



CONTACT WITH

# Kettering

Community Magazine Summer 2024



 CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



### Community Block Party

Wednesday, May 29  
Lincoln Park Civic Commons



### Gentile Nature Park Ribbon Cutting

Saturday, June 8  
Gentile Nature Park



### Juneteenth Events

Tuesday, June 18  
Rosewood Arts Center  
Wednesday, June 19  
Lincoln Park Civic Commons



### Spass Nacht

Wednesday, June 26  
Lincoln Park Civic Commons



### Go 4th!

Thursday, July 4  
Delco Park



### National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6  
City of Kettering Government Center



## CITY OF KETTERING

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City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

# Mayor's Welcome



Dear Neighbors:

As the school year nears its end, I am reflecting on the many occasions City Council and City staff have enjoyed with Kettering youth of all ages to introduce how local government works, ways it can help residents, business owners and patrons, and opportunities in which these citizens and stakeholders can assist in strengthening their community.

My favorite part of these youth in government sessions is the question and answer portion. During this part, I witness these brilliant, inquisitive students taking me to task; and, I don't mind a bit. For example, a third grader from Southdale Elementary School asked, "How do you know if your decision is the right one?" Of course, I told her it takes a lot of research, a dedicated staff and a promise that everything we do is in the best interest of our residents and stakeholders. But, admittedly, that question still crosses my mind a lot!



At our mock City Council meeting, third graders came with compelling presentations asking for a statue of Charles F. Kettering to be placed within our city. Their requests for the monument were well researched with credible sourcing to fund the project. What a delight to see the spark and ambition in the next generation of local government leaders, and we certainly have our work cut out for us regarding implementing their ideas!

We also hosted high school students for a similar educational event and were able to not only teach them about local government, but also learn about their concerns and aspirations as they become adults. We try to include younger residents in our initiatives and events as much as possible.

During 2023, high school students were invited to participate in the City's strategic plan development process alongside adults. The hours they dedicated to this process have finally come to fruition as we are ready to embark upon the new five-year plan. This plan is the product of extensive collaboration of residents, business owners, educators and employees who considered the successes and challenges of the previous plan while aligning new goals, objectives and actions with the City's overall vision, mission and values.

### The plan outlines six key goal areas:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>1. High-Quality Services</b>        | <b>4. Livability</b>          |
| <b>2. Economic Opportunity</b>         | <b>5. Sustainability</b>      |
| <b>3. Engaged and Active Lifestyle</b> | <b>6. The Kettering Story</b> |

We look forward to sharing important, implementable steps and reporting on the many successes that will emerge from the plan. Visit [www.ketteringoh.org/strategic-plan/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/strategic-plan/) to see the plan in its entirety and our accomplishments along the way.

Congratulations to all of the graduates, and have a wonderful summer.

*Peggy Lehner*

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering





# Farewell to our PRCA Director



Dear Kettering Friends:

I typically do not have trouble with my statements; however, the following phrase is, for sure, one with the most emotionally charged professional words I have ever written. After 46 years in the parks and recreation profession, and 22 ½ in Kettering, I will be retiring from the City at the end of June 2024.

My career experiences in all the cities I have worked have given me the chance to achieve my life mission of serving others and multiple opportunities to impact and influence positive changes in the communities I have worked, especially in Kettering.

Over the decades of working in Kettering, the success of the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department would never have been achieved without the support of our mayors, elected officials and the city managers who I had the distinct honor to work with over the years. Their continuous support was the key ingredient to ensuring the department services remained relevant and impactful to our residents.

I cherish the relationships I have made in the community and all of the great people and strong organizations I had the pleasure to have engaged with on so many projects, programs and advisory boards. I look back on the accomplishments of the department since 2001, and I am incredibly proud and always honored to have been associated with some of the most amazing parks, recreation and arts professionals in the country. Our department's reputation was achieved through efforts of past and current employees enthusiastically executing their work to continue to build and strengthen the programs and services that all of us aspire to provide for everyone.

