

CONTACT with Kettering

Community Magazine Winter 2017

INSIDE

Mayor's Greeting
Winter Weather Preparedness
City Projects Update
New Family Resource
Disaster Preparation
City Communications
Kettering Police Dept.
Kettering Fire Dept.
Economic Development
Christmas Day Open House
Cities of Service
Neighborhood Pride
PRCA News
Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*



Mayor's Greeting

Dear Friends,

A frequent topic of discussion, especially each election season, is government transparency. Locally, this translates into questions about the transparency of the city's financial records.

In recent years Kettering City Council placed a focus on transparency because we believe it is your right to understand how your tax money is used to better our community. We believe in making City financial information accessible for our residents and full transparency is a priority for Kettering City Council and administration.

There's an important distinction I want to communicate to all of our residents. The primary source of tax revenue the City of Kettering receives is from income taxes, not property taxes. This is why we work so diligently to recruit and retain high quality jobs to Kettering. Property taxes are important because they go to fund important services provided by the county, our libraries and our schools. But please know that only 6% of your property taxes come to the City of Kettering.

Because the City of Kettering is committed to providing accessible records of how your tax dollars are spent, in 2015 we were among the first cities in Ohio to launch a comprehensive web-based tool in partnership with the Ohio Treasurer of State. The tool is available on the City's website www.ketteringoh.org, through a convenient link on the homepage. The user friendly, searchable database provides easy access to detailed city financial information, including expenditures for departments and salary data for all of our employees. Our website also features: archived video and minutes from all City Council meetings, city collective bargaining agreements, and employment contracts.

Kettering City Council meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Kettering City Council Chambers, 3600 Shroyer Road. Every City Council meeting offers an opportunity for public comment, both regarding pending legislation and other matters. Council members genuinely appreciate hearing from our citizens, whether at a City Council meeting or in between meetings. If you have questions regarding something happening in Kettering, please give us a call. We are all here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Patterson, Mayor

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



**Mayor's
Christmas Tree Lighting**
Friday, December 1

Yard Debris Center
Closes and Residential Leaf
Collection ends Monday, December 4



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

**Flyin' to the Hoop
Basketball Tournament**
January 12 – 15



CITY OF KETTERING

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City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

Winter Weather Preparedness

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

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

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

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

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

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

prohibited on the side of each street with odd numbered street addresses.

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

Tips for residents:

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

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



Winter Reminders

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

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

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

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

Waste Management holidays include:

