

A photograph of four firefighters in tan uniforms and helmets working on a white car with a shattered window. The scene is outdoors on a street with a brick building in the background. The image is semi-transparent to allow text to be overlaid.

# City of Kettering Fire Department



ANNUAL REPORT 2012

# Kettering Mayor and Council

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## 2012 Kettering City Council

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# Kettering Fire Department Phone Numbers

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**Emergency ..... 911**

Non-emergency ..... 293.2153

Headquarters ..... 296.2489

Fire Marshal ..... 296.3384

Fire Hydrants ..... 296.2489

Open Burning ..... 296.3384

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## Message from the Chief

On behalf of the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department, I am pleased to present to you the 2012 Kettering Fire Department Annual Report. Throughout the following pages, you will find information and data which summarizes the department's general activities, accomplishments, and recognition of some of Kettering's bravest for their actions this past year as they served our community with integrity and professionalism. It truly is an honor and a privilege to serve with the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department. I can't say enough about the pride, dedication and work ethic your firefighters display on a daily basis.

This has been a year of innovation and implementation to enhance our emergency delivery service. In an effort to meet our community's contemporary needs, we have effectively developed and implemented an all-hazards mitigation response profile. Highlights for 2012 include the following key initiatives: the implementation of the Fire Station Strategic Plan, the expansion of our integrated staff response profile, and implementation of our Alert Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management Software. Through the hard work and dedication of our members, we are well on our way to developing the optimum Emergency Services Delivery System for this community. While implementing these industry "Best Practices" are extremely important, we feel that maintaining fiscal responsibility is paramount as we move forward in meeting our community's needs. As responsible stewards of this community's resources, all Fire Department improvements have been made within our current budgetary constraints, and a heightened emphasis has been placed on fostering regional collaboration with adjoining communities in order to enhance our overall service delivery system.

While providing excellent emergency services is our primary goal and responsibility, community involvement, support, and excellent customer relations is our passion. Once again your Firefighters raised the bar for their charitable work in 2012. During the year, firefighters worked diligently and raised over \$4,000 for MDA and breast cancer awareness. In addition, your firefighters provided an incredible service to support seven Kettering families through our Christmas Adopt-a-Family program which is now in its 26th year. We wear our Kettering Fire Department uniforms with great pride as we serve you, the citizens of this community, as our number one priority.

It is our commitment to continue to improve our fire prevention and community outreach efforts, in conjunction with the implementation of our all hazard emergency mitigation response profile. Through our collective efforts and due diligence, we will continue to reinforce our departmental vision and mission of making the City of Kettering the safest community in which to Live, Work and Play. The future is bright, and we look forward to serving with and for you in 2013.



Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Terry Jones

# Kettering Fire Department

## Our Vision

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OF THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT  
IS TO SERVE THE PUBLIC  
WITH THE FOLLOWING CORE VALUES:

INTEGRITY

PROFESSIONALISM

COMPASSION

UNITY

HONOR

## Our Mission

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IS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS  
BY DELIVERING AN  
EFFECTIVE SYSTEM OF SERVICES;  
THEREBY MINIMIZING THE IMPACT OF  
FIRE, HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS,  
ILLNESS, AND INJURY  
WITH A CARING AND EFFICIENT  
RESPONSE.



## Core Values

### **INTEGRITY – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES INTEGRITY BY:**

- Being loyal to the Department's vision and mission
- Conducting ourselves with a high level of morality
- Conducting ourselves with the utmost honesty at all times
- Showing self-respect and respect for others
- Taking responsibility for our actions

### **PROFESSIONALISM – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT IS PROFESSIONAL IN ALL ITS ACTIONS BY:**

- Appearance and behavior
- Respectful attitude
- Concern and compassion for people
- Training, preparedness, readiness and response

### **UNITY – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT EVERY EMPLOYEE IS A VALUED MEMBER AND PARTNER IN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FAMILY BY:**

- Supporting a team-oriented approach to issues
- Valuing input from all members of the Department
- Communicating openly and honestly, at all levels, without fear of reprisals
- Creating a consistent, trusting, pro-active work environment that promotes feelings of security in all members of the Department

### **COMPASSION – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES COMPASSION TO ITS MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY IT SERVES BY:**

- Reconciling differences with an open mind
- Showing kindness and concern to our employees and citizens
- Being sympathetic and displaying empathy for others
- Giving consideration to all facts surrounding issues

