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don.patterson@ketteringoh.org ................................................................. 299.5512

Bill Lauter, Vice Mayor, At Large
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Council Office Phone Number: 296.2416
Council Email: kettcc@ketteringoh.org
Kettering Home Page: www.ketteringoh.org
On behalf of the men and women of the Kettering Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present to you our 2018 Annual Report as a review of the highlights of your Fire Department over the past year. As the Fire Chief of this great department, I couldn't be more proud of the way our department has continued to evolve in order to meet the needs of this community while continuing to honor the great history and tradition for which the Kettering Fire Department has become known. This report will summarize our commitment to providing our residents and visitors with the highest quality of emergency preparedness and service.

Our department has continued its forward progression toward meeting the needs of our community for not just today, but also well into the future. The men and women of this department are dedicated to providing exceptional customer care as they deliver the highest quality in emergency services.

I firmly believe that this fire department couldn't be what it is today without the outstanding work ethic of our firefighters and fire officers coupled with the unwavering support from Mayor Don Patterson, the members of City Council, and the City’s Administrative Staff. Additionally, the Kettering Fire Department proudly works side by side with the men and women of the Kettering Police Department. Together we are dedicated to providing the citizens of Kettering with the utmost in public safety services.

We realize that the success of the Kettering Fire Department relies on our strong community partnerships and the relentless pursuit of excellence in all we do. Please enjoy reading our annual report as we highlight 2018 — a tremendously successful year.

Respectfully submitted,

Fire Chief Tom Butts
Vision

The vision of the Kettering Fire Department is to serve the public with the following core values: Integrity, Professionalism, Compassion, Unity and Honor.

Mission

Our mission is to meet community needs by delivering an effective system of services; thereby minimizing the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness and injury with a caring and efficient response.
Core Values

**INTEGRITY — THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES INTEGRITY BY:**

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

**PROFESSIONALISM — THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT IS PROFESSIONAL IN ALL ITS ACTIONS RELATED TO:**

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

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

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

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

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

**HONOR — THE KETTERING FIRE DEPARTMENT DEMONSTRATES HONOR BY:**

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

2018: KFD Continues To Evolve

2018 was a year of continued transformation and improvement for the Kettering Fire Department (KFD). While we honor the department’s tradition of professionalism and excellent customer service, we also continue to evolve into the most capable and proficient fire department that this community has ever experienced.

The men and women of the Kettering Fire Department are proud to serve this community and are dedicated to minimizing the impact of fire, hazardous conditions, illness and injury with a caring and efficient response. During 2018, the members of the Kettering Fire Department proudly responded to nearly 9,000 calls for emergency services — a marginal increase over the previous year. In order to ensure that our department is prepared to respond to these emergencies, our members also proactively completed approximately 10,000 collective hours of training in 2018. These trainings cover a wide range of topics such as leadership development, firefighting, auto extrication, trench rescue, rope rescue, confined space rescue, as well as numerous medical topics and more.

The Kettering Fire Department is continually assessing the risks in our community and strives to shape the emergency response model to meet the community’s needs in the most efficient and fiscally responsible manner possible. In 2018, the department continued to struggle with hiring and retaining part-time firefighters. This has been an ongoing strain on our department for the past several years, and we were not alone. Our difficulty coincides with the regional and national trends that show a serious shortage in part-time firefighters with little to no improvement in sight. In order to offset the difficult to fill part-time firefighter positions, the Kettering Fire Department proactively developed and implemented a plan in 2018 which would effectively make the Kettering Fire Department a full-time, career department. This was not an easy decision to make as the Kettering Fire...
### Department Overview

Department values its rich and deep history of volunteerism and community involvement. However, in order to effectively and efficiently provide the best service to our citizens and the community, it has been necessary for the Fire Department to continue to evolve.