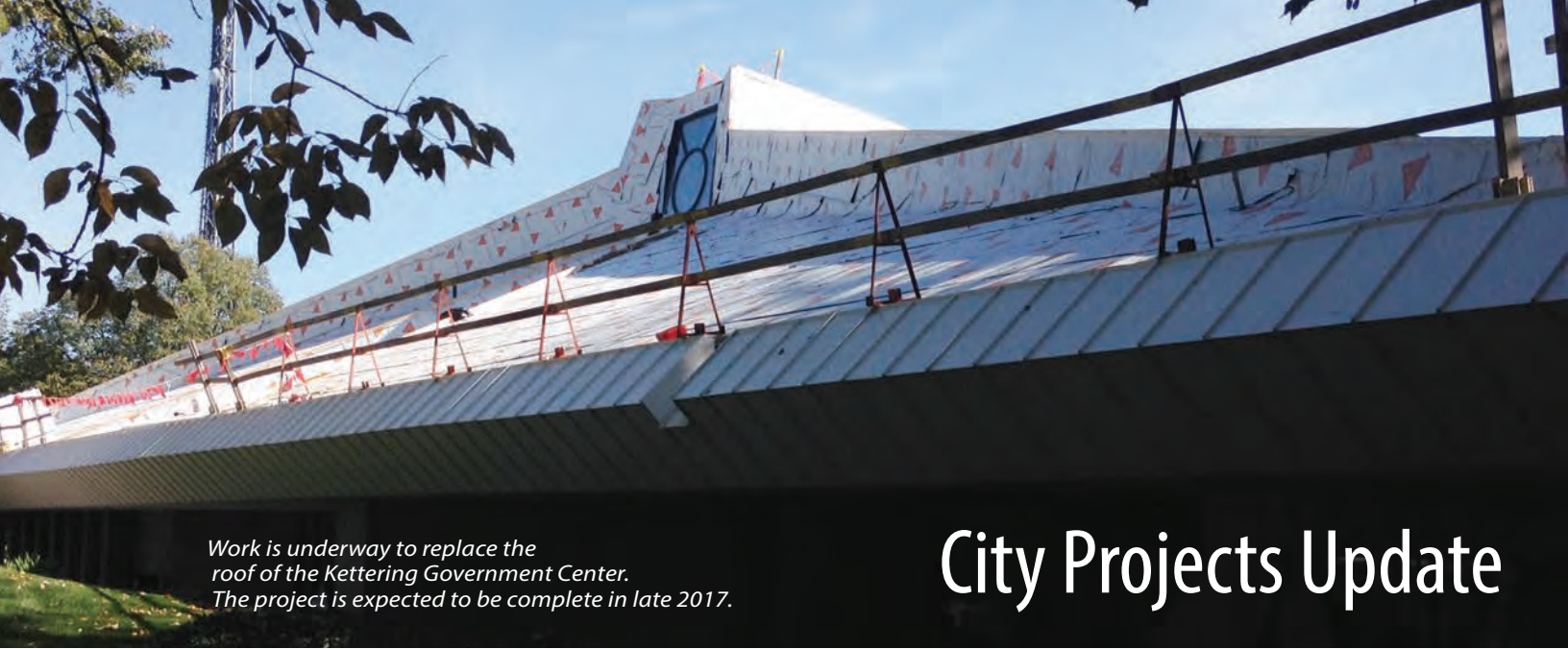
Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 23

Christmas Day – Monday, December 25

New Years Day – Monday, January 1

Since Christmas and New Year's fall on Monday this year, service will be delayed by one day both those weeks.





Work is underway to replace the roof of the Kettering Government Center. The project is expected to be complete in late 2017.

City Projects Update

Wilmington Pike Streetscape Enhancement

The City of Kettering remains committed to acting as a catalyst for reinvestment in Wilmington Pike for both economic purposes and for the impact the corridor has on our residents.

2017 marks another year of major reinvestment in the Wilmington Pike corridor.

A major streetscape improvement project on the Wilmington Pike corridor between Stroop and Marshall Roads is nearing completion. The final stage of the project will include new streetlights and abundant street trees. On the west side of the corridor a new 8 foot multi-use path offers a connection to existing regional bikeways and improved pedestrian access to area businesses.



Prugh Woods Drive is Now Open (off Dorothy Lane)

Patrons visiting the Kettering Recreation Complex now have direct access from Dorothy Lane via Prugh Woods Drive, at the intersection of Dorothy and Prentice Drive. The City will monitor traffic levels to determine if there is a need for a signal at Dorothy and Prugh Woods Drive in the future.

To learn more about this project please visit the Prugh Woods Development page on the City of Kettering website.

Stroop Road Closed for Bridge Repair

You likely have encountered the complete closure of Stroop Road in both directions between Woodman Drive and Glenheath / Braddock. This section of Stroop Road will be closed through the end of the year to allow for replacement of the Montgomery County bridge in this section of the roadway. Once the bridge is replaced, Stroop Road will return to two lanes of traffic in each direction. Detours are in place with Dorothy Lane and Woodman Drive serving as the primary alternate route. As winter weather approaches, please plan to allow for extra time to travel along detour routes.

Visit our website to learn more about this project and for construction status updates.



Ridgeway Bridge Replacement

The City of Kettering is exploring future investment in the Ridgeway Road Bridge over West Dorothy Lane. The Ridgeway Road Bridge crosses over Dorothy Lane at the top of the hill between Southern Boulevard and Far Hills. The Ridgeway Road Bridge was originally constructed in 1965 and rehabilitated in 2005. At 52 years old, the bridge is nearing the end of its useful life.

