

# CONTACT WITH Kettering

Community Magazine Fall 2024



Annual Report available on Labor Day at  
[www.ketteringoh.org/city-of-kettering-annual-reports](http://www.ketteringoh.org/city-of-kettering-annual-reports).  
Please request paper copies by calling 937-296-2400,  
if necessary.



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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# Mayor's Welcome

Dear Neighbors:

As we hesitate to say goodbye to the slower pace and longer days of summer, there's something magical about the promise of fall. A new school year begins, and kids of all ages are opening new chapters, learning amazing things and reconnecting with friends and educators. As the air cools and our city comes alive with the colors autumn brings, I feel blessed to call Kettering home, and I hope you feel it, too.

Kettering residents enjoy so many opportunities to celebrate and support their community throughout the year; and, there are plenty outlined in this magazine for you!

Labor Day weekend in Kettering offers an array of activities to savor the last days of summer. Take one last dip into fun at Adventure Reef Water Park or cool off at the J.F. Kennedy Park Splash Pad. Try your hand at games of chance and enjoy catching up with friends and neighbors at AlterFest. And, enjoy this year's Holiday at Home festivities on Sunday and Monday for family games, free live music, arts and crafts, food trucks, car shows and the best hometown parade around! This year's Holiday at Home theme is "Hometown Celebrities". Speaking of celebrities, former Councilman Bruce Duke will be this year's Grand Marshal, and renowned actor Gary Sandy, a Fairmont High School graduate, will preside as Honorary Grand Marshal. Visit [www.holidayathome.org](http://www.holidayathome.org) for more information.

If you are thinking about ways to serve your community, please consider applying for a job with the City of Kettering! Whether you are interested in a part-time or full-time position, Kettering's job opportunities welcome a broad spectrum of talents. Visit [www.ketteringoh.org/jobs](http://www.ketteringoh.org/jobs) to check out the opportunities that might align with your skills and goals. If you would rather we reach out to you, just sign up for our job notification emails to be the first to know when new opportunities are available.

Thank you for making Kettering your community of choice. Kettering is home because of its rich history, great schools and caring residents. The small town feel and community spirit are constant reminders that there is nowhere else I'd rather live. I look forward to seeing you Labor Day weekend.

Until then.

*Peggy Lehner*

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering

## Crossing Guards Wanted!

Serve your community by providing safe and efficient crossings for school children. Apply at [www.ketteringoh.org/jobs](http://www.ketteringoh.org/jobs).



## Join our Team!

Introducing the City of Kettering's new and improved job notification tool! Be one of the first to know about City job openings with our convenient email alert system. Simply subscribe and receive instant notifications when new positions become available. Don't miss out on the opportunity to join our dynamic team and make a difference in our community. Subscribe today at [www.ketteringoh.org/jobs](http://www.ketteringoh.org/jobs).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



### Shred Day & Styrofoam Recycling Event

Saturday, September 28, 9 a.m. – Noon  
Fairmont High School Parking Lot  
3301 Shroyer Road



### Residential Leaf Pickup Begins

Monday, October 21



### Make A Difference Day

Saturday, October 26, 9 a.m. – Noon



### Beggar's Night

Thursday, October 31, 6 – 8 p.m.



