

# *CONTACT* with **Kettering** Community Magazine Winter 2016



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CITY OF KETTERING



# Mayor's Greeting

Dear Friends,

Kettering voters have some important choices to make on November 8, 2016.

The Kettering City Charter requires that at least every ten years the Mayor appoint an independent Charter Review Committee to analyze the City Charter and make recommendations to City Council

for items that may need to be updated to improve city governance. Earlier this year, I appointed 13 Kettering residents to serve on the 2016 Charter Review Committee. The committee included local business owners, leaders of Kettering service clubs and non-profit organizations, longtime community volunteers and even a member of the School Board. They are names and faces well known for their commitment to our Kettering community. I would like to personally thank Chairman Don Walls and committee members Jim Berlon, Sissy Courtney, Charlene Dutton, Carol Fischer, Jacque Fisher, Mark Fornes, Lynda Hoffman, Dan Hoge, Jennifer Kane, Matt Luongo, Terry Schalnat and Amy Wyant for their leadership and willingness to serve their fellow residents.

Kettering City Council accepted and endorsed the Charter Review Committee's recommendations, and now Kettering voters must decide whether or not to approve the changes to the City Charter. More detailed information on each of these proposed changes can be found on page 4 of this **Contact with Kettering** edition, and a full explanation can be found on the City of Kettering website.

A frequent topic of discussion in recent months is the transparency of the city's financial records. We believe in making city financial information accessible for our residents, and full transparency is a priority for City Council and administration. Because the City of Kettering wants you to know how your tax dollars are spent, in 2015 we were among the first cities in Ohio to launch a comprehensive web-based tool in partnership with the Ohio Treasurer of State. The tool is available to all visitors to our [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) website through a convenient link on the homepage. The user friendly, searchable database makes it easy to access detailed city financial information, including expenditures for all departments and salary data for all of our employees.

Finally, I would like to invite you to be an active and informed participant in your city government. Kettering City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Kettering City Council Chambers, 3600 Shroyer Road. Every City Council meeting offers an opportunity for public comment, both regarding pending legislation and other matters. Our website includes links to full meeting minutes as well as archived videos of previous City Council meetings. Council members genuinely appreciate hearing from our citizens, whether at a City Council meeting or in between meetings. If you have questions regarding something happening in Kettering, please give us a call. We are all here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Patterson, Mayor

Make sure you never miss the latest Kettering news and important service alerts. Like – **City of Kettering, Ohio - Government** on Facebook and visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) to sign up to receive **The Starter**—Kettering's monthly e-newsletter.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting**  
Friday, December 2

**Yard Debris Center**  
Closes and Residential Leaf Collection ends Friday, December 2



**Christmas Day at Polen Farm**  
Sunday, December 25

**Flyin' to the Hoop Basketball Tournament**  
January 13 – 16



### CITY OF KETTERING Kettering Mayor & Council

- Don Patterson, Mayor**  
Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 299.5512
- Robert Scott, Vice Mayor, District 1**  
Rob.Scott@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 776.2315
- Bill Lautar, At Large**  
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- Joseph D. Wanamaker, District 2**  
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@Kettering\_OH  
City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

# Winter Weather Preparedness

Winter Weather is just around the corner! The safety of our citizens is a top priority, and we strive to provide safe and passable road surfaces during winter storm events.

Here is some helpful information about City of Kettering snow and ice removal:

**Snow & Ice  
info-line  
296-3255**

- The City of Kettering has established 16 primary snow routes that provide a connected, continuous system, enabling traffic flow throughout the City. Primary routes include major thoroughfares, hills, curves, emergency vehicle access, bus routes and school access. **During winter weather, these routes will receive attention first because they are critical for citywide safe travel.**
- While snow continues to fall, operations will focus on the primary snow routes only. Only after 2" of accumulation, and cessation of snowfall, will the residential side streets be addressed.
- Kettering has developed a plan with alternative roadway treatments and updated salt conservation standards to ensure our salt supplies last throughout the winter season.

The City may declare a snow emergency to assist with the snow removal during heavier snowfall accumulations. When a snow emergency has been declared by the City Manager, the following parking restrictions will apply:

- On even numbered dates, parking is prohibited on the side of each street with even numbered street addresses.
- On odd numbered dates, parking is prohibited on the side of each street with odd numbered street addresses.

- No parking is allowed on any cul-de-sac on even numbered dates, regardless of street address number.

## Tips for residents:

- The City of Kettering does not clear sidewalks. Sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner. Carefully clear your sidewalks as soon as practical.
- Stay informed about pending weather conditions. The best place for up-to-the-minute Kettering news is our website: [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) and our official Facebook page: **City of Kettering, Ohio – Government** and **@Kettering\_OH** Twitter account.
- Allow extra travel time, maintain a safe following distance and speed, and if possible, avoid peak traffic hours.
- Do not attempt to pass snowplow trucks, which may be plowing in teams.
- Remove parked vehicles from the street wherever possible.
- Snow plowed across driveways is unavoidable. When shoveling, you may consider placing the snow on the right side of your driveway (as you face the street) to lessen the amount of shoveling due to snowplow deposits.
- Remove any remaining snow from around your mailbox for the mail carriers.
- Take breaks when shoveling to avoid exhaustion.