A total of about 900 cars cross the Ridgeway Road Bridge every day, based on May 2017 traffic counts. Beyond vehicle traffic, the bridge is used by pedestrians and bicyclists to cross over Dorothy Lane. In 2005, the Ridgeway Road Bridge was rehabilitated at a cost of \$500,000. The work included installation

- of several new concrete beams, railing walls and an asphalt surface.
- Despite the 2005 rehabilitation, the bridge beams are still deteriorating due to water leakage and road salt used during winter on the bridge surface. This deterioration will continue due to the design of the current bridge and the related water and salt leakage. The current bridge's support columns are also showing signs of advanced deterioration and cracking. The columns were patched with the rehabilitation project in 2005, but are now in need of complete replacement. For these reasons, rehabilitation of the current bridge is not cost effective.
- The City is exploring several options for future investment in the Ridgeway Road

- Bridge and recently a survey was sent to residents in the vicinity of the bridge to learn more about their use of the roadway and their views on replacement options. Kettering City Council will use the survey results to guide their decision about the bridge. If the decision is made to replace the bridge, the City will apply for outside grant funding to offset a portion of the construction costs. Construction would begin several years from now, when grant funds are available.

Visit our website: ketteringoh.org for weekly project status updates



New Resource Available to Families in Need

Kettering has a well-established reputation as a collaborative community that is both innovative and eager to help those in need. That can-do spirit has led to a new — and much-needed resource for families who could use a little extra help.

For more than a year, the Partners for Healthy Youth Board, the City of Kettering, and the Kettering City School District have collaborated on ways to address the growing number of families in our community who need assistance. Those efforts culminated in the creation of the new Youth and Family Community Resource Coordinator, a position that works with both the City and schools to gather resources for those in need.

Since being hired in July 2017, Jonelle Carroll has embraced the role as community advocate.

"For many years the City of Kettering has had a Senior Services Coordinator to address the needs and provide resources for seniors living in our community," explained Carroll. "But Kettering didn't have a central point of contact for youth or families. My current focus is improving quality of life for Kettering families by addressing short-term needs for assistance, with my long-term goal being the development of plans and

- programs to help families achieve self-sufficiency.'
- Depending on the type of need, Carroll works with a number of agencies, including the City of Kettering, Department of Job and Family Services, The Ohio Benefit Bank, Hannah's Treasure Chest, Epiphany Lutheran Church, the Kettering Backpack Program and Kettering Clean Care.

One parent wrote to me and said "What an amazing resource. You are bringing me so much hope."

— Jonelle Carroll, Youth and Family Community Resource Coordinator

- These could include issues with housing, food and nutrition, clothing, job search assistance, counseling—basically any need a family may have that impacts the quality of life and the ability of children to learn, grow and live in a stable home environment. The position is jointly funded by the City of Kettering and the Kettering City School District, with additional sponsorship from the Dor-Wood Optimist Club.
- While still in the process of meeting face-to-face with the various stakeholders, Carroll has been able to provide one-on-one guidance to 53 families to-date.

Carroll says the most common issues facing Kettering families are finding affordable housing, options for affordable child care, furniture for displaced families and transportation assistance. Also commonly needed are options for health insurance, assistance with food and nutrition, and substance abuse and/or family counseling.

During September, four displaced families, who did not have any furniture including beds, received assistance from a pilot program launched in the Kettering City School District. A *Kettering Family in Need* bulletin was emailed to school staff containing a furniture wish list for each family. Within an hour, staff members volunteered to donate and deliver all of the requested furniture.

"The pilot program proved to be a win-win, with many staff members who were happy to find a loving home for the furniture and with families who were so grateful and appreciative to receive it," stated Carroll. "One parent wrote to me and said 'What an amazing resource. You are bringing me so much hope.'"

