

# CONTACT with Kettering

Community Magazine Fall 2018



  
CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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# Mayor's Greeting

Dear Friends,

The Kettering community, and in fact the entire region, recently lost an influential leader and a dear friend.

Don Vermillion was a Kettering resident and undoubtedly one of our city's greatest cheerleaders. He volunteered for nearly 20 years to lead the Kettering Development Corporation. He quietly worked behind the scenes and without fanfare to bring new life to nearly every corner of Kettering. Don was heavily involved with :

- the reinvention of Hills & Dales Shopping Plaza in to Governor's Place;
- the transformation of the vacant Van Buren Shopping Center;
- the rejuvenation of the Wilmington Pike corridor;
- the complete rebirth of Town & Country Shopping Center.

These are all projects that happened because Don dreamed that they were possible and insisted they were essential to the continued vibrancy of our community.

After working in local government for 30 years, including the roles of Miamisburg City Manager and Montgomery County Administrator, Don joined the University of Dayton as a professor in the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community and Political Science. There he led regional initiatives to invest in urban neighborhoods, improve education, and was instrumental in bringing the Salvation Army's Kroc Center to Dayton. As a member of UD's faculty, Don was committed to inspiring the next generation of community leaders. And as a dedicated advocate for Kettering, he worked to bring many of the brightest leaders in local government to come work for the City.

Don loved Kettering and he leaves a legacy in both the places and the people he inspired. He will be dearly missed.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Patterson, Mayor

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Holiday at Home

Sunday, September 2 and  
Monday, September 3



### KetterGreen Shredding Day

Saturday, September 8 from 9 a.m. to Noon

### Residential Leaf Collection Begins

Monday, October 15



### Beggars Night

Wednesday, October 31  
6 to 8 p.m.



### Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, November 30  
Free event 6 to 8 p.m.  
Tree lighting at 6:30 p.m.  
Lincoln Park Civic Commons



## CITY OF KETTERING

### Kettering Mayor & Council

#### Don Patterson, Mayor

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#### Mark Schwieterman, City Manager

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#### Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager

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#### Council Office

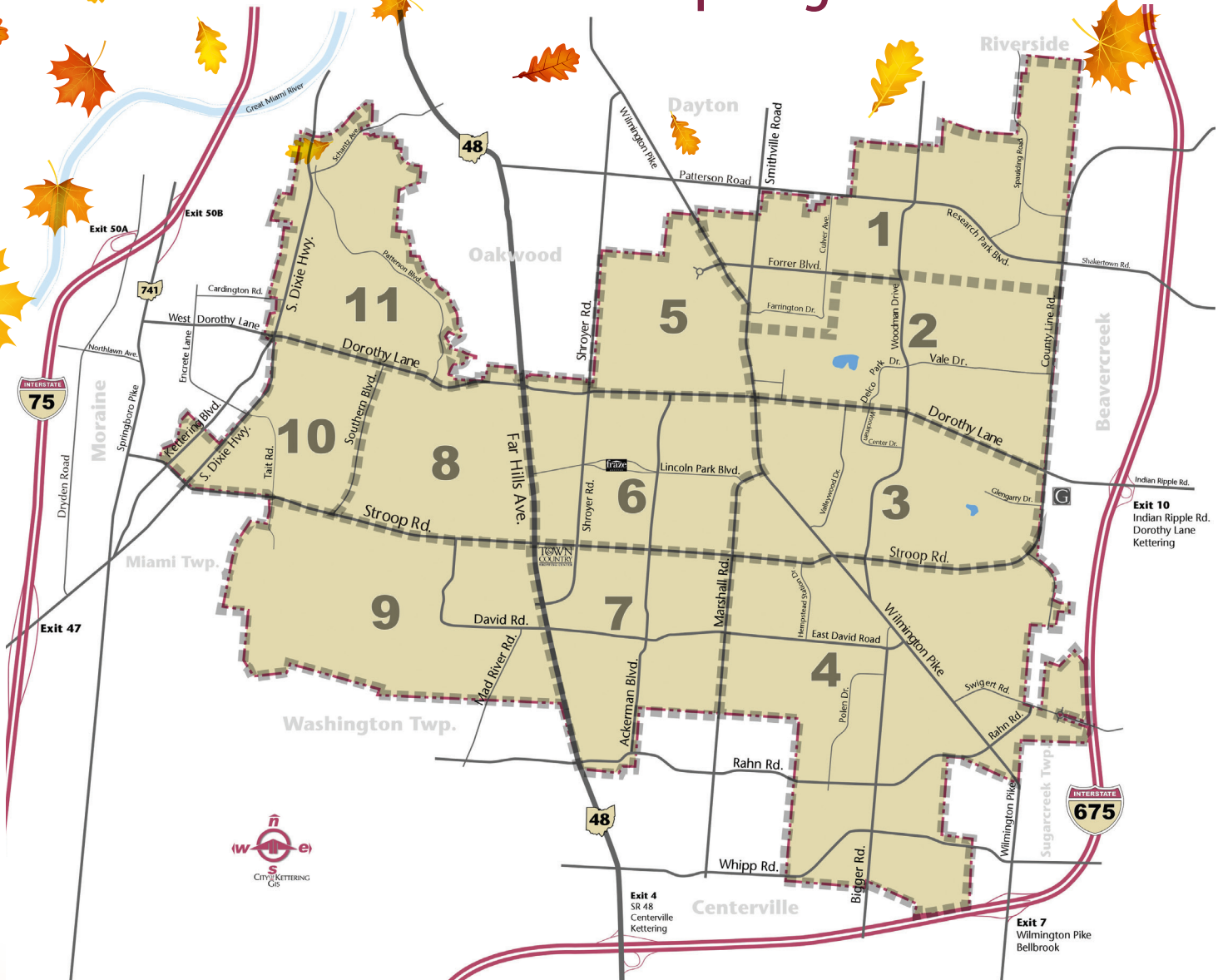
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@Kettering\_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