**City of Kettering Snow and Ice  
Information Line: (937) 296-3255.**



## Winter Reminders

As the winter weather season approaches, the City of Kettering and Waste Management will do everything we can to maintain a regular collection schedule for all residents in Kettering. However, in the event that weather conditions make it unsafe to collect your garbage and recyclables, Waste Management may delay collection by one day.

If service is delayed, Waste Management will contact you by automated messages to your home via phone or email provided on your account.

If you have curb-side collection, please be sure to place your toters as close to the street as practical when snow is on the ground. However, **DO NOT** place your toters in the street, as this will impede snow and ice control operations by the City's Street Department.

Residents may opt for house-side collection on a month-by-month basis. If you wish to have your garbage and recycling collected house-side during the winter season, please contact Waste Management at 1-866-263-6445 to select this service level. The standard rates for house-side and curb-side collection are in effect year-round, regardless of the season.

Waste Management holidays include:

**Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 24**

If holidays fall on or before your normal day, your collection will be delayed by one day. Because both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on weekends, there will not be a delay in service this year as a result of these holidays.



# Upcoming Ballot Issue 36: City of Kettering Charter Amendments Related to City Governance

This information is provided to help educate residents about the City of Kettering Charter Amendment issue pertaining to city governance that will be on the November 2016 ballot.

In accordance with requirements in the City Charter, Mayor Patterson appointed 13 Kettering citizen volunteers to serve on the Charter Review Committee in early 2016. The committee met in public meetings for several months to discuss governance updates to the City Charter. Kettering City Council accepted and endorsed the committee's recommendations and now Kettering voters must decide whether or not to approve the changes to the City Charter. The proposed City of Kettering Charter Amendments address the following:

*"The members of the Charter Review Committee were representative of the community and diverse with educators, community volunteers, business people and retirees," said Charter Review Committee Chairperson and Kettering resident Don Walls. "We were given the task to review the City Charter. We came together, discussed the issues, found a balance, and in places compromised."*

## Remove Residency Requirements

- City Charter currently requires that certain city employees live in the City of Kettering. Due to changes in state law that prohibit this type of requirement, the current residency requirements are not enforceable.

## Remove Requirement that Meeting Notices be Published in Newspaper

- The newspaper is not the only way our residents find out about public meetings, City services and special events. Greater flexibility is needed in how notice is given to the public so that the City can take advantage of new technologies like our website and social media that will reduce taxpayer costs.

## Define "Elector"

- The term 'elector' is used throughout the Charter but is not defined. The proposed language reflects the Ohio Revised Code's definition.

## Change Parks and Recreation Board

- The name of this board will be changed to reflect the name of the department it advises, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.
- City Council will set the number of board members by ordinance giving greater flexibility to adapt the structure of the board to current needs.

## Change Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals

- Proposed changes streamline and modernize the role and function of the Planning Commission and clarify who can appeal decisions of both the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals.

## Changes for Gender Neutrality

- Currently the entire City Charter uses only masculine gender references. These changes replace male gender references with gender neutral terms.

## Modify Term Limits

- Allow for District and At-Large City Council representatives to serve three consecutive terms. The current term limit for City Council members is two consecutive terms.
- Remove term limits for the position of Mayor. The current term limit for Mayor is two consecutive terms.

## The Charter Review Committee explains their term limit recommendation as follows:

- The stability and economic vitality of the community requires continuity in office, particularly in the office of the Mayor, who is the face and voice for the City when it comes to business recruitment and retention.
- Two consecutive four-year terms are not enough for a member of council to learn the system and build the relationships necessary to be effective. That is particularly true for the office of Mayor.
- If left unchanged, the current term limit provisions will cause the complete turnover of City Council positions within a two year period resulting in loss of experience and institutional knowledge.
- Should the citizens determine that a particular elected official should no longer be in office, they can limit that elected official's term by voting them out of office.



**The City of Kettering wants our residents to have the facts pertaining to the City of Kettering Charter Amendment ballot issue which will impact city governance. For the most up-to-date information as the November voting date approaches, please visit our website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) and subscribe to our monthly "Starter" Kettering e-newsletter (find the Starter link on the main page of the Kettering website or call 296-2412 to subscribe).**

# Welcome New Police Officers



(L to R)  
 Ptl. David Wilson,  
 Ptl. Samuel Conley,  
 Ptl. Brian Robinson,  
 Ptl. Shane Cork

On Monday, August 22, 2016 the Kettering Police Department welcomed four new police officers during a swearing in ceremony. The new officers were:

## David A. Wilson

David joined the Kettering Police Department after nine years of service as patrol officer at the Xenia Police Department. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Urbana University.

## Samuel "Tom" Conley

Tom arrived at KPD after serving as a police officer at the Seattle Police Department where he served since 2014. He graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology. Tom also served in the United States Marine Corps.

## Brian F. Robinson

Brian graduated from Sinclair Community College with an Associate Degree. Since 2008, Brian served as patrol officer at the Springboro Police Dept.

## Shane "Christian" Cork

Christian came to KPD after serving with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office since 2013. Christian also served in the United States Army.

## Promotions:

Lt. Daniel B. Gangwer has been selected to be promoted to Captain. The promotion will occur in November.

The promotional process for Lieutenant and Sergeant are underway now.

## The City of Kettering Finance Department Receives Prestigious Awards

The Government Finance Officers Association Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents significant achievement. Kettering was recently awarded this honor for the thirty-first consecutive year and is one of only approximately 1,400 government entities in the USA and Canada to receive the award.