CITY OF KETTERING

### Kettering Mayor & Council

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#### Council Office

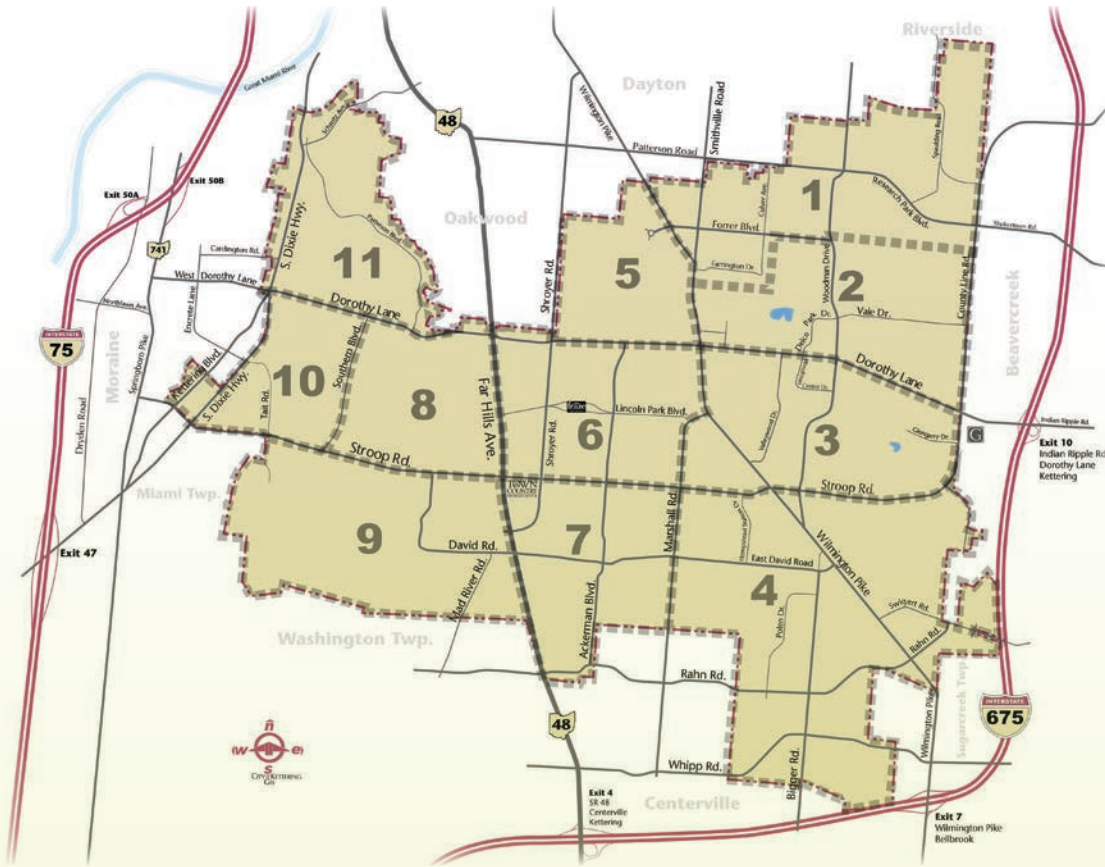
KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . 937. 296.2416

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

@Kettering\_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

# Leaf Collection Begins October 21!



One of the most unique and highly valued services the City of Kettering offers residents is free curbside collection of leaves each fall. Leaves are picked up by City crews and taken to the City's leaf composting center to be converted to mulch and compost, then offered free of charge to residents each spring. The City will begin in District 1 on Monday, October 21, and will continue leaf pickup until early December. Please note that all leaves should be raked to the curb by Monday, December 2, for the final pass for fall collection.

Please remember the following tips for leaf pickup:

- Know your leaf collection district. Reference the above map to find your district or visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) and enter your address in the **My Services** tab on our home page.
- Don't wait until our crews are near your district to rake leaves. As leaves begin to fall, rake piles to the edge of your lawn.



We will make several passes through each district for collection.

- Call **937-296-3255 (FALL)**, check the Kettering website or follow us on Facebook to determine the current location of leaf pickup crews.
- Prior to collection, rake your leaves to the edge of your lawn, but not into the street where they will block traffic and cause a hazard to storm drains. Do not block storm drains or waterways.
- Do not bag your leaves.
- Make sure leaves are not under, between or around parked cars.
- Don't rake anything except leaves to the curb for pickup. Branches, sticks, grass and other yard waste clog the machinery and throw the crews off schedule. Leaf piles containing branches, grass, etc., will not be collected. You may take your tree branches and brush to the City's Yard Debris Drop-Off Center located on Woodman Center Drive or put them in your Rumpke cart for pickup on your normal trash collection day.

## Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

Leaf litter and landscape trash account for 56 percent of the phosphorus in urban stormwater. Too many of these nutrients cause rapid algae growth downstream in streams and lakes. Algae looks and smells bad, degrades water quality and can be a health hazard. As algae decays, it uses up oxygen in the water leading to hypoxic regions downstream. These dead zones support fewer organisms and have been linked to massive fish kills in the Gulf of Mexico into which the Miami Valley waterways will eventually drain. Proper disposal of leaf waste and taking advantage of curbside pickup positively impact the Miami Valley waterways and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. The largest dead zone on record in the Gulf was the size of New Jersey, nearly completely devoid of any aquatic animal species.