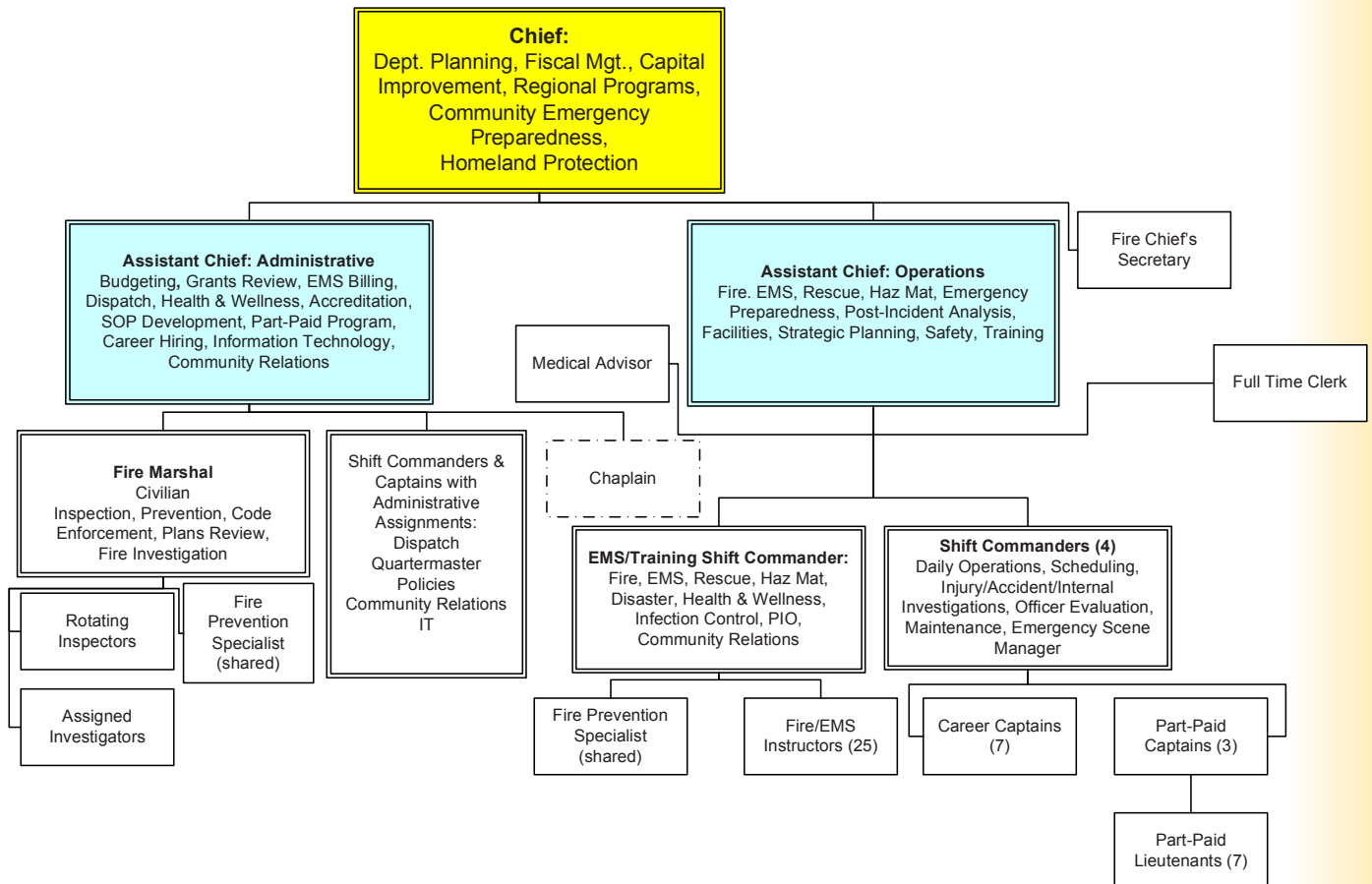
### **HONOR – THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES HONOR BY:**

- Being respectful of others at all times
- Ensuring actions are done with the goal of the department having the highest level of reputation
- Conducting ourselves so that we are admired by the community
- Acting with honesty, integrity and fairness at all times



# Kettering Fire Department

## Organizational Chart



Rev. 6/13



## Total Incidents

The Kettering Fire Department embraces the philosophy of providing a modern all hazards mitigation approach to Emergency Services. During 2012, we responded to 7,331 total incidents as indicated in the corresponding chart. This included a wide variety of emergencies ranging from medical incidents and auto extrication to hazardous chemical spills and structure fires. In accordance with our mission, KFD personnel provided an effective system of services necessary to minimize the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness, and injury with a caring and efficient response. Our personnel take great pride in serving this community and strive to be fully prepared each and every time that we may be called upon to respond and assist the citizens of this community in their time of need.