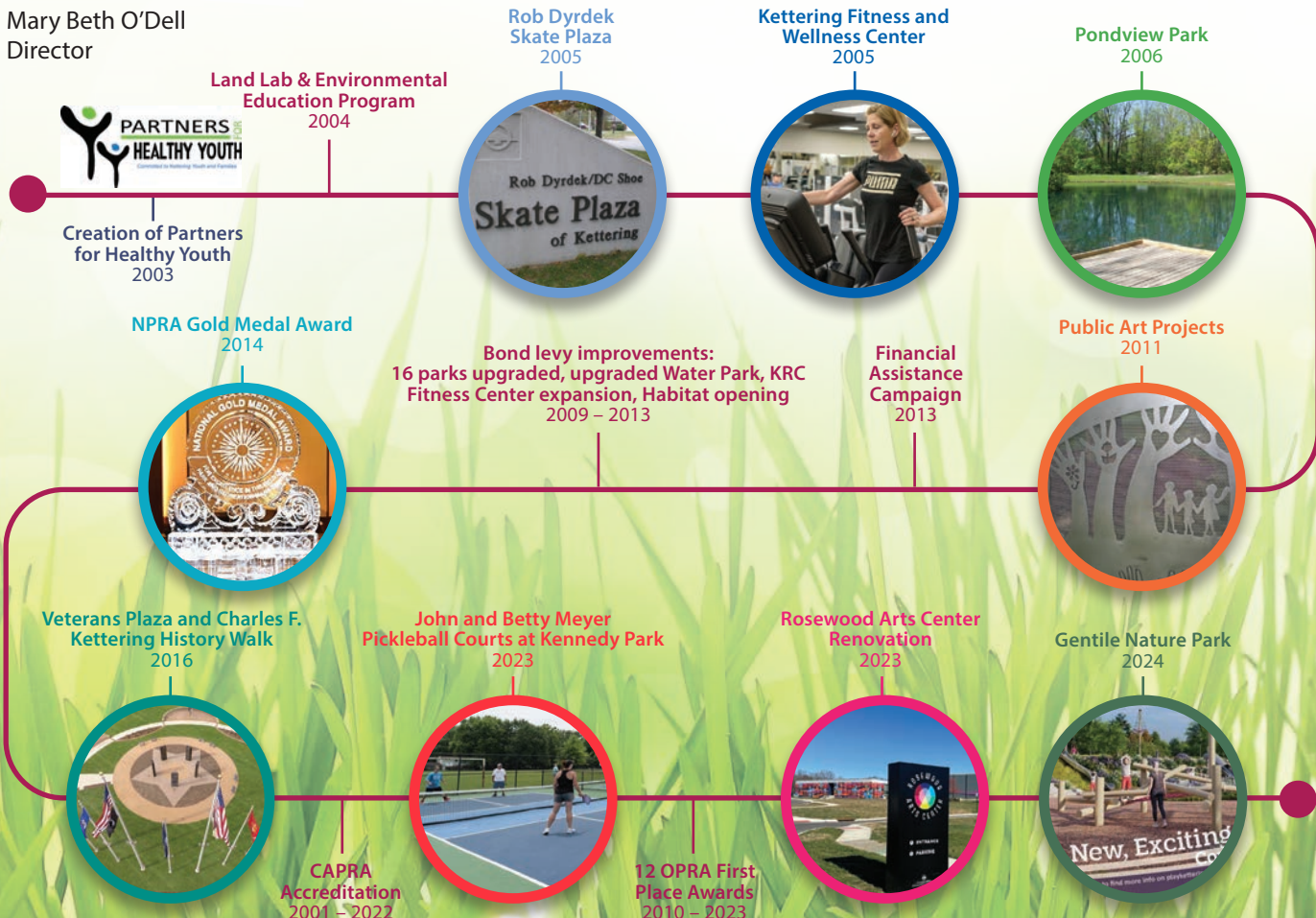
I thank all of you for being an important part of my journey; and, as Winnie the Pooh said, "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." I am truly blessed to have been able to serve all of you through the services of parks, recreation and cultural arts. I am grateful to end my professional career in Kettering and looking forward to enjoying retirement in our wonderful community.

All the Best,

*Mary Beth O'Dell*

Mary Beth O'Dell  
Director

## Over 22 Years of Milestones





# Golf Club Estates Storm Sewer Improvements

Storm sewer improvements were recently completed in the Golf Club Estates neighborhood to mitigate street flooding during significant rain events. Bottlenecks in the storm sewer pipe were removed by constructing larger pipes. The City of Kettering Engineering staff worked with CenterPoint Energy and Montgomery County Environmental Services to relocate and reconstruct their facilities. The finishing touches of curb replacement and asphalt paving were recently completed, as well; and, roads will be paved in the project construction area during May.

## Phase 1



## Mandatory Waste & Recycling Cart Storage in Kettering

Rumpke offers carts in various sizes to accommodate a wide range of both trash volume and storage space. The ideal location for cart storage is within a garage or indoor structure. If stored outside, City of Kettering ordinance requires that carts must be kept on the side or in rear of property. Carts may not be kept at the curb, on the driveway, sidewalk or front of property.

**Both refuse and recycling carts are available in 96, 64 and 32 gallon sizes. The dimensions for carts are as follows:**

<b>96 Gallon Cart</b>	Height: 46"	Width: 26"	Depth: 34.5"
<b>64 Gallon Cart</b>	Height: 41.5"	Width: 24"	Depth: 27"
<b>32 Gallon Cart</b>	Height: 36.75"	Width: 19"	Depth: 26"



## Flood Protection

The City of Kettering participates in the National Flood Hazard Insurance Program and has adopted flood hazard area protection standards. As a public service, the City can provide the following information upon request:

- Basic flood map information, such as identifying locations of special flood hazard areas and floodways and the correlating regulatory requirements.
- Base Flood information, elevation certificates and copies of letters of map amendments and revisions.
- Known flood problems not shown on the FIRM maps, such as localized drainage problems. This could also include information on prior flooding events.
- Anticipated flood depths on a property in a flood hazard area.
- Sensitive areas serving natural floodplain functions, such as wetlands and open space.