## Yard Debris Center

1840 Woodman Center Drive

**Summer hours end  
Saturday, December 7**

**Winter Hours begin  
Saturday, December 14 and  
will be open on Saturdays  
only from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**



Kettering



**Sunday, September 1 and  
Monday, September 2**

This year's Holiday at Home theme is **Hometown Celebrities**. The Holiday at Home Committee works each year bring the Kettering community together. Join the fun on Sunday and Monday of Labor Day weekend for games, live music, arts and crafts vendors, delicious food trucks, VW car show (Sunday) and invitational car show (Monday). Start your Labor Day off with the annual 5K and Kids Fun Run and settle in at 9:55 a.m., to watch the Holiday at Home Parade!

For more information about Holiday at Home, visit:

[www.holidayathome.org](http://www.holidayathome.org)



**Grand Marshal: Bruce Duke**

Former Councilman Bruce Duke is nationally known for his contributions and civic involvement in Kettering. While working as a psychologist for the Counseling Center at the University of Dayton, Bruce spent his personal time with his wife, Jan, and their two daughters right here in Kettering.

Since 1974, Bruce served our community in countless ways. He served on the Board of Community Relations, worked on a textbook evaluation committee for Kettering City Schools, served on the initial Board of Directors for the Kettering Children's Choir and coached youth soccer.

In 1986, Bruce was elected to the Kettering City Council, representing District 4 and serving the citizens for 37 years during which he helped with the development of Lincoln Park and Frazee Pavilion, Kettering Sister Cities Committee and the Kettering Development Corporation. Bruce founded the Kettering Leadership Academy in 2003, which celebrates 300 graduates to date! Bruce has been a strong advocate for Kettering's Art in Public Places, as well as the establishment of the Kettering Sustainability Committee for which he continues to serve.



**2024 Holiday at Home**



**Honorary Grand Marshal:  
Gary Sandy**

Gary Sandy is a 1964 graduate of Fairmont High School. He is a renowned actor well known for playing Program Director Andy Travis on the television sitcom WKRP in Cincinnati. His career includes many different roles demonstrating the breadth of his talent and his ability to captivate audiences.

Sandy's early TV career included appearances on several soap operas in the early 1970s and a number of appearances on shows including Medical Center, Barnaby Jones and Starsky & Hutch.

He replaced Kevin Kline as The Pirate King on Broadway in The Pirates of Penzance. He later replaced Tony Roberts as Mortimer Brewster in the fiftieth anniversary production of Arsenic and Old Lace opposite Jean Stapleton, Marion Ross, Larry Storch and Jonathan Frid. He is also known for playing Billy Flynn in the Los Angeles production of Chicago alongside Juliet Prowse and Bebe Neuwirth. Beginning in 2001, he starred opposite Ann-Margret in a stage production of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.

He continues to perform in regional theater and has performed such roles as Elliot Garfield in The Goodbye Girl and Mike Hammer.

**BEGGAR'S NIGHT**

**Thursday, October 31  
6 – 8 p.m.**



FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

WASTE  
FREE  
EVENT!

# JOIN US FOR ECOFEST

Saturday, September 14  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Lincoln Park Civic Commons

- Beekeepers/Honey
- Children's Activities
- Cycle Kettering
- Renewable Energy
- Animal Conservation
- Wetland and River Conservation
- Recycling and Composting
- Gardening for Pollinators
- Drive Electric Car Show
- And Much More!

BRING  
YOUR WATER  
BOTTLE!

Be entertained and inspired during this family focused Kettering event that will have a fun and educational focus.

Please contact the Habitat Environmental Center at [habitatcenter@ketteringoh.org](mailto:habitatcenter@ketteringoh.org) or call 937-296-2477.



For more information visit  
[playkettering.org/event/ecofest](http://playkettering.org/event/ecofest)

Sponsored by



## Recognize Your Exceptional Neighbors!



Do you have a neighbor who volunteers when no one else will, lends a helping hand without being asked, whose efforts both large and small make your neighborhood and Kettering a better place to live? Please take time to nominate them for the Good Neighbor Award. Individuals who make our neighborhoods and our community such a special place to live often go about their good deeds without any special recognition. The Kettering Board of Community Relations would like to recognize the Good Neighbors among us by presenting an award to

thank members of the community who promote cooperation and goodwill throughout their neighborhood.

Winners will receive a special recognition by the Mayor during a City Council meeting. All eligible nominees will be invited to an annual recognition celebration.

For more information and to fill out a nomination, visit [www.ketteringoh.org/good-neighbor-award](http://www.ketteringoh.org/good-neighbor-award).



# Roadway and Construction Projects Underway

Many of the 2024 roadway and sidewalk construction projects are progressing nicely.

