



CONTACT with  
**Kettering**  
Community Magazine Spring 2019



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

**INSIDE**

- Mayor's Greeting
- Volunteer Program 40th Anniversary
- Kettering Salary Postcard
- Income Tax
- Spring Checklist
- Know Your Water
- Kettering Police Dept.
- Kettering Fire Dept.
- Economic Development
- Volunteering
- Cities of Service
- Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts
- Summer Employment





# Mayor's Greeting

I recently had the privilege of sharing the 2019 Kettering State of the City presentation. As I prepared the highlights, I was overwhelmed with pride in all that the City accomplished last year and filled with excitement for all of the great developments on the horizon. If you haven't already, please take a moment to visit the City website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) to watch or read the full *State of the City* presentation.

Did you know that the City secured well over 500 new jobs in Kettering in the past year?

- A building owner at our Kettering Business Park is currently in negotiations with Amazon for a long-term lease that will bring a last mile distribution center and several hundred new jobs to Kettering. To make the deal possible the City will sell 14 acres, including the last remaining original structure at 907 Forrer Boulevard, to the developer later this spring. We will continue to work with the developers in the coming months to make this potential deal a reality.
- Alternate Solutions Health Network, a regional provider of at home health care founded by Kettering residents Tess and David Ganszarto, purchased the vacant, city-owned building located at 1050 Forrer in the Kettering Business Park and invested millions to create their new headquarters. They are already working on plans to expand further, have exceeded their predictions for new job creation, and they anticipate hundreds more new jobs in the coming years.
- The Kettering Business Park also welcomed Kettering Health Network to our campus this year. Their multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art command center opened in January. The center will become the nexus of operations for all of the hospitals in Kettering Health Network this year.
- Tenneco announced plans to consolidate two out-of-state locations to their facility in Kettering. This will result in the creation of their Manufacturing Center of Excellence and bring a projected \$61 million reinvestment in the plant, as well as several hundred new well-paying engineering and high level manufacturing jobs. Renovations are set to begin in 2019.
- Community Tissue Services broke ground on a projected \$50 million, 132,000 square foot expansion of their headquarters in the Miami Valley Research Park. In 2019, the City will complete the construction of College Drive, extending the roadway from Research Boulevard to Founders Drive. Our investment to complete this roadway will significantly enhance opportunities for future expansion of CTS and will help to attract new companies to the adjacent available parcels.

We place a great deal of focus on attracting new businesses and on helping the businesses that are already in Kettering grow and thrive. In Kettering the vast majority of our amenities and our valued city services are funded by income tax. If we don't have the jobs, we don't have the resources to support the infrastructure, facilities and services our residents and business communities treasure. In the end, our goal is to protect the investment that you made when you decided to call Kettering home. That means that we invest in our commercial centers to support job growth, and we invest in our neighborhoods and world-class amenities to maintain the exceptional quality of life we are known for here in Kettering.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Patterson, Mayor

This information is being provided pursuant to the requirements of Kettering City Charter, Section 3-5(C). Mayor and Council 2018 total compensation (salary and related benefits: PERS, Medicare and Workers' Compensation).

Mayor	\$13,971.72
Council Members	\$9,314.48 (Each)



CITY OF KETTERING

## Kettering Mayor & Council

### Don Patterson, Mayor

Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 299.5512

### Bill Lautar, Vice Mayor, At Large

Bill.Lautar@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 689.2205

### Jacqueline Fisher, At Large

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

### Robert Scott, District 1

Rob.Scott@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 776.2315

### Joseph D. Wanamaker, District 2

Joe.Wanamaker@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 296.1712

### Tony Klepacz, District 3

Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 435.9830

### Bruce E. Duke, District 4

Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org . . . . . 299.2259

### Mark Schwieterman, City Manager

Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org . . . 296.2412

### Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager

Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org . . . 296.2412

### Council Office

KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org . . 296.2416

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

@Kettering\_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government





# Kettering Volunteer Program Celebrates 40 Years of Service



Larry Schlea with Mayor Patterson

What began in 1979 with a small group of volunteers planting marigolds (our city flower) in our medians, has blossomed into a force of over 1,000 volunteers! The City of Kettering's volunteer program was one of the first local government programs in our nation. It is still one of the largest. Volunteers serve in nearly every department of our city. Some provide assistance on a regular basis, while others are on call for special events and activities.

When the program was formalized in 1979, Mayor Charles Horn had this to say:

"It is my belief that a community cannot remain strong without a tradition and spirit of volunteerism. Through activities, the volunteer becomes knowledgeable about the community, its goals and its problems, thereby joining forces for improvement. A volunteer becomes a spokesperson for better community and in turn, recruits others to a charitable or community cause.

