

# CONTACT WITH **Kettering**

*Community Magazine Spring 2025*



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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# Mayor's Welcome

Dear Neighbors:

As we enter 2025, I'm excited to share a few significant leadership additions to our city team.

Please join me in welcoming Bill Tschirhart as our new Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts director. Bill succeeds Mary Beth O'Dell, who concluded her distinguished 23-year tenure as PRCA Director in June. Bill's extensive background in parks and recreation management and innovative approach to community programming will be invaluable as we enhance our recreational offerings.



Also, please welcome Kyren (Ky) Gantt as our new Economic Development Manager. Ky's proven track record in economic development and strategic vision align perfectly with our goals for sustainable growth and business development in Kettering.



I'm also pleased to introduce Dawn Kirchner as our new Sustainability Manager. Dawn transitions from her remarkable work leading our volunteer program to a strategic role in environmental stewardship. Her deep understanding of Kettering's community spirit, combined with her expertise in sustainability, positions us to accelerate our green initiatives.



Throughout 2024, we engaged in thoughtful dialogue, conducted thorough research, and carefully crafted a roadmap that genuinely reflects the aspirations and needs of our community. With our strengthened leadership team in place, we are poised to transform our Spark Kettering Strategic Plan into tangible actions and meaningful improvements that will enhance the quality of life for all Kettering residents.

I want to remind you that City Council meetings occur every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. We welcome your participation and invite you to learn more about our district representatives at <https://www.ketteringoh.org/city-council-districts/> or by calling 937-296-2416.

If you see me around town, please say hello. Our community's success thrives on meaningful connections.

Until then,

Peggy Lehner, Mayor of Kettering

**The 2025 Mayor's State of the City will be available Wednesday, February 26.**

Go to [www.ketteringoh.org/state-of-the-city](https://www.ketteringoh.org/state-of-the-city) or scan the QR code to watch the video.



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Scan the QR code and sign up to receive **The Starter – Kettering's monthly e-newsletter** to get all the latest news and events going on in Kettering.



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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### **Yard Debris Center**

Summer Hours Begin March 3

### **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Sunday, March 9

### **Compost/Mulch Available**

Monday, April 14\*

\*depending on the composting process

### **Spring Leaf Collection**

Will begin Monday, April 21

Please have leaves raked to the curb.

### **Income Tax Deadline**

Tuesday, April 15

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Kettering City Charter, Section 3-5(C). Mayor and Council 2024 total compensation (salary and related benefits: PERS, Medicare and Workers' Compensation).

Mayor	\$ 20,789.34
Council Members – District	\$ 13,859.63 (Each)
Council Members – At Large	\$ 13,859.63 (Each)



**CITY OF KETTERING**  
**Kettering Mayor & Council**

#### **Peggy Lehner, Mayor**

Peggy.Lehner@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 477.7640

#### **Jacque Fisher, Vice Mayor, At Large**

Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 232.1637

#### **Jyl Hall, At Large**

Jyl.Hall@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 604.5341

#### **Lisa Duvall, District 1**

Lisa.Duvall@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 838.7425

#### **Bob Scott, District 2**

Bob.Scott@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 478.9910

#### **Shane Sullivan, District 3**

Shane.Sullivan@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 903.3215

#### **Bryan Suddith, District 4**

Bryan.Suddith@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 830.0516

#### **Matt Greeson, City Manager**

Matt.Greeson@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 937. 296.2412

#### **Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager**

Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org . . 937. 296.2412

#### **Bryan Chodkowski, Assistant City Manager**

Bryan.Chodkowski@ketteringoh.org . . . 937. 296.2412

#### **Council Office**

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . 937. 296.2416

# Yard Debris Center

1840 Woodman Center Dr.

Summer hours Begin Monday, March 3

**Monday – Friday: 3 – 8 p.m.**

**Saturday: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Closed: Sunday, holidays and during hazardous weather.**

## WHAT WE ACCEPT

**Brush & Limbs:** All material must be less than six feet in length and less than four inches in diameter. Items longer than six feet and limbs thicker than four inches in diameter will be refused.

**Smaller Trimmings:** Smaller trimmings may be placed in trash cans or on tarps. Trimmings in containers or bags must be emptied and containers or bags removed from Yard Debris Center.

## WHAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT

Grass clippings, thatch, stumps, root balls, sod, dirt, rocks, concrete or building and construction materials. These items contaminate the composting process and cause equipment failure. Montgomery County Solid Waste District may accept these materials. Please call 937-225-4999 for more information.