Call Type	Number of Incidents	Percentage
Emergency Medical Services	5,285	72.09%
Assist	767	10.46%
False Alarm	276	3.76%
Auto Accident	213	2.91%
Good Intent Call	182	2.48%
Miscellaneous Fire	171	2.33%
Canceled En Route	88	1.20%
Electrical Problem	77	1.05%
Power Line Down	76	1.04%
Fuel Spill	60	0.82%
Unauthorized Burning	56	0.76%
Structure Fire	39	0.53%
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	32	0.44%
Car Fire	9	0.12%
<b>Total Incidents</b>	<b>7,331</b>	



EMS Call Type	2012 Totals
Illness	882
Difficulty Breathing	531
Injury from Fall	462
Chest Pain	405
Pain	302
Weakness	268
Injury	265
Abdominal Pain	244
Seizure	161
Auto Accident	142
Heart Problem	142
Back Pain	134
Diabetic Problem	132
Syncope	111
Bleeding	100
Laceration	96
Mental/Psychiatric	94
Altered Mental Status	92
Overdose	76
Headache	68
Anxiety	63
Possible Stroke	61
Cardiac Arrest	59
Unknown Problem	52
Unconscious	50
Unresponsive	46
Intoxication	38
Assault	34
Personal Assist	30
Deceased	27
Nose Bleed	22
Suicide Attempt	20
Pedestrian Struck	17
Canceled En Route	14
Allergic Reaction	13
Pregnancy	12
Burn	10
Choking	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,285</b>

# Kettering Fire Department

## Emergency Medical Services

Emergency Medical Services encompasses nearly 80 percent of the annual incidents handled by the fire department. Due to this statistic, all of the operational Kettering Fire Department members are required not only to be certified as a firefighter with the state of Ohio, but also be certified in EMS as an Emergency Medical Technician or Paramedic. Kettering Fire Department responds to a wide array of medical emergencies that require specific medical treatments. Over the course of 2011 and 2012, our department upgraded to a more sophisticated cardiac monitor to ensure that we are delivering the most advanced EMS care possible. We are now capable of acquiring a 12-lead EKG while inside the patient's home and then sending it directly to the emergency room physician, allowing the physician to review the EKG and take appropriate measures to ensure that the patient receives the quickest medical interventions in the event of a cardiac episode.

## Training Division

We continue to grow in our efforts to train our members to the highest level in order to guarantee that we deliver superior emergency services. During 2012, we completed over 10,000 hours of training. Training was conducted on a variety of topics to guarantee that we are prepared for any non-criminal emergency that confronts us.

Training Type	Hours
<b>EMS Training</b>	<b>3,840</b>
Cardiac	501
Geriatric	275
Pediatric	378
Trauma	321
General	2,365
<b>Fire Training</b>	<b>3,313</b>
<b>Rescue Training</b>	<b>1,270</b>
Trench Rescue	615
Rope Rescue	360
Auto Extrication	295
<b>Officer Development</b>	<b>1,532</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>551</b>



## Fire Prevention Bureau



*Fire Marshal Bill Ford*



*Knox box*

In 2012, Fire Marshal Bill Ford made great progress in ensuring that the state fire code is being complied with in businesses across the City. He also worked diligently to verify code compliance in all new construction and remodeling projects within the City. Mr. Ford's vast knowledge of the Fire Code makes for efficient review of plans for construction projects. He conducted hundreds of fire inspections leading to the issuing and resolving of hundreds of Fire Code violations, leaving the City of Kettering a safer place to Live, Work, and Play.

In recent years the Fire Prevention Bureau has educated residents and businesses on the importance of having Knox boxes. A Knox box is a secure lock box that allows emergency crew to access an unoccupied structure, eliminating the need for forced entry, ultimately causing less damage to the structure. In recent years dozens of local homes and businesses have purchased these boxes to allow quicker and less damaging access to their property in the event of an emergency.

Fire Prevention	2012 Totals
Initial Inspections	111
Re-Inspections	135
Violation Issued	494
Violations Resolved	561
Plans Reviewed	192

Public Education Events	2012 Totals
Block Parties	14
Car Seat Installations	160
CPR Classes	80
Station Tours	31
Other Events	72

# Kettering Fire Department

## Public Education

During 2012, Kettering Fire Department took advantage of the opportunity to educate thousands of citizens through a variety of events and structured courses throughout the city in a direct effort to make Kettering a safer place to Live, Work and Play. Members of the department engaged the community in active educational enrichment sessions such as severe weather simulation training, fire prevention and safety presentations, fire drills, and fire station tours just to name a few activities.

The department hosted the Kettering Leadership Academy for a day of practical hands-on exercises to allow community leaders the opportunity to experience firsthand what it's like to crawl through smoke, wear fire gear and self-contained breathing apparatus, and to carry and operate the heavy equipment that our personnel must use each and every day. The group gained valuable knowledge as to exactly what it takes to train and equip a modern day fire service to be ready to answer the call and effectively mitigate citizen's emergencies during their time of need. The group also gained perspective on the physical and mental challenges of the profession by simulating some of the activities that our personnel

must perform on a daily basis.