The East David Road Improvements project (Far Hills Avenue to Ackerman Boulevard) is progressing with curb repair, as well as new curb where it did not previously exist. Soon, the last missing link of sidewalk between Wilmington Pike and Far Hills Avenue will be constructed.



Paving on the Asphalt Overlay Program will soon be complete. Crews are currently on Woodman Drive, just south of Dorothy Lane.



Construction of the Miami Valley Research Bike Path is nearly complete.



The construction of a retaining wall for the West Stroop Sidewalk project (Overland Trail to Southmoor Circle NW) is over halfway complete. The sidewalk will be poured once the wall is complete. The second phase is scheduled for construction in 2025, and will run between Ridgeway Road and Stonebridge Road.



Repair of curb, sidewalk, drive approach and curb ramps are progressing in the Newcom Knolls neighborhood. Once the concrete work is complete, the streets will be resurfaced with asphalt.





Have you ridden Greater Dayton RTA's Route 28 loop in Kettering? This is one of Kettering's local partnerships to offer residents an added convenience to travel the city for errands, doctor appointments, a workout at the Kettering Recreation Complex and everything in between! Route 28 runs from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. with a frequency of approximately 40 minutes. The route loops through parts of Kettering along Dorothy Lane to East Stroop Road, to Southern Boulevard and then back to Dorothy Lane. The route replaces the southern portion of the discontinued Route 11. Route 28 does not travel downtown to Wright Stop Plaza. However, it will intersect with five other existing routes that travel downtown. Visit [www.irderta.org/route28](http://www.irderta.org/route28) for more information.



## Bicycle-Friendly Community

Please share your feedback! The City of Kettering recently applied for Bicycle-Friendly Community status from the League of American Bicyclists. The League is seeking your input to gain a better understanding of local bicyclists' experiences in Kettering. Please take a few minutes to complete this brief survey: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFC\\_2024](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFC_2024). For more information about cycling in Kettering, [www.ketteringoh.org/bicycle-friendly-community](http://www.ketteringoh.org/bicycle-friendly-community). Thank you!



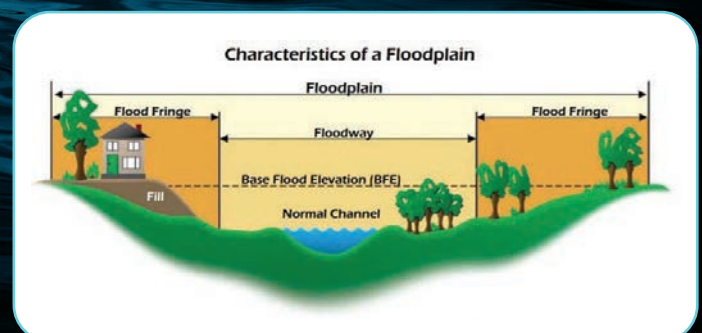
## Visitors from Kettering's Sister City

City Council celebrated students visiting from Steyr, Austria, Kettering's Sister City! Kettering and Steyr students have been participating in these summer trips since 1976. The Kettering Sister Cities Committee works to maintain these treasured relationships through sponsorship and community outreach. The students and their hosts had a wonderful time exploring Kettering, as well as other cities and states during their visit. For more information about Kettering's Sister Cities Committee, visit [ketteringsistercities.wordpress.com](http://ketteringsistercities.wordpress.com).



## Flood Information

The City of Kettering provides basic flood information to inquirers, as well as additional FIRM information, historical flood information, anticipated flood depths and natural floodplain functions. Please call 937-296-2436 for additional information





# Meet Kettering's School Resource Officers

Kettering's School Resource Officers (SROs) are integral to fostering a safe and supportive educational environment. These dedicated law enforcement professionals not only ensure the safety and security of students and staff, but also actively engage with the school community to build trust and mentorship. By serving as liaisons between law enforcement and education, Kettering's SROs play a crucial role in promoting positive relationships and enhancing the overall well-being of students through proactive policing and collaborative initiatives.



**Officer Kayla Gudgell**  
Van Buren



**Officer Ed Simoni**  
Kettering Middle School



**Officer Lester Spinks**  
Fairmont



**Officer Ed Drayton**  
Elementary Schools



**Officer Eric Rustad**  
Parochial

## Coffee WITH A Cop

Join the team from the Kettering Police Department's 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)**

**General Assignment Detective w/ Sgt. Vince Mason**

August 21 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Chief Protsman**

September 18 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**SROs w/ Ptl. Simoni and Ptl. Rustad**

October 16 from 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.