# Leaf Pick Up Begins October 15



One of the most unique and highly valued services the City of Kettering offers to our residents is free curbside collection of your leaves each fall. Leaves are picked up by City crews and taken to the City's leaf composting center where leaves will be converted to mulch and compost, offered free of charge to residents each spring. The City will begin leaf pick up in District 1 on October 15 and will continue until December 2.

Please remember the following tips for leaf pickup:

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

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

# Ridgeway Road Bridge Update

We are pleased to announce that the Ridgeway Road Bridge Replacement Project has been selected for funding under the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) Municipal Bridge Program.

ODOT will fund 95% of the construction cost to replace the bridge, up to \$2,000,000. The current estimated cost to replace the bridge, including engineering design and right-of-way costs, is \$2,600,000. The City will continue to seek additional grant funding from other sources to supplement the ODOT approved construction funding for the replacement bridge.

The \$2,000,000 received for the Ridgeway Bridge is the largest amount awarded this year to a single project among the 14

- projects statewide that were awarded a total of \$10.3 million by ODOT.

- Construction is currently scheduled to begin in late 2020 or early 2021, when the Municipal Bridge funds are available from ODOT. The replacement bridge will be similar to the existing bridge, and will be capable of carrying vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

- We would like to thank everyone who responded to the public engagement survey for this project. ODOT officials who reviewed the funding application were very impressed by the high level of public support for this project. Obtaining grant funding to replace the bridge would have been much more difficult without the community support this project received.



## Woodman Drive Bridge Replacement

Montgomery County will replace the deteriorating bridge on Woodman Drive over the Little Beaver Creek, between Wilmington Pike and Stroop Road this fall.

The replacement of this bridge will require a complete impassable closure of the section of Woodman Drive between Wilmington Pike and Stroop Road. Woodman Drive will be closed to through traffic in both directions between Wilmington Pike and Stroop Road. Once the bridge is replaced, Woodman Drive will return to two lanes of traffic in each direction.

City and county officials are asking motorists to be alert for the start of construction and necessary traffic control measures in early September. The established detour will use Wilmington Pike and Stroop Road. Drivers who frequently use this section of Woodman Drive are being asked to plan alternate routes.

The Kettering Police Department is aware of this project and will be monitoring neighborhoods surrounding the road closure and detour for traffic impact.

Please watch our [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) website, monthly *The Starter* e-newsletter and official city social media accounts for up-to-date information on the project timeline and traffic impacts.

## Proposed County Line Road Project

The City of Kettering is proposing improvements to County Line Road from the intersection of Dorothy Lane to the intersection of Vale Drive. Development in the County Line Road area has created demand for additional lanes to accommodate traffic. Over the next 20 years, this corridor is expected to see a further increase to the average daily traffic flow.

To watch a video about this project go to the City of Kettering website [www.ketteringoh.org/county-line-road-project/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/county-line-road-project/)

We encourage those interested in the potential project to watch the video posted on the City of Kettering website

[www.ketteringoh.org/county-line-road-project/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/county-line-road-project/) or call our Engineering Department at 937-296-2436 for more details.

The following improvements are part of the proposed County Line project:

- Widen the roadway to five lanes with two through lanes in each direction and a center left turn lane;
- Replace the sidewalks on the west side of the corridor with a 10' multi use trail which connects to the existing trail to the north;
- New 5' sidewalk along the east side of the road; new 5' tree lawn between the roadway and the multi-use trail;
- Reconstruct the traffic signal at Tonawanda Trail;
- Complete work on a tributary of the Little Beaver Creek;
- Relocate the existing street light system along the County Line project corridor.

# When is a Permit Required?

## What is a permit?

A permit is a license that allows you or a contractor to perform work on your house or building. It is issued to the owner or the owner's agent such as the contractor, sub-contractor or other person responsible for the work being done, and it identifies the required inspections. Permitting requirements are governed by City ordinances, zoning regulations and various state building code requirements. Some work may not require zoning or building permits, but, nonetheless, must still comply with the applicable codes.