Volunteers are indeed Kettering's most valuable asset."

## Since 1979 volunteers saved the City over \$22,305,000!

Since 1979, thirty-six volunteers have reached the 5,000 hour level of service and six volunteers have reached the 10,000 hour level of service:

Jean Collins – 2004

John McClelland – 2009

Larry Schlea – 2009

Charles Stanek – 2014

Anneliese Bryant – 2018

Robert Ellis – 2018

This year, volunteer, Larry Schlea, made volunteer history by being the first volunteer to reach the 20,000-hour level of service!

## Volunteer Mission Statement:

To assist city staff by expanding city programs, enhancing city services, building an understanding of city government, and encouraging community pride.





# City of Kettering Finance Department Receives Awards

The City of Kettering Finance Department has been honored for 36 years with The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting and for 33 years with The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association.

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is awarded to governmental entities whose Comprehensive Annual Financial Report achieves the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is presented to governmental entities that publish a budget document, which meets program criteria as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications medium.

Visit our website [www.ketteringoh.org/city-salary-and-spending-database/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/city-salary-and-spending-database/) to view the City's annual budget, our Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, a searchable database of all city expenditures, a full listing of all city employee annual compensation and the latest version of all city collective bargaining agreements.

Dear Fellow Kettering Residents,

This spring, all registered voter households in the City of Kettering will receive a postcard in the mail that lists salary and benefit information for a very small number of City of Kettering employees.

A recent amendment to the City Charter requires that in odd numbered years, the City must create a document that provides compensation information for the top, middle, and lower 15 full time City employees by earnings and mail it to all registered voter households in Kettering. A group of Kettering residents secured enough petition signatures to place this amendment on the ballot, and Kettering voters approved it in November 2016. The City of Kettering mailed this required postcard to all registered voter households for the first time in late March 2017. The taxpayer cost of the mailer was approximately \$6,300.

Charter Section 10-12 states that the mailer "shall contain no other information or statements other than specifically provided for herein". In other words, the Charter amendment prohibits the City from providing any context to the figures on the postcard such as the data used to calculate earnings, salary comparisons, information on how City staff salaries are determined, and how the City has achieved personnel savings in recent years.

The figures used for the mandatory postcard represent total compensation, including employee salary as well as benefits. Some employees surge to the top of the earnings list as a result of overtime or retirement benefits, which are included in total compensation calculations.

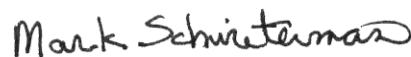
It is important to me that the Kettering community knows that a complete and searchable database of salary information for ALL City employees, not just the select handful on the postcard, as well as a searchable database of all city expenditures is posted on the city website [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org). This resource is accurate, available 24/7 year-round, and goes far beyond the information contained in the required postcard.

Furthermore, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the ways we are effectively managing our personnel expenditures.

- 2018 budgeted city expenditures were a REDUCTION of \$1.3 million from 2017 budgeted expenditures.
- Personnel changes in 2017 and 2018 resulted in a REDUCTION of overtime expenses while maintaining excellent levels of service to the community.
- Personnel expenditures (including salary and benefits) in 2018 made up approximately 68% of our approved operating expenditures, a REDUCTION from 69% of our approved operating expenditures in 2017.

Should you have any questions about the salary postcard, please contact me anytime. The City Manager's Office phone number is (937) 296-2412 or email [KetteringCityManager@Ketteringoh.org](mailto:KetteringCityManager@Ketteringoh.org).

Sincerely,



Mark Schwieterman, City Manager





# Your 2018 City of Kettering Income Tax Return is due on April 15, 2019.

Our Tax Department recently mailed the 2018 City of Kettering Income Tax postcard. In an effort to reduce costs related to paper, printing, and postage, please note that **NO TAX FORMS WILL BE MAILED TO YOU**. Forms are available on our website at

[www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) or you may utilize one of the alternative filing methods described below. To avoid late filing fees, your 2018 return must be received in our office or postmarked by April 15, 2019.

## Who Must File

**All residents (including part-year residents)** of the City of Kettering who are 18 years of age and older are required to file an annual income tax return. **A return is required regardless of income or employment status.** Please note: Active duty military personnel and individuals with no reportable income or loss for the current year are subject to the mandatory filing requirements.

**Non-residents** of the City of Kettering who have income or loss, earned or derived from within the City, and from which Kettering tax was not fully withheld, must file a return.