Flood protection information is available at [www.ketteringoh.org/flood-protection](http://www.ketteringoh.org/flood-protection) or by contacting the Engineering Department at **937-296-2436**.



# Kettering Celebrates 50 Years of Community Development

The City of Kettering is celebrating 50 years of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The CDBG program supports community development activities that build stronger, more resilient communities. To mark this monumental achievement, local entitlement communities recognized the program with proclamations, presented educational opportunities and events during the month of April, which is Community Development Month.

The Cities of Dayton and Kettering, in partnership with Montgomery County, celebrated Community Development Month with an outdoor celebration and resource fair that included demonstrations by local bike enthusiasts, project information to highlight the variety of transformative projects funded with CDBG throughout the Miami Valley, a resource fair to allow our grant-funded partners an opportunity for community outreach, food trucks and live music to celebrate the power of federal grants like CDBG in our community.

We are grateful for Kettering's Community Development Division and the work they do for the betterment of Kettering and its residents, visitors and business owners.



## KETTERING BLOCK PARTY

**Celebrate Our Kettering Community!**  
**Wednesday, May 29, 2024**  
**6 – 8 p.m.**

Gates open at 6 p.m.  
**Kettering Civic Band Concert at 7 p.m.**  
**Free Hot Dog Roast**  
**Free Dilly Bars**  
**Bicycle Helmet Fitting**

**FREE Open to the Public!**

The Kettering Board of Community Relations and City of Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts presents



# JUNETEENTH

CELEBRATING FREEDOM IN KETTERING



**TUESDAY, JUNE 18**

**5 – 8 P.M.**

**ROSEWOOD ARTS CENTER**

Community Art Project Presentations  
 Film Screening



Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project

On June 18, the Rosewood Arts Center will celebrate freedom through creativity with the 2024 winners of the MLK Day writing contest and a special screening of the *Going to Mars: The Nikki Giovanni Project*, directed by Joe Brewster and Michèle Stephenson.

On June 19, Frazee Lincoln Park Civic Commons will host a special Juneteenth celebration featuring Luv Locz Experiment, food trucks, local vendors and more!

[www.ketteringoh.org/juneteenth](http://www.ketteringoh.org/juneteenth)

**SPONSORED BY:**



Luv Locz Experiment, image courtesy of the artists

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19**

**5 – 8 P.M.**

**LINCOLN PARK CIVIC COMMONS**

Live Music  
 Vendors  
 Food



Visit [FRAZE.COM](http://FRAZE.COM) for tickets, updates, information and more.

## May

### KETTERING BLOCK PARTY

Wednesday, May 29 at 6 – 8 PM

Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

## June

GESMV presents  
**THE MENUS**

Friday, June 14 at 8:00 PM

General Admission \$5\*

**JOEY FATONE &  
AJ MCLEAN:**

A LEGENDARY NIGHT

Saturday, June 15 at 8:00 PM

Ticket Prices: \$55 – \$85\*

**BREAKFAST WITH  
THE BEATLES**

Sunday, June 16 at 9 – 11 AM

Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

**JUNETEENTH CELEBRATING  
FREEDOM IN KETTERING**

Music provided by LUV LOCZ  
EXPERIMENT

Wednesday, June 19 at 5 – 8 PM

Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

**MR SPEED**

Saturday, June 22 at 8:00 PM

General Admission \$20\*

**SPASS NACHT 2024**

AN AUSTRIAN FESTIVAL

Wednesday, June 26 at 5:30 – 9:30  
PM

Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

## July

**AN EVENING WITH  
THE BEACH BOYS**

Monday, July 1 at 7:30 PM

Ticket Prices: \$40 – \$70\*

**A1A THE ORIGINAL JIMMY  
BUFFET TRIBUTE**

Wednesday, July 3 at 8:00 PM

General Admission \$20\*

**LUDACRIS** with special guest  
**DJ INFAMOUS** **SOLD OUT**

Thursday, July 18 at 8:00 PM

Ticket Prices: \$45.50 – \$70\*

25th ANNUAL MIX FEST

**AN EVENING with NIGHT  
RANGER**

Friday, July 19 at 8:00 PM

Ticket Prices: \$25 – \$50\*

25th ANNUAL MIX FEST  
**RICK SPRINGFIELD &  
RICHARD MARX** with

special guest **STRANGER**

Saturday, July 20 at 7:00 PM

Ticket Prices: \$39 – \$75\*

25th ANNUAL MIX FEST

**WILSON PHILLIPS &  
DEBBIE GIBSON**

Sunday, July 21 at 8:00 PM

Ticket Prices: \$39 – \$60\*



## GENTILE NATURE PARK RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY

WITH REMARKS FROM CITY OFFICIALS



# SEASON

## August

*Kettering Health Foundation presents*  
*Heart to Heart*

**SCOTTY McCREERY**  
with special guest **GREYLAN JAMES**  
**Thursday, August 8 at 8:00 PM**  
Ticket Prices: \$40 – \$85

**ART ON THE COMMONS**  
**FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL**  
**Sunday, August 11 at**  
**11 AM – 5 PM**  
Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

