



City of Kyle e-Newsletter

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Grant funds new KPD Juvenile Officer

Police Officer Dago Pates has recently been selected as the Kyle Police Department's first full-time Juvenile Officer.

Funded through a grant from the Texas Office of the Governor, Pates will focus his duties on deterring criminal behavior of juveniles, defined for purposes of this grant as youth age 10-17, in order to keep them from entering the adult

resources to at-risk youth and their families.

But Barnett believes over time, the juvenile officer's position will have more of a deterring effect.

"He will work with our local schools and organizations to identify youth from the Kyle community who need help and guidance to make good choices about their behavior," Barnett said.

According to Kyle Police Department, Pates has been on staff since 2009 as a patrol officer. He also does community outreach including speaking to students at Gary Job Corps in San Marcos, where Pates graduated in 2006.

"I want Officer Pates to become our in-house juvenile crime deterrent expert," Chief Jeff Barnett said in a recent interview. "He will get to know these kids and be available and responsive to their needs."

Some ideas for reaching out to juveniles to prevent them from committing crimes include having a social network with alternative activities, such as lock-in dances and midnight basketball games.

Pates applied for the grant-funded position, which was open to any qualified officer in the department.

"I took this position because I believe I can have a positive impact on the lives of these youth," he said.



Kyle Police Officer Dago Pates (at right) recently became the city's first Juvenile Officer. The position is funded by a grant through the governor's office.

criminal justice system. In 2014, the Kyle Police Department addressed 117 separate cases involving juveniles.

What types of tasks will a juvenile officer perform?

Kyle Police Chief Jeff Barnett said the position is meant to prevent juveniles from going to jail. He envisions much of Pates' work will initially be in the form of support after a crime occurs.

Pates will also coordinate with the city's mental health officer, Genevieve Natal, to provide

Light the way

If you've seen crews working recently at the intersection of FM 1626 and Kohler's Crossing and wondered, 'What's happening?' – here's the scoop:

Crews from a Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) contractor, Austin Traffic Signal, are installing new mast arm traffic signals.

According to TxDOT's Michael Camus, the state agency supplied most of the materials, including the signal poles and cabinet, for the project.

"As it stands right now, about 70 percent of the



About 70 percent of underground work has been installed for the new traffic signals at FM 1626 and Kohler's Crossing.

underground equipment has been installed," Camus said earlier this week.

"Our contractor still has some additional

conduit and ground box work to finish up after he completes another project," he said.

Camus added that once the contractor picks up

everything from TxDOT, he will install it, weather permitting.

Then the two electrical services will need to be hooked up by PEC, as their schedule allows.

"After that," Camus said, "the striping goes in and we will flash the signal for seven days."

At the end of that week, TxDOT will program the controller and finally turn on the new signal.

"It's a process, without a doubt," Camus said.

When will the lights be operational?

"The traffic signal project should be completed in mid-January," he said.

Flood help

Below is a partial list of the agencies available to assist with disaster recovery, including housing needs:

- Austin Disaster Recovery Network
- American Red Cross
- Texans Recovering Together
- Salvation Army
- Hays County Food Bank
- United Way
- Community Action
- Goodwill
- Hays County Veterans Office

Hays County resource centers are still operating, such as the one at the Precinct 5 offices in Buda.

It's open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. until further notice.

The Blanco River Regional Response Team (BR3T) connects those who need help with volunteers.

Visit www.blancoriverregionalrecovery.com or email them at blancoriverregional@gmail.com.

Monetary donations are being accepted at Wells Fargo Bank branches.



Need help after the flood? Visit a resource center like the one in Buda. You can also donate at any Wells Fargo Bank branch to help flood victims.

For those living in Kyle who need flood-damaged items removed, call Texas Disposal Systems at 512-421-1300 to schedule a bulk pickup.