## Mulch and Compost

**Mulch and compost will be available April 14, depending on the composting process.**

2801 E. Stroop Road at Indian Riffle Park  
Located behind Tannenberg Kennels

## Spring Leaf Pick-up

**Begins Monday, April 21**

- Crews will make a single pass through the city.
- Please have all leaves placed out at the street prior to this date as crews will pass through the city very quickly.

Leaves accumulated after spring pickup should be properly disposed with household trash, at the Yard Debris Center or taken to the Montgomery County Solid Waste site.

# CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

**Kettering's Board of Community Relations encourages you to learn more about Black History this month—and any time—because Kettering is home to all of us!**

The month of February is recognized as a time to focus attention on the rich, complex history of African American struggle, achievement, and contribution to all aspects of American life. Did you know that when the first "Negro History Week" was celebrated in 1926, African American history already extended back more than 300 years? Originally celebrated the second week of February (to coincide with the birthdates of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass) it was expanded and nationally recognized as Black History Month in 1976.

 CITY OF KETTERING

 **KETTERING**  
Board of Community Relations

## LEARN MORE:

**Black History Month**  
[BlackHistoryMonth.gov](http://BlackHistoryMonth.gov)

**The Association for the Study of African American Life & History**  
[asalh.org](http://asalh.org)

**The National Museum of African American History & Culture**  
[nmaahc.si.edu](http://nmaahc.si.edu)

**Resources at the Dayton Metro Library**  
[daytonmetrolibrary.org](http://daytonmetrolibrary.org)

## Finance Department wins Certificate of Achievement for Financial Reporting

Our Finance Department has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for our 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). This marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> year that we have received this prestigious award. There are 101 Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) standards to meet; this number grows regularly. As you know, we take great pride in providing outstanding financial stewardship for our taxpayers and the City of Kettering. GFOA and our peers appreciate and acknowledge the receipt of this award. Great work, Finance!



# Your 2024 City of Kettering Income Tax Return is Due on April 15, 2025

The Tax Division recently mailed the 2024 City of Kettering Income Tax postcard. In an effort to reduce costs related to paper, printing and postage, please note that **NO TAX FORMS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU**. Forms are available on our website at [ketteringoh.org/individual-tax-forms](https://ketteringoh.org/individual-tax-forms), or you may utilize one of the alternative filing methods described below. **To avoid late filing fees, your 2024 return must be received in our office or postmarked by April 15, 2025.**



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## Who Must File

**All residents (including part-year residents)** of the City of Kettering who are 18 years of age and older are required to file an annual income tax return. A return is required regardless of income or employment status.

**Non-residents** of Kettering who have taxable income or loss, earned or derived from within the City, from which Kettering tax was not withheld at the correct rate of 2.25%, must file a return. Income includes salaries, wages, compensation or profits which result from work performed, services rendered, business transacted or activities located within the City of Kettering.

## Exceptions to Mandatory Filing Requirement

Permanently retired or permanently disabled individuals with only non-taxable sources of income or loss (such as Social Security, pension, interest and dividends) may file for a permanent exemption from the mandatory filing requirement by completing the Declaration of Exemption Return found on our website.

## Filing Methods

There are several convenient options for filing your city income tax return.

Individuals with ALL sources of taxable income are now able to file electronically, including new and part-year residents. You can also utilize our fill-in forms. Electronic filing information and fill-in forms are available at [www.ohio-kettering.insourcetax.com](https://www.ohio-kettering.insourcetax.com) or you can scan the QR code.



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Additionally, you may visit the Income Tax Division office located at 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429 to obtain forms or have your Kettering return prepared by one of our staff members. This service is free of charge, and no appointment is necessary. Note that you must bring with you the required documentation referenced below in order for your return to be prepared. The Tax Division is unable to print information from your phones, laptops or other electronic devices.

## Required Documents

- All Form(s) W-2 (showing all local wages and withholdings)
- Federal Schedules reporting non-wage income (e.g. C, E or F) if applicable
- Federal Form 1040 Pages 1-2, and Schedule 1
- Form(s) 1099-Misc and 1099-NEC

## Join Frazee Pavilion as a Community Partner

Are you interested in increasing your brand awareness? A partnership with Frazee Pavilion will reach the region in ways other marketing entities cannot.

### LEARN MORE

Scan the QR Code or visit [frazee.com/sponsorship](https://frazee.com/sponsorship) for details on a variety of opportunities.



**frazee**  
pavilion  
[frazee.com](https://frazee.com)

# Focus on Alley Maintenance

This is a reminder for property owners next to alleys about their responsibilities. With the exception of pavement condition, property owners are responsible for the maintenance of alleys adjacent to their property boundaries at both side and rear.