## How do I get a permit?

- It's easy. Fill out the correct application form in our Planning and Development office or use our new online permitting program found at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) and submit it to the Department of Planning and Development along with any required drawings. Simple permits, such as for a water heater or furnace replacement, do not require any drawings. Applications and drawings are reviewed for completeness and compliance with codes. Applicants will be notified if revisions are required.
- Questions? Call the Planning and Development Office at 937-296-2441.



## When is a Permit Required for Residential Construction?

### REQUIRES A PERMIT

- New homes
- Additions
- Detached garages
- Ramps and stairs
- Sheds
- Decks
- Patios
- Interior remodeling
- Basement remodeling
- Attic remodeling
- Structural changes
- New walls
- Demolition
- Fire damage repair
- Fences
- Swimming pools
- Driveway extensions or additions
- Signs

### DOES NOT REQUIRE A PERMIT

- Window and door replacement
- Minor house repairs
- Replacement of electrical switches and receptacles
- Replacement of same type light fixtures
- Faucet replacement and minor plumbing repairs
- Driveway replacement (replacement of existing only, does not apply if the driveway is being enlarged)

Permits may also be required for related construction such as mechanical, electrical, plumbing, gas or fire protection systems.



# The World of Recycling is Changing

Have you ever heard the phrase, “one bad apple spoils the bunch?”

The same is true for recycling, where one non-recyclable item can spoil an entire batch of otherwise good materials.

It may seem like such a small detail — a wrong item in the recycling bin — but it represents a global problem that’s preventing thousands of tons of recyclables from ever seeing a second life and driving up the cost of trash and recycling collection.



The fact is that some recycling actions make a bigger impact than others. So please remember these three basic rules the next time you recycle:

1. Recycle all empty plastic bottles, cans, paper and cardboard.
2. Keep food and liquid out of your recycling.
3. Empty recyclables directly into your cart. NO bagged recyclables. Return plastic bags to a local grocer, or you can donate them to the Kettering Backpack Program for reuse to distribute food each weekend to Kettering students in need.

You’d be amazed by how big of an impact just following these simple rules can have!

## Recycling Mythbusters:



**It doesn’t matter if something belongs in the recycling cart, the hauler will sort everything anyway.**

### ANSWER: False

There are increasing amounts of non-recyclables sent to Material Recovery Facilities, and every single one of them must be removed by hand by trained staff and/or mechanically sorted, or they end up contaminating high value recyclables. Non-recyclable garbage placed into recycling containers increases the cost of the recycling

process and will increase the cost of garbage and recycling collection service.

Similarly, recyclable items placed into garbage containers are usually hauled to a landfill. The right thing to do is to put all the right recyclables in the recycling container and non-recyclables into the garbage containers. Recyclables with the greatest impact are bottles, cans, and paper.



**Containers must be squeaky clean to be recycled.**

### ANSWER: False

While all bottles, cans, and containers should be clean, dry, and free of most food waste before you place them in your recycling container — they don’t need to be spotless. The goal is to make sure they are clean enough to avoid contaminating other materials, like paper. Try using a spatula to scrape cans and jars, or using a small amount of water and shake to remove most residue.



**Most Kettering residents recycle all they can.**

### ANSWER: False

Kettering’s recycling rate is less than 25%. Research shows convenience and commitment are required for maximum recycling. For instance, is there more than one location in a household to store recyclables? If not, recyclables in areas other than the kitchen get thrown away. Additionally, is there only one committed recycler in a household (usually the person who picks up after everyone)? If so, studies indicate making this a household affair where everyone participates allows the most recycling of the right materials.

These helpful tips are courtesy of Waste Management’s Recycle Often, Recycle Right campaign. **To learn more please visit [www.RORR.com](http://www.RORR.com).**

## FLOOD PROTECTION

Flood Protection information is available at:

[www.ketteringoh.org/flood-protection/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/flood-protection/).

This website offers information on flood hazard areas, flood safety, protection of property/flood insurance, and efforts of city government to reduce flood risk. You may also contact City staff at **937-296-2436** for more information.

# Caregiver Apps Help Families

The demands of serving as a caregiver for aging family members can be overwhelming. Just like many problems in life, there is an app for that. Millions of people around the world are turning to caregiver apps to find professional caregivers when they are unavailable; or to communicate with others who may share in this responsibility.

There are also apps that can connect them to other caregivers for support as well as apps that provide education about various health conditions.

The apps can network two or more people to assist in communicating tasks such as who will take their loved one to the doctor on a specific date or who will pick up a prescription. There are calendars that provide information about when an individual visited a loved one. There are options to keep track of legal documents such as Living Wills or Power of Attorney documents. They can be scanned or a picture saved to the app to be shown in an emergency or downloaded by a physician's office.

The good news about these apps is that most of them are free of charge or have only a small fee associated with them.

The apps can also be used to manage prescriptions, provide reminders about allergies and even give medical history and keep track of lab work and past medical procedures. These apps can help in many ways.