For 34 consecutive years the City of Kettering has been honored with The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers

Association, awarded to governmental entities whose Comprehensive Annual Financial Report achieves the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

For the second year in a row we are also the proud recipients of the *Award with Distinction* for excellence in financial reporting from the Auditor of State.

To learn more and to see the City's budget document and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, please visit <http://www.ketteringoh.org/departments/finance/>.

## Storm Drains are Just for Rain

The storm drains in your neighborhood send untreated storm water to the Little Miami River.

The City of Kettering is committed to raising citizen and community awareness of the importance of protecting watersheds. The City has erected signs at the watershed boundaries as well as several major street/road crossings. City volunteers have been installing storm drain medallions to serve as a reminder to keep our storm waters clean.

### What is a watershed?

A watershed is land area that drains into a particular body

of water, such as a wetland, stream, river, lake and even the ocean.

### What can you do to protect the watershed?

- Keep litter, pet waste, motor oil and antifreeze off your driveway and street. Dispose of these substances properly.
- Sweep your walks and driveways instead of hosing them down —reducing the contaminants to the river.
- Wash your car at a car wash or on your lawn, never in the driveway where contaminated water runs in to storm drains.

- Instead of using downspouts and culverts to move storm water off of your property, consider using rain barrels or divert water to planting beds, lawns, bioswales or raingardens.
- Reduce the areas of impervious surfaces, like concrete and asphalt that drains to your street.
- Soil erodes from bare spots – seed and mulch them to keep your soil where it belongs.
- Reduce your lawn size by planting native plants, trees and shrubs which help to retain storm water.
- Don't dispose of unused



medicine or chemicals by putting them down the drain or toilet.

- Detention and retention ponds and septic systems need regular maintenance to function properly.

## Stroop Road Construction Update

The City of Kettering is currently completing a repaving project on the portion of Stroop Road between Shroyer Road and Dorothy Lane. The contractor was instructed by the City to mill the entire asphalt roadway surface at a consistent depth. In doing so, existing deterioration in the beams of the bridge on Stroop Road, approximately 1,600 feet east of Woodman Drive, was exposed and in several areas the milling further compromised the integrity of the bridge.

The Montgomery County Engineer owns the bridge, and has determined that temporary safety measures must be put in place until the bridge can be replaced. These measures include reducing traffic to one lane in each direction along Stroop Road, and a 15 ton maximum weight restriction for vehicles traveling over the bridge. These measures will be in place for the foreseeable future.

The City of Kettering and the Montgomery County Engineer are working in close coordination to ensure the safety of the traveling public who use Stroop Road and to work on a solution to replace the bridge as soon as funding can be secured.

## New LED Street Lighting Installation

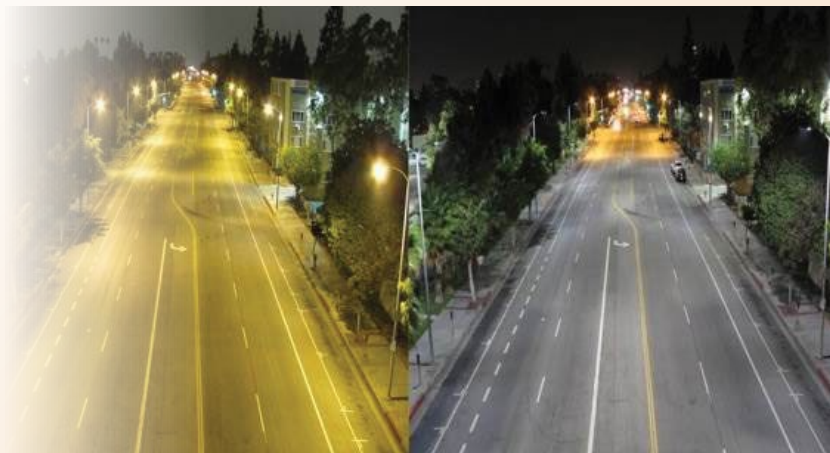


Image compares current street lights (left) with new LED fixtures (right).

Work is underway to upgrade nearly 2200 streetlight fixtures throughout the City of Kettering. New LED streetlight fixtures will replace outdated mercury vapor and high pressure sodium lighting fixtures. The biggest change residents will notice is that the new LED lights provide a true-to-color, consistent white light whereas the existing streetlight fixtures cast an orange colored light that can vary in intensity. The LED fixtures have many benefits including increased energy efficiency, improved nighttime visibility and safety, reduced glare and reduced maintenance costs. The conversion project will be complete by the end of 2016. For more information, please visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org).

# Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment takes place October 15 through December 7 each year. During this time, Medicare beneficiaries can change their Medicare selections for the coming year. From year to year, not only may your health care needs change but the Medicare plans themselves may drastically change. Decisions made during open enrollment are very important. The plan you choose during this time will be your coverage for the entire following year and can be changed under very limited circumstances. It is your responsibility to take this opportunity to select the plan that best suits your needs.

There are several ways to check your current plan to see if it is still the best option for you in the coming year. You can contact the company directly by using the number on the back of your card. They can look up your medications and doctors to see if they are still in network. They can also answer any questions you have about particular lab tests or medical equipment you use such as oxygen or diabetic test strips. You can also research plans on the Medicare secured website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). By using the site you can find out about all of the plans as well as make changes to your current plan for the upcoming year.