## 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.



# KFD Earns 2024 Mission: Lifeline Achievement Award



The Fire Department received the nationally recognized Mission Lifeline EMS Gold Award from the American Heart Association for their continued commitment to providing research-based, high-quality heart attack and stroke care to the Kettering community. The award demonstrates adherence to the latest research-based clinical practices to support better outcomes for patients.



The Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Program began in 2014, and the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department have earned the highest possible rating each year.

Congratulations, KFD!

## Fire Prevention Week: October 6 – 12

### Smoke alarms: Make them work for you!

This year's campaign strives to educate everyone about the importance of having working smoke alarms in the home.

#### Install

Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area (like a hallway) and on each level (including the basement) of the home.

#### Test

Test smoke alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.

#### Replace

Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or stop responding when tested.

## Recreational Fires

Fall is a popular time for recreational fires as the temperature begins to cool. Here is a list of rules that the State of Ohio has set for recreational fires or open burning

- The only authorized fuel source is clean dry wood. (No yard waste or rubbish material)
- If the fire is confined to an approved container such as an outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit, etc. the fire must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible materials.
- For an open fire not contained, the fire must be at least 25 feet from a structure, wood fence, neighboring structure, or combustible materials. Conditions that could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet of the fire must be eliminated before ignition of a fire.
- An outdoor fire, where the fuel being burned is not contained in an outdoor fireplace, must have a fuel area of fewer than 3 feet in diameter and fewer than 2 feet in height.
- The fire must be constantly attended while burning and must be extinguished if it is not attended.
- A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of a 4A rating, garden hose, bucket of sand, or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- The fire must not create an offensive or objectionable condition that interferes with the neighboring residents' use and enjoyment of their property. If this occurs, the Fire Department is required to order the person responsible for the fire to extinguish the fire.
- The Fire Department is required to extinguish fires which create hazardous conditions.

Often complaints are received from neighbors when a recreational fire is not conducted following these rules, or when a recreational fire produces smoke that migrates off of the property and into the residence of neighboring properties. Persons with chronic breathing problems can often be affected by these conditions.

Another issue that is commonly associated with recreational fires are noise and disturbance of the neighborhood when these events extend late into the evening. These matters will be dealt with by the Kettering Police Department. If you have any questions concerning the Ohio Open Burning Regulations, please contact the Kettering Fire Department Bureau of Fire Prevention at (937) 296-2489.



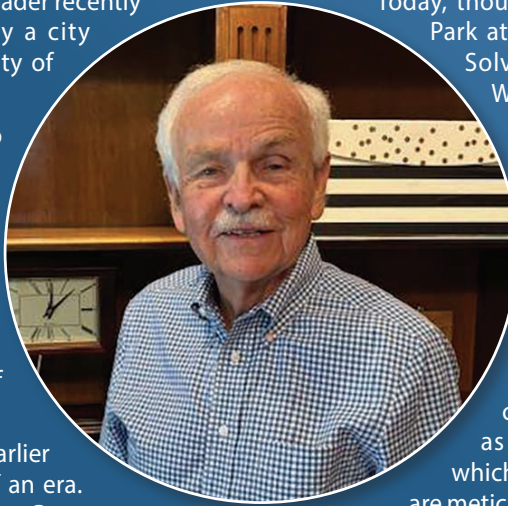
FIRE PREVENTION WEEK™

# Charlie Giles Retires as President of Miami Valley Research Park Association

An influential Miami Valley Research Park leader recently retired, and while he was not officially a city employee, Charlie Giles' impact on the City of Kettering has been immeasurable.

The City of Kettering has been fortunate to have Charlie Giles serve as President of the Miami Valley Research Park Association for more than 40 years. During that time he was instrumental in handling the administrative duties of the park, shaping it from what was at one time mostly undeveloped land to an economic powerhouse and home to dozens of successful and growing businesses.

Charlie Giles retirement became effective earlier this summer, and with it came the end of an era. He had a seat at the table in the 1980s when Governor Rhodes donated the land in Research Park to a consortium of colleges – in an effort to create an economic development and job creation research cluster. Over time, he helped the Research Park evolve into a renowned site for research and development.



Today, thousands of employees work in the Research Park at businesses such as Reynolds & Reynolds, Solvita, Resonetics, Life Connections, Kodak, Woolpert, Xerion Advanced Battery, Schneider Electric, Chapel Electric and various defense contractors, as well as many other office users located in the Sixth River office buildings. The park is home to additional companies doing cutting-edge research, and it still has land available for new development.