## Exceptions to Mandatory Filing Requirement

Permanently retired/disabled individuals with only non-taxable sources of income or loss (such as social security, pension, interest, and dividends) may qualify for exemption. If you feel you qualify for an exemption, please complete the Declaration of Exemption return (available on our website) and submit it to our office with all required documentation as specified on the form.

## Income Tax Assistance

The AARP's Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program will be offered at Lathrem Senior Center once again this year. The service is free and open to those 60 years and older or those on limited incomes. Appointments are limited to one hour per client. No complicated returns will be completed. Appointments are available weekdays, through April 16, 2019. **Please call 296-2480 between noon and 8 p.m. to schedule your appointment.**

## Filing Methods

There are several convenient options for filing your city income tax return. Electronic filing and fill-in forms are available on our website at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org)

Individuals with only wage income reported on Form W-2 are eligible to file electronically. All other individuals may utilize the fill-in forms.

Additionally, you may visit the Income Tax Division, located at 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429 to obtain forms or have your return prepared by one of our staff members.

**City of Kettering Income Tax Return preparation is a free service and no appointment is necessary.**

Visit our office before April 1 for the fastest service.

## Required Documents

As required under state law, the Federal Form 1040 must be attached to the City of Kettering Income Tax Return at the time of filing.

Additional supporting documentation that is required to be attached to the City of Kettering Income Tax Return includes (but is not limited to): Form(s) W-2 (if applicable), Federal Schedules C, E, F or K-1, Form(s) 1099-Misc and Form(s) W-2G.

Part-year residents should also include pay statements reflecting year-to-date figures relating to the period of time you resided within the City.

## Online Payment System

An online payment system is available for the payment of tax balances, estimated tax payments and payment plan payments via electronic check, credit card or debit card. Please note, a convenience fee will be added to all credit and debit card payments.

## Contact Information

### Mail your return to:

City of Kettering Income Tax Division  
P.O. Box 639409  
Cincinnati, OH 45263-9409

### Physical location:

3600 Shroyer Road  
North Building  
Kettering, OH 45429

### Business Hours:

Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Phone: (937) 296-2502**

**Fax: (937) 296-3242**

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

**Email: [ketteringtax@ketteringoh.org](mailto:ketteringtax@ketteringoh.org)**

(The information contained herein is illustrative only. The City of Kettering Income Tax Code and the Ohio Revised Code supersede any interpretation presented.)

## Important guidelines of the program:

Volunteers will prepare basic forms including: 1040EZ, 1040A with Schedules 1, 2, 3 and EIC 1040 with Schedules A, B, C-EZ, D, EIC, R and SE 1040-V 1040-ES

Bring to your appointment: relevant paperwork for your 2018 taxes and a copy of your 2017 return.







# Spring Spruce Up Checklist

Spring is an ideal time to accomplish projects that improve your home's curb appeal. Here is a checklist of 19 projects that can make a big difference:

- Clear out landscape beds and put down fresh mulch. Remember, mulch and compost are available free of charge for Kettering residents in the spring at Indian Riffle Park.
- Trim back trees and shrubs. Remember that they can not overhang the sidewalks or streets. Remove any overgrown or invasive shrubs. Yard debris may be placed in your Waste Management toter for collection on your regular trash day or it can be taken to the Yard Debris Center.
- Repair broken, cracked, or deteriorated siding or trim.
- Repaint cracked and peeling paint.
- Seal your doors and windows to improve energy efficiency and prevent drafts.
- Check your roof for any peeling or missing shingles and loose flashing.
- Check gutters and downspouts for debris. Repair any leaks or damage.
- Dispose of unlicensed or inoperable vehicles.
- Mow the grass and weed the landscaping on a regular basis. Grass must not exceed a height of 8".
- Regularly remove trash and yard debris and clean up after your pets.
- Avoid erosion by seeding bare spots in the yard.
- Check fences and sheds, replace and repair broken or rotting sections. Repaint as necessary. Cleanup areas along your property that are adjacent to public streets and alleys.
- Don't store household furniture or appliances outdoors. Keep items which are meant to be stored outdoors in a neat and orderly appearance.
- Replace or repair missing or damaged entry doors and garage overhead doors.
- Check hinges or latches on windows and doors to ensure they function properly.
- Check for loose or cracked mortar joints in brickwork.
- Make sure steps and walkways are in good condition, free from debris, cracks, holes and flaking concrete.
- Check house foundation and walls for cracks or breaks.
- Check windows and doors for broken glass, torn screens and deteriorated or loose frames, sills, or sashes.

You should annually evaluate the condition of your property to identify needed repairs. A lot of money can be saved by correcting simple problems before they become major repairs.