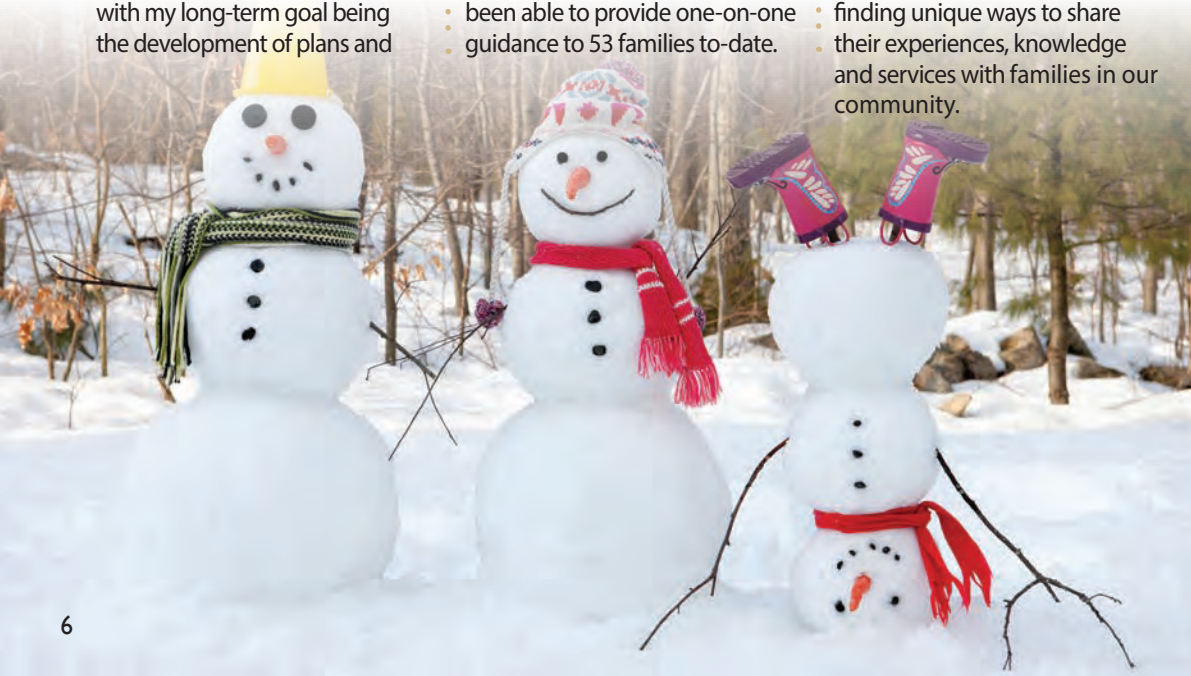
Carroll is developing a program with local business owners and organizations who are interested in collaborating and finding unique ways to share their experiences, knowledge and services with families in our community.

Need Help?

Don't be afraid to ask for help! A tragedy or misfortune can happen to anyone. There are resources to help with just about any need, but we can't help if we are not aware of the issue.

If your family is experiencing a quality of life issue expected to last more than 6 months—identify goals or ways you can address those needs. It could mean taking online classes or returning to school, starting a business or changing careers, looking for a new residence or method of transportation, working with credit/budget counselors or taking a cooking or exercise class.

A temporary setback does not have to be a life sentence. If you need help with these or any other quality of life issues, reach out to the school counselor in the school your child attends or contact Jonelle Carroll, Youth and Family Community Resource Coordinator at 937-499-1496.



Disaster Preparation

With the news reporting daily about Hurricanes Harvey and Irma there is one thing that is painfully clear; being prepared is important for everyone but is crucial for those with special needs. For the millions who have physical, medical, sensory and cognitive disabilities disasters can pose a significant challenge. Preparation is key to making it through difficult circumstances successfully.

Begin this process with a self assessment. Make a list of all of the things that you are capable of and those that you need help with. Your plan should be based on the amount of help you may need. The plan should spell out the details of care needed, the amount of water and any electrical equipment needed to meet those needs. Do you require specialized transportation to evacuate if needed? Do you have any special medications or dietary needs that require special orders and may not be found at the neighborhood drug store? If you have a service animal, what supplies does that animal need? Will you need assistance in caring for the animal? You should also ask the people that assist you to help you with your