The City of Kettering offers its appreciation to Charlie Giles for his long-standing commitment to managing the park, as well as developing the design review standards which have ensured the buildings and properties are meticulously maintained and serve as a prominent location for businesses.

For further information about the Miami Valley Research Park, email [econdev@ketteringoh.org](mailto:econdev@ketteringoh.org) or call 937-296-2412.

## KBJW's New Office in Kettering

Welcome to Kettering, Koontz Bryant Johnson Williams (KBJW)! City Manager Matt Greeson and the Kettering Moraine Oakwood Chamber of Commerce celebrated KBJW's new Kettering office at 3171 Research Boulevard with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. For more than 30 years, KBJW has served as a leading civil engineering, geotechnical, environmental and survey firm in the Mid-Atlantic Region. KBJW develops cost effective solutions and excel in site development, renewable energy, environmental and geotechnical engineering and permitting. KBJW prides itself for bettering communities; and, they did just that on Earth Day as their team cleaned up trash along the Little Beaver Creek! We are excited that KBJW chose Kettering and appreciate their efforts to help strengthen our community.



# Celebrating Kettering Businesses!



## Bigby Coffee

Welcome to Kettering, Bigby Coffee! Mayor Lehner, City Council and City staff joined the Bigby Coffee crew at 2061 E. Dorothy Lane for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening! Walk in and enjoy the ambiance or choose the drive through! Thanks for choosing Kettering!



## Sophia Learning Center

Congratulations to Sophia Learning Center for recently celebrating five years in business in Kettering. To celebrate this milestone, Mayor Lehner spent time reading books with the children.



## Quaker-Houghton

Congratulations to Quaker-Houghton, which recently received conditional use approval by the City's Planning Commission for the expansion of their plant located at 1700 Spaulding Road. The company plans to construct an approximately 7,500 square foot addition onto their current 49,000 square foot facility in order to expand their operation to produce a new family of products for metal forging. The project will include a major addition to the existing building and the installation of new landscaping. Before beginning construction, the next step in the process is the submission of a building permit application. Quaker-Houghton is headquartered in Conshohocken, Pennsylvania and specializes in the manufacture of industrial process fluids. Kettering is excited for their growth in our community.



## MVP Dance Fit

Congratulations to MVP Dance Fit, located at 2782 Wilmington Pike, celebrating their 10th anniversary in Kettering. Mayor Lehner presented a certificate to Rachel Pavkov to celebrate this wonderful milestone! At the event, MVP Dance Fit hosted free classes at which our Mayor may have shown off a few of her own dance moves! Thank you for choosing Kettering and for your hospitality at this fantastic event!



## Wiseway Supply

Vice Mayor Jacque Fisher, Council members and City staff joined Wiseway Supply employees to cut the celebratory ribbon for their grand re-opening with the addition of electrical supplies at their Kettering branch. Located at 2764 Culver Avenue, Wiseway Supply offers top electrical and plumbing supply brands, including Eaton, Ruud, Leviton, Kohler and more! Please consider shopping local for your commercial or residential electrical and plumbing supplies! Congratulations, Wiseway Supply!



## Rum Runners Café

Welcome to Kettering, Rum Runners Café! Located at 2318 E. Dorothy Lane, this family owned and operated restaurant specializes in handcrafted burgers, chicken sandwiches, giant loaded baked potatoes, wings and more! Mayor Lehner, City Council and City employees were honored to celebrate with Rum Runners Café staff to wish them the very best.

# Kettering Leadership Academy Class Of 2024

**Congratulations to the 2024 Kettering Leadership Academy graduates! We wish you much success as you take on future leadership roles within our community!**

## Kettering Leadership Academy



Back row (L-R): Nevin Smith, Matt Greeson, Sarah Malchow, Claudia Burnell, Rick Armstrong, Ryan Homs, Archie Jones

Front row (L-R): Natalie Snell, Jodee Ball, Angi Furr, Rachel Morris

The goal of the Kettering Leadership Academy (KLA) is to build a resource of community leaders on a continuing basis. The Academy is designed to identify, educate and develop potential community leaders; expand leadership potential; enhance the quality of life in our community; and provide access to leadership and personal growth opportunities.

In September, the class members began their KLA experience with an overnight retreat comprised of classroom activities, outdoor learning experiences, leadership development and teambuilding exercises. Participants met once a month to learn about local government, education, health care, volunteering, public safety, history and our business community. Participants were required to design and complete a project addressing a need in our community.