## Your responsibilities may include:

- Mowing of areas along your property line;
- Trimming back of vegetation encroaching on alley;
- Trimming up of branches hanging less than eight (8) feet above alley pavement;
- Maintaining active trash pickup service;
- Knowing when trash should be placed at the alley for pick-up;
- Check with hauler or city to confirm placement rules of bulk items scheduling and placement;
- Ensuring all upholstered items are fully wrapped on all sides and sealed in plastic;
- Providing and properly storing trash cans with tight fitting lids;
- Prompt removal of any items that have been dumped in alley;
- Ensuring your street address is visible at the alley;
- Ensuring motor vehicles when permitted to be parked along alleys are operable and have current registration tags.

Your Kettering property maintenance inspectors focus efforts on alley conditions throughout the city. We encourage you to look around your yard and adjacent alley areas and take any needed action as soon as you are able. We thank you for your willingness to invest in your home, neighborhood and community. By working together we continue to make Kettering the community to call home.

Please call the Planning and Development Department at **937-296-2441** if you have any questions. A property maintenance inspector will be more than happy to work with you to identify resolutions that work best for all involved.

# Rumpke Expanded Services

Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Rumpke has modified the current “cart contents only” program to allow additional items to be placed at the curb during regular weekly service.

The three bulk items have been expanded to include garbage bags and bundled brush.

Residents will no longer need to purchase the Rumpke-specific overage bags for waste exceeding the capacity of their Rumpke cart. Any Rumpke overage bags previously purchased by residents may still be used as one of the three additional items.

For more information go to [ketteringoh.org/residential-trash-recycling](https://ketteringoh.org/residential-trash-recycling) or scan the QR code.



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# Spring Into Action: Stormwater Tips

## What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. Water flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water drains directly into the Miami Valley's creeks, streams and rivers, without receiving any treatment at sewage plants.

## When it's Spring, here's what you can do to help prevent stormwater runoff, a major pollutant of our rivers, lakes, and streams:

- Plant trees, shrubs and ground cover to help rainwater soak into the ground. Keep the soil covered; bare soil is the primary cause of erosion.
- Mulch bare areas with straw, grass clippings, stones or wood chips.
- Redirect rain gutter downspouts into landscaped areas instead of onto paved surfaces such as driveways. Rain that falls onto paved areas wash pollutants into the storm drains.
- Consider growing clover in your lawn; it's hardy, stands up to wear and produces nitrogen needed by other lawn grasses.

# City to Update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan

A comprehensive land use plan is a strategic blueprint used by communities to guide their growth and development over the long term, typically spanning 10 to 20 years. The update of the existing comprehensive plan will reflect the vision and goals of the City of Kettering, balancing the needs for housing, transportation, business, economic development and environmental preservation. This plan will help Kettering officials make informed decisions about zoning, infrastructure investments and public services, ensuring sustainable and organized development.

## Key Elements of a Comprehensive Land Use Plan

- **Land Use and Zoning:** Identifies location of land uses to help ensure new development is compatible with and enhances existing uses.
- **Transportation:** Plans for better connectivity between residential and commercial areas and identifies desired bike and pedestrian paths.
- **Housing:** Assesses current and future housing needs.
- **Environmental Conservation:** Identifies and protects natural resources.
- **Economic Development:** Supports business growth and job creation while aligning with community values.

**A comprehensive land use plan is not just a government tool; it's a reflection of a community's values and aspirations. By getting involved, you can help shape the future of our neighborhoods and ensure that growth aligns with the Kettering community's shared vision.**

## How Citizens Can Be Involved

Community engagement is a vital part of creating a comprehensive land use plan. Here are ways you can participate:

### • Attend Public Meetings:

The City of Kettering will hold multiple workshops, hearings and forums to gather input. These sessions provide a platform to voice concerns or suggest priorities.

### • Provide Feedback on Drafts:

A draft of the comprehensive plan will be made available for public review. Citizens can submit comments to ensure their perspectives are considered.

### • Participate in Surveys or Open Houses:

Surveys and open houses to gather data and opinions will be forthcoming. Engaging in these activities helps ensure diverse community needs are represented.

### • Advocate for Transparency:

Stay informed about the planning process by following announcements, reading reports, or contacting the Planning and Development Department directly at **937-296-2441**.

# Lead Safe Program

The City of Kettering is now offering **The Lead Safe Ohio Grant Program**. This program offers free home repairs for eligible homeowners to address lead-based paint hazards. Repairs can include:

- Replacing windows and doors.
- Repairing porches.
- Enclosing siding and soffit.
- Other necessary lead mitigation measures.

Homeowners must have low to moderate income and live in homes built before 1978 to qualify, with prioritization given to households with children under age 6 and those earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI). No-cost services ensure homes are safe, with no liens placed on properties.