- assessment to make sure you do not leave anything out. Once you have an idea of what you need you can begin to prepare your plan.
- Start by learning about your community's disaster preparedness plan, evacuation routes and community resources available to assist you as well. Talk to family members and your care team about your plan so that there is backup available to assist you. Your plan should also include the contact information for your family, care team, physicians, pharmacy and equipment vendors. There should be an individual chosen outside of your area to assist in your plan, someone who can serve as a point of contact for family in case you get separated. Family members can reach out to this person and find out how other family members are and where they may be found.
- No plan is complete until you make the kit with the supplies needed to last you at least



- one week. Clothes, medications, medical equipment, water, non-perishable foods, copies of vital records and documents, photo copies of ID and credit cards, insurance information, a flashlight with extra batteries, a weather radio, hand sanitizer, weather appropriate clothing, cash and a copy of your plan. Keep this kit in a place that can be reached easily in case of evacuation and let your family and caregivers know where it is.

Once your kit is prepared keep it updated and periodically change your medications and food to insure that they are not outdated. Review and update your plan on a regular basis to keep contact information current and your individual needs may require updating as well.

- Preparing for the worst case scenario is smart and can provide relief if you ever need it. For more information about this topic, contact Vickie Carraher RN, BC at 296-3356 or at vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org

City Communications

Are you missing important Kettering news, City service reminders, construction and traffic alerts or public safety notifications?

With so many sources of information out there, the City of Kettering wants to make it easy for you to get accurate information directly from us about the services you need.

Here are some easy ways to keep in touch and make sure you don't miss City news.



- The monthly **Starter** e-Newsletter is a great way to keep up with current news and events happening in Kettering.

- Visit ketteringoh.org/starter-community-e-newsletter to subscribe. You can also read past issues on our website.
- Our website is your 24/7 city hall! From our homepage you are just one click away from answers to more than 200 commonly asked questions, easy reporting of issues and concerns, a full list of City contact numbers and the **My Services** tab where you can enter your address to determine your leaf pickup district, trash collection day and City Council representative. **Ketteringoh.org** is a comprehensive resource that provides

- access to City services and information at your convenience. You click. We serve.
- The **Kettering City Page** is published monthly on the second Saturday of each month in the **Dayton Daily News** and features editorial stories about the programs and services that make Kettering a great place to call home.
- If you are on social media you can find the latest up-to-the-minute Kettering news, events and service alerts on our **City of Kettering, Ohio – Government** Facebook page and **@Kettering_OH** Twitter account.
- Always take the time to read this **Contact with Kettering**

- quarterly magazine for more detailed updates on current projects and community news. You can also read previous **Contact with Kettering** magazines on our website.
- Did you know that the City of Kettering uses a system called Code Red to notify our residents of emergency incidents and critical community alerts? Examples include: construction updates, service notifications, public safety alerts, boil water notices, and missing person reports. Visit ketteringoh.org/code-red-emergency-incident-community-alerts to register to receive phone call, text message and/or email notifications.



Kettering Police Department



Two of KPD's new employees Ptl. Crish, left; and Ptl. Trimbach, right.

Kettering Police Department has been busy over the past several months hiring a number of employees. The following have been hired since the beginning of 2017.

- Mark Evanoff, hired 1/23/17 – Court
- Kenneth Beall, hired 2/6/17 – Court
- Gerald Weidner, hired 3/20/17 – Court
- Dominic Di Muccio, hired 3/20/17 – Court
- Jessica Bonham, hired 6/26/17 – Dispatch
- Dennis Bower, hired 1/9/17 – Jail
- Cameron Gibbs, hired 7/10/17 – Jail
- Joshua Wolf, hired 2/21/17 – Patrol
- Justin Trimbach, hired 9/5/17 – Patrol
- Samuel Crish, hired 9/5/17 – Patrol

We are impressed with our newest members of the Kettering Police Department family, and they are looking forward to long careers here in Kettering.

Citizen Police Academy

The 59th Citizens Police Academy class is currently underway and another class will be offered in early 2018.

In the Citizen Police Academy participants get first-hand knowledge on how the department functions. There are classes on patrol function, drug awareness, K-9, traffic enforcement, criminal investigations, evidence collection, firearm safety and more. This forum provides a means to increase public awareness and support for the police department throughout the community. Check the City of Kettering website and the Kettering Police Department Facebook page for information; feel free to reach out to Ptl. Jung at 296-2458 or email him at john.jung@ketteringoh.org to sign up to participate in the Citizen Police Academy.



