



## News & Views

Fall 2016



A newsletter from the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council

### How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with KAYAC:

- Join KAYAC; **we have current openings for three students.**
- **SPEAK UP!** Have an idea? Let us know what you think! (See contact methods below.)
- Volunteer. Get involved, e.g., Teen Night, the YAC Summit or Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Attend a meeting. We also have a citizen's comments segment. KAYAC meets twice a month at Kyle City Hall at 6:30 p.m.

**Contact KAYAC:** Email [Nikki Ladet](mailto:Nikki.Ladet@cityofkyle.com), [nladet@cityofkyle.com](mailto:nladet@cityofkyle.com) or visit our [website](#). You can also find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

### Save the Dates!

Get involved and get connected to your city! Below are some upcoming meetings & events; some of these happenings offer volunteer opportunities as well:

- Nov. 10 - KAYAC Pedestrian Mobility Charette (6:30 p.m., Kyle City Hall)
- Nov. 12 - Pokemon Go Goers @ KPL
- Nov. 15 - Kyle City Council Mtg.
- Nov. 15 - Public Hearing on proposed stormwater utility
- thru Nov. 29 - Hays County Food Bank's "Turkeys Tackling Hunger"
- Nov. 30 - Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony (City Sq. Park)
- Dec. 10 - Pokemon Go Goers @ KPL
- Jan. 1 - Polar Bear Splash

### Santa's Arrival on Nov. 30 Schedule of Events

- 3:00 pm – Santa tours city with Kyle Fire Department
- 4:30 pm – Santa arrives at Historic Kyle City Hall
- 4:45 pm – Pictures with Santa (Bring your own camera); School Choir performances begin at the Gazebo
- 5:45 pm – Santa and a guest will light the Kyle Christmas tree.
- 7:45 pm – Line to take photos with Santa closes
- 8:30 pm – Last photos with Santa
- 9:00 pm – Event concludes



### Skate Park Planning Update

Last year KAYAC formed the **Skate Park Subcommittee** to design and advocate for a possible skate park.

The members solicited opinions and input regarding the concept of building a skate park.

In June, KAYAC presented its report to the Kyle Parks & Recreation Board, which ultimately decided not to recommend moving forward with a skate park at this juncture.

Thanks to all who contributed ideas and input to KAYAC!

### Bringing a youth perspective to city government

Is it true that younger generations seem as though they don't care much about their town or city government — or government in general? Here in Kyle, the answer is no.

The Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council, or KAYAC, is a volunteer advisory group comprised of students from Lehman and Hays High schools. Our members are actively involved in the community. We provide a youthful perspective on a wide variety of issues to the Kyle City Council.

KAYAC also has several subcommittees, offering members a chance to delve more deeply into issues and projects.

#### KAYAC Subcommittee Overview

- Outreach Subcommittee** — conducts surveys and gathers opinions through research, peer discussion and social media discourse
- Volunteering and Events Subcommittee** — offers volunteer opportunities for our members, such as at events including the Founders Parade, Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting and the Easter Eggstravaganza.
- Newsletter Committee** — prepares informative stories keeping you up-to-date on KAYAC activities.



**KAYAC 2016-17 members:** Nate McHale, Hanna Malott, Luke Jackson, Lila Ramos, Aidan O'Keefe, Destinee Cabrera, Alexandra Moore, Meghan Murphy, Skylar Gold, Zakya Jarden, Anna Holsonbake, Jude McClaren and Mia Padron.

**Staff Liaison:** Nikki Ladet

**Staff Advisors:** Howard Koontz and Kim Hilsenbeck

Students: want to join KAYAC? Email [nladet@cityofkyle.com](mailto:nladet@cityofkyle.com) to apply.

### KAYAC's Pedestrian Mobility Project needs your input Get connected with KAYAC and Be Heard!

KAYAC was tasked with developing a Pedestrian Mobility Study. Our members are leading this comprehensive project, with support from Kyle City Staff, to gather input from Kyle residents about a variety of pedestrian mobility issues.

The KAYAC program will include two main components:

1. **A Pedestrian Mobility Project charette** — a Town Hall meeting — to gather community input on how people want Kyle to look in terms of moving people around on bikes and on foot.
2. **A web survey** to gather additional input and insight from as many Kyle residents as possible for their opinions on pedestrian mobility.

Installing sidewalks and/or trails may also affect how students get to schools and whether buses will be needed in some neighborhoods.

**Attend the KAYAC Pedestrian Mobility Charette beginning at 6:30 p.m. November 10** at Kyle City Hall. Light refreshments will be served. Be sure to tell your friends and neighbors, as a plan of this nature would impact most everyone living in Kyle.

For more information, contact Director of Planning Howard Koontz at [hkoontz@cityofkyle.com](mailto:hkoontz@cityofkyle.com).

### Getting out the Vote

Voter turnout in the United States is often low, compared to other nations around the globe.

To help increase the number of voters in the Kyle/Buda area, KAYAC members, in conjunction with the Hays County Elections Office, set up registration booths at all three Hays CISD high schools in early October. This offered students a convenient, fast way to get their voter registration in before the Oct 11 deadline in order to be able to vote in the Nov. 8 election.

Between October 1-8, KAYAC held two registration days each at Hays High, Lehman High and Live Oak Academy. Students age 17 years, 10 months or older could register to vote. KAYAC members distributed information and the materials needed to complete their registration.

Because of the efforts of KAYAC members, about forty high school students registered to vote. That means another potential 40 voters who may show up at his or her polling place for the election.

KAYAC plans to host a voter registration booth again in the spring. Check your school announcements or any of the KAYAC social media accounts for updates.