The Academy was created in 2003 by Councilman Bruce Duke and administered by Volunteer Office staff. To honor the work Councilman Duke has given to this program, the Bruce Duke Fellowship fund was created to provide assistance to potential candidates without sufficient funds the opportunity participate. An important part of KLA is to recruit a diverse group of participants to provide a variety of perspectives on the challenges our community faces, and this fund will help ensure this remains true. Over 75% of KLA graduates serve in some capacity in our community and develop projects that have long lasting impact.

For additional information about KLA, please contact Volunteer Administrator, Dawn Kirchner at 937-296-2531.



## Shred Day

**& STYROFOAM RECYCLING EVENT**

**Saturday, September 28  
9 a.m. to Noon**

**Fairmont High School Parking Lot  
3301 Shroyer Rd.**



## Shred Day Expands

This popular Kettering event provides residents the opportunity to bring sensitive paperwork to a centralized location to be shredded on site and then recycled. Over the past few years, increased interest from residents in expanding this event have been expressed, and we listened! Thanks to our partnership with Day Air Credit Union and Montgomery County, we will also be accepting **Styrofoam and small electronics**. If you have questions, please call Dawn Kirchner at (937) 296-2531.

### Accepted Electronics:

- Small desktop printers/copiers (ink cartridge must be removed)
- Scanners
- CPU's
- Keyboards and mice
- Laptops
- All cables
- Cell phones
- Flat screen monitors (no large TV style tube monitors)

# Neighborhood Pride

The City of Kettering has completed its 36th year of the Neighborhood Pride Program! This has proven to be another exciting year to showcase homes and businesses that exemplify the Kettering Community! Out of hundreds of nominations that are received and reviewed by our committee members, these properties are the ones that demonstrate significant improvement or upkeep to their properties year after year. Mayor Peggy Lehner will recognize all award winners on September 24, at 7:30 p.m., during the City Council meeting. Thank you to all award winners for sharing your Kettering pride with the impeccable care of your home or business.

This program would not be possible without the time, talent and commitment of the Neighborhood Pride Committee! Thank you to co-chairs Gail Carone, Mark and Carol Messer, Brian Moore and David Buhrman, as well as committee members Tom Cope, Chuck Dickerson, Pat Ferguson, Karen Howard, Kathy Waker and Maureen Willits. Your involvement is appreciated and is vital to the success of the Neighborhood Pride Program!



*June Neighborhood Pride recipient*

# Make A Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is Saturday, October 26 from 9 a.m. to noon. We will offer several opportunities to make an active difference in our community. For individuals looking to spend time outside, join us in the Wiles Creek Neighborhood to lend assistance to residents in our Cities of Service community. Tasks include general litter pick up, raking, light weeding, pruning and other outdoor miscellaneous tasks (no work on ladders). We will also continue to expand the rain garden that was first installed at Van Buren Park (Scottsdale Dr.) in 2022. The rain garden project is made possible by grant funding from Keep Montgomery County Beautiful.

If you prefer to stay inside and work around your schedule, you can pick up a kit to

make greeting cards to send to active-duty military personnel thanks to Blue Star Mothers. Kits include blank cards and basic decorating materials, but you are welcome to use your own supplies. Card kits will be available in the Volunteer Office located at 3600 Shroyer Rd. starting Monday, September 23. Please call (937) 296-2433 for details.

Everyone is welcome to participate in these activities! To help us plan, and to receive details about where to meet if you would like to participate in our neighborhoods, please sign up for Make A Difference Day on our events page found at [www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-opportunities-sign-up](http://www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-opportunities-sign-up) in late September.



# Honoring Mary Beth O'Dell:

## A Legacy of Leadership at the Meyer Pickleball Courts

On Tuesday, June 18, the Pickleball Advisory Council and the pickleball community came together to honor the recently retired Mary Beth O'Dell, former director of the City of Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department (PRCA). The surprise ceremony, held at the Meyer Pickleball Courts at Kettering's John F. Kennedy Park, celebrated Mary Beth's outstanding leadership and her pivotal role in developing these top-notch pickleball courts.

### A Vision Realized

Mary Beth O'Dell's tenure with the City of Kettering spanned over 22 years during which she spearheaded numerous projects that significantly enhanced the community's recreational facilities. One of her notable achievements was the transformation of the old, seldom-used tennis courts at John F. Kennedy Park into vibrant pickleball courts. Starting in 2014, through Mary Beth's leadership, the courts quickly became a beloved hub for pickleball enthusiasts.