In September Ptl. Maloney was named Kiwanis Officer of the Year.



KPD Installs Prescription Drop Box

In an effort to continue to combat the opioid crisis in our community, we have installed a prescription pill/patch drop box in the Kettering Police Department lobby.

Proper and safe disposal of prescription medication, especially the powerful opioids, keeps these drugs from getting into the wrong hands.

We are protecting both our citizens as well as the environment, two goals we believe everybody can support.

Loose pills should be put into a sealable plastic bag.

NO NEEDLES, LIQUIDS or AEROSOLS

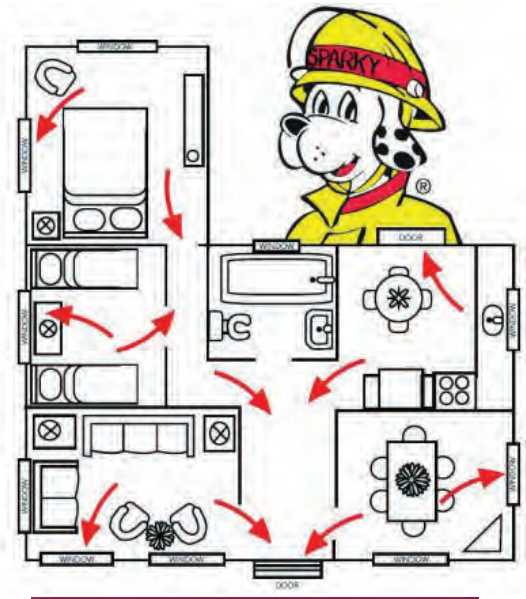


National Fire Prevention Week

The 2017 National Fire Prevention Week campaign theme is **Every Second Counts: Know 2 Ways Out**. Modern home furnishings burn hotter and faster while quickly filling a home with extremely toxic smoke. The conditions that these fires create are why every second counts if a fire starts in your home. Creating and practicing a fire escape plan can significantly decrease the amount of time it takes to escape. Here are the steps you can take to ensure that your family has the time necessary to escape if a fire starts.

- Have a working smoke alarm on every level and in every bedroom of your home.
- Draw a map of your home marking two exits from each room and a path to the outside from each exit.

- Practice your home fire drill at least twice a year. Conduct one at night and one during the day with everyone in your home, and practice using different ways out.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you can't help them.
- Close doors behind you as you leave — this may slow the spread of smoke, heat, and fire.
- Once you get outside, stay outside. Never go back inside a burning building.
- Make sure that the address number of your home is clearly marked and easy for the fire department to find.



Fall Prevention Awareness

Falls result in more than 2.8 million injuries treated in emergency departments annually, including over 800,000 hospitalizations and more than 27,000 deaths. In 2016 Kettering Fire Department responded to more than 1,600 incidents where someone had fallen. Of these falls more than 50 percent required an ambulance transport to a hospital. Here are six steps you can take to help prevent from being included in these statistics.

- 1. Find a good balance and exercise program:** Look to build balance, strength, and flexibility. Contact the Charles L. Lathrem Center (937-296-2480) to find a program that suits you. Find a program you like and take a friend.
- 2. Talk to your health care provider:** Ask for an assessment of your risk of falling. Share your history of recent falls.
- 3. Regularly review your medications with your doctor or pharmacist:** Make sure side effects aren't increasing your risk of falling. Take medications only as prescribed.
- 4. Get your vision and hearing checked annually and update your eyeglasses:** Your eyes and ears are key to keeping you on your feet.
- 5. Keep your home safe:** Remove tripping hazards, increase lighting, make stairs safe, and install grab bars in key areas.
- 6. Talk to your family members:** Enlist their support in taking simple steps to stay safe. Falls are not just a seniors' issue.

Fire Station Modernization Project Update

Station 34

Construction of Station 34 is underway at 2575 Woodman Drive, directly south of the Tenneco property. This station is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017.