In 2018, Kettering Fire Department opened and began operating out of its fourth and final new state-of-the-art fire station. The official ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Fire Station 37, located at 1300 W. Dorothy Lane, on December 14, 2018. Station 37 houses Kettering’s haz-mat equipment and personnel with a training area for confined space rescue training. These four new fire stations, which prioritize the safety and health of our firefighters by design, will enable the Kettering Fire Department to continue to meet the needs of the City of Kettering and those who make Kettering home for many years to come.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emergency Response Call Type</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Medical Services</td>
<td>7,096</td>
<td>79.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Assist</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>7.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alarm Investigation</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>3.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wires Arc/Down</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>2.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>1.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carbon Monoxide Alarm</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Gas Leak</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>0.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid Given - Fire</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residential Fire</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Fire</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Engine Fire</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Gas Leak</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood in Structure</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apartment Fire</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Fire</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mulch/Grass Fire</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel Spill</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial Fire</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Reported Out</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazardous Materials</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Near Structure</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Incidents</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,970</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Crews moved in and began operation of Kettering Fire Station 37, located at 1300 West Dorothy Lane, on the momentous morning of November 13, 2018. This date marked the completion of the fourth and final new fire station for the Kettering Fire Department. KFD celebrated the culmination of the Fire Station Construction Project with an open house, which was held on December 14, 2018. Station 37 was completed by Brumbaugh Construction.

Fire Headquarters Complex includes administrative offices, a Community Room that accommodates 48 people in a classroom setting with full audio-visual capabilities, and the City’s Emergency Operations Center.
This expansive project could not have been completed without the tireless work of Kettering Fire Department members, City of Kettering staff, and the work of our design team. The Kettering Fire Department would like to recognize the City of Kettering workforce that championed and worked on this achievement, including: Kettering Mayor Don Patterson and City Council, Office of the City Manager, Planning and Development Department, Finance Department, Law Department, Public Service Department and Engineering Department.

With the first shovel of dirt in the fall of 2014 to the open house in December of 2018, this has been a monumental achievement for the citizens of Kettering. The new fire stations are designed and built to better serve our citizens and represent the City of Kettering and the Kettering Fire Department’s commitment to the community. In addition, they serve to represent the neighborhood of each facility and the location in which they are situated. These new stations will provide appropriate facilities for the storage and safety requirements of modern fire apparatus. Additionally, these facilities will provide interiors ergonomically designed to accommodate the 24-hour staffing model adopted by the Kettering Fire Department.

The four new stations are now fully operational and staffed 24 hours a day with members who are trained to respond on emergencies both in Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Each station was constructed with a specialty in mind for their specific function as well. Fire Station 32, located at 3484 Far Hills Avenue, serves as KFD’s air room; servicing and maintaining the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA), so vital for firefighter safety and survival. Fire Station 34, located at 2575 Woodman Drive, serves as the rescue station and is equipped with a technical
Station Modernization Project (Cont.)

rescue trench and confined space simulator. Fire Station 36, located at 4745 Hempstead Station Drive, also serves as the Kettering Fire Department Headquarters and houses the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Finally, Fire Station 37 serves as KFD’s hazardous materials station.

Now that the Station Modernization Project is complete, the Kettering Fire Department is better prepared and equipped to respond to the nearly 9,000 calls for emergency service that we receive each year. These new state-of-the-art fire stations have brought KFD facilities up to current industry codes and standards, which enhance our emergency response capabilities and directly improve the health, safety and training of our firefighters well into the future. These new fire stations will continue to be a valuable resource for the entire City of Kettering and its fire department for many years to come.

Ohio House Representative Jim Butler speaking at Station 37 ribbon cutting ceremony.
Kettering Fire Department

Left: Fire Station 37 ribbon cutting ceremony was held on December 14, 2018.

Station 37 - 1300 W. Dorothy Ln. (opened Nov. 2018)
Emergency Medical Services

The Kettering Fire Department’s EMS personnel are always ready for the emergency medical needs of our community. We strive to provide the highest quality and most professional emergency medical care possible to all who make Kettering home.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) make up approximately 80 percent of the total number of calls to which the Kettering Fire Department (KFD) responds. In 2018, KFD responded to nearly 7,100 calls for medical emergencies. Each call for service is proudly handled with the professionalism and compassion for which KFD paramedics are known. To ensure excellence in emergency medical response and outstanding patient care, our personnel proactively participated in over 1,600 collective hours of EMS training.
These dynamic trainings were designed to enhance patient survivability through rapid assessment and treatment in the areas of cardiac events, stroke emergencies, traumatic injuries, pediatric and geriatric emergencies and more.