*GESMV presents*  
**GET THE LED OUT**  
**Wednesday, August 14**  
**at 8:00 PM**  
Ticket Prices: \$29 – \$35\*

**HAPPY TOGETHER**  
**TOUR 2024** starring **THE**  
**TURTLES, JAY & THE AMERICANS,**  
**THE ASSOCIATION, BADFINGER, THE**  
**VOGUES and THE COWSILLS**  
**Thursday, August 15 at 8:00 PM**  
Ticket Prices: \$45 – \$60\*

*GESMV presents*  
**THAT ARENA**  
**ROCK SHOW**  
**Friday, August 16 at 8:00 PM**  
General Admission \$5\*

**JOE BONAMASSA**  
**Tuesday, August 20 at**  
**8:00 PM SHARP**  
Ticket Prices: \$59 – \$199\*

## September

**ECOFEST**  
**Saturday, September 14 at**  
**11 AM – 3 PM**  
Free Event (No coolers or pets, please)

**RINGO STARR & HIS ALL-**  
**STARR BAND** featuring **STEVE**  
**LUKATHER, EDGAR WINTER, COLIN**  
**HAY, WARREN HAM, HAMISH**  
**STUART AND GREGG BISSONETTE**  
**Sunday, September 15**  
**at 8:00 PM**  
Ticket Prices: \$69 – \$139\*

\*ticket prices increase \$5 day of show

Please note our bag size policy for concerts,  
festivals and events.

PERMITTED	PROHIBITED
Bags & Totes measuring 12" x 12" x 6" or smaller	Backpacks of any size are NOT permitted into the venue.
	



**SATURDAY, JUNE 8**  
**10 A.M. – NOON**  
**RAIN OR SHINE**

- OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREE TREE SAPLING PLANTING
- FOOD & BEVERAGE TRUCKS ON SITE



# KPD Welcomes Two New Officers



Chief Protsman administered oaths of office to two officers on Monday, April 15, 2024.

Andrew Fox joins the Kettering Police Department after serving two years with the Columbus Police Department. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Dayton.

William Karolyi joins the Kettering Police Department after serving two years with the Beavercreek Police Department. He holds an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Hocking College.



Chief Protsman with Patrol Officers Andrew Fox and William Karolyi.

# Promotions

Lieutenant Chris Sanford was hired by the Kettering Police Department in July of 2009 as a Patrol Officer. He has served as a Force Options Instructor and Personnel & Training Officer. He was promoted to Sergeant in September of 2021. He holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Kent State University.



Chief Protsman and Lieutenant Chris Sanford

Sergeant Doug Matt was hired by the Kettering Police Department in September of 2011 as a Patrol Officer. Doug has served as an Field Training Officer and on the Accident Investigation Team. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in Finance and Accounting from the University of Dayton.



Chief Protsman and Sergeant Doug Matt

# Vacation House Checks



As a crime prevention and community relations service to the community, we provide checks of houses where residents are temporarily out of town on vacation, business trips, etc.

### HOUSE CHECK SPECIFICATIONS:

- No vacant house checks will be made under this program.
- House checks will be made as time permits.
- Checks will be made during daylight hours only.
- Checks will be made for vacations lasting between three and thirty days.
- Residents are asked to notify the police department if they return early.

### WAYS TO REGISTER:

- In person between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the police department.
- By phone at 937-296-2584.

SAVE THE DATE

# National Night Out Tuesday, August 6



# Coffee WITH A Cop

Join the team from the Kettering Police Department Community Relations Office on the third Wednesday of each month at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. These sessions aim to help residents aged 55 and older to learn about current citywide crime trends and how to avoid falling victim to them. Meet KPD specialty teams and hear about behind the scenes ways crime is prevented or investigated. This participant-driven program will include plenty of time for questions, and a senior center membership is not required to attend. **To register, please call 937-296-2480 or go to [playkettering.com](http://playkettering.com)**

**June Topic: Radar/Traffic Enforcement**

Wednesday, June 19 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**July Topic: Motorcycle**

Wednesday, July 17 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.







# CITY OF KETTERING FIRE RESCUE HEADQUARTERS



## KFD Hires 5 New Firefighters

The Kettering Fire Department is proud to introduce its five newest members. Below is a brief introduction in the order that they appear in the photo from left to right.

**Brandon Boykin** comes with seven years of experience from Washington Township Fire Department and an associate degree in automotive technology from Sinclair Community College.

**Justin Poppe** brings 13 years of fire service experience having spent the past 6 at Liberty Township Fire Department. Justin also holds an associate degree in fire science technology from Cincinnati State University.

**Patrick Burrows** comes to Kettering from Xenia Fire Department where he served for seven years. Patrick also holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Miami University, an associate degree in fire and EMS from Sinclair Community College and an associate degree in applied business from Eastern Gateway Community College.

**Danielle Walter** comes to Kettering with four years of fire service experience from Huber Heights Fire Department and Xenia Fire Department. She holds an associate degree in emergency medical services from Clark State University.

**Dakota Mangan** joins KFD with three years of experience from the Xenia Fire Department and New Jasper Township Fire Department.