To see if you qualify, scan the QR code or visit <https://forms.gle/SiC37edqdMrjfxsFA> to fill out a pre-application. For more information, call 937-296-3308.



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# Spring Safety Tips for Older Adults

## Health and Wellness

- **Stay Active:** Enjoy the outdoors with activities like walking, gardening or cycling. These activities can improve physical health and boost mood.
- **Stay Hydrated:** Warmer weather means you might need to drink more water to stay hydrated.
- **Protect Your Skin:** Use sunscreen, wear a hat and stay in the shade during peak sun hours to protect your skin from harmful UV rays.

## Home and Garden

- **Spring Cleaning:** Use this time to declutter and clean your living space. Doing so can be a refreshing way to welcome the new season.
- **Gardening:** Plant flowers, herbs or vegetables. Gardening is not only a great physical activity but also therapeutic.
- **Home Safety Check:** Check your smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and change HVAC filters.

## Social and Mental Well-being

- **Social Activities:** Join a local community group or club to stay socially active. Spring often brings more community events and outdoor activities.
- **Mindfulness and Relaxation:** Spend time in nature, practice mindfulness or meditate to reduce stress and improve mental health.
- **Learning Opportunities:** Take up a new hobby or join a class to keep your mind engaged and stimulated.

## Safety Tips

- **Watch Your Step:** Be mindful of wet or uneven surfaces to prevent slips and falls.
- **Allergy Management:** If you suffer from seasonal allergies, keep an eye on pollen levels and take any necessary medications.

Embrace the season with open arms and enjoy everything spring has to offer! **If you have any questions or need any assistance, contact Senior Service Coordinator Natalie Storms at [Natalie.Storms@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Natalie.Storms@ketteringoh.org) or call 937-296-3356.**

## BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC DATES

FREE!	<b>Blood Pressure Clinics at the Dayton Metro Library – Kettering-Moraine Branch 3496 Far Hills Ave. in the back study room</b>	
	<b>February Dates</b>	
	Wednesday, Feb. 5	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Feb. 12	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Feb. 19	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Feb. 26	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	<b>March Dates</b>	
	Wednesday, Mar. 5	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Mar. 12	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Mar. 19	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
	Wednesday, Mar. 26	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

## Universal Changing Table at Kettering Recreation Complex

The Kettering Recreation Complex is home to the first universal changing table within a City of Kettering building. Universal changing tables, also known as adult changing tables, are similar to infant changing tables but are designed to accommodate the height and weight of adults. Access to a universal changing table can transform the lives of people with disabilities, people with complex medical needs, and the elderly by providing a safe, hygienic and dignified space to address their restroom needs. These tables create

the opportunity for everyone to go out in the community and participate in activities. The universal changing table at the KRC was a joint project with city staff, Montgomery County Board of Developmental Disabilities Services (MCBDDS) and Montgomery County. The universal changing table is located within the family changing room just behind checkpoint at the Kettering Recreation Complex.





## Fur-st Class Graduate: K9 Blu Completes Training

A big congratulations is in order for Blu, our newest K9 graduate. After three long, hard months of extensive training, Blu passed all aspects of what it takes to be a K9 for the Kettering Police Department with flying colors.

We know this success would not be possible without an outstanding K9 handler. Way to go, Officer Stull; we commend your commitment to training and to your position.

Congratulations and welcome to the force, Blu. We're lucky to have you here helping keep residents safe!



## Shop with a Cop

Thank you again for the generous donations from Meijer, the Kettering Police Foundation, Dor-Wood Optimist Club, Anne Kavanaugh with Shell (Far Hills), Kettering Chick-Fil-A and Don Patterson. A special thank you to all of our volunteers, your support allowed us to bring the spirit of Christmas to 12 families and 36 kids in our community. It was a night spent shopping, laughing and making memories that will last a lifetime.



## Conversations with a Cop

Join the Kettering Police Department Community Relations Office for this monthly conversation about what's happening in your community. Learn about current city-wide crime trends and how to avoid falling victim to them. Connect with KPD specialty teams and discover the behind the scenes efforts involved in preventing and investigating crime. This participant driven program will include plenty of time for questions. Pre-registration is required.



## New Hires

We are pleased to welcome **Jessica Gerhardt** as a member of the City of Kettering team! Jessica will serve as a Public Safety Dispatcher in the Police Department. She brings valuable experience from both the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Montgomery County Education Service Center. Her background will be a great asset as she assists Kettering residents in their time of need.



**Tristen Bradley-** Tristen holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the Ohio State University and previously served the Dayton Police Department as a patrol officer since 2020.

**Brandon Veregge-** Brandon graduated in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Indiana University. Brandon comes to the Kettering Police Department from the Dayton Police Department, where he served since 2017.