In addition to emergency medical responses and training, KFD continues to partner with Sinclair Community College, Miami Valley Career Tech. Center and Clark State Community College as a preceptor location where paramedic and EMT students participate in ride-along observation in order to gain valuable experience under the watchful eyes of seasoned Kettering Fire Department paramedics. In 2018, KFD began partnering with Wright State University School of Medicine as a location where physician residents will participate in different stages of EMS operations during ride-along observation in order to gain valuable knowledge and experience in the prehospital setting.

KFD continues to provide emergency medical support for many of the city’s annual events. In 2018, our personnel staffed EMS bike teams and medical carts at events such as the annual Go 4th! celebration and the Holiday @ Home Parade and 5K run. These specialized teams are better able to quickly navigate through large crowds where traditional vehicle are less accessible. KFD also continues to provide EMS support for other local events as well. KFD staffed paramedics at all Fairmont home football games, certain Fraze Pavilion events, Alterfest and more.

The Kettering Fire Department also continues to actively engage on a regional level in shaping the future of Emergency Medical Services in the Miami Valley. KFD participates in the Greater Miami Valley EMS Council, the Regional Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Committee and the Regional Physicians Advisory Board (RPAB).

In keeping with the Fire Department’s Apparatus Replacement Plan, the Kettering Fire Department took delivery of a new Road Rescue Medic Unit in 2018. New Medic 36 was delivered with the department’s first power cot and power load system. The power cot enhances the patient’s experience and comfort, while also significantly reducing the potential for lifting injuries to emergency personnel. This power cot has the capability to lift and load patients who weigh up to 700 pounds.
Rescue Task Force, Region 3 and Ohio Task Force One

Rescue Task Force

The Rescue Task Force (RTF) is comprised of members of the Kettering Fire Department who have been specially trained to respond to active threat emergencies such as an active shooter event. In 2018, the Rescue Task Force added 18 new members to its roster. These members were trained by our three RTF instructors who are also on the Kettering Fire Department. We were able to send multiple members to a number of full scale, active shooter exercises outside of the city where they were able to gain real world experience alongside other regional RTF members. Crews went to Coy Middle School in Beavercreek as well as local hospitals for these trainings. Participating in these trainings is the closest we hope to ever come to an actual event.

Region 3 Rescue

The Kettering Fire Department has 13 members on the Region 3 Rescue Team. These members have specialized knowledge and training in areas such as high angle rope, structural collapse, trench, and confined space rescue. The region held four trainings in 2018 which were attended by KFD Region 3 members. The Kettering Fire Department was host to one of these trainings which was the trench rescue training held at Station 34 on Woodman Drive. KFD members also responded and utilized their rescue skills at a couple of successful regional emergency responses. Region 3 Rescue Team found a lost elderly male during a large area search and ran operations at a successful trench rescue in the City of Oakwood.

Ohio Task Force One

Kettering Fire Department has two members participating on the FEMA sanctioned Urban Search and Rescue Ohio Task Force One team. Both members attended bi-monthly trainings related to their specialties for the team. In addition to these trainings, one member assisted in instructing a 40-hour medical specialist class. This member was also deployed to North Carolina to assist in the Hurricane Florence recovery efforts.
American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Recognition Award

In 2018, The Kettering Fire Department received the American Heart Association’s Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Award for implementing quality improvement measures for the treatment of patients who experience severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the deadliest type of heart attack caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it’s critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

The Mission: Lifeline initiative provides tools, training and other resources to support heart attack care following protocols from the most recent evidence-based treatment guidelines. Mission: Lifeline’s EMS recognition program recognizes emergency medical services for their efforts in improving systems of care to rapidly identify suspected heart attack patients, promptly notify the medical center and trigger an early response from the awaiting hospital personnel.

“Kettering Fire Department is dedicated to providing optimal care for heart attack patients,” said Mike Miller, Assistant Chief for the Kettering Fire Department. “We are pleased to be recognized for our dedication and achievements in emergency medical care efforts through Mission: Lifeline.”

“EMTs and paramedics play a vital part in the system of care for those who have heart attacks,” said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. “Since they often are the first medical point of contact, they can save precious minutes of treatment time by activating the emergency response system that alerts hospitals to an incoming heart attack patient. We applaud the Kettering Fire Department for achieving this award in following evidence-based guidelines in the treatment of people who have severe heart attacks.”
Training Division

Making Every Day a Training Day

As a progressive fire department and a leader in the region, the Kettering Fire Department continually looks to our fire instructors to generate new and challenging training opportunities for the professional development of our personnel. Whether it’s with new equipment, new techniques or new personnel, we always strive to learn the latest techniques in order to be the best that we can possibly be.