- Another option is to schedule a face-to-face counseling session with an agent or educator. There is an important distinction between agents and educators. Agents can only tell you about the plans that they represent. Medicare educators through the **Ohio Senior Health Insurance Information Program** can help you compare all plans and options. The local OSHIIP counseling site is the Kettering Connection at Town & Country. The counselors at the Kettering Connection are trained educators and are not agents. They do not take money from insurance companies or clients. They have nothing to gain by your decision. They are only there to give you the facts so that you can decide for yourself.
- You can schedule your individual consultation with a Medicare trained professional at the Kettering Connection during open enrollment period. These appointments are open to Kettering residents, volunteers and Lathrem Center members only and are on a first-come, first-

- served basis. **You can contact the Kettering Connection at 296-3330 Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or by email at [Vickie.Carraher@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Vickie.Carraher@ketteringoh.org).**



## SilverLink Service Available to Kettering Seniors

The City of Kettering is a proud partner in the new SilverLink service. SilverLink is a free and confidential information and referral service for seniors administered by the United Way of Greater Dayton. Just dial 2-1-1 or call 225-3000 to reach help 24 hours a day. For more information about the City of Kettering's extensive services for seniors,

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



or call our Senior Services Coordinator at (937) 296-3330.



The **Access Kettering** tool, now available on the City of Kettering website, offers online access to many city services **24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. No more waiting for our offices to open to do business with the city. You can now apply and pay for a residential or commercial construction permit, report a property maintenance concern in your neighborhood, apply for a right-of-way permit, request a city service and more — all online at **your** convenience.



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





## Holiday Safety Tips

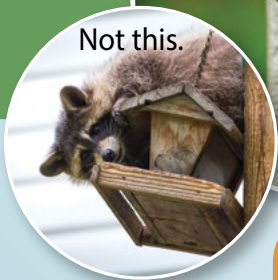


### Feeding Birds

Feeding birds should not attract rodents if done correctly. In almost all cases, rodents seen feeding on bird food have already been in the area.

Use no mess or low mess bird feeders to keep feed off of the ground. Use good quality feed with no fillers or shells. The cleanest seed option is hulled sunflower chips; this is the single most popular ingredient among our songbirds.

Keep the area clean from woodpiles, dense ivy patches or openings in buildings that provide shelter to rodents. Common food sources for rodents are accessible garbage, pet food, fruit trees and vegetable gardens.



The holiday shopping season is right around the corner! The Kettering Police Department wants to provide a few safety tips for your consideration while doing your holiday shopping.

- Keep car doors locked and windows closed while in or out of your car. Set your car alarm or use an anti-theft device.
- If you must shop at night, park in a well-lighted area.
- Park as close as you can to your destination and take notice of where you parked.
- Never leave your car unoccupied with the motor running or with children inside.
- Do not leave packages or valuables on your car seat. This creates a temptation for thieves. If you must leave something in the car, lock it in the trunk or put it out of sight.
- Locate your keys prior to leaving the store.
- Keep a secure hold on your purse and parcels.
- When approaching or leaving your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings.
- Do not approach your car alone if there are suspicious people in the area.
- Ask mall or store security for an escort if you feel unsafe.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. When shopping at night, take a friend or family member.
- Do not carry a purse or wallet, if possible.
- Even though you are rushed and

- thinking about a thousand things, stay alert about your surroundings.
- Pay for purchases with a credit card when possible.
- Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen or misused.
- Beware of strangers approaching you. At this time of year, "con-artists" may try distracting you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.



- If possible, leave small children at home with a trusted babysitter while you shop.
- Teach children to stay close to you at all times while shopping.
- Teach your child to go to a store clerk and ask for help in case your child is separated from you.
- Never allow children to make unaccompanied trips to the restroom.
- Teach children their full name, address and telephone number to give to police officers or mall security.
- Teach children to immediately inform you if a stranger is bothering them.

### Shop with Cops

It's almost time for Kettering Police Department's annual **Shop with Cops** event. Each year during the holiday season, the police department in partnership with Kettering City Schools identifies families with children in need. The families are invited to

- Meijer for the event where they meet "their" police officer and volunteers for the evening. We eat pizza together and then shop!
- Our K9's, Fuse, Nash, and Jax visit with the kids as they select toys, clothes, shoes, games, and other items to take home. McGruff stops by to say hello. At the register, children receive a stocking from the FOPA and have a picture taken with their officer. Families leave with wonderful memories of the time spent together and a joyful start to the holiday season. Keep an eye out for details!







## Kitchen Fire Safety

Two-thirds of home fires start in the kitchen. Thanksgiving is the peak day each year for home cooking fires in the United States, with incidents 230% higher than the number of cooking fires on an average day. Please take a moment to review these valuable cooking and kitchen safety tips in preparation for the coming holiday season.

### Cooking and Kitchen Safety Tips:

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the oven or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, boiling or broiling food.

- When simmering, baking or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer as a reminder.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop or other heat producing appliances.