When searching for an app to help with caregiving responsibilities, it is all in how you search. If you are looking for local support or help from a local professional

you will want to search under the word **caregiver**. If you are searching for a way to keep track of a loved one's medical history, communicate between multiple caregivers, or organize tasks, you will want to search using the word **caregiving**.

These apps can also be used to communicate with professional caregivers

providing care in the home or even in a nursing home or assisted living. Some long term care facilities are providing families access to apps that can communicate information about the care given in their facility.

The good news about these apps is that most of them are free of charge or have only a small fee associated with them. They are easy to use and you don't have to have a PhD to make their features work for you. Just go to the app store on your phone or tablet to get started.

For more information about this topic or if you have questions about senior services contact Vickie Carraher RN,BC at 296-3356 or email [vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org](mailto:vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org).



# Kettering Police Department Tours

Earlier this year officers had a great visit with ViaQuest. Has your organization or children's group ever wanted to tour a police department? KPD offers small group tours by appointment on the first Thursday between 5 and 7 p.m. and the third Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon each month. **Contact Community Relations at 937-296-2567 to schedule your visit.**

*Lt. Michael Gabrielson with ViaQuest group after Police Department tour.*



**Kettering Police Department offers citizen safety materials on identity theft, texting law, citizen complaints, consumer scams and more on our website at: [www.ketteringoh.org/citizen-safety-materials/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/citizen-safety-materials/)**

## School is Back in Session

- Be on the lookout for school zone signals and ALWAYS obey the speed limits.
- When entering a school zone, be sure to slow down and obey all traffic laws.
- Always stop for school buses that are loading or unloading children.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Be aware of and watch out for children near schools, bus stops, sidewalks, in the streets, in school parking lots, etc.
- Never pass other vehicles while driving in a school zone.
- Never change lanes while driving in a school zone.
- Never make U-turns while driving in a school zone.





# 2018 National Fire Prevention Week

National Fire Prevention Week takes place October 7 – 13, 2018. The theme for the National Fire Prevention Week 2018 campaign is Look – Listen – Learn. There are three important messages being taught through this campaign:



## LOOK

for places in your home where a fire could start.

## LISTEN

for the sound of a smoke alarm and have an escape plan for everyone in your home.

## LEARN

two ways out of every room and check to ensure that all of the windows and doors in your home are accessible and can be opened easily.

Kettering Fire Department has created educational materials and a video to help educate children and their families on these lifesaving messages. During fire prevention week this year, each student in grades kindergarten through 4th grade will be shown this video and literature will be sent home through each public and parochial school in Kettering. You can also view this video with your family when it is posted on the Kettering Fire Department Facebook page during Fire Prevention Week.



# Station Modernization Project Update

Three of the four new fire stations have been built as part of the Station Modernization Project and are now fully operational. Each of these stations is staffed 24 hours a day with professionals who are trained to respond to both fire and medical emergencies.

Station 32: 3484 Far Hills Avenue

Station 34: 2575 Woodman Drive

Station 36 / Headquarters / Emergency Operations Center: 4745 Hempstead Station Drive

The construction of Station 37 has begun at 1300 West Dorothy Lane and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018. Station 37 will be the fourth and final station of the Station Modernization Project.



# Kettering Business Park Gets Entry Update



Before



After

The City of Kettering took ownership of the former Gentile Air Force Station in 1996. The focus for more than two decades has been to reinvest in the area, now known as the Kettering Business Park, to offset the loss of more than 2,500 jobs that left the City when the Air Force consolidated operations.

By any measure, the City's efforts have paid off, ensuring quality re-use of the commercial properties and growth of well-paying jobs. Today, the Kettering Business Park is once again home to nearly 2,500 employees. Companies like Synchrony Financial and Alternate Solutions Health Network, after investing tens of millions of dollars in their facilities, are thriving.

At the Kettering Business Park, as with all areas of Kettering, we consider the leaders of our businesses critical constituents. We work closely with them to provide the business environment that meets their needs and expectations.

When the City of Kettering created the Kettering Business Park in the mid-90s we designed and installed landscaping and

signage, but 20 years later no significant improvements had been made. Imagine if you bought a house and didn't make any updates, even curb appeal improvements, for more than two decades!

With our businesses in the Kettering Business Park rapidly expanding and individual businesses reinvesting considerably in their own facilities, the City determined in 2017 that the entry to the campus was long overdue for a face lift. We engaged representatives from Kettering Business Park businesses to complete a master plan which included a new signature entry, improvements to the public roadway, and landscaping on the City-owned portion of the campus.

The truth is that these businesses can locate anywhere and there are highly competitive new commercial areas emerging on the outskirts of our region almost daily. The City of Kettering is committed to reinvesting in our commercial centers citywide to ensure that we keep our businesses happy and the jobs here in our community.

Did you know that Kettering has the ninth LOWEST unemployment rate in the state? Kettering has had a year-over-year net increase in jobs and income tax revenues for five straight years. This doesn't happen by accident. It happens because we work every day to maintain a reputation that Kettering is business friendly.

Since we launched the upgrade project at the Kettering Business Park in early 2018, interest in the available space on the campus has grown. We are actively working on numerous potential projects which will bring even more jobs to our city. We are confident that we will continue to see job growth at the Kettering Business Park.

