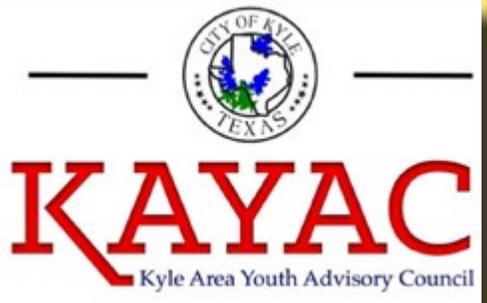
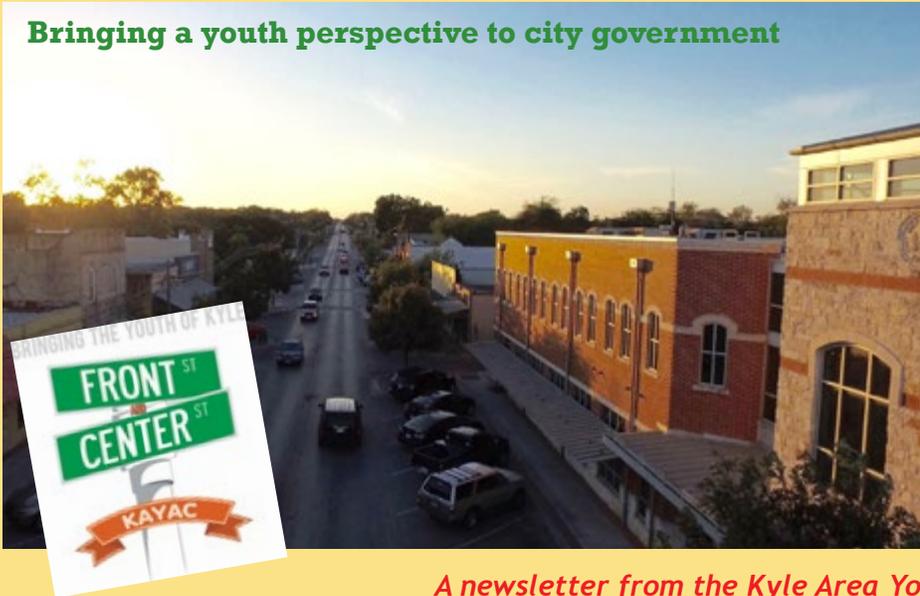


Bringing a youth perspective to city government



News & Views

Spring 2017



A newsletter from the Kyle Area Youth Advisory Council

How do I get involved?

There are many ways to get involved with KAYAC:

- Become a member. Join KAYAC
- 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 the Easter Eggstravaganza
- 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, nladet@cityofkyle.com](mailto:Nikki.Ladet@cityofkyle.com) or visit our website. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter!

Mobility Matters

Getting around in Kyle, outside of one's own neighborhood, is less pedestrian friendly than city leaders want. They challenged KAYAC to develop a Pedestrian Mobility Plan.

At the beginning of the 2016 school year, KAYAC jumped into the issue. The process began with each member reviewing sidewalk master plans from other cities in the United States and abroad. Many plans had common elements, including a research component, public outreach and cooperation with developers to include sidewalks in their plans.

KAYAC's first priority was to gauge how Kyleites feel about sidewalks and bike lanes. We organized a charrette — a town hall style meeting — at Kyle City Hall in mid November. Using maps of Kyle with existing sidewalk routes superimposed over them, KAYAC asked attendants to mark where they felt new sidewalks were needed, where they do their business, and where they have seen collisions or near collisions between cars and pedestrians.



At a KAYAC workshop in December, members discussed the feedback from the charrette. Our goal for the remainder of this school year is to obtain more data from a survey targeted to local residents of all ages. Members of KAYAC will also conduct sidewalk audits and individual discussions with people who walk, be it to work, school or for leisure. The end game is to assemble a policy proposal for sidewalks and bike routes, complete with prioritization matrices and funding information. This plan should be completed by June 2017.

Your input in the survey is needed and important! We want to hear from as many people as possible — but you only need to take it one time.

Take the KAYAC Pedestrian Mobility Survey here.

Save the Dates!

Several City of Kyle events and activities are coming up; mark your calendars for the following happenings:

- Jan. 17 Kyle City Council Mtg.
- Jan. 21 City-wide CleanUp (Central Texas Speedway 8 a.m.-noon, (be there by 11:30 a.m.)
- April 1-2, 2017 - Kyle Field Day (Gregg-Clarke Park, noon, age 21+)

Water Wise & Sewer Savvy

Most of us rarely think about what's happening at the city's wastewater treatment plant, until something isn't working.

Staff at the city's Public Works Department, which oversees the plant's operation, said the increase in products such as baby wipes being flushed is causing damage at the plant. Those wipes don't break down and dissolve the way toilet paper does, so they clog the mechanical parts.



Learn more at the city's website, including watching a video about wipes. You, too, can be water wise and sewer savvy!

It's a Wrap

KAYAC members helped Kyle Police Department with its Blue Santa program this past December. Through donations, fundraisers and officers digging into their own wallets, Blue Santa was able to help nearly 70 families receive a nice Christmas.

KAYAC helped with wrapping the presents and distributing them to families. On the day of the give away, KAYAC enjoyed seeing the presents laid out for so many beautiful families. Each family had a huge pile of presents complete with a brand new bike or scooter.

Each family also received a ham to make their Christmas Day even better. KAYAC thanks the Kyle Police Department for allowing us partake in such a wonderful program.



Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting offers volunteer opportunities for KAYAC

The holidays are a time for family, laughter and joy, which is what Santa's Arrival & Tree Lighting Ceremony accomplished. This annual Kyle tradition, managed by the city's Parks & Recreation Department (PAR), brings the community together to watch the tree lighting as the Christmas season begins.

PAR also organized activities for the little ones such as letters to Santa, letters to soldiers, desert decorations and more. Throughout the evening, local school choirs performed holiday favorites. KAYAC was proud to participate in this event by selling s'mores and drinks.

Every time KAYAC volunteers at a community event, it's a great experience and a really fun time. More importantly, it's a way for KAYAC members to make a positive impact on their community as well as gain valuable experience.



KAYAC 2016-17 members:

- Nate McHale,
- Hanna Malott,
- Luke Jackson,
- Lila Ramos,
- Aidan O'Keeffe,
- Destinee Cabrera,
- Alexandra Moore,
- Meghan Murphy,
- Skyler Gold,
- Zakya Jarden,
- Anna Holsonbake,
- Jude McClaren and Mia Padron.



Staff Liaison: Nikki Ladet
Staff Advisors: Howard Koontz, Kim Hilsenbeck
City Council Representative: Shane Arabie

Students: want to join KAYAC? Email nladet@cityofkyle.com to apply.