**Hannah Padilla-** Hannah has a master's degree in criminal justice administration and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice & psychology, both from Lindenwood University. She comes to the Kettering Police Department from the Clayton Police Department in Clayton, Missouri, where she served as a patrol officer since 2020.



**Welcome to the City of Kettering!**

## 2024 Kettering Police Department and Communications (Dispatch) Center Community Survey

The Kettering Police Department and Communication (Dispatch) Center is conducting a community satisfaction survey and you are invited to participate. The survey will address agency performance, perceived competency of employees, attitudes and behaviors, community concerns for safety and recommendations for improvement. Once compiled, the survey results will be available at the City of Kettering Police Department website. Go to [www.ketteringoh.org/kpdsurvey](http://www.ketteringoh.org/kpdsurvey) or scan the QR code to access the survey. We appreciate and value your feedback, which helps us provide top quality law enforcement and emergency communications for the community.



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## Severe Weather Preparedness:

Severe thunderstorms and high winds can damage above ground power lines and turn unsecured objects into hazardous flying debris. Here are safety tips to follow before, during and after severe weather events.

### Before High Wind Event:

- Secure all outdoor items like patio furniture, grills, trash cans, etc.
- Keep trees trimmed and free of weak or damaged limbs.

### During High Wind Event:

- Remain in a protective structure away from windows and flying debris.
- Report any damaged wires from utility poles to AES-Ohio.

- Call 911 to report any fires or arcing wires.

### After High Wind Event:

- Stay away from any wires that have fallen and report to AES-Ohio.
- Call 911 to report any fires or arcing wires.
- Treat any wires as if they are energized.
- Contact a licensed professional to clear any fallen or unstable trees or large limbs.

### Sign up for CodeRED alerts

CodeRED is a fast communication tool for emergency notification. When there is an emergency, the City determines which neighborhoods or areas are affected and creates a recorded message that describes the emergency and provides directions to the public.



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## New Heart Monitors

The Kettering Fire Department recently received nine new Lifepak 35 heart monitors. All crews completed in-service training provided by Stryker. These new heart monitors will replace existing Lifepak 15 heart monitors on all medics and frontline fire apparatus. Stryker dedicated more than 10 years of research to designing an innovative device enabling our crews to provide clinical excellence in the most demanding environments. One of its most impressive features is cprINSIGHT, which analyzes the underlying heart rhythm during chest compressions and will precharge the monitor for a shockable rhythm, thus reducing the number of pauses in compressions. The Lifepak 35 will also provide the department analytics to access cardiac care, working towards continuous quality improvement. The Kettering Fire Department is excited to place these devices in service so we can provide quality care to our community.

## New Firefighter

The City of Kettering is excited to announce that Joey Schelzer has joined us as our newest Firefighter/Paramedic!

Joey is known for his hard work, dedication and strong teamwork, making him an excellent addition to our Fire Department. With over five years of fire service experience from the City of Troy Fire Department, Joey brings valuable skills and commitment to serving our community.

Please join us in welcoming Joey Schmelzer to the City of Kettering team!



## Life Saving Award

On Oct. 6, a life-or-death moment at the Kettering Recreation Complex became a testament to extraordinary care and quick thinking. When a 35-year-old resident collapsed during exercise, citizens Dr. Jordan Hickey and Tom Madigan along with PRCA staff member Sarah O'Malley sprang into action.

Recognizing the patient wasn't breathing, they immediately began CPR and used an AED, delivering two life-saving defibrillations. When the Kettering Fire Department arrived, they continued advanced life support. We would like to honor these heroes:

### Citizenship Award:

Sarah O'Malley (PRCA)  
Dr. Jordan Hickey MD  
Tom Madigan

### KFD Life Saving Award:

Capt. Eric Hagemeyer  
Firefighter/Paramedic Chris Caudill  
Firefighter/Paramedic Ryan Hill  
Firefighter/Paramedic Austen Mellendorf  
Firefighter/Paramedic Trent Phipps



We're proud to report that the patient made a full recovery. Upon delivering a heartfelt speech at the Council Meeting, there was not a dry eye in the room. This is Kettering—where community means everything.

# Applications Open for Spring 2025 Microenterprise Assistance Program

The City of Kettering's Planning and Development Department is excited to announce the next round of the Microenterprise Assistance Program, running from April 8 to April 29, 2025. This impactful program is designed to support local microenterprises, fostering a vibrant and diverse business community that strengthens Kettering's economy.