Our investment to spruce up the front door of one of the largest and vital commercial centers in Kettering will, in the long run, be a drop in the bucket compared to the millions of dollars business tenants will invest and the revenue generated by companies who call the business park home.

Located in Castle Hills Shopping Plaza on Stroop Road, Epic Coffee Shoppe held its ribbon cutting celebration on July 23, 2018.

They serve fine artisan crafted coffees and desserts.



## Ohio Means Jobs

Montgomery and Greene Counties  
with Wright-Patterson Air Force  
Base present the

# 2018 Fall JOB FAIR

Wednesday  
September 19, 2018  
1 to 4 p.m.

Wright State University  
Nutter Center  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, OH 45435

Hiring managers from these  
Kettering companies will be  
looking to meet candidates for a  
wide range of positions.

- L Brands
- Synchrony
- Kettering Hospital
- Reynolds & Reynolds
- Wilmer Hale
- and more!

For more information and a full list  
of employers participating in the  
Fall Job Fair, please visit  
[www.OhioMeansJobs.com/  
Montgomery](http://www.OhioMeansJobs.com/Montgomery)

# Marc's Grocery Store Opens

Marc's Grocery Store opened its first Dayton area location at 2100 E. Whipp Road on August 8, 2018 following a nearly \$30 million investment in the 50,000 square foot anchor space in the Oak Creek Plaza.

Marc's stores are owned and operated by Marc Glassman, Inc., a northeast Ohio company celebrating its 38th year. Marc's is one of the largest regional deep discount consumer product chains in the country, with 59 Ohio locations.

The new Marc's store will give shoppers in the Kettering area a fresh grocery experience while maintaining the low prices Marc's is famous for. Shoppers will find a full grocery store complete with a wide variety of organic products, the freshest meat and produce, name-brand groceries, a large selection of beer and wine, household

- cleaning products, health and beauty items, and a full-service cold cut counter.
- One shopping experience unique to Marc's is their expansive and ever-



- revolving closeout department. Store officials say Marc's closeout aisle will be stocked to the rafters with seasonal favorites and a huge assortment of one-time offerings and offer this advice: when you see something you want you better grab it, because our closeout deals are so great they don't last long!



# National Make A Difference Day

National Make A Difference Day will take place Saturday, October 27. The City of Kettering participates in this day of service every year, and this year is no exception. In an effort to ensure that everyone can participate, two projects will take place—an outdoor project and an indoor project.

The indoor project will take place at Central Christian Church, 1200 Forrer Blvd. Volunteers will be creating

holiday greeting cards for our active duty military and holiday placemats for our area nursing homes. This project is suitable for all ages and works very well for scout groups, faith-based organizations and any groups or individuals looking for ways to give back. Supplies will be provided, however, you are welcome to bring your own scrapbooking supplies.

The outdoor project will take place in the Haverstick

neighborhood in collaboration with the **Cities of Service** initiative. Volunteers will meet in the parking lot at Central Christian Church and will be disbursed into the neighborhood to assist neighbors with outdoor property maintenance such as debris removal, leaf raking, and various landscaping needs. Tools will be provided. This serves as another excellent opportunity for students, sports organizations, scout troops,

families and service clubs to make a positive impact in our community.

Both projects will take place from 9 a.m. to noon. We are grateful for all of our community partners! If you, or the organization you represent, would like additional information about these projects, please contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 or email [marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org](mailto:marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org).

## Cities of Service Celebrates Our Neighborhoods

Saturday, June 9 was a very exciting day in the Haverstick neighborhood as volunteers, local businesses, service clubs and faith-based organizations came together to kick-off the 2018 **Cities of Service** initiative! Neighbors enjoyed a block party on Tabor Avenue consisting of free hot dogs, frozen custard, popcorn, children's activities, door prizes and even a hula hoop demonstration! In addition, information on City programs such as senior services, public safety and housing was available.

The Haverstick neighborhood, which is bounded by Wilmington Pike, Forrer Boulevard

and Smithville Road, is the sixth Cities of Service (COS) Neighborhood. COS is an initiative designed to address pressing needs in cities throughout our nation. Kettering's program is designed to strengthen and celebrate our neighborhoods!

Haverstick neighbors will soon receive information regarding **Make A Difference Day** activities to take place on Saturday, October 27. Volunteers will be available to help neighbors in need of assistance with outdoor maintenance such as debris removal, leaf raking and hedge trimming.



# Kettering Leadership Academy Receives National Award

The City of Kettering was honored with the *Award of Merit* by the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government (NAVPLG) for the Kettering Leadership Academy program. The award was presented at the Points of Light National Conference on Volunteering and Service in Atlanta Georgia on June 18.

The Kettering Leadership Academy was established in 2003 to create an active network of informed and concerned citizen volunteers who go on to serve on boards and commissions for the City and local non-profits. Since the program was implemented, approximately 150 people have participated and seventy-five percent are active volunteers in our community.