## Pool Safety

Peak pool season is upon us. Pools provide great fun and much needed relief from the hot summer weather. However, pools also create a unique life safety hazard. Drowning is the number one cause of unintentional death among children ages 1-4; According to 2022 CPSC data, approximately 350 children tragically drown in pools and spas annually. Fatal drownings are preventable, but to prevent these tragedies, we need everyone to always follow these simple water safety steps:

- **Restrict Access to Pools:** We must prevent young children from being able to get near the water if an adult isn't nearby. One of the best layers of protection is 4-sided fencing with a self-closing, self-latching gate around all pools and spas.
- **Designate a Water Watcher:** Watch children every time they are in or around water – supervision is one of the most important things you can do to keep children safe. The Water Watcher is an adult whose only job is to watch children when they're in the pool. It's important that they're not distracted by texting or phone calls.
- **Teach Kids to Swim:** While supervision is critical, it's also important for children to learn how to swim. Kids who can't swim face a much higher risk of drowning, so sign your children up for swimming lessons. Kettering Recreation Center is a great place to go for information on swimming lessons for children as young as 6 months.
- **Learn CPR:** In the case of an emergency, bystander CPR can often make a real difference while you're waiting for emergency first responders to arrive at the scene. American Heart Association offers online training and a list of training centers at [www.heart.org/cpr](http://www.heart.org/cpr).

## Kettering's Emergency Alert Program

In addition to our City of Kettering Facebook and Twitter posts, we also use a system called Code Red to notify our residents and those who work in Kettering of emergency incidents and critical community alerts. When you enroll in Code Red, you may opt to receive alerts on your home or cell phone, by email and by text. Please note that because of the emergency nature of some alerts, notices may be received at all hours. You can easily decide later to opt out from receiving future alerts. **Text the word KETTERING to 99411 to enroll or visit our website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org).** If you know someone without internet access who may be interested, please have them call 937-296-2400 for assistance.





# City Provides Façade Grants for Redeveloped Sites

Three Kettering businesses are the latest recipients of a grant program designed to help property owners improve the exterior of their buildings and the overall aesthetic of their properties.

The first recipient, Wilmington Family Dental, recently relocated to 3716 Wilmington Pike after making numerous improvements to their new building such as landscaping and parking lot updates. The location is also home to Holmes Endodontics.

Meanwhile, another grant recipient, Dayton Optometric Center, recently took over Wilmington Family Dental's former space at 2440 Wilmington Pike. Dayton Optometric Center used city grant dollars to improve the landscaping and parking lot and renovate the entryway.

The latest recipient is Ken Ellerbe who recently opened a new fitness and training center named Hangar 17 Fitness at 1713 Barney Drive. Hangar 17 offers personal and team training, group fitness classes, Silver Sneakers classes and even sports camps. Coaches Ken and Tammie Ellerbe are the owners of Hangar 17 and used the grant to improve the roof, paint the façade, replace the garage door and add landscaping to their building.

All three locations provide new amenities to their neighborhoods, and we hope residents have noticed the investments made to these sites. Business owners looking to make comprehensive improvements to their sites and bring them into compliance with the city's zoning and building codes can be eligible for city grants. Contact the Planning & Development Department or the Economic Development Department for more information at 937-296-2412.



## Hills and Dales Veterinary Clinic Celebrates 20 Years of Service!

Congratulations to Hills and Dales Veterinary Clinic for 20 years of service to pets throughout the region. Invited by the Kettering Moraine Oakwood Chamber of Commerce, City of Kettering staff had the privilege of celebrating with Dr. Elizabeth Maimon and Dr. Scott MacDonald, along with their team. Making the moment even more special was the presentation of a certificate by Shelly Davis, Kettering's Community Services Specialist, who, once upon a time, was employed at the clinic! The Hills and Dales staff has given the best of care to many animals, including a few of Kettering Police Department's K-9s through the years. We are grateful that this wonderful clinic chose to call Kettering home for 20 years and continues to grow here.

## Kettering Welcomes New Businesses

Only five months into 2024, and it has already been a banner year for new businesses choosing to call Kettering home! Mayor Lehner, City Council and City administration enjoy celebrating with new businesses with ribbon cuttings and public recognition. If your business is celebrating an important milestone, please allow us to share your excitement and accomplishment. We are thrilled to gear up for several more businesses slated to open in the next few months.





# City is accepting applications for Microenterprise Assistance Program through May 31

The City's Community Development and Economic Development Departments are accepting applications for the latest round of the Microenterprise Assistance Program. This highly popular and successful program has been established to support microenterprises located within the city and help them continue to contribute to a vibrant and diverse local business environment for Kettering. Businesses must have two years of operating income to apply.

The spring 2024 round will be set as a matching forgivable loan, which means that for every \$1,000 a microenterprise spends, the city will reimburse the business up to \$750. Eligible businesses may make a total of three draws, each at least \$750, meaning businesses must spend at least \$1,000 upfront before submitting a draw request. The minimum match amount for projects is \$1,000 while the maximum match amount is \$10,000.