New Fire Station 34 houses our trench rescue and confined space rescue training simulators. 2018 marks the first time members of the Kettering Fire Department, along with several members of the Ohio Region 3 Rescue Strike Team, were able to use these simulators to safely train for confined space and trench rescue situations. These simulators are excellent training aids which will be used for many years to come. Our technical rescue crews utilized these rescue skills at a trench collapse incident in the City of Oakwood in 2018. The Ohio Region 3 Rescue Strike Team, which consists of 13 KFD rescue technicians,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Type</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EMS Training</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geriatric</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pediatric</td>
<td>508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trauma</td>
<td>489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fire Training</strong></td>
<td>7,978</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>3,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officer Development</td>
<td>1,273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>2,312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HazMat</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inspector</td>
<td>699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>9,925</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
responded to the scene. KFD personnel were in charge of the Operations Section which resulted in the successful rescue of a trapped victim.

The Kettering Fire Department also acquired two structures in 2018 that were slated for demolition. KFD’s training division used these buildings as tools for providing valuable training in a number of different firefighting disciplines and situations. Training in acquired structures helps firefighters train in real world conditions for situations like knee wall fires, coordinated attack and ventilation, vertical ventilation, search and rescue, Rapid Intervention Team (RIT), mayday procedures and more.

We also continued our relationships with neighboring Automatic Mutual Aid Response (AMARs) departments by participating in multiple joint fire training sessions. A couple of these joint trainings included a live fire training at an acquired structure hosted by the Washington Township Fire Department and a live fire training hosted by the Beavercreek Township Fire Department where Underwriters Laboratories (UL) was gathering scientific data of fire conditions during firefighting operations.

The department also welcomed five new firefighter/paramedic recruits in 2018. These recruits were put through the paces in a six-week training course which helps familiarize them with the Kettering Fire Department’s policies and procedures. These recruits also participated in an eight hour ride-along with the Kettering Police Department during their initial training. The objective is to gain a better understanding of how the police and fire departments work together as partners in public safety. In addition to the five new firefighters, the Kettering Fire Department also promoted two Captains and one Battalion Chief in 2018.
Enforcement of the Ohio Fire Code and other fire protection standards remains the focus of the fire prevention bureau. The enforcement of these codes and standards are essential in fulfilling our department’s mission to prevent the loss of life and property.

Throughout 2018 our fire inspectors issued and worked to resolve nearly 800 fire code violations. The mission of the Fire Prevention Bureau is to ensure all commercial facilities in Kettering are safe for everyone.

In addition to ensuring that existing structures are maintained in accordance with the Ohio Fire Code, the Fire Prevention Bureau spends countless hours reviewing plans for new construction within the City. These reviews are conducted to ensure that new buildings in Kettering are as safe as possible for patrons and employees alike. This method of code enforcement ensures appropriate measures are taken that keep emergency responders as safe as possible in the event of an actual emergency and helps ensure that emergency operations are able to be conducted safely and efficiently.

The Fire Prevention Bureau is also continuing to educate building owners about the importance of Knox Boxes. The Knox Box Rapid Entry System is a small, wall-mounted safe that holds the keys to the entry door so firefighters can enter an unoccupied business in cases of emergency. This 24/7 access allows Kettering firefighters to enter and re-secure a structure, eliminating the need for costly forcible entry. Knox Boxes are also available for residential applications. Similar to commercial applications, the residential Knox Box allows Kettering firefighters and paramedics the ability to gain access to a residence during emergencies where the homeowner is unable to open the door. Knox Boxes truly help expedite the emergency response without causing avoidable and costly damage.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Prevention</th>
<th>2018 Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Inspections</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-Inspections</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations Issued</td>
<td>791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violations Resolved</td>
<td>852</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

“COOK WITH CAUTION”

➤ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don’t use the stove or stovetop.
➤ Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
➤ If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
➤ Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

IF YOU HAVE A COOKING FIRE...