Station 37

1300 West Dorothy Lane is the site for new Station 37. Construction began in October 2017 and will be completed in late 2018.



Miami Valley Research Park

The City of Kettering is proud to announce that we have completed the purchase of nearly 300 acres of land from the Miami Valley Research Foundation.

On May 23, 2017 City Council authorized the purchase of

- the unimproved land in the Kettering portion of Miami Valley Research Park for \$1.5 million. Land Holding, LLC assumed ownership of the four existing buildings from the Miami Valley Research Foundation. As a result of

- the purchases, Miami Valley Research Park will see a surge of improvements to both existing facilities and available land in the coming year.

- “Reinvestment in the Miami Valley Research Park is essential to the long term growth and stability of our region,” says Kettering Mayor Don Patterson.

“As a land-locked community, the opportunity to acquire green space appropriate for commercial development is rare and one we couldn’t pass up. We are confident that this is a wise investment for the future of Kettering.”

The University of Dayton, Wright State University, and Sinclair Community College will continue to lead efforts, in collaboration with regional leaders, to attract innovative new organizations to the complex.

Miami Valley Research Park was founded in the early 1980s as a non-profit, university-related research park affiliated with local academic institutions including: Sinclair Community College, The University of Dayton, and Wright State University.

During the past 32 years, Miami Valley Research Park has attracted advanced technology companies and organizations involved in original research, prototype development and the application of technology to products or services.

Miami Valley Research Park is comprised of 1,250 acres of land in both Kettering and Beavercreek and is home to Reynolds & Reynolds, WilmerHale, BWI, Community Tissue Services, Kodak, Lunarline and Vivial Company, among others.

“The Miami Valley Research Foundation Board is pleased with this news, both for what it means for our community and for the future of the Miami

- Valley Research Park,” said MVRF board chair Steve Johnson.

- “This investment provides an excellent opportunity for economic development for the future of our community and also provides the Research Park with the stability needed to move forward. This is a great day for all parties involved.”

- “PNC is pleased to play a role in maximizing the development opportunities for the Miami Valley Research Park (“MVRP”),” said Dave Melin, Regional President-Dayton “The current stakeholders, University of Dayton, Sinclair Community College and Wright State University and now the City of Kettering have been tremendous partners to work with as we collectively considered opportunities to enhance the relationships with the current tenants and expand development opportunities that benefit the Dayton region.”

- “Community Tissue Services, a division of Community Blood Center and one of the largest tissue banks in the US relocated its processing, distribution and R&D operations to the Center for Tissue, Innovation and Research at the Miami Valley Research Park in early 2011,” said CEO Dr. David Smith. “Moving here has been a lightning rod for expanded and new opportunities as we have tripled the distribution of life-enhancing and life-saving tissue grafts over the past 6 years. We share with our fellow business neighbor’s excitement for the improvements to the Miami Valley Research Park that will come with this reinvestment.”

- **For more information on this exciting news, please contact Gregg Gorsuch, City of Kettering Economic Development Manager at 937-296-2412 or by email gregg.gorsuch@ketteringoh.org.**



Kettering Welcomes Brigid's Path

"We are proud that as of today your doors, and more importantly your caring hearts, are open," said Kettering Mayor Don Patterson during the Brigid's Path grand opening celebration on September 25, 2017.

Certainly we all wish a facility such as Brigid's Path wasn't needed in our community, or



anywhere for that matter. The painful reality is that newborns are born drug dependent each and every day in our region. The team at Brigid's Path will work to give our most vulnerable newborns a fighting chance to thrive. Thank you to all of the regional leaders, dedicated board members, business partners and community volunteers who have

welcomed Brigid's Path with open arms and generous hearts. Already, Brigid's Path has become part of the fabric of our Kettering community.

"It was a great honor to dedicate the more than \$26,000 in proceeds from the 2017 Kettering Mayor's Ball for Charity to fund the critical work of Brigid's Path to provide inpatient medical care for drug-exposed newborns, support for mothers, and education services to

improve family outcomes" said Mayor Patterson. Mayor Patterson and his wife Maureen, in partnership with the Kettering Rotary Club, started the Kettering Mayor's Ball for Charity 11 years ago because they believed that with an extraordinary annual event we could harness the giving spirit of our community to make a meaningful difference.