# Kettering Leadership Academy Class of 2018

Congratulations to the 2018 Kettering Leadership Academy graduates! We wish you much success as you take on future leadership roles within our community!



**Front Row (L – R):** Jessica Mancz, University of Dayton Research Institute; James Webster, Chief Screen Printing; Kimberly Vinegar, WilmerHale; Frank Eckler, Retired from Great Dayton RTA; Jasmine Allen-Stone, City of Kettering Courts; Steve Rudisill, Christ United Methodist Church

**Back Row (L – R):** John Sliemers, City of Kettering; Sarah Miller, L Brands; Jay Borchers, Kettering City Schools; Diane Hansbury, Heapy Engineering; Alex Ignatiou, Kettering Arts Council; Nick Henson, Kettering College;

**Not Pictured:** Jason Moore, Riegel Financial Group (Sponsored by Dor-Wood Optimist Club)

# Celebrating 30 Years of Neighborhood Pride

The City of Kettering's volunteer program began with the beautification of our medians. Mayor Charles Horn enlisted the help of a few adults and

- school children to plant flowers in the medians. Carol Dickerson was among that small group of volunteers that literally planted the seeds for

- the City of Kettering's volunteer program. It was during this time, the marigold was named as Kettering's city flower.

Carol's desire for beautiful and inviting neighborhoods led to the creation of a beautification program, which transformed into the Neighborhood Pride program.

Sadly, Carol passed away this spring. We are sincerely grateful for the leadership, guidance, and dedication exhibited by Carol and her husband Chuck. Carol will always be remembered for her passion for service and her love for the City of Kettering.

- For thirty years a dynamic team of volunteers spend every spring and summer reviewing 400-500 nominated properties! Every summer the committee selects twelve residential property owners and one commercial property owner in June, July and August to receive the award. The awards are presented by Mayor Patterson at a September City Council meeting.

- We are so grateful for these dedicated volunteers who work hard to recognize property owners who have made significant improvements to the appearance of their home or have maintained their home impeccably year after year.




**Pictured (L – R):** Del Herbeck, Brian Lucas, Ken Taylor, Phillip Elswick, Julie Gilmore, Rob Jahn, Mary Koch, Kathy Waker, Joe Collins, Gail Carone, Donna Speers, Nancy Andrews, Lois Ruse, Maureen Willits, Fred Willits, Ann Hart, Carol Messer, Mark Messer and Denny Hart

**Not Pictured:** Jim Bolton, Gale Heller, Christine Henning, April Mason and Emily Taylor

# Year-Round Gardening Tips

from our Team of Green Thumbs



Whether having your hands in the dirt in warm months or planning ahead during the winter, gardening definitely should be a year-round labor of love to find the most success. Gardening can be a great hobby and stress reliever — plus your neighbors will enjoy the beauty you've brought to your neighborhood!

Barry Sanders and Matt Byrd are Managers in the City of Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department and both are avid gardeners. They've been with the Parks Division for more than 25 years, so they know a thing or two about gardening and greenery.

Most gardeners agree the most exciting months of a garden are in the summer when colors are popping and plants are at their most vibrant. When fall rolls around, flowers in your garden have wilted and the gorgeous colors of summer are gone, but Barry and Matt point out fall is a time when you can start planting bulbs for the spring. Our parks crews plant several types of bulbs around the City in the fall and find the flowers that bloom tend to do

very well with a fall planting. Patience must accompany a fall planting, but come spring, you'll be able to start enjoying your pre-planned efforts!

A good thing to remember is not all gardening needs to take place outdoors. When the colder months settle in and your green thumb is hidden in a mitten and itching to be gardening again, take out a sketch pad and a pencil (take off your mittens first), and start planning.

A little bit of planning in the gray, lifeless months can reap bigger rewards in the warmer, sunnier months. Sit back and take a look at your landscape in winter. Picture what looks bare or lacks interest in the summer, and think about how you might want that to change. Do some research into different flowers and bulbs and play around with design. Put your ideas and sketches down on paper (no need to be an artist!) to get yourself in planning mode.

Both Barry and Matt advise gardeners to do pruning of bushes and trees in the winter when plants are dormant, and there's no chance of a warm spell that could stimulate

growth. This can be quite the guessing game, especially in Ohio where the temperatures are often not predictable, but putting off pruning until winter is the best bet.

In addition to creating new growth in the spring, trees also spend a lot of energy on leaf production, so if limbs are pruned during that time, more energy is used to close the pruning wounds, putting the tree at risk for not surviving as a result of exhaustion. If the tree were dormant, it would be at rest and able to handle the pruning. Put on your boots, prune your trees and bushes, and then go inside and enjoy some hot cocoa!

By the time spring arrives, most gardeners have been looking forward to getting their hands dirty for months, but where should you start? In the early spring, Barry and Matt suggest doing some light cleanup from the winter, clearing away any brush, leaves or debris that has settled onto your garden.