### Safety considerations for cooking with oil:

- Keep an eye on what you fry. If you see wisps of smoke or the oil smells, immediately turn off the burner and/or carefully remove the pan from the

- burner. Smoke is a danger sign that the oil is too hot.
- Heat the oil slowly to the temperature you need for frying or sautéing.
- Add food gently to the pot or pan so the oil does not splatter.
- Cook with a lid beside your pan. If you have a fire, slide the lid over the pan and turn off the burner. Do not remove the cover because the fire could start again. Let the pan cool for a long time. Never throw water on the fire.



## Fire Station Construction Update

### Station 32

Station 32 at 3484 Far Hills Avenue is fully operational and is surpassing expectations for meeting the needs of the community.

### Station 36

Station 36 at 4745 Hempstead Station Road is fully operational. On 9/29/16 a ribbon cutting ceremony was held to celebrate the opening of this beautiful facility. In addition to being a fully functional 24/7 Fire Station, this facility serves as Fire Department Headquarters, Emergency Operations Center and as a Backup Dispatch and Data Center. It also features a meeting room for community groups.

### Station 34

Construction is underway on Station 34 at 2575 Woodman Drive directly south of Tenneco. This station is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2017.

### Station 37

Station 37 will be located at 1300 West Dorothy Lane. This station is in the final phase of planning and design. Construction of this station is expected to begin during the summer of 2017.



## Kettering Celebrates Town & Country Revitalization



The City of Kettering is proud to celebrate the completion of the renovations of Town & Country which modernized the core of our commercial city center. In the last year, significant capital improvements and upgrades were made to the exterior and the interior of the Town & Country shopping center located at 300 E. Stroop Road in Kettering. Exterior work included a new façade, parking lot reconfiguration, new site lighting, landscaping, new sidewalks, and site utility modifications. Interior work included asbestos abatement, creation of new anchor tenant space now occupied by a new T.J. Maxx, addition of junior anchor space to be occupied by Petco, sky light modifications and repairs, mall concourse repairs and painting, mall concourse flooring, and various tenant improvements.

Town & Country is a landmark, a destination, and a downtown for Kettering. The shopping center's viability and vitality are critical to the image of Kettering. The revitalization of Town & Country will spark further commercial investment and residential property value increases in the surrounding areas. A new Chick-fil-A restaurant, currently under construction, will open in early 2017. More exciting announcements about redevelopment in Kettering will be coming soon!

### Small Business *Saturday!*

Show your support for Kettering  
small businesses!

Saturday, November 26

Our businesses are the life blood of our city. You have a choice each time you shop, go out to eat, use a service technician or craftsman for your home, and even when you buy gas for your car. We ask that in this coming year you make an effort to choose a store, a restaurant, a provider, or a gas station here in Kettering. By doing so you are contributing to the wellbeing of our community and to the livelihood of your neighbors.



"Kettering is a big city with a small town feel. The community is growing and the city is committed to making improvements to attractions for Kettering citizens. We are privileged to have our new location right across from the Town and Country Shopping Center and are excited to grow our business in Kettering."

— Becki Taylor, State Farm Insurance, 215 E. Stroop Road

We are excited to present a new regular feature in *Contact with Kettering* — **Dine Out Kettering**. Kettering, Ohio is home to outstanding, independent local restaurants and we can't wait to feature a new one in each edition of this magazine.

In the year since owner and Chef Dana Downs introduced Park City Club in the 580 building on Lincoln Park Boulevard, she reflects that the community has welcomed her with open arms. Wildly acclaimed in the region following the success of her first restaurant, Roost, Chef Dana chose to open her next venture in her hometown of Kettering. "I grew up here," says Chef Dana. "Nearly all of my family is still here. Kettering is home."

As she designed the space and created the menu, Chef Dana sought to balance a metropolitan feel with the comfort of a small town. Every touch at Park City Club echoes that intent. The space is contemporary, yet warm and welcoming. Within await unique spaces, each offering a slightly different experience. The highlights of the bar area, besides the centerpiece refurbished bar itself, are the creative and artfully delivered cocktails



*Chef Dana Downs*

- served in casual spaces perfect for cozy, informal socializing. The dining room is slightly more refined, ideal for a family meal or dinner with friends. The seasonal patio is one of the best in the region, and special touches like guest lap blankets contribute

to the feel of enjoying a meal in the backyard of a dear friend. In this case though, the dear friend lives right next door to the beautiful Lincoln Park Civic Commons and Frazee Pavilion. "The Frazee season was great for us," says Chef Dana. "We had an opportunity to gain exposure to a whole new dining audience and

- connect with guests we may never have met if not for the world class venue next door."
- Also unique to the region is Park City Club's private dining area featuring concierge event planning service. No two gatherings are alike thanks to a dedicated team who help create a custom menu and all arrangements for corporate gatherings, wedding receptions and family special occasions.
- The menu at Park City Club is inspired by Chef Dana's culinary roots. She is trained in classical French culinary methods, and

- the food combines that sophistication with twists that make it relatable. "I wanted to offer something unique," says Chef Dana. "So my menu is full of accessible ways to experience very classic technique."
- Loyal diners keep coming back for French inspired American dishes like sous vide preparations of fried chicken and short ribs. The menu at Park City Club is constantly evolving, allowing Chef Dana to highlight seasonal ingredients and showcase creativity in the kitchen. The recently debuted fall menu features butternut squash lasagna with house-made ricotta and bechamel, a winter Caprese salad and a mezza salad of sous vide beets stuffed with goat cheese. Diners can warm up with 48 hour French onion soup or the popular osso buco. The seasonal offerings extend to the bar with specialty cocktails like the "early autumn", "pumpkin panic" and "spiced apple sidecar". Weekend brunch features loyal guest favorite salmon crepes and stuffed French toast.