The initial renovation turned four vacant tennis courts into six pickleball courts fostering a welcoming community of players eager to share their love for the sport. The demand for court time soon outgrew the available space prompting further developments. With the collaboration of the Pickleball Advisory Council and generous contributions from the Meyer family, the PicklePals and other donors, the facility expanded to 12 courts, now recognized as the "Polar Star" of pickleball in Southwest Ohio.

### The Ceremony

The morning of June 18 was marked by a special meet-and-greet ceremony at the Meyer Pickleball Courts. Players, city officials and community members gathered to express their gratitude to Mary Beth for her years of dedicated service and her significant contributions to the development of the courts.

Mary Beth was presented with several tokens of appreciation: a framed photo from the Pickleball Advisory Council, a new pickleball, a key chain and a cooling towel. These gifts symbolized the community's deep appreciation for her vision and leadership.

Adding a fun twist to the event, Mary Beth and Mayor Peggy Lehner received their first pickleball lesson from Pickleball Court Monitor Verne Morland. The pair eagerly took to the courts, expressing interest in returning for more lessons in the future.



### A Community Effort

The development and ongoing success of the Meyer Pickleball Courts have been a true community effort. Regular meetings, generous donations and collaborative planning have ensured the facility meets the needs of both novice and experienced players. The courts boast designated areas for different skill levels ensuring an inclusive and welcoming environment for all.

The partnership with Kettering Health Network, which provided a much-needed shade structure, exemplifies the community's collaborative spirit. Additionally, volunteer court monitors, many of whom are members of the Pickleball Advisory Council, play a crucial role in maintaining the smooth operation of the courts.

### Continuing the Legacy

The June 18 ceremony was a heartfelt tribute to Mary Beth O'Dell's legacy. Her vision and dedication have left an indelible mark on Kettering's recreational landscape. As players gather daily at the Meyer Pickleball Courts, they do so in a space that embodies community spirit, health and friendship—values that Mary Beth championed throughout her career.

The Pickleball Advisory Council and the Kettering community look forward to building on this legacy, continuing to enhance and expand the facilities and ensuring that the Meyer Pickleball Courts remain a premier destination for pickleball enthusiasts in the region.

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# Kettering Unveils Gentile Nature Park



Kettering's green spaces just got a little greener! On Saturday, June 8, the City's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department unveiled its latest gem—Gentile Nature Park—with a jubilant ribbon-cutting ceremony that drew a crowd of excited residents.

Located at 915 Peach Orchard Road, this 22nd addition to Kettering's park system offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and family-friendly amenities. As scissors sliced through the ceremonial ribbon, visitors wasted no time exploring the park's winding trails and trying out the new play equipment.

But the festivities didn't stop there. In a true community effort, attendees rolled up their sleeves to help plant trees, quite literally putting down roots in their new park. The air of community was filled with the sounds of children laughing and the aroma of summer cookouts as food trucks were on hand for lunch.

Now open daily from dawn to dusk, Gentile Nature Park invites residents and visitors alike to pack a picnic, lace up their hiking shoes and immerse themselves in nature. Whether you're seeking a peaceful morning walk or a fun family outing, this versatile space promises something for everyone.

As Kettering's newest outdoor destination, Gentile Nature Park is more than just a green space—it's a testament to the City's commitment to preserving nature and enhancing quality of life for its residents.

For more information, visit [playkettering.org/gentile](http://playkettering.org/gentile).



## Kettering Ice Arena Reopens on August 27

Our 2024-2025 Kettering Ice Arena season is almost here. We're looking forward to welcoming everyone back as hockey, Learn to Skate USA lessons, figure skating and open skate get underway. Enjoy a fresh calendar of public skates, plus our popular holiday-themed skates. We hope to see you on the ice starting Tuesday, August 27!



## 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)

### EcoFest

Saturday, September 14  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lincoln Park Civic Commons

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### Tot Shop Sale

Saturday, September 14  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lathrem Senior Center

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### Wag-0-Ween

Saturday, October 26  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Kettering Recreation Complex

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### Holiday Arts & Craft Show

Saturday, November 9  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lathrem Senior Center

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### Mayor's Tree Lighting & Santa Paws

Friday, December 6  
6 – 8 p.m.

Lincoln Park Civic Commons

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### A Rosewood Holiday Arts Festival

Saturday, December 7  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Rosewood Arts Center



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### 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  
Abby Beneke, 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.

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