In 2012, the department continued its partnership with Wright State University's Boonshoft School of Medicine. This program provides an interactive relationship between KFD Paramedics and WSU Emergency Residents for a practical ride along program operating out in the field of Emergency Medical Services. This is a beneficial educational opportunity whereby KFD personnel mentor the residents in emergency operations in the field setting and the complexities of performing medical procedures under less than ideal conditions such as for a trapped victim inside a car or providing care for a patient who has collapsed in a dark bathroom. Under difficult environments, our personnel must overcome the circumstances and still provide critical lifesaving care in a timely and professional manner. Through this interactive partnership with the residents, KFD personnel enhance their knowledge and skills as well. The culmination of this program each year is when KFD hosts WSU for a day of auto extrication and trauma care. Emergency Residents gain the perspective and challenges of caring for simulated patients while attempting to extricate them

from crashed vehicles. The residents are outfitted in full protective fire gear and assist with the process of cutting away metal from crash victims in order to provide lifesaving emergency medical care.

Kettering Fire Department in conjunction with the Safety Section and KPD continued to operate the Child Passenger Safety Fitting Station on a monthly basis throughout 2012. The mission of this program is to ensure that children traveling through this community are properly restrained in age and size appropriate car seats to reduce injuries from vehicle crashes. This program over the years has helped ensure the safety of over



*KFD hosted the Kettering Leadership Academy*

10,000 children within our community. The program allows parents and caregivers



## Public Education

the opportunity to learn how to safely install and properly use car seats in their specific vehicles. Historically, over 80 percent of all seats inspected for proper installation and recalls are found to have an unsafe condition.

The Fitting Station Program has undoubtedly saved lives and reduced serious injuries to children by ensuring that those children travel safely in a properly fitted and installed car seat.

The Kettering Fire Department offers a program for residents to have emergency

medical information readily available for paramedics in case of an emergency. This program is known as the "Fill the Pill," and it is a magnetized pouch which is placed on the front of the refrigerator. Each kit contains a medical information sheet that lists emergency contacts, medicines, allergies, medical history, and other information that is vital for efficient and timely medical treatment. In the event of a medical emergency, our crews can easily refer to this pouch to gather vital medical information.

Residents are encouraged to obtain a medical information kit from any of the following locations: Fire Headquarters, Kettering Government Center, and the Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center.

Saving a life is as easy as spelling C-P-R and A-E-D. The Kettering Fire Department is committed to saving lives by providing education and resources to members of the community. In 2012, our CPR Education Program trained well over a 1,000 citizens throughout the community. KFD personnel trained city staff, school personnel, as well as business and community groups. In the precious minutes after someone's heart stops beating, critical training and rapid bystander assistance is essential in providing the best possible chance of survival. In addition to effective community based training, the department has strategically placed AEDs in numerous city facilities to allow for rapid defibrillation of a heart attack victim in cardiac arrest. These AEDs have successfully been used in the attempt to save citizen's lives at several facilities over the past few years. Furthermore, KFD personnel support

the training of many private businesses and churches throughout the community that have made the decision to purchase and place AEDs within their facilities.

KFD is working diligently to serve as a community partner for safety and education. Child Passenger Safety Fitting Stations occur monthly. Community CPR courses are offered twice monthly and additional trainings are arranged for groups and businesses at their facilities. Fire Safety Presentations and visits are scheduled regularly throughout the year. Because of KFD's training efforts, educational opportunities, and the placement of AEDs throughout the community, lives are being saved and the community is becoming a safer place. Kettering Fire Department is committed and will continue to provide the best educational opportunities and community support possible to enhance citizen information and improve citizen safety.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL INFORMATION



# Kettering Fire Department

## Personnel Updates



*Mayor Patterson swearing in new firefighters*

### NEW EMPLOYEES

#### **CHAD BEEKMAN**

Part-Paid/Volunteer Firefighter (9/13/12)

#### **CHRISTIAN CAVALIER**

Part-Paid/Volunteer Firefighter (1/9/12)

#### **HOWARD COBB**

Career Firefighter/Paramedic (12/31/12)

#### **BRETT DAVENPORT**

Career Firefighter/Paramedic (9/4/12)

#### **TIMOTHY KRACUS**

Career Firefighter/Paramedic (9/4/12)

## PROMOTIONS



**CHIEF TERRY JONES**  
promoted June 2012



**ASST. CHIEF TOM BUTTS**  
promoted August 2012



**ASST. CHIEF NICK HOSFORD**  
promoted August 2012



**FIRE CAPT. NATHAN COX**  
promoted Sept. 2012

## RETIREES

**FF/P MICHAEL GRUNKEMEYER** – 29 years of service

**CAPT. DAVID CURRY** – 25 years of service



## Annual Awards Ceremony

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Kettering Fire Department held its annual awards ceremony on January 30, 2013, to summarize 2012's departmental highlights, including employee recognitions for years of service and many exemplary service, and other departmental and city awards.