Those completing the 2025 class series may be eligible to apply for a matching forgivable loan, offering eligible businesses a reimbursement of up to \$8,000. To apply, businesses must have at least two years of operating income and meet HUD's definition of microenterprise: the business must have 5 or fewer employees (including the owner) who must be of low to moderate income.

**Funds provided through this program are forgivable, provided the business:**

- Remains operational within Kettering and
- Stays current on Kettering taxes for at least one year after the last draw date.

If these conditions are not met, the loan will convert to an amortized repayment schedule, payable over 12 – 24 months.

**To qualify, applicants must:**

- Be a microenterprise (5 employees or fewer, including the owner),
- Be income-eligible (business owner earns no more than 80% of the area median income) and
- Commit to using the funds for eligible business expenses.

The city strongly encourages applications from minority-, women-, veteran-, and disabled-owned businesses. Don't miss this opportunity to grow your business and contribute to Kettering's thriving business landscape! For more details or to apply, visit [www.ketteringoh.org/microenterprise](http://www.ketteringoh.org/microenterprise) or scan the QR code.



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## Governor's Place Improvement Project

Kettering is excited to share an update on the upcoming Governor's Place Improvement Project. Construction is set to begin in 2025, with completion anticipated by fall 2025. As we approach the start date, we encourage you to check our website as we post updates, which you can view at [www.ketteringoh.org/governors-place-blvd-revitalization](http://www.ketteringoh.org/governors-place-blvd-revitalization).

Please note that some roadway lanes and sidewalk closures will be necessary during the construction period to facilitate the improvements. For questions about the project, contact the City of Kettering Engineering Department at 937-296-2436.



## New Economic Development Manager: Kyren Gantt



We are excited to welcome Kyren (Ky) Gantt as the new Economic Development Manager for the City of Kettering. A Kansas native and retired United States Air Force member, Ky brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role.

Ky holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Arizona State University and a master of public administration from Villanova University. He is also nearing completion of his professional credentialing through the Ohio Economic Development Association. Currently, Ky is part of the Leadership Dayton program, further enhancing his leadership expertise.

Ky joins the City of Kettering after contributing to community and economic development efforts in Dayton and, most recently, Huber Heights. Beyond his professional commitments, Ky serves on the Board of Directors for SICSA and the Huber Heights YMCA and coaches the Wayne Lady Warriors Junior Varsity Basketball Team.

We are thrilled to have Ky's expertise and passion as part of our team and look forward to his contributions to Kettering's growth and prosperity.

# Welcome to Kettering!

## Bounce into Fun at Nova Adventure Park

We're thrilled to share that Nova Trampoline Park has officially landed in Kettering! Located at 2100 E. Whipp Road, this exciting new destination offers high-flying fun for residents and visitors of all ages.

Kettering takes pride in its exceptional recreational opportunities and Nova Trampoline Park is the latest addition to our vibrant community. Whether you're seeking an adrenaline-pumping workout, a one-of-a-kind birthday party venue or simply a place to burn off some energy, Nova has something for everyone.

Don't miss out on the fun – swing by and experience all that Nova Trampoline Park has to offer!



## Fresh Style Awaits at New Salon Citrus and Cinnamon

We are excited to welcome Citrus and Cinnamon, the newest addition to Kettering's vibrant business community! This salon, owned by a second-generation local entrepreneur, embodies the spirit of our city and its commitment to nurturing homegrown talent.

Citrus and Cinnamon specializes in all things hair, offering a wide range of services to suit every style and personality. Whether you're looking for bold, vibrant colors that push creative boundaries or timeless, natural hues, the salon delivers exceptional results. In addition to expert hair coloring, they provide precision hair cutting, styling, and facial waxing services, ensuring clients leave feeling confident and polished.

Visit Citrus and Cinnamon at 1195 E. Stroop Road for a welcoming and professional salon experience for all your hair care needs.

## Wing Out at Wingstop

We're delighted to welcome Wingstop to Kettering! This new restaurant serves delicious tenders, boneless and classic wings, along with chicken sandwiches, all available in their signature rubs and sauces. Choose from 11 unique flavors, ranging from the legendary Lemon Pepper to the sweet and spicy Mango Habanero. Don't forget to pair your meal with sides like their Cajun Fried Corn or Buffalo Ranch Fries. Wingstop is open from 11 a.m. – Midnight daily. Visit Wingstop at 2811 Wilmington Pike to savor their bold flavors!



# Volunteers are our Hometown Heroes

We celebrated another successful year of service to our community thanks to our dedicated volunteers! On Nov. 21 at noon, volunteers gathered for a traditional roast turkey lunch, and Vice Mayor Jacque Fisher awarded certificates and gifts to volunteers based on the number of hours contributed since they began volunteering for the city's program. From July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, 401 volunteers contributed **15,155 hours** to the City of Kettering saving **\$432,221**! A selection of door prizes were generously provided by a variety of Kettering businesses.

