



# CITY OF KENNER

## PRESS RELEASE

**MICHAEL S. YENNI**  
MAYOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### MAYOR'S YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNOUNCES JUNE 21 CABBAGE BALL TOURNAMENT TO RAISE MONEY FOR VETERANS PARK PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

**Kenner, LA.** - Arjun Verma, president of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, was supposed to present the group's first quarterly report to the Kenner City Council at Thursday night's meeting. But Verma was busy in Lafayette competing in the Louisiana High School Speech League state debate competition.

No matter for this group of high-achieving teen-agers.

Vice-president Janae Torrance expertly handled the presentation, announcing that the Youth Council had voted to hold a co-ed cabbage ball tournament as its main service project for the year, answering questions from council members as though the council wasn't a group of mostly high school sophomores and juniors created just three months ago.

Torrance, supported in the council chambers by every member of the Youth Council not studying for a final, said the tournament is designed to raise money to renovate the aging playground equipment at Veteran's Park, located behind City Hall. The goal, she said, is to put on a successful fundraiser that will be repeated each year by successive Youth Councils.

With an annual event, "hopefully we can eventually raise the funds to revitalize all of the parks in Kenner," she said.

Impressive goal. And, as council members all pointed out, an equally impressive group of teens.

"They say the future of our country rests with our youth," Council President Jeannie Black said. "I wish there were many more of you."

Mayor Michael Yenni said he has been quite impressed with the Youth Council, which started as a suggestion from Kenner resident Alisha Chowdhury, a senior at Haynes Academy for Advanced Studies in Metairie.

"I am so grateful this idea was presented to us by Alisha this past summer," Yenni said. "The Youth Advisory Council is exceeding all expectations and I want to thank them for all their hard work. It's obvious how much they care about their city and want to help."

The Youth Council will partner with the non-profit Friends of Rivertown and the Kenner Recreation Department to hold the cabbage ball tournament Saturday, June 21 at Muss Bertolino Playground. The double elimination tournament will feature three age divisions. The cost is \$100 for a 10-member team, with up to two additional team members for \$10 each.

There will be up to six teams in the middle school division, 10 teams in the high school division and a maximum of eight teams for the adult division.

Torrance said the group is putting on several fund-raisers between now and the June tournament, beginning with a Teen Night in Rivertown on April 12, featuring karaoke, a laser show at the planetarium and a movie.

She explained that food, drinks, music, games and entertainment for kids of all ages will be a big part of the cabbage ball tournament on June 21. That way, the entire family can spend the day at the playground.

Yenni said he has high hopes for the cabbage ball tournament because of the effort and energy of the Youth Council.

“This group has worked so hard, even holding extra meetings on their own to get things done. Kenner is very lucky to have this passionate group of young adults helping to raise awareness and funds to better our community.”

For more information, email [MYAC@kenner.la.us](mailto:MYAC@kenner.la.us) or to register for the tournament, go to [www.kenner.la.us](http://www.kenner.la.us).

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