## Years of Service Awards

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### 1 YEAR

Micah Blanton  
Pete Burcham  
Brian Campos  
Doug Cremeans  
Matthew Eldridge  
Amber Fritz  
Zach Joyce  
Cameron McElroy  
Michael Mingl  
William Mitchell  
Ben Rife  
Brent Schockman  
Daniel Schubert  
Tyler Whipp  
Matthew Youngerman

### 5 YEAR

Donald Cunningham  
John Moore  
Joshua Musser  
Mike Reigle  
Juston Wilson

### 10 YEAR

Duane Cobb  
Bill Korb  
Tracy Leach  
Dave Roth

### 15 YEAR

Nick Andrews  
Joel Busch  
Steve Green  
Nick Hosford  
Kirk Mellendorf  
Dave Parker

### 20 YEAR

Jason DeDario

### 25 YEAR

Tom Butts  
Dave Curry (*ret.*)  
Terry Jones  
Scott Perkins  
Mike Slavik

# Kettering Fire Department

## Neary-Wannemacher Exemplary Service Award

This award is to honor our Part-Paid Volunteer Firefighters and our department's rich history and tradition of volunteerism. Our current Part-Paid Volunteers provide hours of "on-call" service every week just as our Volunteer Firefighters have since 1922 when Van Buren Township Trustees established an all-volunteer fire department. The namesakes of this award, Jim Neary and Bernie Wannemacher, were chosen due to their exemplary service to our community and the impact they had on our department and the citizens which they served for so many years. Together, Volunteer Deputy Chief Jim Neary and Volunteer Captain Bernie

Wannemacher dedicated over 70 years of service to our Fire Department and community. It is in Jim's and Bernie's honor and the spirit of Volunteerism everywhere that this award is being given. This award is not subjective; there is no committee; and there is no vote. It is based solely on number of on-call hours an individual has dedicated to keeping apparatus in service.

This trophy is displayed at the station where the individual winner is assigned, and will stay there until a rival company's member accumulates more on-call hours in any year to follow.

The 2012 recipient of this award is Captain Eric Watne, who provided 4,622 on-call

hours, which is nearly 90 hours per week on average. Also to be commended are the following individuals, who provided over 3,000 hours each in 2012. They are: Lt. Jeff Braun (4,078); Lt. Pete Graham (3,991); FF Todd DeBanto (3,881); FF Nate Adams (3,667); Lt. Kevin Sanders (3,370); Lt. Jim Cunningham (3,336); and FF Chris Waddell (3,223).



*Chief Jones, Capt. Watne*



*FF DeBanto, FF Waddell, Lt. Graham, Lt. Braun, Capt. Watne, FF Adams*



## Life Saving Awards

*A Life Saving Award may be awarded to an active member of the fire department or a group that saved the life of an individual on the scene of an emergency that returned this person to normal life activities. Some examples of this award could be, crews reviving a full arrest patient, first responders using the AED to successfully defibrillate a cardiac arrest, and saving the life of an individual at a fire that did not require hazardous life saving techniques but without the prompt and selfless action would have resulted in probable death.*

**Kettering Fire Department is extremely proud to have awarded 20 individuals the Life Saving Award for their actions taken during five separate incidents in 2012.**

On May 31, 2012, KFD Emergency crews were dispatched for a patient experiencing difficulty breathing. Medic 32 and Ladder 32 responded immediately and arrived on the scene quickly to provide emergency care. Upon arrival, the crews entered the residence to find their patient sitting in a chair unconscious. The patient was not breathing and did not have a pulse. The emergency crews took immediate actions

to provide critical care to resuscitate the patient. The patient was moved to the floor in order to provide advanced life saving procedures. The paramedics expertly provided the first round of advanced life support protocols to oxygenate the patient and restart the patient's heart. Due to the crew's efficient and timely actions, the patient quickly regained a pulse and respirations. The patient was stabilized in the field and rapidly

**Capt. Troy Schwable**  
**FF Mark Duckro**  
**FF Jim Koller**  
**FF Jim McGrath**  
**FF Shawn Morgan**  
**FF April Stapleton**

transported to the hospital. In cases of cardiac arrest, each and every second can make a critical difference in the overall survivability and successful recovery of the patient. Due to the skill, experience, and quick actions of this crew, the patient was successfully resuscitated, transported, and efficiently cared for. The patient was released from the hospital and has made a full recovery.

Due to the professionalism, medical expertise, and quick actions of the crew, this patient has returned to a normal state of life. Therefore, this crew was awarded the KFD **Life Saving Award** for their direct actions in saving a citizen's life.