All volunteers were invited to donate individual, shelf stable food items to help support the Kettering Backpack Program.

**We look forward to offering more volunteer opportunities in 2025, and thank our volunteers for their continued dedication and commitment to the City of Kettering!**

*The mission of the Volunteer Kettering program is to offer citizens an opportunity to become involved in their city by assisting city staff in a variety of jobs, and organizing activities that expand programs, enhance services, build an understanding of city government and encourage community pride.*



## Make A Difference Day: Another Year of Success!



National Make A Difference Day has successfully encouraged the involvement of individuals and groups to be actively engaged as change makers in their communities. The City of Kettering is proud to participate in this annual event, held the fourth Saturday in October. This year on Oct. 26, **156 volunteers** created **1,047 holiday greeting cards** for our troops serving overseas, handmade **50 fleece blankets** for Project Linus, installed new native shrubs and flowers in the rain garden at Van Buren Park and assisted homeowners with yard work in the Wiles Creek Neighborhood. A total of **329 hours** were contributed by individuals and a variety of organizations throughout our community.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and community partners, we were able to improve our environment, help our neighbors, provide blankets for youth ages 0 – 18 and reach across the globe to our active-duty men and women to bring holiday greetings from Kettering, Ohio!



## Christmas Traditions Celebrated at the Charles I. Lathrem Center

For the second year, the Christmas Day Gathering was held at the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center. With plenty of parking, access to RTA Route 28 and accessible facilities, 115 guests enjoyed time with family and friends at this Kettering community event.

Thanks to the generous help of our volunteers, guests enjoyed a hot meal, holiday music, a variety of sweets, coloring activities, games, scavenger hunt, free book store for children and photos with Santa! Our sincere thanks to the 40 volunteers who gave 93 hours of their time to cook, set-up, entertain and clean up an event that embodies the true meaning of Christmas! A heartfelt thank you also goes out to our community partners who help keep this event free for our guests:



Day Air Credit Union

Donald E. Patterson

# Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service

The Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council is currently seeking nominations for the Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service. This award is presented annually at a city council meeting during National Volunteer Week in April. Two awards are presented, one for an adult, and one for a youth volunteer.

The purpose of the award is to honor outstanding volunteers who are making valuable contributions to the community through volunteer service in a wide variety of categories, such as health, recreation, arts, environment, education, public safety, civic service or other human services. In order to qualify for the award, the volunteer should either be a resident of Kettering or the volunteer service should be performed in Kettering. The volunteer activity can be in a structured setting or on an informal basis. Groups are eligible as well. Applications will be accepted until Sunday, March 9. Nomination forms are available at [www.ketteringoh.org/mayors-award](http://www.ketteringoh.org/mayors-award) or you can scan the QR code. Contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433 for more details.



SCAN ME

## Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council

The Volunteer Advisory Council was formed in the 1980's to give suggestions and advice for promoting volunteerism in the City of Kettering. The council shares insight and expertise while making recommendations on the role of the city in volunteerism. They lend support to the Volunteer Administrator in the development of the volunteer program.

**Kari Basson**, Coordinator of Community Relations, Kettering City Schools

**Anna Breidenbach**, Compliance and Inclusion Manager, City of Kettering (Staff Liaison)

**Jey Ellis**, Associate Partner, Coldwell Banker

**Jacque Fisher**, Retired Program Manager, WPAFB (City Council Liaison)

**Joan Fisher-Hatton**, Kettering Medical Center

**Dick Honeywell**, Retired Program Manager, USAF

**Sabrina Larson**, Retired, Defense Finance and Accounting Service

**Megan Moon**, Community Volunteer

**Courtney Pitsinger**, Director of Ministries, Christ Church United Methodist



## Volunteer Opportunities

The spring and summer months bring many opportunities to volunteer! These include greeting guests at Fraze Pavilion, assisting with summer camps at Rosewood Arts Center, the Kettering Recreation Center and Habitat Environmental Center.

If you like to spend time outside and want to be involved in new conservation initiatives, you can get involved with park and waterway cleanup events.

We also have opportunities for those who enjoy serving as receptionists, and facilitating the organization of documents through scanning and filing.

If you enjoy interacting with others and have some time available, contact the City of Kettering Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433, visit our website at [www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-opportunities](http://www.ketteringoh.org/volunteer-opportunities), or scan the QR code to learn more!



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# PRCA Wins 3 State Awards for Excellence

**Congratulations to our entire Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department on winning three prestigious 2024 Ohio Parks and Recreation Association (OPRA) Awards of Excellence!**

Our sustainable community festival, EcoFEST, earned first place in the Environmental & Interpretive Programs category, attracting approximately 2,000 visitors and featuring over 60 organizations sharing environmental education and sustainable living practices.