Although you might be excited to get plants in the ground, it's best to wait to plant until after Mother's Day when the danger of a killing frost is usually past (again, this

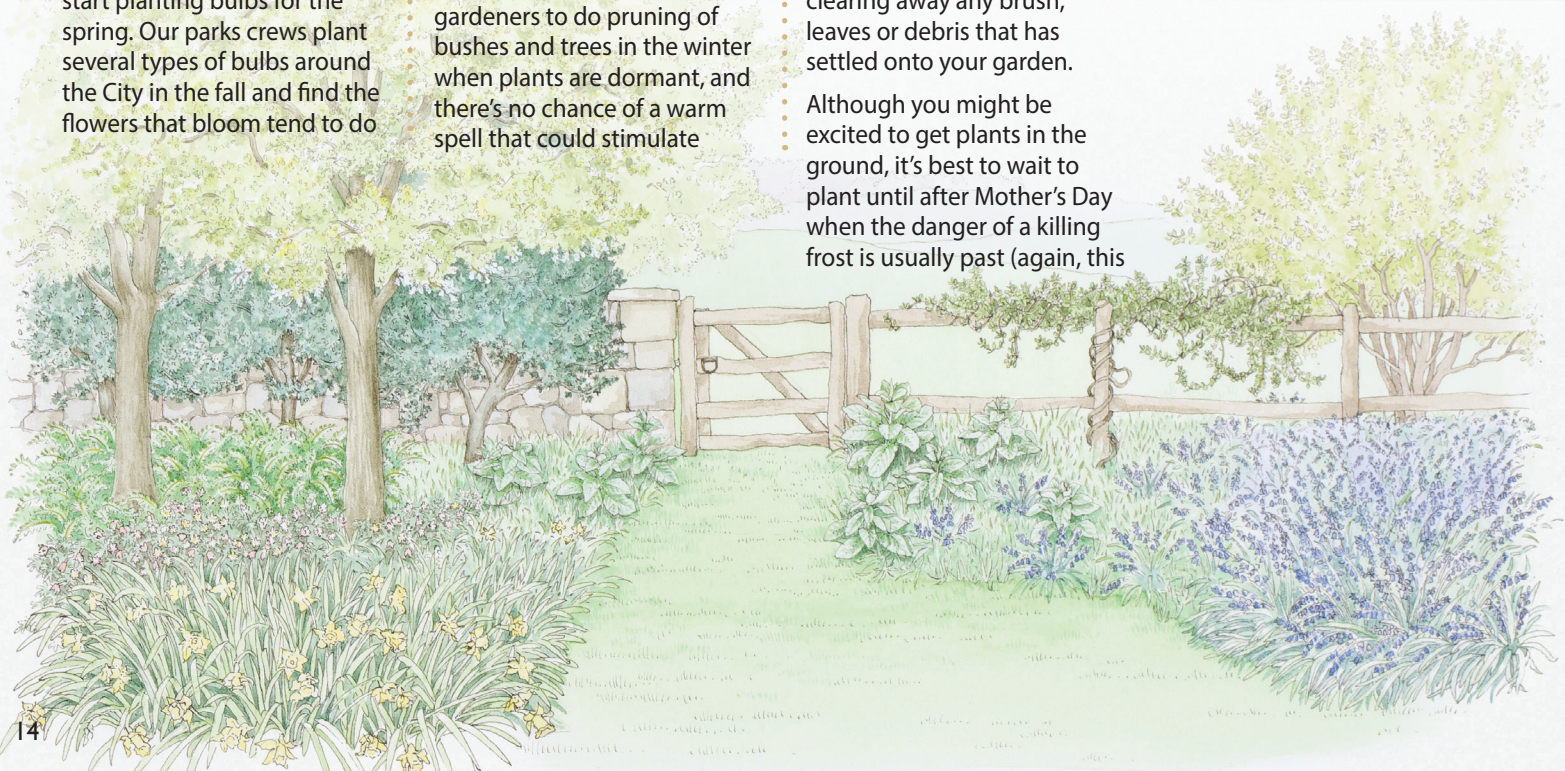


To help in your gardening quest, the City of Kettering offers free mulch to residents beginning in April at Indian Riffle Park 2801 E. Stroop Rd.

is Ohio, so no promises...). Most gardeners opt for using mulch, and if you choose to do so, applying a pre-emergence weed control first is an option and immediately covering it with no more than two inches of hard-bark mulch. It is good to also note that pre-emergent weed control needs to be watered as soon as possible with a half inch or more of water.

So, no matter the season, happy gardening to you!

For more information, call the Kettering Parks Maintenance office at 296-2486.



# Feeding Waterfowl Causes Harm

Feeding ducks and geese (waterfowl) human food seems harmless enough, right? Chances are, you might have thrown bread out to waterfowl when you were a kid with your parents, or maybe you do that now with your own children. We've probably all been guilty of giving wild birds a piece of our food, and even though we might view it as nothing more than a kind gesture, it can truly be harmful to them as well as causing a nuisance in our public spaces.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, giving waterfowl handouts should be off-limits to keep the birds as well as the ecosystem healthy and to allow waterfowl the chance to stay wild, armed with their ability to be hunters and migratory creatures. This innate quality makes for a healthier, more enjoyable life for them.