**Asst. Chief Hosford, Capt. Schwable, FF Morgan, FF Koller, FF McGrath**

# Kettering Fire Department

## Life Saving Awards



### Dispatcher Jean Patty

On July 1, 2012, the Kettering Emergency Dispatch Communications Center received a call from a highly anxious mother who believed her infant child was not breathing. Dispatcher Jean Patty received the initial 911 call and immediately initiated Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols to provide life saving instructions, while Dispatcher Kari Tompkins worked to rapidly dispatch Emergency Medic and Engine crews to the appropriate location in an efficient and timely manner. Dispatcher Patty utilized her experience and training to take control of the call and

guide the mother through the critical steps of providing necessary rescue breathing and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Although the caller was very emotional during the incident, Dispatcher Patty remained calm and carefully guided the mother's actions through specific medical instructions and compassionate statements to reassure the caller that she was doing exactly what was needed in order to save her baby's life. Dispatcher Patty kept in perfect sequence with the medical protocols and provided essential instructions to support the child's life sustaining care until Fire Department and Police crews arrived on scene. Upon arrival of the emergency crews, the infant was breathing

and had a strong pulse. If not for Dispatcher Patty's calm demeanor and skilled instructions, this infant may not be alive today. Dispatcher Patty provided outstanding Emergency Medical Dispatching and demonstrated incredible professionalism during a highly stressful medical emergency call.

Dispatcher Patty received the Fire Department's *Life Saving Award* for her actions to provide critical emergency medical instructions which was life sustaining for this infant in respiratory arrest.



Chief Jones, Dispatcher Jean Patty

### FF Matt Bergeron FF Matt Gerspacher FF Dave Roth

On March 16, 2012, KFD Emergency crews were dispatched to a call for a possible cardiac arrest at Oak Creek Terrace nursing home. Medic 32 crew immediately responded and was on scene rapidly due to their proximity to the

call. Upon arrival, the crew found their patient on the floor with CPR in progress by nursing home staff. The crew initiated rapid and effective advanced cardiac life support care in an attempt to resuscitate the patient. Each member of this team performed with excellent skill and efficiency during the first minutes of this alarm. The crew rapidly completed



Chief Jones, FF Gerspacher

multiple advanced life support procedures in a minimal amount of time and was able to resuscitate



## Life Saving Awards



the patient as additional crews arrived on scene to render assistance. Due to their actions, the patient regained a pulse and respirations. It was the direct actions of this crew that saved this patient's life. With the help of Engine 36's crew, the patient was then



*Chief Jones, FF Bergeron*

transported to the hospital with a sustainable heart rhythm and was attempting to breathe on his own. This crew demonstrated incredible medical skill and professionalism while working diligently to provide outstanding medical care.

### FF Amber Fritz KPD Officer Brian Hawley

On November 22, 2012, KFD crews from Engine 36 and Medic 32 were dispatched to Hamlet Drive for a person choking. In a supportive and cooperative effort to assist KFD with our emergency scene, KPD Officer Brian



*Chief Jones, KPD Officer Hawley*

Hawley heard the call and responded along with KFD crews. Officer Hawley was first to arrive on scene and immediately recognized the patient was not moving air and becoming unresponsive. Officer Hawley initiated a basic life-saving procedure for a choking person as he had been trained.

Officer Hawley then moved the patient to the floor and started abdominal

thrust to forcefully dislodge possible food stuck in the throat. This procedure was successful at removing a significant amount of food that was obstructing the patient's airway. Upon arrival of Engine 36, FF/PM Amber Fritz assessed the patient to determine that additional interventions would be needed to clear



*Chief Jones, FF Fritz*

what was now a partial obstruction. FF/ Paramedic Fritz used advanced airway techniques that enabled her to clear the airway for the patient. Upon removal of

the final piece of food, the patient began breathing and regained consciousness. Patient care was transferred to Medic 32's crew and the patient, now conscious and breathing, was transported to the hospital for further evaluation. The patient suffered no long term effects and was released from the hospital that afternoon.

Due to the direct life saving efforts of KPD Officer Brian Hawley and Firefighter/Paramedic Amber Fritz this patient is alive and well today. Officer Hawley received a commendation from the Kettering Police Department for his actions, and we wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation for his professionalism and life saving actions. FF/Paramedic Fritz received the KFD **Life Saving Award** for her medical skill and expertise in saving this patient's life.