If you need financial assistance with the cost of making repairs to your home in Kettering maybe we can help. The City of Kettering has programs to assist low and moderate income families with emergency repairs, minor repairs and comprehensive rehabs. To qualify your household must meet established income limits and typically your home should have some built-up equity. If you are interested in any of these programs or need more information, please call **Andria Perkins at 937-296-3308**.



**The Kettering  
Yard Debris Center  
will open for the season  
Monday, March 4.**

**Spring leaf pickup will  
be the week of  
Monday, April 15.**





# What to do When a Water Main, Supply Line or Sanitary Drain Breaks.

The City of Kettering itself is almost 70 years old, and some of our neighborhoods are nearly 100 years old! Like anything that has been around this long, we have places that are starting to deteriorate. In many areas of town bridges, water mains and gas lines are aged to the point that they need complete replacement.

The same goes for the service line that connects your home to the water main at the street and the sanitary drain that connects to the sewer under the street. The major difference is that if these service lines break or collapse, the repair or replacement is the responsibility of the property owner. This is not an inexpensive project. We are encouraging homeowners to reach out to

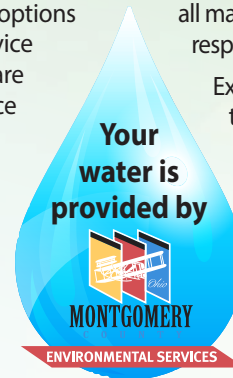
- their insurance agents to discuss options for protecting yourself with a service line policy, or to ensure that you are saving for the potential occurrence of this significant disruption. Unfortunately we know that each year your neighbors are finding themselves faced with this burden and though we certainly hope it never happens to you, in an established community like all of those in the Dayton suburbs it is possible and there is a way to be prepared.

- It is important for Kettering residents to understand that your water service and

all maintenance of water mains are the responsibility of your County, not the City.

Except for a very small portion of the city located in Greene County, Kettering residents receive their water from Montgomery County.

Any questions about water/sewer billing and accounts should be directed to Montgomery County Environmental Services at **(937) 781-2688**, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



- If you need to report a water main break, sewer backup, other water/sewer emergency or you want information about discolored water or boil advisories; please call the Montgomery County Environmental Services 24/7 emergency line at **(937) 781-2678**.

- Montgomery County Environmental Services created the Foundation Drain Disconnect Program to help protect homeowners against sewer backups and prevent “clean” storm water from entering the sanitary sewer system. The program provides up to \$4,000 in financial assistance for plumbing upgrades to help protect your home from sewer backups. Homeowners who have a living area or basement located below ground level may be eligible for the program.

- Typical eligible plumbing work and improvements may include installing plumbing and valves to prevent backups; disconnecting all downspouts, stairwell, floor, foundation, and sump drains from the sanitary sewer; or installing a sump pump and wet well.

- To learn more please visit [http://www.mcoho.org/departments/water\\_services/prevent\\_sewer\\_backups.php](http://www.mcoho.org/departments/water_services/prevent_sewer_backups.php) or contact the Foundation Drain Disconnect Program Coordinator at **(937) 781-2695**.

- If you have a concern about drainage or street repair (unrelated to a water main break or sewer system), please contact the City of Kettering Engineering Department at **296-2436**.







# 2018 Kettering Police Department Commendations

**Kettering Police Department was named a STEM Supporter of the Decade by the Dayton Regional STEM School.**

Officer DiSalvo was named Officer of the Year by the Kiwanis Club of Kettering/Centerville in September 2018. He was also honored by the Hundred Club of Dayton with the Robert B. Jacob Award of Merit in November. This award is presented to local police and fire department members who demonstrate extraordinary service and community contribution above and beyond the call of duty.

Officer Soto received a Class 1 commendation for being extremely proactive and stopping a robbery before it occurred. Several armed suspects were taken into custody thanks to his command of the scene.

Officers Engles and Stull both received Class 1 commendations after responding to a complex call to help a suicidal person. Officer Engles was injured during the encounter. They were recognized for their professionalism and putting the safety of the others above their own.

Several Kettering Police Officers were promoted this year. Officers Murray, Charles and DiSalvo were promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Lambert was promoted to Lieutenant. Congratulations to those promoted!



## Police Headquarters Improvements

A long awaited and significant project will be getting underway on the Kettering Government Center campus as we begin the design of a new Police Headquarters in 2019. The new headquarters will be at the Government Center as we add a brand new second story above a section of the existing police facilities and renovate the current area to meet the needs of a modern police department. In recent years the Kettering Police Department has placed great emphasis on the relationship our law enforcement professionals have with you, our residents. The design of the new Police Headquarters will reflect that, with a new welcoming public entry on the main government center plaza.