In other words, if you give waterfowl some of your lunch that is way more delicious than their usual fare

of worms, insects and algae, they get used to that easy meal delivered straight to them, and who wouldn't

take a free lunch over having to go hunt for it themselves? This easy handout of human food that is certainly not comparable to their natural diet makes them crave our food and diminishes their drive to go hunt for their normal, healthy diet.

Not only does feeding waterfowl interfere with their natural instinct to hunt for nutritious food, but it also can distract them from migrating. In the cooler months, as waterfowl begin their migration south, they often stop off at bodies of water to rest. If humans are giving them food, we might think we're just giving them a helping hand to keep them going during the colder months, but in reality this handout can essentially sidetrack the waterfowl, leading them to forget about their trip and set up permanent camp instead in cold Ohio where food and appropriate living conditions are not ideal for most waterfowl in the winter.

Have you noticed how ducks and geese in parks tend to have no fear of people?

- When we humans give them our food, they become accustomed and unafraid of us because, after all, we are seen as harmless creatures who give them food, so what's to fear? With this lack of fear of humans, comes an almost domesticating of wildlife to the point where they start to gather together time and time again, expecting (sometimes aggressively) the handouts they've become accustomed to.

- When groups of waterfowl gather instead of dispersing to hunt, this obviously means our parks have more waterfowl droppings, which not only means you have to constantly watch where you're walking but also that the pond's water quality will greatly diminish with the excess of waste.

- In addition to this gathering of pushy, lazy waterfowl being a nuisance to humans, it also means an increased risk of disease for the birds. Think about it —when we have a

cold, we try to stay away from others so as to not spread the germs. When we feed waterfowl, the birds come to know that this is an area where free, easy food is available, so

they begin to congregate in anticipation of it. This gathering of waterfowl creates a higher chance of spreading diseases

- like avian cholera, duck plague and avian botulism simply because they are in closer proximity to each other instead of dispersing to hunt for their own food.

- The next time you're in a park and you see a sign asking you to refrain from feeding the waterfowl, we hope you'll stop to consider that seemingly harmless food is turning a creature that should be wild into a domestic animal that now unfairly depends on humans. We are setting them up for failure with our handouts and setting ourselves up for parks that are overrun by confused wild birds creating messes.

- Waterfowl don't have the sense to turn down human food, so since we know better, we have to be the ones to do better not only for the health and well-being of these creatures but also for the beauty and maintenance of our parks. Be selfish, and keep that yummy lunch to yourself.



## Play Dates

### Kettering Ice Arena Opens!

Monday, August 27  
Kettering Recreation Complex

### Canine Cannonball\*

Saturday, September 8  
Adventure Reef Water Park



### HoneyFest

Saturday, September 15  
Delco Park

### Autumn Star Gaze

Saturday, September 29  
Pondview Park

### Suburbicon Comic Creator Expo\*

Saturday, October 6  
Trent Arena

### Halloween Fun 4 Little Ones\*

Saturday, October 13  
Kettering Recreation Complex

### Skate Away

Saturday, October 13  
Kettering Ice Arena  
(\$3 skate rental)

### The Creative Life Symposium

Friday & Saturday, October 26 & 27  
Rosewood Arts Centre

### Wag-O-Ween

Saturday, October 27  
Kettering Recreation Complex

\*Denotes events that require preregistration and/or a fee. For details about these events, visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org).

# Aquatics Facilities Improvements

**The Kettering Recreation Complex main pool and aquatics locker rooms are getting a new look!** From September 4 through October 26, the entire pool area — including locker rooms, hallway and main pool — will be closed for a major renovation project. You will be able to enjoy the spa area (hot tub, sauna and steam room) starting September 17, and the *Canine Cannonball* event will still take place at Adventure Reef Water Park on September 8.

**Entire Pool Area will be closed from September 4 to October 26**

Other improvements on the agenda include adjustments to create a more accessible facility, some HVAC modifications, and safe, clean non-slip tile flooring to replace the locker room carpet. Additionally, the high dive will be removed with plans to install a larger slide in 2019. Come join us for a swim this fall and check it out!

**Please note that the closure schedule and improvement plans are subject to change.**

**Spa Area will reopen Sept. 17**

Don't worry — it'll be worth the wait. The pool is getting a beautiful, feet-friendly new floor! The project's major improvement will be to change the flooring on the main pool deck and in the locker rooms. Currently, the pool deck and the floor in the pool hallway are made from pebble-like stone flooring. This will be replaced with brushed concrete, which is both easier to clean and gentler on those bare feet.



**Canine Cannonball will take place at Adventure Reef Water Park Sept. 8**




**CITY OF KETTERING**

## Contact Numbers

<b>Emergency</b>	
Police/Fire/Paramedic Emergency .....	9-1-1
<b>Non-Emergency</b>	
Police and Fire Dispatch .....	296-2555
<b>Frequently Called Numbers</b>	
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.

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