# Kettering Fire Department

## Life Saving Awards



FF Mark Duckro  
FF Bob Knedler  
FF Bill Korb  
FF Jim McGrath  
FF Jeff Rose

On April 12, 2012, KFD Emergency Crews were dispatched to a report of a possible injury from a fall inside a commercial occupancy on Big Hill Road. Crews responded rapidly to the scene. Engine 37's crew was first to arrive and was told by the patient's co-workers that they heard the patient fall and immediately called 911. When Engine 37's crew began to conduct an initial assessment of the patient, they found the female patient to be unconscious. The patient was not breathing and did not have a pulse. The Engine crew staffed with three Paramedics immediately initiated Advanced Cardiac

Life Support care to provide life saving interventions and to attempt to resuscitate the patient. Medic 32's crew arrived shortly after and assisted with the critical medical interventions. Working diligently as an experienced team, these five medical professionals expertly performed the essential medical functions to provide the best possible chance of survival for this patient. Due to their skill and direct interventions, the patient was successfully resuscitated inside the business and she regained a pulse and spontaneous respirations. The crew then provided essential post resuscitation care and rapidly transported the patient to the hospital. Due to the direct actions of the emergency crews, this patient made a full recovery and was discharged and home from the hospital one week later. This crew should be commended for not only

saving this patient's life but being able to adapt to an ever-changing emergency scene; although the crews were dispatched to an injury from a fall, they rapidly assessed the situation, altered their medical care plan, and provided outstanding advanced cardiac life support care.



*FF Knedler, FF Rose, FF Korb, FF McGrath*

Due to their professionalism, experience, and excellent medical care, the crew was awarded the KFD **Life Saving Award** for their direct involvement in saving this patient's life.





## Life Saving Awards

Capt. Joel Busch  
Dispatcher Valerie Oswalt  
FF Matt Gerspacher  
FF Jeff Greenup  
FF Dan Wathen  
FF Frank Woods

On July 14, 2012, the Kettering Emergency Dispatch Center received



*FF Gerspacher, Dispatcher Oswalt, FF Wathen, FF Greenup, Capt. Busch, Citizen Ed Champagne*

a 911 call for a patient in cardiac arrest. Dispatcher Valerie Oswalt and Dispatcher Eva Conley took the initial call. Dispatcher Conley rapidly dispatched emergency crews to the scene while Dispatcher Oswalt immediately initiated Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructions. E36 and M36 were dispatched to the residence for a patient possibly in cardiac arrest. While crews were en route, Dispatchers Valerie Oswalt and Eva Conley worked together to provide life-

saving instruction to the patient's husband and essential information to the responding crews. Dispatcher Oswalt provided vital and life-saving EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatching) to the caller, Mr. Ed Champagne, during the incident while crews were en route to the scene. Dispatcher Oswalt demonstrated outstanding professionalism and skill in providing essential medical instruction for cardiopulmonary resuscitation to increase the patient's survivability prior to the crew's arrival. Upon arrival, our emergency crews found Mr. Champagne administering efficient CPR to his wife on the floor and immediately took

resuscitation efforts. The five member crew worked diligently on scene utilizing their knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully restart the patient's heart through Advanced Life Support and electrical defibrillation. Due to the combined efforts of early recognition, emergency medical dispatching, early CPR, and the rapid response of ACLS care, the patient regained a sustainable heart rhythm and was attempting to breathe on her own. Each of the above steps in this patient's chain of survival contributed to a successful outcome.

For their professionalism, expertise, and direct patient care roles during this incident, Dispatcher Oswalt as well as the entire crews of Medic and Engine 36 received the KFD **Life Saving Award**. Without each of these critical and time sensitive interventions, this patient may not be alive today.



*Chief Jones, Citizen Ed Champagne*

over patient care efforts. The patient was found to be still in cardiac arrest, and crews immediately initiated Advanced Life Support procedures that would prove vital in the

Mr. Ed Champagne received the **Citizenship Award** for his actions during this incident. His distinguished actions performed on his loved one proved vital in saving her life. Mr. Champagne's actions were that of a true hero under such a trying and potentially devastating time.

# Kettering Fire Department

## Medal of Valor Award

*Our department's highest award, the Medal of Valor, is awarded to active members of the fire department, who distinguish themselves by performing acts of gallantry and valor when saving or attempting to save a life, and in the face of grave or imminent hazard to life, with sure knowledge of the risks involved, and unquestionably above and beyond the call of duty.*

Capt. Joel Busch  
FF Tyler Whipp

At 4:11 a.m. on Saturday, June 30, 2012, Engine 36 responded along with multiple crews to a possible residential structure fire on Rahn Road. Engine 36 arrived on scene first at 4:17 a.m. hours and reported to have a confirmed structure fire in a one-story, single family residential home. At that time there was heavy fire extending through the roof in the front left corner over the sleeping areas of the residence. Bystanders in the yard informed Engine 36 crew that the homeowner was trapped inside the house. The crew distinguished themselves with conspicuous bravery by performing their duties that morning. Despite the signs of imminent structural collapse, the fire crew of Captain Busch and Firefighter Whipp selflessly entered the burning house attempting to save the life of the occupant believed to still be inside. While hearing the fire in the attic space and perceiving the sounds of structural members

