



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 13, 2014**

## KENNER YOUTH COUNCIL CABBAGE BALL TOURNAMENT FUNDRAISER CANCELED

**Kenner, LA.** – A cabbage ball tournament conceived to raise money to rebuild Veteran’s Park playground and benefit the Recreation Department has been canceled, Kenner Mayor Michael announced Friday.

The tournament, which had been scheduled for June 21 at Muss Bertolino Playground, was the brainchild of the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council – the group of 20 teens chosen in December to learn about local government and offer their input to city officials on issues affecting young people.

The group of high-performing teens decided they wanted to perform a service project to benefit their home town and hoped future Youth Councils would do the same.

Yenni said it became apparent recently that the cabbage ball tournament had not sparked sufficient interest in the community. Yenni predicted future Youth Councils will benefit from the experience of this year’s inaugural group. The June date turned out to be problematic because of the interruption from graduations, dances and other end-of-school activities throughout May.

“I told the kids that it is difficult to put on any significant event in the city, and that it often takes years for something like Movies in the Park or Music in the Park to get a reputation and become successful,” Yenni said. “The fact that they want to make a difference and have a service project to better their city is something I expect future Youth Councils will also want to do – but they will be armed with the knowledge of just how difficult these events can be to put together.”

Natalie Newton, Kenner’s Deputy Chief Administrative Officer and an advisor to the Youth Council, said members are disappointed but hopeful their idea of a service project will be embraced by future groups.

“This really was a learning experience for them in many ways,” Newton said. “But we all believe there is no age restriction when it comes to making a difference in your community and hope future Councils will learn from their mistakes and show the city what a dedicated group of teens can accomplish.”

The Youth Council will continue with several small fundraising activities through the remainder of the summer as it recruits members for next year’s Council. The application period for the 2014-2015 Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council will be August 15 through September 5. Applications will be available online starting July 1.

For questions regarding the Mayor’s Youth Advisory Council, contact Natalie Newton at 468-7240.

###