➤ Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
➤ Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number after you leave.
➤ If you try to fight the fire, be sure others are getting out and you have a clear way out.
➤ Keep a lid nearby when you’re cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
➤ For an oven fire turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

Cooking and Kids

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

FACTS

1. The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
2. Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.
Community Relations

Kettering Fire Department is continuously seeking out opportunities to build and strengthen its relationships with Kettering residents and businesses. Kettering Fire Department members build and strengthen these relationships through community events including Touch-A-Truck, summer camp visits, ribbon cuttings, pre-school / daycare visits, and reading to students at Kettering elementary schools. By engaging with our residents in these non-emergent environments, Kettering Fire Department is given the opportunity to educate our community on topics such as smoke detectors, exit drills, kitchen fire safety, carbon monoxide detectors, and fall prevention. The Kettering Fire Department created its annual
Fire Prevention Week video. This video taught children to “Look. Listen. Learn. Be Aware—fire can happen anywhere.” More than 4,000 students in Kindergarten through Fifth grade were shown this video in their classroom. More than 250 of these students also had the opportunity to participate in our annual Fire Prevention Week coloring contest. The winner of this contest will have their creation featured on the cover of the 2019 fire prevention coloring book. This coloring book will be given to children throughout 2019. This contest offers our younger residents the opportunity to have their art work showcased throughout the city while advancing our message of fire prevention and preparedness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Education Events</th>
<th>2018 Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Block Parties</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPR Classes</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Station Tours</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Events</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Relations (Cont.)

Photos: Crews enjoy hosting fire station tours to educate children.

KFD crews keeping children cooled off during day camps
In 2018, The Kettering Professional Firefighters, IAFF Local 2150 continued their mission as “Partners in Protecting our Community.” During the past year, Local 2150 was able to make new connections and re-establish some old partnerships. One new connection was a donation to the Kettering Medical Center Foundation that specifically assists patients who are receiving treatment at the Kettering Cancer Center. The firefighters re-established their partnership with the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) to do their part in helping the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters (OAPFF) reach their goal of raising $1 million dollars for MDA in 2018 to celebrate the OAPFF’s 100th anniversary. The firefighters continued to collaborate with the Dor-Wood Optimists as a sponsor for their annual golf outing fundraiser. In June, the firefighters sponsored a team and competed for the first time in the “Battle of the Businesses” fundraiser for Special Olympics. The firefighter’s team was successful and managed to win first place in the government division for the “tug of war” event. In 2019, they hope to bring home more blue ribbons.

The firefighters group continued to expand their relationship with CHOICES Foster Care Inc. by providing requested training to staff, school supplies, clothing, fire extinguishers and first aid kits. 2018 also marked the 30th year that the firefighters completed their Adopt-a-family program. With assistance from Kettering City Schools, Meijer, Kroger and other local businesses, several families in need were provided with Christmas presents and groceries.

2018 also saw Local 2150 participate in “Firefighters for Operation Warm,” a national program to provide American made winter coats to Kettering City School children in need. They also assisted Kettering Fairmont High School with their Adopt-a-family program. They hope to bring home more blue ribbons.

Prom program that provides a safe, drug and alcohol free zone for the students to enjoy after the dance.

Local 2150 sponsored our Annual 5K Run in October of 2018. With a strong group of participants, this was a very successful and fun event! In addition to everything else they do, the Kettering Professional Firefighters also assisted other area firefighters and their families during times of need due to illness or injury. The Kettering Professional Firefighters are excited to continue their outreach with community organizations and charities in the upcoming year and look forward to assisting the citizens of Kettering and surrounding communities through charitable efforts in 2019.
Personnel Updates

NEW EMPLOYEES

MICHAEL BURDEN
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

CHRIS BUTLER
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

KELLY MCCARTHY
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

ANDY MCCORMICK
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

DUSTIN MCGHGHY
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

JUSTIN MCVICAR
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

TODD MYERS
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

JUSTIN POYNTER
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

JEREMY VOELKER
Career Firefighter/Paramedic

Swearing In (L to R): Poynter, Voelker, Myers, McCarthy, McVicar, McGhghy, McCormick, Butler, Burden
BATTALION CHIEF PROMOTION