Another significant and meaningful expansion will take place in the Kettering Police Department in 2019. Our School

- Resource Officer force will grow from two officers to five, placing a dedicated Kettering Police Department partner at Fairmont High School, one at both Van Buren and Kettering Middle Schools, and two additional officers who will serve the Kettering elementary schools.
- The Kettering community's support of the November 2018 Kettering School Levy provides 70% of the funding for the additional School Resource Officers.
- Students who have a positive law enforcement role model are less likely to engage in risky or illegal behavior. By establishing a presence in each school, the School Resource Officers can build trusting relationships with students by participating as active members of the school community, and of course, are there should a safety matter arise.

**The Kettering Police Department and Dispatch Center are conducting the 2018 Citizen Satisfaction Survey. We invite Kettering citizens to participate in the survey by visiting the Kettering Police Department's website now through March 31 2019. We thank you for your participation. <https://www.ketteringoh.org/departments/kettering-police-department/>**





## Fire Station Modernization Project Complete

Certainly exceptional city services make Kettering unique in the region.

Among the most treasured of city services is the protection offered by our Kettering Police and Fire Departments. We completed the Fire Station Modernization project in 2018.

Each of our four new fire stations are staffed 24 hours a day with personnel trained and equipped to respond to your calls for service. In 2018, the Kettering Fire Department responded to nearly 9,000 calls for assistance.

Thank you to the residents and key stakeholders who worked with our staff to develop a design for all four of our new fire stations that certainly reflects the character and standards of our community.

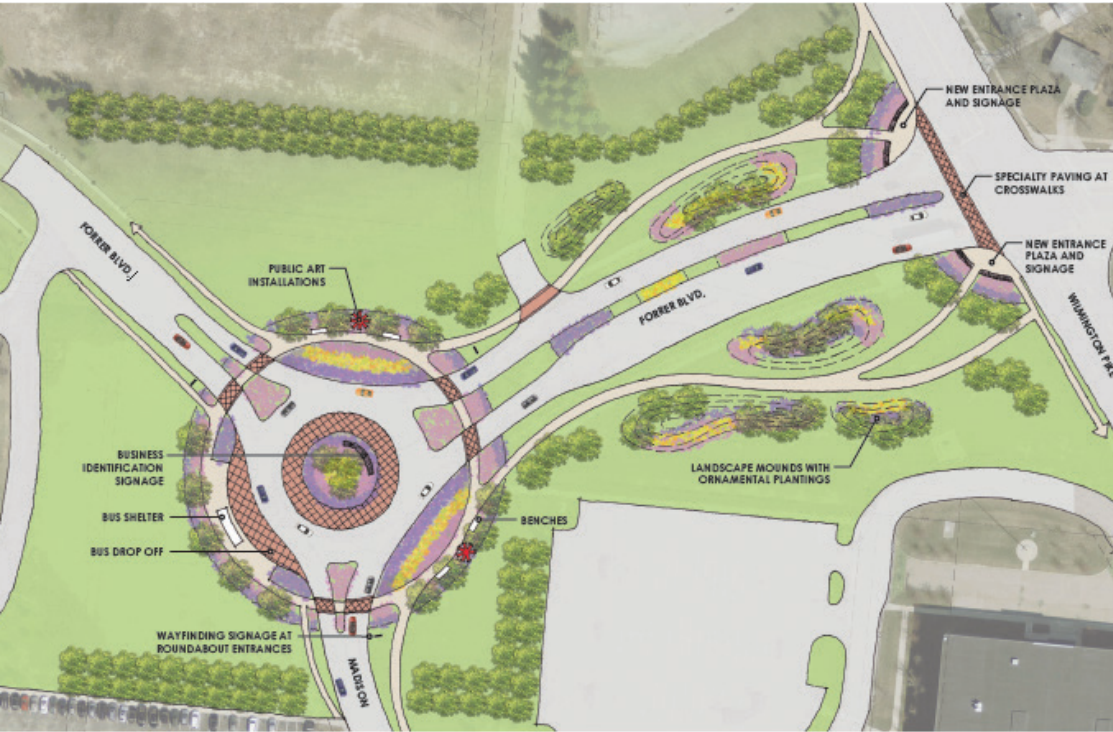


### Don't Forget a Helmet

While getting the bicycles, rollerblades, and skateboards out from hibernation there are a few things to keep in mind before your wheels hit the pavement. Make sure that everyone riding has a properly fitted helmet. This includes children who ride in bicycle trailers and child seats. Also, ensure that everyone in your family is riding an appropriately sized bicycle.