One of a kind, chef-owned restaurants are part of what makes Kettering unique, and your support of local entrepreneurs like Chef Dana Downs ensures that places like Park City Club will be here to treasure for years to come. If you have suggestions for local, independent Kettering restaurants that deserve to be featured in **Dine Out Kettering**, please email [stacy.schweikhart@ketteringoh.org](mailto:stacy.schweikhart@ketteringoh.org).



## Volunteer Kettering Celebrates 37 Years of Service



Mayor Patterson recognizes Bob Hallisy for 36 years of dedicated volunteer service.

Thanks to the 992 individual volunteers, service clubs, student groups, faith-based organizations, and scout groups; volunteerism is alive, well, and building momentum in the City of Kettering!

Every November, Mayor Patterson, City Council and members of our City staff gather together with volunteers at the Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon where all volunteers receive a token of appreciation and are awarded gifts based on milestones of cumulative hours. This year is no exception. Over the past year, volunteers

- donated 31,851 hours of service, valued at \$744,676. Since 1979, volunteers have contributed \$20,736,796 worth of service to the City of Kettering! That is definitely worth celebrating; however, the value of a volunteer goes well beyond a dollar figure.
- Volunteer action is a powerful source for addressing issues in all aspects of life within a community. By uniting together, in the spirit of giving, our volunteers play an important role in strengthening our community and fostering a strong sense of community pride.

- We thank all of our wonderful volunteers for choosing to share your gifts of time and talent with the City of Kettering. We honor and commend you for your service and dedication, and look forward to another year!
- If you are not currently volunteering and have some free time, why not consider joining our team of volunteers? We have many opportunities and would welcome the chance to speak with you regarding your interests. Call the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for additional information.



## Cities of Service Initiative Continues to Thrive in Kettering

Five years ago Mayor Patterson signed a declaration to join forces with the Cities of Service Initiative. Cities of Service is a national organization that supports mayors and city chief executives in their efforts to address pressing needs in their communities through volunteer-based engagement.

Mayor Patterson made the decision to focus efforts on strengthening our neighborhoods. As a result, a team of dedicated City of Kettering staff members, representing almost all city departments, was created and a strategic plan was set in motion.

Every year a specific neighborhood is chosen to be the "Cities of Service" neighborhood. To date, we have focused efforts in the following neighborhoods: Richman Heights, Indianola, Southern Hills (North), and Berwin Park. Activities include a block party, neighborhood clean-ups, a neighborhood garage sale and a bulk trash

- pickup. In addition, we provide information on Community Development Block Grants, public safety, senior services, home repair, landscaping and updates on public service issues.

This initiative is truly a community-wide effort. We are so very thankful for the many individual volunteers, as well as the volunteers from several organizations throughout our area, who join together to complete outside maintenance projects. In addition, several area businesses contribute to the success of this initiative by providing resources as well as manpower. A special thank you to Highfield Door Sales for their donation of a garage door and installation, Day-Air Credit Union for providing the food and beverages for the block party, and Montgomery County for providing grant money used to enhance the landscaping at Berwin Park.



The City of Kettering is very excited to announce our next Cities of Service neighborhood—Oak Park. Our city team strives to continually improve this program. We realize that every neighborhood is unique. If you reside in this area, we would like to hear from you. We welcome your thoughts and ideas as we begin making plans for your neighborhood, and we value your input. We also have many opportunities for area businesses to get involved. Together, we can improve and strengthen our neighborhoods! **Please contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 or email marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org to join this exciting initiative!**



Rodney Highfield of Highfield Door Sales with Berwin Park neighbor, Milford Lawhun in front of the new garage door.

# Make A Difference Day Activities Improve Lives

# WORK

Although October 22 serves as the official date for National Make A Difference Day, the good works of our many volunteers will go a long way in improving the lives of others for many days to come. This year's city project is sure to bring a bit of joy to many of our military men and women, separated from their loved ones this holiday season. In partnership with Blue Star Mothers, holiday greeting cards created by our volunteers will be enclosed in packages mailed to our service men and women. According to Blue Star Mothers,

these notes of support can make a big difference to those protecting our freedom. In addition, the medallions installed on our storm drains by many dedicated volunteers will serve as a reminder to help protect our environment by keeping our storm water free of contaminants. This project is in partnership with the Little Miami Watershed Network.

The City of Kettering sincerely thanks the many volunteers for their assistance with our Make A Difference Day projects! It is

very exciting to see so many groups come together for a common cause. Your good deeds and loyalty to our community will definitely make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to working with you again as we continue our quest to "Make A Difference!"

If you or your organization would like to get involved with future projects, please contact the Volunteer Office at **296-2433** or email [marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org](mailto:marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org).

## Welcome Kettering Leadership Academy Class of 2016 – 17

These energetic and enthusiastic students began their Kettering Leadership Academy experience early in September with an overnight retreat at Camp Joy. After experiencing a variety of classroom exercises and outdoor education, they are well-equipped for the year ahead as they venture on to learn about local government, education, history,

community organizations, health care, business, public safety, service clubs and volunteering.