Chief Tom Butts, Batt. Chief Nate Cox

BATTALION CHIEF NATE COX
Promoted August 2018

CAPTAIN PROMOTION

Captain Kris Holbrook
Promoted September 2018

Chief Tom Butts, Capt. Kris Holbrook
Personnel Updates

2018 Retirements

Battalion Chief
Jon Durrenberg
30 years of service

Captain
Rob Hessinger
23 years of service

Firefighter/Paramedic
Bill Korb
16 years of service

Firefighter/Paramedic
Scott Perkins
31 years of service

Firefighter/Paramedic
Dan Wathen
27 years of service
Annual Awards Ceremony

Kettering Fire Department held its annual awards ceremony on March 21, 2019, to summarize 2018’s departmental highlights, including employee recognitions for years of service and many exemplary service and other departmental and city awards.

Years of Service Awards

5 Years
FF/P Nate Hall

10 Years
Capt. Mark Duckro  
Capt. Rob Fowler  
FF/P Matt Gerspacher  
Capt. Eric Hagemeyer  
FF/P Mike Holbert  
Capt. Kris Holbrook  
Batt. Chief Doug Panstingel

15 Years
Capt. Darrin Townsend

20 Years
Capt. Neil Frederick  
Capt. Jim McGrath  
FF/P John Pfeifer

25 Years
FF/P Bob Knedler  
Asst. Chief Mike Miller  
(pictured at right with Chief Butts)

L to R: Capt. Rob Fowler, Capt. Kris Holbrook, Capt. Eric Hagemeyer, Batt. Chief Doug Panstingel, FF/P Mike Holbert
Firefighter of the Year

The Firefighter of the Year is awarded to the firefighter that exemplifies the true meaning of commitment and pride in the organization for the current year. This award process begins in the fall, and nominations for the award may be submitted from any rank within the organization. At the end of each year, the nominations are evaluated for merit by the department’s Award Committee which is made up of 4-5 individuals of varying rank and organizational responsibilities. The committee reviews each candidate and makes recommendations to the Fire Chief for final approval.

2018 Firefighter of the Year: FF/P Pete Burcham

FF/P Pete Burcham

Firefighter/Paramedic Pete Burcham came to the Kettering Fire Department from Springdale Fire Department in 2011. He had prior service as a Kettering Volunteer Firefighter from 2005 to 2009.

Pete was nominated for Firefighter of the Year because of the many additional responsibilities he’s had in 2018. Pete is a member of the Kettering Fire Department’s Rescue Team and EMS Bike Team. He is also a fire, EMS and trench rescue instructor. Pete is a member of the Region 3 Rescue Strike Team and the Region 3 Rescue Task Force (RTF) that may be called to respond to active shooter-type situations, which makes him one of only three RTF instructors from the Kettering Fire Department. In addition to all those responsibilities, he’s also the firefighter union’s president.

In 2018, Pete was the lead instructor and coordinator for the Fire Department’s annual Standing Orders check-offs. Standing Orders training and testing consists of more than a month of training for the entire department. His oversight of this program ensures that the paramedics and EMT’s from Kettering are prepared for any medical emergency.

With firefighter occupational cancer being a growing concern for the men and women of the fire service, Pete was able to find a grant opportunity through the Ohio Bureau of Worker’s Comp (BWC). Pete worked to secure a grant from the BWC for over $10,000 towards the purchase of technologically advanced firefighting hoods and gloves for all Kettering Fire Department personnel. In addition to protecting the firefighters from heat in a fire, these “particulate” hoods and washable gloves are designed to better protect firefighters from cancer causing smoke and soot. Pete’s work for this grant has helped reduce the risk of exposure to work-related cancer for his fellow firefighters for the next 10 years.

Pete’s passion for the Kettering Fire Department is clearly supported in this list of accomplishments and makes him deserving of earning the title of Firefighter of the Year.

Chief Butts, FF/P Pete Burcham
The Kettering Fire Department’s Life Saving Award is a prestigious and incredible honor awarded to active duty personnel whose direct actions save the life of a person whose heart has stopped beating and shows no signs of life. This award is only achieved when the patient who was clinically deceased is not only resuscitated and regains life sustaining functions, but is also able to make a full recovery and resume normal life activities. It is one of the most rewarding accomplishments any member of this organization can make in the course of their career — to know that their actions contributed to saving the life of another human being. To understand the significance of the last statement, the individual that is saved must be discharged from the hospital and resume normal life activities.

