. We urge everyone to do their part by cutting back on water usage. Once Stage 1 is declared, the city will be in mandatory restrictions, which means you will be asked to cut back your water usage by 20%. If we do our part now, maybe we can avoid the mandatory restrictions.

UPDATE ON NEW WATER WELL

A year ago, we were waiting to get started on the transmission line for the new water well. Now this line has been completed and we will be going to the next phase of getting the pump station built. We should have the electric service in place by the time you get this newsletter. We were hoping to have the new well on line by this summer, but now it looks like this will not happen due to unforeseen problems with this project.

UPCOMING EVENTS CANCELLED

4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

I'm sure most of you have already heard that this year's 4th of July celebration was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We were saddened to have to cancel this event, however, due to social distancing requirements not being able to be met, Council felt it would be best to not have this event this year. The safety of our community is what Council felt was most important. Hopefully, we will get back to some normalcy and we can have events again.

SANTA'S HOLIDAY HAYRIDE

It is still too soon to say what will happen with this year's hayride. We will be monitoring things closely to determine whether this event will go on. We can promise that city streets will be decorated as in past years for everyone to enjoy.

Again, we will hope that things get better with the pandemic to where we will be able to go ahead with plans for the hayride. We will keep you informed in the months ahead.

CITY ELECTION WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER

In the last newsletter, we told you that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the City election was postponed from May to November. As the time nears, you will be hearing more about this election. Remember, City election day is now Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

CITY'S OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

Please make note that the Devine News is now the official newspaper for the City of Lytle. **All** City ordinances and notices will now appear in that newspaper.

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR CITY SERVICES

We thought this calendar of monthly important dates for city services might be convenient for everyone

GARBAGE PICK-UP DATES: RESIDENTS –THURSDAYS

UTILITY BILL DUE DATE: 10TH OF EACH MONTH, 25TH FOR CUSTOMERS 60 OR OLDER, IF REGISTERED WITH CITY

BRUSH PICK-UP DAY: 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

BULKY WASTE PICK-UP DAY: 4TH MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: 2ND MONDAY OF THE MONTH UNLESS IT FALLS ON A HOLIDAY (NO MEETING IN DECEMBER)

HOLIDAYS: USUALLY LISTED IN ONE OF THE FIRST FEW PARAGRAPHS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

UTILITY CUT-OFF DATE: USUALLY A WEEK (SEVEN (7) DAYS) AFTER THE 11TH WHEN LETTERS ARE MAILED OUT TO DELINQUENT BILLING UTILITY CUSTOMERS. THIS DAY MAY VARY IF THE 10TH FALLS ON A WEEKEND.

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ZIKA VIRUS UPDATE

We are happy to report that at the time this newsletter was being written, **NO** reports of Zika virus disease have been confirmed in the State of Texas for 2020.

However, it is mosquito season, so we will take this opportunity to warn people to be careful. Also, remember the **TOP THREE** ways to prevent Zika are:

1. Apply EPA- approved insect repellent;
2. Remove standing water in cans, bottles, buckets, tires, wheel barrows or any container that holds water; and
3. Wear clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and exposed skin. This can include hats with mosquito netting and socks to cover your ankles.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SERVE AS REMINDERS FOR OUR NEW CUSTOMERS:

BRUSH PICK-UP

Your brush will continue to be picked up once a month this next year. **AGAIN, BRUSH PICK-UP IS SCHEDULED FOR THE 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH.**

BUILDING PERMITS REQUIRED FOR ALL CONSTRUCTION

Last year, City Council amended the building permit ordinance. The new ordinance requires homeowners or their agents to get building permits for any improvements made to the property. Also, included in this ordinance is the requirement of a building permit when a structure is going to be demolished. Below are three paragraphs of this ordinance that are important for everyone to remember.

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Section 8-48 of the City of Lytle's Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows:

- A) No building or accessory building shall hereafter be moved, erected, or constructed within the corporate limits of the City, and no existing building or accessory building within said corporate limits shall hereafter be structurally altered or an addition added thereto, unless a building permit has first been issued.
- B) A building permit is required to enlarge, alter, demolish, or change the appearance of a structure. The requirement of a building permit includes, but is not limited to, the addition of an accessory structure (including, but not limited to, garages, sheds, and other pre-built structures), the building of fences, decks, carports, gazebos, hot tubs and in-ground and above-ground swimming pools. Children's swimming pools of less than 24 inches deep do not require building permits.
- C) A moving permit from the City Secretary is required before a pre-built structure subject to this Section is moved into the corporate limits of the City.

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.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Lytle City Council meets on the second Monday of each month* at 6:30 pm at the Lytle Community Center during COVID-19 pandemic.

*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 CARD PAYMENTS 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.

NEED AN AMBULANCE?

All Medina and Bexar County residents of Lytle are **URGED** to call 830-769-3434 if in need of the Lytle EMS and/or an ambulance. This number is to the Atascosa County Sheriff's office, which does the dispatching for the Lytle EMS. If you choose to call 9-1-1 and live in Bexar or Medina County, your call will go to that County's dispatch, which means valuable time will be lost.

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.

ON-LINE PAYMENTS

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

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 (Laura Rodriguez)
- Option 3 – Municipal Court (Diana Salazar)
- Option 4 – Dumpster Service (Virginia Medina)
- Option 5 – Assistant City Secretary (Virginia Medina)
- Option 6 – Payroll (Josie Campa)
- Option 7 – City Secretary (Josie Campa)
- Option 8 – Finances/Accounts Payable (Josie Campa)
- Option 9 – All Other Matters

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.

MAYOR'S REPORT

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and looking forward to summer. We have been blessed with rains in May and most yards and gardens look great.

To say the least this has been a challenging year for not just Lytle, but the State of Texas, our Nation and the rest of the world. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed so many things we take for granted. Such as shopping, going to the doctor or school, college or even church. We have all learned to wear a mask, wash our hands more often and maintain social distancing. This has been a learning curve for all of us but important to help keep us safe and well.

Most of our city events have been canceled this summer, such as the 4th of July celebration in the park, due to the issue with large crowds and not being able to maintain social distancing. The City Council and I have said that we may be having a firework show later in the year for all to enjoy, but it will depend on what the CDC and our Governor have to say about those type of events. We will keep you posted.

I also would like to express my gratitude to our Emergency Management Team in the city of Lytle, who have worked very hard in helping to maintain the safety of our community. This team will continue to work to help us through the Covid-19 challenge.

My thoughts and prayers are with our community and citizens to help protect and keep us safe throughout the remainder of the year and until the Covid-19 pandemic is over. God bless and take care of yourself and your family.

Thank You.
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 Medina & Bexar Co. Residents 9-1-1- Atascosa Co. Residents
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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