"It is an absolute honor to not only be recognized for such an incredible event that we provide for our community, but more importantly for the spotlight to shine on the sustainability initiatives taking place in Kettering. It is an exciting time for our city," said Chayna Carswell, co-organizer of the event and PRCA clerk.

## **Gentile Nature Park, TreeFest & Tree Love also honored**

TreeFest & Tree Love combined morning conservation work with afternoon celebration, bringing together over 100 volunteers for tree planting and environmental education at Habitat Environmental Center before continuing the festivities at Eudora Brewing Company. This creative approach to community engagement earned second place in the Environmental & Interpretive Programs category.

Gentile Nature Park was honored with second place in the Capital Improvement category for transforming 19 acres into an innovative recreational space featuring the city's largest nature-based playground, dual 100-foot ziplines, a half-mile walking path and more. The project included planting 250 trees and thousands of native plants, creating a true community treasure.

These achievements reflect the dedication and creativity of our entire staff. The awards will be presented at the 2025 OPRA Conference on Feb. 4, 2025.



## **Lathrem Garden Project**

The Lathrem Garden Project, funded by a generous donation from the Lathrem Family, is nearing completion, transforming an underutilized space into a vibrant community asset. The renovation includes a new 20-by-30-foot shelter with an outdoor fireplace, walking paths, benches and overlook swings. Additional amenities include resurfaced shuffleboard courts, a water fountain and a two-hole putting green that enhances the Lathrem Center's golf programming. This beautiful new space will be available for community reservations starting in early 2025, fulfilling a key objective from our PRCA Master Plan.



# Summer 2025: Make Your Mark with Kettering Parks & Recreation

Transform your summer break into an unforgettable experience by joining the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. We're seeking enthusiastic team members for seasonal positions that offer more than just a paycheck – they're stepping stones to career growth and community impact!

## Inspire Young Minds as a Camp Leader

Put your creativity and leadership skills to work guiding children through our dynamic summer camps. From sports and outdoor adventures to arts and STEM activities, you'll shape memorable experiences while building valuable professional skills. Perfect for education, recreation and child development majors!

## Join Our Parks & Grounds Team

Help maintain Kettering's award-winning green spaces and recreation facilities. Gain hands-on experience in environmental stewardship and landscape management while working outdoors in our city's most beautiful settings. This is a great opportunity for natural resources and horticulture enthusiasts.

## Why Choose Kettering PRCA?

- Competitive 2025 seasonal wages
- Flexible scheduling options
- Professional development opportunities
- Valuable public service experience
- Dynamic, supportive work environment
- Potential for future career growth

Whether you're seeking full-time summer work or part-time hours, we have positions to fit your schedule. Ready to make summer 2025 count? Apply now at [www.playkettering.org/jobs](http://www.playkettering.org/jobs) and join our team!



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## Register for Summer Camps!

**March 3**

Registration begins for  
Kettering Residents

**March 10**

Registration begins  
for Non-Residents

## A Camp For Every Kid!

Our camps are thoughtfully designed to keep your child active, engaged and connected with friends and the community throughout the summer. From classic camp experiences to environmental exploration, sports activities and creative arts, there's something for every interest and passion!

Visit [playkettering.org/camps](http://playkettering.org/camps)



SCAN ME

# 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)

## TreeFEST

Saturday, April 19,  
9 a.m. – Noon

Gentile Nature Park

## Tree Love

Saturday, April 19  
1 – 5 p.m.

Eudora Brewery

## Kettering Community Garage Sale and Tot Shop Sale

Saturday, April 26  
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lathrem Senior Center

## Art on the Playground

Saturday, May 3  
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Habitat Environmental Center

Kettering Health Art Gallery  
at Rosewood Arts Center

**Morgan Craif**  
**Kathy A. Moore**

March 10 – April 12  
Rosewood Gallery



# Grateful for our Snow Crews

**Thank you to our dedicated Kettering streets, parks, facilities and engineering teams who work tirelessly during winter weather to keep our roads safe.**

During major snow events, our crews tackle an impressive 975 miles of roads — equivalent to driving from Kettering to Orlando! They utilize a sophisticated mix of materials including road salt, liquid salt brine, and Beet Heat (a natural beet juice solution that enhances melting when applied to salt). This comprehensive approach helps ensure safer travel for all residents throughout the winter season.



## 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.

Amanda Harold, Editor  
 Leah Cultice, Editor & 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.

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

 cityofkettering

 @Kettering\_OH

 City of Kettering