On scene, crews found an unresponsive female on the floor with a family friend performing CPR. The crews from Medic and Engine 36 quickly assessed the situation and positioned the Lucas Compression device to deliver high-quality CPR. They then began advanced cardiac life support procedures. Shortly thereafter, crews detected a pulse, and the patient began attempting to breathe on her own. This crew had the patient at the hospital, with a pulse and a fighting chance for survival in just a little over 30 minutes from the initial 911 call. After just two short weeks, the patient was released from the hospital and sent home.

This call is a prime example of how our community-based CPR program is a vital link in the chain of survival. If the family friend had not started CPR immediately, the outcome for this patient could have been considerably different. Thanks to a quick acting friend and the actions of these firefighters, this citizen’s life was saved.
Life Saving Awards (Cont.)

On October 16, 2018, our dispatch center received a call for a woman in cardiac arrest. Company 36 was notified and dispatched within 25 seconds of receiving the call. Crews responded and were on scene in just 3 minutes and 25 seconds. Upon arrival, crews found a female patient in cardiac arrest with CPR being performed by a family member. KFD crews took over CPR and began advanced life-saving interventions. These crews worked hard to save her life by performing high quality CPR, giving several rounds of advanced cardiac drug therapy, and using cardiac defibrillation to place her heart into a normal perfusing rhythm. Once the patient was stabilized, she was transported to the hospital where she arrived with a second chance at survival.

This was a complicated full arrest which required several rounds of cardiac drugs and four defibrillator shocks before her heart returned to a normal rhythm. This event is a perfect example of how the chain of survival works. The early activation of the 911 system; the importance of early, high-quality CPR; cardiac defibrillation; and advanced life support all played key roles in ensuring the positive outcome for this patient.
On November 1, 2018, our dispatch center received a call for a person experiencing severe chest pain with difficulty breathing. The dispatcher notified crews in just 36 seconds, and Company 36 responded to the call. Upon arrival, crews found an unresponsive male patient with a bluish tint around his lips and face. He was on his back in his bed which was located in a small, cramped bedroom. He was found to have inadequate agonal breathing and no pulse.

Company 36 crews quickly worked together to move the patient out of the small bedroom and into the medic, which is a much more controlled environment in which to work. Once in the medic, crews initiated high quality CPR with the Lucas external compression device and began advanced life support procedures utilizing the cardiac monitor, the cardiac defibrillator, endotracheal intubation, and cardiac drug therapy.

After several rounds of cardiac shocks and advanced drug therapy, the patient’s pulse returned, and he started to breathe on his own. Stabilizing medications and oxygen therapy were given while en route to the hospital.

Several weeks later, this patient was released from the hospital and sent home after having fully recovered from his near-death experience.

The quick decision making and essential treatment given by these crews saved this patient’s life. Calls like this show why it’s so important for Kettering Fire Department personnel to train extensively and prepare for the unexpected.
Life Saving Awards (Cont.)

On December 11, 2018, our dispatch center received a call for a female in cardiac arrest. The Dispatcher notified Engine 37 and Medic 32 within 43 seconds, and they responded with urgency.

Upon arrival, Engine 37’s crew found the facility’s staff performing CPR on a female in cardiac arrest. The staff had placed their AED on the patient and had already delivered two shocks prior to KFD’s arrival. E37 immediately assessed the patient and took over CPR efforts. M32 arrived shortly after the engine and placed the Lucas External Compression device and began advanced cardiac life support procedures.

Shortly after the first rounds of ALS drug therapy, the patient’s heart began to beat on its own. The patient was loaded onto the cot and transported to the hospital for further treatment and stabilization.

This is a clear example of the importance of immediate bystander CPR and the quick use of the AED. That coupled with the quick actions by KFD crews on scene helped to save this woman’s life. It is calls like these that show how hours of training and preparation are vital to the Kettering Fire Department and the citizens of Kettering.
FIRE STATION 32
FIRE STATION 34
FIRE STATION 36 / FIRE HQ
FIRE STATION 37

3484 FAR HILLS AVENUE (45429)
2575 WOODMAN DRIVE (45420)
4745 HEMPSTEAD STATION DR. (45429)
1300 W. DOROTHY LANE (45409)
“Because there’s no greater good than to serve others.”