of the roof breaking and falling onto the drywall ceiling, the crew relentlessly continued searching for the occupant. After searching four rooms, they forced their way through a blocked door to the fifth room where they found the resident unresponsive on the bed. Search activities and structural degradation of the house hindered the rescue efforts by blocking the exit from the room. Maintaining their composure in a hazardous environment, the crew navigated their way out of the bedroom and down the hall to the front door. They removed the victim from the home and out of the potential collapse zone. The crew then began resuscitation efforts while additional medical personnel came to assist. The roof over the bedrooms and hallway where they performed the search and rescue, collapsed into the house approximately 20 seconds after the crew extricated the victim to safety. Despite the progression of the event and amassed dangers, the crew expressed a will to make a second attempt

to enter and complete the primary search of the house to ensure no one was left inside. Due to the report of only one occupant, the heavy fire load, and partial collapse of the building Shift Commander Ed Yike deemed the situation to be untenable and ordered all search efforts to cease, evacuate the search crew from the structure, and employ defensive measures. Captain Busch and Firefighter Whipp's courage and bravery exemplify the highest expectations and professionalism of a Kettering Firefighter. Their willingness to place their own lives in peril to save the life of another is one of the most honorable qualities of human nature possible. It is for these reasons that Captain Joel Busch and Firefighter Tyler Whipp were awarded the Kettering Fire Department's **Medal of Valor** for their selfless acts of bravery and dedication.



Chief Jones, Capt. Busch



Chief Jones, FF Whipp



## Firefighters of the Year

*The Firefighter of the Year is awarded to the firefighter, one in each of the career and part-paid volunteer firefighter ranks, that exemplifies the true meaning of commitment and pride in the organization for the current year.*

### 2012 CAREER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: FF/P DAN WATHEN



*Chief Jones, FF/P Dan Wathen*

#### FF/P Dan Wathen

FF/P Wathen has led a long and distinguished career at the Kettering Fire Department. Over the years, Dan has worked tirelessly to serve the organization as well as the community in a variety of capacities. Dan has been instrumental in the department's CPR program for many years, has been a tremendous help in updating the department's mapping program and

station proposals, has handled many of the Station 36 duties. "Gentleman" Dan has always treated his patients, coworkers, and citizens with the utmost respect and compassion. He has worked diligently to mentor new members and helped to improve department operations from community relations to dispatch and mapping. Dan is admired by his peers and supervisors for his demeanor and positive influence on department operations.

### 2012 PART-PAID VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR: FF/P KRIS DENLINGER



*Chief Jones, FF/P Kris Denlinger*

#### FF/P Kris Denlinger

FF/PM Denlinger has become an integral part of staffing our emergency delivery system. He has served admirably in both the integrated in-house system as well as in the part-time/volunteer from home response system. Kris strives each day to be better at the job and improve his professional knowledge and skill sets. He is a valued member of the department and has set the example to

increase his level of training and capabilities over the past several years. FF/PM Denlinger is regarded highly by his peers and supervisors for his work ethic, respectful attitude, and compassion for the citizens he serves. Kris is a pleasure to work with and works cooperatively with all members of the department. He is always asking what needs done, if there is anything that he can help with and often asks questions following emergency calls as to how he could do better.

# Kettering Fire Department

## Special Way Award

*The **Special Way Award Program** is a City of Kettering employee recognition program designed to recognize employees for their actions that reflect positively on themselves, their department and the City. Such actions include: outstanding performance or customer service in a unique situation or in accomplishing a project; heroic acts; innovative cost savings; distinguishing career or professional achievement; or distinguishing overall outstanding service for a continuous period of at least two years.*

*In 2012, two City employees received **Special Way Awards**, one of which was FF/P Nick Andrews.*

### 2012 RECIPIENT: FF/P NICK ANDREWS, FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nick has worked for the City for more than fifteen years as a Career Firefighter/Paramedic and prior to that nearly six years as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Department. His nominator and others supporting his nomination said, "Nick is an invaluable member of the Kettering Fire Department who continually goes above and beyond the normal duties of a firefighter/paramedic. He is an extremely dedicated employee who possesses an outstanding work ethic. While assigned to a medic, Nick has displayed incredible compassion to our citizens and has provided outstanding patient care. During this past year Nick has taken on many additional roles as a

mentor and lead instructor for the organization, particularly with the Field

*"Nick's positive 'Can Do' attitude is infectious, and he brings a wealth of talent and ability to any crew which he is assigned."*

Mentor Program which is completed by every new firefighter, both career and part-paid/volunteer. He has also been an integral instructor with our emergency operations core comp training. Nick's positive 'Can Do' attitude is infectious, and he brings a wealth of talent and ability to any crew which he is assigned. Nick's overall

performance, interpersonal skills and incredible work ethic have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers and supervisors alike. Nick's character and actions embody the spirit of the Special Way Award."



*Chief Jones, FF/P Nick Andrews*



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