# Kettering Business Park is Thriving



Amazon could be coming to Kettering. A building owner in our Kettering Business Park is in negotiations on a long-term lease that could bring an Amazon last mile distribution center and several hundred new jobs to Kettering. In early January, our Economic Development team negotiated an agreement with Cincinnati based TW Development for their purchase of 14 acres of property in the Kettering Business Park, including the vacant 200,000 sq. ft. building located at 907 Forrer Boulevard. In the coming months we will complete the sale of these parcels, Building #2 will be demolished, and we will continue to work with the developers to make this potential deal a reality.

"Certainly this is great news and yet another exciting development in the rebirth of the Kettering Business Park," said Kettering Mayor Don Patterson. "I'm grateful to Jim McCarthy and to TW Development Group for their investment and their steadfast determination to secure this deal to bring Amazon to Kettering."

The Kettering Business Park also welcomed Kettering Health Network's multi-million dollar, state-of-the-art command center in January. The center will become the nexus of operations for all of the hospitals in Kettering Health Network this year.

In 2017, the City worked with our tenant partners to develop a master plan for the Kettering Business Park campus. In 2018 we started to implement the first phases of that plan. We designed and installed modern entry signage and completed upgrades to landscaping and pathways near the entrance. The next year will bring completion of the second phase of the plan which will include landscaping in the round-about and installation of directional signage.



*Kettering Health Network's new command center ribbon cutting.*







*Kettering Business Park in the late 1990's*

## Eudora Brewing Company Celebrates Grand Opening



On January 11, Mayor Patterson and City Council congratulated Eudora on the grand opening of their new location. They transformed a long vacant building at 3022 Wilmington Pike into a beautiful destination brewery and we couldn't be more proud that they continue to call Kettering home!





# Celebrating Our Team of Volunteers

Team spirit surrounded Presidential Banquet Center as Mayor Patterson, City Council and city staff joined together to celebrate our volunteers at the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. Volunteers, dressed in their favorite team apparel, were greeted by mascots from Fairmont High School,

University of Dayton, Wright State University, Dayton Dragons and Alter High School. Volunteers were asked to donate items for Brigid's Path, a recovery center located in Kettering dedicated to caring for drug-exposed newborn babies. As always, our volunteers came through in a big way. Donations included 718 diapers, 43 packs of baby wipes, 39 baby outfits, 12 bottles of hand sanitizer, 16 packs of disinfectant wipes, 89 rolls of paper towels, 20 bottles of liquid hand soap, 47 boxes of facial tissue, 2,980 paper napkins, 114 batteries, three bottles of baby lotion and two pacifier clips—WOW!

Mayor Patterson awarded certificates and gifts to volunteers based on the number of hours contributed since they began volunteering for the City's program.

1,030 volunteers contributed 32,213 hours of service from July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018 valued at \$784,387.00! We hope all who were able to attend enjoyed the luncheon as we recognized you for your dedication and commitment to the City of Kettering!



## Meet the Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council

The Volunteer Advisory Council was formed in the early 80's to give suggestions and advice for promoting volunteerism in the City of Kettering. The Council shares insight and expertise while being ambassadors for the volunteer program. They lend support to the Volunteer Administrator to champion volunteerism.

- Kari Basson**  
*Coordinator of Community Relations, Kettering City Schools*
- Anna Breidenbach**  
*Compliance and Inclusion Manager, City of Kettering*
- Nancy Byrd**  
*Congregational Care Coordinator, Christ United Methodist Church*
- Jey Ellis**  
*Associate Partner, Coldwell Banker*
- Joan Fisher-Hatton**  
*Manager, Retail Culinary Services, Kettering Medical Center*
- Sabrina Larson**  
*Retired, Defense Finance and Accounting Service*
- Becky Gentry**  
*Discovery Attorney Professional Development Specialist, WilmerHale*
- Pam Cochran**  
*Property Manager, Town & Country Management*
- Jacque Fisher**  
*Program Manager, WPAFB (City Council Liaison)*

## 2018 Partnership Award

Congratulations to Day Air Credit Union on the receipt of the 2018 Partnership Award! This award, created in 2016 by the Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council, serves as a way to recognize outside organizations and businesses that make significant contributions to the betterment of our community through continued service and dedication.

Day Air Credit Union received the award based on their support of City of Kettering activities and initiatives including Cities of Service, Make A Difference Day, and the Polen Farm Christmas Day Open House.