In order for funds to be forgiven, the business must still be operating in Kettering and current on Kettering taxes one year after the last draw date. If your business moves from Kettering or ceases operation, the loan will convert to an amortized loan payable in 12-24 months depending on the loan amount.

As with previous rounds of this program, eligible applicants must be small businesses (defined as five employees or less) and income-eligible, which means the owner must be low to moderate income (80% of the area median income). Minority-owned, women-owned, veteran-owned and disabled owned businesses are strongly encouraged to apply.

**For information about the income guidelines and the application, go to [www.ketteringoh.org/microenterprise](http://www.ketteringoh.org/microenterprise).**

**All applications must be received by 5 p.m. on May 31, 2024. Applications must be submitted online. The City cannot accept paper or emailed applications.**

## Kettering City Council Approves Land Sales in Miami Valley Research Park

In April 2024, Kettering City Council approved two resolutions authorizing the City to sell land in Miami Valley Research Park for future developments. The resolutions support two projects that will bring additional jobs and revenue to the Miami Valley Research Park, which is becoming one of the hottest real estate markets for commercial development in the region.

The first resolution, passed during the April 9 Council meeting, authorizes the sale of 1.62 acres to MLPC Capital Development, LLC to support the growth and expansion of Resonetics, which is located at 2941 College Drive. Resonetics is a global leader in advanced engineering, prototyping, product development and micro manufacturing in the medical device industry and has 17 facilities located across the U.S., Canada, Costa Rica, Israel and Switzerland.

Just two weeks later City Council passed another resolution authorizing the sale of 9.58 acres of land to the Dayton Regional STEM School, which recently announced their plans to serve elementary grades for the school year beginning the fall of 2025. This new elementary school will be located along Woodman Drive, near the current school and adjacent to the Resonetics site. The Dayton Regional STEM School is a 2019 National Blue Ribbon School and was named to the "Best Schools List," in 2022 by Niche.

The City is proud to have both of these organizations growing in Miami Valley Research Park.

## Congratulations Funk Lab Dance Studio!



Kettering Mayor Peggy Lehner recognized Funk Lab Dance Studio during the fourth Annual Dance Stomp Shake show held at the Dayton Convention Center. Dance Stomp Shake celebrates youth agencies and organizations that promote healthy and safe activities for the mental well-being of our youth. This year's event paid special homage to the legacy of hip-hop dance built by Kelly Dailey and Courtney Goodman at the Funk Lab Dance Studio, which is located at 1226 E. Stroop Road in Kettering. In presenting the certificate of congratulations Mayor Lehner thanked Funk Lab for uplifting people through the power of dance.



Welcome Flying Ace Express Car Wash to 4075 Wilmington Pike.



# Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service Winners 2024

The Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service was created in 1983 as a way to honor outstanding volunteers who are making valuable contributions to the community through volunteer service in a wide variety of categories. Recipients of this award must either be a resident of Kettering or the volunteer service should be performed in Kettering. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, the City of Kettering is pleased to honor a deserving adult and a youth volunteer.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEER: SOPHIA SHENK

Sophia is a senior at Alter High School who has been highly involved as a volunteer, both in her school and throughout the community. She graduates in May and plans to attend Miami University majoring in Political Science.



Some of Sophia's volunteer work includes Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, St. Vincent de Paul, Learning Tree Farm, Girls Scouts, as an Alter Student Ambassador, as a Hope Squad peer facilitator and as co-chair of the Key Club, among others. During her high school career, Sophia has volunteered over 400 hours all while maintaining an impressive 4.2 GPA and taking AP and Honors classes.

Her nominator noted, "She is a young lady who demonstrates respect, responsibility, kindness and perseverance. She is a humble role model for her peers and teachers."

## ADULT VOLUNTEER: PEGGY SPENCER

Peggy Spencer has been a longtime volunteer at Greenmont Elementary School. When her son and grandchildren attended Greenmont, Peggy actively volunteered with the PTA coordinating fairs, fundraisers and prepared Friday folders. Although her son and grandchildren have long since left Greenmont, Ms. Peggy still happily and tirelessly prepares daily and weekly materials for teachers. She creates folders, makes books and booklets, staples packets, sharpens the paper cutter, un-jams the copier, laminates, cuts out letters, shapes and pictures and hand delivers finished items to classrooms. She often takes projects home to complete, collects recycling throughout the building, helps in the cafeteria, soothes nervous students on picture day and even assists with kindergarten registration. In fact, Ms. Peggy is such a familiar smiling face to students at Greenmont, that many students lovingly call her "Nana".



In addition to all the volunteer work she does for the teachers, students, and staff daily at Greenmont, she is also the sole caretaker for her aging father and manages his appointments, household repairs and meals.

**THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY!**



We are excited to announce the Cities of Service (COS) neighborhood for 2024 is Wiles Creek. This neighborhood is bordered by Justice Rd. West Ave., Gaylord Ave., E. Dorothy Ln., and Haig Ave. This will be the tenth neighborhood in the COS initiative. The residents in the area will soon be receiving invitations to a neighborhood block party in June.