The class will meet once a month until their graduation in May 2017. During the next six months, they will be required to demonstrate their leadership skills as they create and implement a class project as

their gift to our community. Please join the City of Kettering as we congratulate these community leaders on their acceptance into the Kettering Leadership Academy Program and wish them great success along their leadership journey!

For additional details about the program, please visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) or contact the Volunteer Office at **296-2433**.



**Front row (L to R): Robert Hoffman, Dor-Wood Optimist Club; Glenda Wilkens, Christ Church; Tricia Connolly, Day Air Credit Union; Mallory Lynn, Victoria's Secret Direct; Ryan Sheets, Kettering City Schools; Michael Bailey, WilmerHale;**

**Back row (L to R): Tara Poteet, Mont. Co. Prosecutor's Office; Gwen Owen, Kettering Metro Library; Kyle Bassford, WilmerHale; Mark Burian, City of Kettering; William Samson, Heapy Engineering; Kevan Quinlan, Kettering Health Network; Ryan Davis, City of Kettering**



## There is Just Something about Polen Farm



### How to Rent Polen Farm

Call (937) 435-5787  
between  
9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday.

Tours may be scheduled during office hours or on evenings/weekends. Before calling, please have the following information:

- Type of event;
- Number of people;
- Budget; and
- Date and time preferred (first and second choice).

Note: Reservation requests for 2018 will be accepted beginning March 1, 2017 at 9:30 a.m.



For decades, Polen Farm has played a key role in some of the most important moments in people's lives... and its popularity continues to grow.

A beautiful and historic 19th century farmhouse and barn situated on 15 picturesque acres at 5099 Bigger Road, Polen Farm is a favorite with area residents for weddings, receptions, graduation parties, luncheons, small conferences, retreats, reunions and other social affairs.

"We provide an amazing facility and excellent customer service for a low cost," said Beth Brubaker, Polen Farm Coordinator. "The value our guests receive is tremendous and there is a lot of flexibility when hosting an event here."

Groups may rent portions of the farm or the entire facility, based upon anticipated attendance, day of the week, and event type. Guests may choose their own caterer, or host a carry-in, along with providing their own alcohol.

"I love the energy of the events and meeting new people," explained Emily Gastineau, Facility Coordinator. "We become a team with families and we are here to assist them in making their event a success."

The Polen Farm house includes a roomy living room, kitchen, dining room, sun porch, and banquet room. A seasonal tent covers a large patio providing the flexibility of an indoor or outdoor event. These features make the house

the perfect place for a small, intimate gathering or a slightly larger event, of up to 130 people.

"This really is a great venue for family events due to the proximity to J.F. Kennedy Park," explained Brubaker. "The adjacent park offers a splash pad, play equipment and open space for active play. Many people bring outdoor games such as cornhole to their event."

Unequaled in the community is the Polen Farm Barn. Through renovation, the barn has become an ideal setting for company picnics, class reunions, family reunions,

**A rustic theme is a very popular trend in weddings right now.**

— Emily Gastineau, Facility Coordinator

graduation parties, anniversary celebrations, holiday and birthday parties, auctions, and of course weddings and wedding receptions.

"The rustic theme is a very popular trend in weddings right now," said Gastineau. "The craftsmanship and authenticity of the barn make it the perfect location for couples looking for that type of atmosphere."

Other popular trends in special events include food trucks, food stations and multi-family graduation parties. Staff has also seen several very unique weddings that stand out.

"Some of the interesting themes we've had included a Beetlejuice wedding, a StarTrek wedding and a vampire wedding," said Brubaker. "We also hosted a rehearsal party with a Dayton-theme. They served Mike Sells



chips, Marions pizza, Esther Price candy. Some guests are extremely creative!"

Polen Farm has also become a place for respite for grieving families as some choose to host a bereavement gathering at the facility after a funeral.

"We have seen more of these types of events," said Brubaker. "It helps to alleviate the pressure of hosting and coordinating a reception at someone's home during a difficult time."

The grounds around the farmhouse and barn have been beautifully preserved. A formal garden patio and a gazebo are perfect for outdoor weddings and small musicals. When the facility and grounds are not reserved for a private event, Polen Farm's picnic areas and fitness course are available for public use.

"The busiest months are May and June," said Brubaker. "Last year we had 38 events in 40 days. We really encourage people to plan early if they have a specific date they want."

For details, call Polen Farm at (937) 435-5787 or visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org).



# Fitness Options for Goals of all Sizes

The health club industry in the United States is a hefty business. The number of health clubs is at a little over 36,000 and revenue tips the scales at \$25.8 billion per year. With over 54 million Americans owning paid gym memberships, there is a lot of room for all types of health clubs – from boutique fitness facilities to nationwide chains.

The Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department has found its niche within the fitness community. With 5,687 annual members it's evident that both the Kettering Recreation Complex and Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center have devoted patrons.

"Fitness facilities that provide a consistent and dependable product are needed in all communities, as obesity and inactivity rates remain high with both youth and adults throughout our region and our great State of Ohio," explained Jim Engelhardt, Division Manager of Recreation and Fitness.

Renovated in 2010, the fitness wing and group exercise studios at the Kettering Recreation Complex offer more than 40 pieces of cardiovascular and strength training equipment, a cardio theatre system, 85 group exercise classes per week, 24 weekly water based group exercise classes and access to the 1/12th mile indoor track.

The Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center, which is connected to the James Trent Arena at Fairmont High School, was built in 2005. While smaller in size compared to the Kettering Recreation Complex fitness facilities, the Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center provides its loyal customers with a wide variety of cardiovascular and strength

training equipment, a cardio theatre system, drop-in cycling classes and access to the 1/8th mile indoor track located in the James Trent Arena.

Both fitness centers provide wellness screenings, education opportunities and assessment services.

"Our facilities really are second-to-none," said Engelhardt. "Our staff works very hard at providing the best equipment and guidance to our visitors. For every one of us who works here, this is our passion and it shows in our customer service."

A key to keeping members engaged and active involves staying current with industry trends.

*"One of the biggest trends is keeping members entertained," explained Engelhardt. "We've installed individual viewing screens on most of our cardio equipment. It motivates members to work out longer and more consistently, thus resulting in improved results," explained Engelhardt.*

"Our guests are very knowledgeable when it comes to new types of activities and trends," said Engelhardt. "We receive many equipment suggestions and requests from patrons. We have to prioritize these requests and look at what types of equipment will have the biggest impact to our different users. An example of this is the three new Precor EFX machines that we've recently purchased."

To provide convenience for customers, all fitness passes are valid at both the Kettering Recreation Complex and the Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center. Additionally, three exercise physiologists and a staff of exercise specialists/personal trainers offer

individualized fitness programs to meet guests needs, interests and fitness goals.

"Our number one goal is to help people improve their health and wellness," explained Engelhardt. "Walking into a gym for the first time can be intimidating. We try to alleviate those jitters and help our guests feel confident and successful."

**For details about the Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center, call 293-4348. For details about the Kettering Recreation Complex, call 296-2587.**

# PLAY

## Play Dates

Pre-payment and registration is required for many of these activities. Visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org) to register.

### Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 3  
Polen Farm

### A Rosewood Holiday

Saturday, December 3  
Rosewood Arts Centre

### Flashlight Candy Cane Hunts

Saturday, December 3  
Sunday, December 4  
Polen Farm

### Fall Luminary Walk – FREE!

Thursday, December 8  
Pondview Park

### Holiday Swim

Saturday, December 17  
Kettering Recreation Complex

### New Year's Eve Dash & Bash!

Saturday, December 31  
Pre-registration required.  
Kettering Recreation Complex

### National Skate Week Clinic – FREE!

Wednesday, January 11  
Kettering Ice Arena

## Group Exercise Classes

Group exercise classes are a great way to try a new type of exercise without having to make a major financial or time commitment. Both the Kettering Recreation Complex and Kettering Fitness & Wellness Center offer drop-in exercise classes in:

- Indoor Cycling
- Kickboxing
- Core Crunch
- Yoga
- Boot Camp
- Cardio Cross Training
- Yogalates
- Aerobics & Weights
- Step
- Zumba
- TRX

For a comprehensive list of classes, dates, times and locations, visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org).

# New Public Art in Southdale Park

Kettering's impressive public art collection grew this fall with the installation and dedication of two mosaic-covered benches located at Southdale Park and Habitat Environmental Center. The new artwork enlisted the artistic talent of more than 100 Kettering school children and incorporates nature themes, interaction and play.

The three-year project began in October 2013 when Kettering City School students from Fairmont High School, Southdale Elementary, Van Buren Middle School and Kettering Middle School created aluminum tile casts to be incorporated into a public art piece.

"It was exciting to have students work with professional artists to help create permanent pieces of art for our community," said Shayna McConville, Division Manager of Cultural Arts

for the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

A request for proposals was announced in early 2015 and artists, artist teams, designers and architects were invited to submit their concepts. Artists Beth Holyoke and Kaethi Seidl were awarded the CitySites commission by the Art in Public Places committee.

In April both artists led an interactive workshop with students from Greenmont Elementary School to incorporate words and textures into the public art installation. Holyoke and Seidl then created ceramic tiles and prepared the existing aluminum tiles for the public artwork installation. The completed artwork was installed at the Habitat Environmental Center in September.

"These benches represent the natural environment, and a collaboration between artists, Kettering youth, and our programs in art and environmental education," said McConville. We encourage everyone to visit the Habitat Environmental Center and Southdale Park and take a moment to enjoy these unique pieces that were created for and by our own community."

**The Habitat Environmental Center is located in Southdale Park at 3036 Bellflower Street. For details, call 296-0294 or visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org).**



## CITY OF KETTERING

### Contact Numbers

#### Emergency

Police/Fire/Paramedic Emergency ..... 9-1-1

#### Non-Emergency

Police and Fire Dispatch ..... 296-2555

#### Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control ..... 296-3266

Building Permits & Zoning ..... 296-2441

City Income Tax ..... 296-2502

Government Center ..... 296-2400

Housing Rehabilitation ..... 296-2441

Polen Farm ..... 435-5787

Property Maintenance Hotline ..... 296-3286

Recreation Complex/Water Park/Pool ..... 296-2587

Rosewood Arts Centre ..... 296-0294

Senior Adult Recreation ..... 296-2480

Trash Information ..... 29-TRASH

Volunteer Office ..... 296-2433

Yard Debris Hotline ..... 296-3255

*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.

Stacy Schweikhart: Editor

Administrative Systems: Production

The City wishes to make activities, programs and meetings accessible to all citizens. If you have a disability and require accommodations, please call 296-2446.