Business Development Officer, Don Schweitzer and Day Air Credit Union Business Development Manager, Bettina Buscemi accept the 2018 Partnership Award from Volunteer Advisory Council Chair, Kari Basson.



# Volunteer Opportunities

The spring and summer months bring many opportunities to volunteer! These include greeting guests at Frazee Pavilion and assisting with our summer camps at Rosewood Arts Centre and Habitat Environmental Center. We also have opportunities for schedulers and drivers for our senior transportation program. If you have some time available, call the Volunteer Office at 296-2433 for additional details about these opportunities!

# Christmas at Polen Farm

Polen Farm serves as a beautiful setting for the annual Christmas Day Open House. Thanks to the commitment of our dedicated volunteers, more than 350 guests were able to enjoy the holiday surrounded with the warmth and fellowship of the season! We are truly grateful to our volunteers and to the area businesses for supporting this effort. A very special thank you to the following community partners:

- Kohler Catering**
- Kettering Noon Optimist Club**
- Day Air Credit Union**
- Kettering Medical Center**
- Mikesell's**
- 2nd & Charles**
- Town & Country Shopping Center**

*Your support allows us to continue offering this event, free of charge, to our community!*



# Make A Difference Day Accomplishments

Make A Difference Day serves as an excellent example of what can be accomplished when volunteers join with area businesses and city staff to improve our community. Both indoor and outdoor projects were coordinated in an effort to offer opportunities for a broad range of ages and interests.

In conjunction with the Cities of Service Initiative, neighbors in the Haverstick Neighborhood received assistance with outdoor maintenance tasks including leaf raking, brush and debris removal.

Indoor projects were held at Central Christian Church and Christ Church and included creating holiday placemats for area nursing homes and holiday greeting cards for our active duty military.

Make A Difference Day Accomplishments in Numbers:

- 1.75 Tons of brush and debris removed from the Haverstick Neighborhood
- 8 Garage sales held in the Haverstick Neighborhood
- 13 Residential properties improved
- 128 Holiday placemats created for area nursing homes
- 137 Volunteers provided assistance
- 343 Volunteer hours donated
- 415 Holiday greeting cards created for active duty military



**"I want to thank City personnel and all of the volunteers who helped make the Haverstick Neighborhood a special place this year. I have lived in Kettering for 54 years and this is one of the many reasons why I'm still here. Thank you to everyone involved. It was a great effort by all."**

– Judy Reitz, Haverstick neighbor





# PRCA Programs Are for Everyone!

The Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department strives to provide accessible, inclusive programs and facilities to anyone who would like to take part in what we have to offer. In order to give everyone the best experience possible, PRCA staff turns to the City of Kettering's Compliance and Inclusion Manager, Anna Breidenbach. She works with staff members on monitoring the City's ADA Transition Plan and on encouraging people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, classes, meetings, facilities and parks.

The Compliance and Inclusion Manager role was created in early January 2018 to assist with inclusion efforts citywide. For PRCA, Breidenbach works with staff members and patrons to ensure that reasonable modifications are made for people with

disabilities. "The department has fantastic programs and classes for everyone within our community. PRCA strives to be inclusive within their programming, meaning that people with disabilities are participating alongside individuals without disabilities," Breidenbach said. "One of the first steps to being successful within inclusion is to have a request for modification process. A request for modification means that someone lets staff members know that they or their child has a disability and may require some additional supports to attend our programs."

The request for modification process is easy and definitely no cause for concern. "The sooner we know about your disability or your child's disability, the easier it is to implement steps that will

assist in participation. We do not want anyone to delay in registering for a class or program because you are concerned about a modification," Breidenbach explained. "Register first so that you are sure you have a spot in the class, then fill out the Request for Modification form. This form can be found at any of the PRCA facility front desks and online. Once the modification request has been received, I will reach out to the participant or the participant's parent/guardian and discuss the request. If you are interested in a program or class that does not have a registration (such as a drop-in class), please reach out to me in advance of the program."

Participants of all ages have benefited from the department's proactive approach to inclusion.

Several of our 2018 summer campers were able to enjoy new experiences as a result of working with Breidenbach and PRCA staff members for modifications. "We were able to schedule and utilize accessible transportation for a camper that hasn't had a field trip experience before. She uses a power wheelchair and was fully integrated into the camp including the field trip and all activities," Breidenbach said. "Not all disabilities can be easily seen; therefore we implemented some modifications within the camps themselves. Summer camp staff utilized timers and clocks to assist many participants with transitions that may otherwise be unsettling for the participant. We also created quiet spaces for some children that may become over-stimulated."