This initiative is a true example of what can be accomplished when volunteers, businesses, and City staff come together in the spirit of civic engagement. Our COS team welcomes the opportunity to work with service clubs, students, faith-based groups and any organizations looking for ways to give back to our community. In addition, several area businesses contribute to this effort by providing volunteers, gift certificates, refreshments and monetary donations.

**If you, your organization, or your business is interested in partnering with us in this effort, please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.**

## Kettering Leadership Academy



The Kettering Leadership Academy (KLA) is now accepting applications for the 2024 – 2025 class. This program created by former Councilmember Bruce Duke, is designed for individuals looking for leadership roles within our community such as serving on a board or commission at the City of Kettering, or at one of our area non-profit organizations. The Academy begins in September with an overnight retreat. Sessions are held once a month throughout the year until graduation in May. Sessions include information on history, local government, community organizations, education, health care, business, public safety, service clubs and volunteering.

The Kettering Leadership Academy is a fantastic opportunity to learn about all of the wonderful facets of the City of Kettering while also gaining professional and personal growth.

**The application is online at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org). Hard copies are also available by calling the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433. The deadline to apply is Monday, June 3, 2024.**





# Summer Volunteer Opportunities

Warm weather and sunshine offer a variety of opportunities to get involved! Our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department offers a variety of exciting and engaging camps every summer. If you are an adult or are a student age 16 or older, and enjoy working with children, you may be the perfect camp volunteer to assist our staff. Volunteering with summer camps can help you gain job experience, fulfill service hours or help others while having fun!

If you're looking for ways to fill your evening or weekends as the days get longer, we can use your help with our special events and activities sponsored by our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. These are great opportunities to assist with activities suited for children and families, and you'll find the time flies! Check out the list of events at: [www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events](http://www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-special-events)

Perhaps you're more interested in staying inside, out of the heat and sun. Many of our departments utilize volunteers to help with reception, mail, scanning and a variety of other office based tasks. There really is something for everyone!

**Please contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 if you are interested in these or other volunteer opportunities.**



# Neighborhood Pride

Dear Neighbor:

The Neighborhood Pride Award recognizes residents who have made significant improvements to the appearance of their home or business, or who have maintained their home or business impeccably year after year. Properties featuring sustainable landscaping methods are also considered. A committee of dedicated volunteers selects one residential winner in each of the 12 districts and one overall business winner in June, July and August. Winners are recognized at a City Council meeting, an attractive sign is placed on their lawn, and the properties are showcased on the city's website.



All practices must comply with City ordinances and will be reviewed by members of the Neighborhood Pride Committee and the City of Kettering Planning and Development Department. Nominations should include details about items that may not be easily observed in the information provided.

### There are several ways to nominate:

- Visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) to complete a nomination
- Call the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433
- Email the information to: [dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org](mailto:dawn.kirchner@ketteringoh.org)
- Complete the attached card and mail to:  
**City of Kettering**  
**Volunteer Office**  
**3600 Shroyer Rd.**  
**Kettering, OH 45429**

Please take a moment to nominate a deserving neighbor for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering

**KETTERING**  
*is home*  
to **Neighborhood Pride**

 **NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

Address of property owner you think is an award winner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of property owner (if you know it): \_\_\_\_\_

Why does this property deserve an award? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of entry:  Residential     Commercial     Sustainable Landscape

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this nomination card, place in an envelope and mail to:

City of Kettering  
 Volunteer Office  
 3600 Shroyer Road  
 Kettering, OH 45429

**Nominations will be accepted May 1 – July 31.**



# Kettering's Habitat Environmental Center: A Hub of Environmental Education



Spring brings beautiful blossoms, warmer breezes and the sounds of nature we anticipate each year. The Habitat Environmental Center embraces natural habitats by sharing with residents and patrons ways to protect the environment while basking in it!

Located at 3036 Bellflower St., the Habitat Environmental Center stands as a testament to our commitment to environmental education and stewardship. It serves as a hub where exploration meets education, nurturing a deep appreciation for the delicate balance of our natural world.

This year marks a significant milestone for the Habitat, as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its land lab and the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its newly built center! From its humble beginnings in a neighborhood house, it has evolved into a thriving environmental sanctuary.

**At the Habitat Environmental Center, a plethora of engaging programs awaits:**

- **Archery:** Sharpen your aim, hone your archery skills and connect with nature.
- **Adventure awaits:** Dive into enriching day camps that combine learning with outdoor fun.
- **Soar with the birds:** Join the Southwest Chapter of the Ohio Young Birders Club and explore avian wonders.
- **Become an eco-guardian:** Empower young minds through the Educational Habitat Rangers program, fostering a commitment to environmental protection.
- **Wild Child Program:** Let little ones discover the wonders of nature through our engaging homeschool program.
- **Wiggle Worms:** Nurture curiosity and a love for learning in our preschooler program.
- **Meet our animal ambassadors:** Connect with fascinating creatures and learn about their habitats.
- **Unforgettable birthdays:** Host themed, educational birthday celebrations under the open sky and within our unique nature center.

