

## **Stratford Police - Youth Program**

*- Press Release -*

Today at approximately 130pm at 3520 Main Street (Paradise Green area), we will be hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony to launch our PAL Boxing Program. I'm hoping that we can take this opportunity to also make people know that we are working on reviving the Police Activities League. Our mission is to promote partnerships and trust between youth, police and the community through programs such as this boxing program as well as other athletic, educational or recreational activities.

The Stratford PAL started in the early 1950s and has had some very strong involvement and positive influence in our town. Unfortunately we hit some bumps over the last five years, but now, we are looking to bring back PAL with the help of the community. We need support and donations so that we can provide opportunities for youths to get involved! Studies have shown that if a young person respects a police officer on the field or classroom, the youth will likely come to respect the laws the police enforce.

The Boxing program is our police run athletic program under PAL. Officer Larry Castelot will be the program coordinator working with Sensei Martin Chisholm. Officer Castelot is a certified state law enforcement instructor and holds certification in USA Boxing.

PAL also runs the Police Explorer Program, a Rifle club and has been getting more involved with POP Warner football and cheerleading and hoping to get more involved with the various youth baseball and softball leagues and soccer teams.

Donations can be made to: Stratford PAL and mailed to the Stratford Police Department at the address below.

Lieutenant Melissa Niemiec

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