# Increase Energy, Reduce Stress in Your Local Park!

By the middle of February, the days can feel dark and drab. For some of us, our wellness resolutions may be a distant memory. If you struggle to stay awake at your desk after lunch or get home from work and immediately collapse on the couch, there may be an easy and free solution. Visit a local park!

According to studies published in *Time, Health* and the *Journal of Occupational Health Psychology*, boosting your energy could be as easy as visiting a park at lunchtime. A brisk walk while focusing on nature instead of work kept study participants more productive in the afternoon. A bonus to all that extra energy? Experiencing nature also lowered participants' stress levels!

"Kettering's parks have paved walking paths," said Gary Schussler, Parks Superintendent for the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

"People would be surprised to find out that our parks are a great place to walk and exercise during the colder months. It's a completely different experience based on the weather."



What happens when you visit a park during lunch? Such walks are officially called 'recovery breaks' and have the most effect when you use them to detach completely from work. If you think your day's too busy to pop out to a park, consider that your productivity in the afternoon could increase even after just a 15-minute recovery break. The study's authors initially thought the recovery

break would take several hours to have an effect. However, the participants who spent time outdoors at lunch showed improved productivity and reduced stress before their workdays were even over. The energy boost was most pronounced an hour or so before the participants left work, a time of day when most people are feeling sluggish and rundown. In the study, half the participants walked in the park and half did relaxation exercises in a quiet place in their office building. Can you guess who got the most benefit? That's right — the park walkers!

Here are four simple ways to enjoy a lunchtime walk in a park:

1. Explore your surroundings using four senses — gently touch bark, observe falling snowflakes, look to see which trees are still green, search for animal tracks, listen to the breeze and smell pine cones and pine needles.
2. Do some bird watching — not everyone has flown south for the winter. Non-migratory birds like cardinals and robins are still hanging around.
3. Dress for the weather — it will make all the difference. Wear warm socks and comfortable shoes, bring tissues and dress in layers. Keep the walk to about 30 minutes.
4. Try a visual scavenger hunt — search for winter plants, wildlife and more.

We invite you to enjoy your lunch break in any of Kettering's 21 parks. A quick stroll on one of our many walking paths could be the key to heading back to work or home with increased energy and less stress. For a map of Kettering parks, visit [playkettering.org](http://playkettering.org).



OPENS MAY 25!

## Play Dates

### Teen Pool Night\*

Friday, March 29, 9 – 11 p.m.

Kettering Recreation Complex

### Spring Free Skate

Saturday, March 30, 1 – 3 p.m.

**FREE!** Kettering Ice Arena

### Adult Easter Egg Hunt\*

Friday, April 12, 8 p.m.

Delco Park

### TreeFest at Pondview

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. – Noon

**FREE!** Pondview Park

### STEM Play Saturday\*

Saturday, April 6

Kettering Recreation Complex

### **FREE!** Community Garage Sale & Baby Boutique

Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center

### Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt\*

Saturday, April 13

Sunday, April 14

Friday, April 19

Charles I. Lathrem Senior Center

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



# Apply Today & Join Our Team!



Summer jobs can be more than a just a paycheck; actually, they **SHOULD** be more than just a paycheck. Seasonal, summer positions can provide hands-on, real-world experiences that support a variety of career goals including early education, grounds/turf maintenance, public safety, hospitality management and customer service.

“Our summer jobs are a fantastic way to develop communication and leadership skills, practice problem solving skills, and learn how to work as a team, all while receiving on-the-job training and competitive pay,” said Mary Beth O’Dell, Director of the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

Numerous seasonal temporary job opportunities are available, each of them offering the chance to work with talented people who are dedicated to the community and want to be part of something bigger.

Our certified lifeguards supervise the safety of visitors at both Adventure Reef Water

Park and the Main Pool at the Kettering Recreation Complex. Our summer camps staff help kids learn, stay engaged, grow and remain connected to their friends and our community during the school break. Our parks staff enjoy working outside in a beautiful setting, getting their hands dirty and seeing the impact of their work in our 21 parks. And we’re always looking for friendly, enthusiastic, customer-service minded team members to assist guests, answer questions, and be willing to do whatever it takes provide exceptional experiences at Frazee.

“The success of our facilities, programs and events relies on the seasonal staff we hire each year,” explained O’Dell. “We are looking for passionate, dedicated and innovative team members that shape positive experiences for our customers and residents.”

For more information, or to download an application, visit [playkettering.org/join-our-team](http://playkettering.org/join-our-team).



## 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
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 of Kettering invites people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, services, parks, and facilities. For more information about accessibility or to request a modification, please call 296-2412.