But the offerings don't stop there! Throughout the year, the Center buzzes with a diverse array of events, ensuring there's always something new to discover and explore.

**Ready to immerse yourself in the wonders of the Habitat Environmental Center?**  
Visit [www.playkettering.org/environmental-education](http://www.playkettering.org/environmental-education) to learn more.



## Join Our Summer 2024 Team!

**Are you ready to dive into an unforgettable summer experience?**

At Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts, we're not just offering jobs at the Frazee, parks, Adventure Reef Water Park, summer camps and other areas, we're inviting you to make a difference in the community.

Our Frazee Pavilion team members play a vital role in crafting exceptional experiences during Frazee concerts and events. If you thrive on providing top-notch customer service and love helping people, come be a part of the magic at Kettering's home to

"Summer's Best Music."

But that's not all. We're also seeking enthusiastic individuals to join our Parks staff, where you'll have the opportunity to work outdoors in our stunning park settings. From maintaining landscapes to caring for athletic fields, you'll witness the impact of your efforts firsthand as you contribute to keeping Kettering beautiful.

For those who prefer the thrill of the



water, our Aquatics Team offers a variety of seasonal and year-round positions at the Kettering Recreation Complex indoor pool and Adventure Reef Water Park. Whether you're interested in becoming a lifeguard, swim instructor, water park attendant or concession attendant, we have a flexible position to fit your schedule. We also provide the necessary American Red Cross lifeguard training and certification for free if you join us as a lifeguard.



# Go 4th Fireworks!



## A New & Memorable Experience With:

- More Fireworks
- Double the Bounce Houses
- Additional Food Trucks
- Entertainment with Roaming Performers
- DJ pumping music throughout the park!

## And ... The Region's FIRST DRONE SHOW!



The highlight of the night will be our incredible drone light show - a 12-plus minute performance synchronized with the fireworks display that will create lasting memories for all!

When you arrive, you'll notice we've reimagined the layout and viewing areas of the event to comply with safety regulations.

Get all the details by visiting [www.playkettering.org/go4th](http://www.playkettering.org/go4th)



SCAN ME

**Thursday, July 4, 2024**  
**6 - 10 p.m.**  
**Delco Park**



# Play Dates

Join your Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts for fun this season!

These events are family friendly and free.

Details are at [www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)

## Touch A Truck

Saturday, June 1  
 9 - 11:30 a.m.

Adventure Reef Waterpark Parking Lot

## Summer Flea Market

Saturday, June 1  
 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Lathrem Senior Center

## Gentile Nature Park Grand Opening

Saturday, June 8  
 10 a.m. - Noon

## Youth Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 8  
 10 a.m. - Noon

Delco Park

## Go 4th!

Thursday, July 4  
 6 - 10 p.m.

Delco Park

## Kids Day in the Park

Saturday, August 3  
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Delco Park

## Art on the Commons

Sunday, August 11  
 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Lincoln Park Civic Common

And let's not forget about our Summer Camps Team, where adventure awaits! Join us in planning an exciting season filled with environmental education, art, theater, sports and more. Our dedicated staff members return year after year because they believe in making a difference in kids' lives.

If you're ready to embark on an unforgettable journey and make a positive impact this summer, visit [www.playkettering.org/jobs](http://www.playkettering.org/jobs) to learn more and apply today!

## ADVENTURE REEF WATER PARK

OPENS MAY 25

## J. F. KENNEDY PARK SPLASH PAD

OPENS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND







# CITY OF KETTERING

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www.ketteringoh.org

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- @ Kettering\_OH
- City of Kettering

[WWW.KETTERINGOH.ORG](http://WWW.KETTERINGOH.ORG)



Visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) and sign up to receive *The Starter*—Kettering's monthly e-newsletter.



## CITY OF KETTERING

### Contact Numbers

- Emergency**
- Police/Fire/Paramedic Emergency ..... 9-1-1
- Non-Emergency**
- Police and Fire Dispatch ..... 937-296-2555
- Frequently Called Numbers**
- Animal Control ..... 937-296-3266
- Building Permits & Zoning ..... 937-296-2441
- City Income Tax ..... 937-296-2502
- Government Center ..... 937-296-2400
- Housing Rehabilitation ..... 937-296-2441
- Polen Farm ..... 937-435-5787
- Property Maintenance Hotline ..... 937-296-3286
- Recreation Complex/Water Park/Pool ..... 937-296-2587
- Rosewood Arts Center ..... 937-296-0294
- Senior Adult Recreation ..... 937-296-2480
- Street Division Hotline ..... 937-296-3255
- Trash Information ..... 937-29-TRASH
- Volunteer Office ..... 937-296-2433

*Contact with Kettering* is published quarterly by the City of Kettering to inform citizens about services, programs and issues in Kettering. Comments or suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the City of Kettering, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429.

Mary Azbill, Editor  
Leah Cultice, Design

The City of Kettering invites people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, services, parks and facilities. Please call 937-296-2439 for more information about accessibility or to request a modification. For TTY assistance, contact Ohio Relay Service at 800-750-0750.