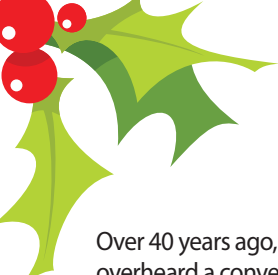


Kettering Business Park Improvements

The City of Kettering and representatives from Kettering Business Park businesses worked together this Fall to design a new signature entrance for the thriving business park on Wilmington Pike. Next spring, a new entrance sign and new landscaping will be installed at Forrer and Wilmington, creating a modern and friendly welcome for the business park.

The Kettering Business Park, formerly Gentile Air Force Station, was created in 1996 to offset the loss of more than 2,500 jobs at the Base. Today, the Business Park employs more than 1,000 people through Synchrony Financial, the National Composite Center, PriMed Physicians and the Kettering Municipal Court. Alternate Solutions Health Network is currently renovating the once vacant facility at 1050 Forrer and has relocated their growing business to the Kettering Business Park to accommodate a projected growth in employment of more than 340 jobs in the next five years.





Christmas Day Open House at Polen Farm

Over 40 years ago, volunteer Virginia Kress overheard a conversation between two senior citizens on a bus ride. The discussion was about the overwhelming sadness surrounding them as they anticipated spending Christmas alone. Immediately, Virginia's wheels were set in motion. She took it upon herself to work with the City of Kettering to create an event where no one would have to spend Christmas day alone again. And so...the Christmas Day Open House at Polen Farm was born!

As the event grew in popularity, a committee of volunteers was formed. An annual donation from General Motors Corp. provided funding. What began as an activity to bring joy to senior citizens, now embraces seniors, military families, single-parent

families, college students and anyone wishing to enjoy the magic of Christmas in the warmth of fellowship.

Thanks to Virginia's vision, guests continue to enjoy Christmas caroling, appetizers, cookies, and children's activities including a train display, a holiday craft, cookie decorating, a free book store and Santa Claus!

Sadly, Virginia Kress passed away this Fall, but her legacy continues as the City's committee of dedicated volunteers works under the steadfast leadership of Christmas Day Co-Chairs, Bill and Marynel Bradley, to honor her wish...that no one spends Christmas day alone.



Virginia Kress

We also thank Dor-Wood Optimist Club, Kettering Noon Optimist Club, 2nd & Charles, Gordon Food Service, McAfee Heating and Air Conditioning, Town & Country Shopping Center, SYSCO, Kettering Medical Center, Mike-Sell's Potato Chips and Kohler Catering for their support through the years. We welcome Day-Air Credit Union, our newest community partner! Additional partners are always welcome. If your business or organization would like to support the Open House, **contact Mary Lou Randolph in the Volunteer Office at 296-2433.**

Christmas Day Open House at Polen Farm, 5099 Bigger Rd., is on Dec. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Cities of Service Update

Several years ago Mayor Patterson signed a declaration to join forces with the Cities of Service Initiative. Cities of Service is a national organization that supports mayors and city chief executives in their efforts to address pressing needs in their communities through volunteer-based engagement. Mayor Patterson made the decision to focus efforts in Kettering on strengthening and celebrating our neighborhoods. As a result, a team of dedicated City of Kettering staff members, representing almost all city departments, was created and



CITIES OF SERVICE
.ORG

a strategic plan was set into motion. To date, we have concentrated efforts in the following neighborhoods: Richman Heights, Indianola, Southern Hills (North), and Berwin Park. Our current area of focus is the Oak Park

Neighborhood.

To start the celebration, a block party was held in June at Oak Park. Many neighbors joined the festivities as they enjoyed children's activities, door prizes, free food and information on fire safety, senior services, home repair and more! They also enjoyed spending time with

staff members from both our police and fire departments and conversing with members of our Board of Community Relations. Activities this fall include an Oak Park neighborhood garage sale, enhancements to the landscape in Oak Park, the installation of storm drain markers and a neighborhood cleanup.

In addition, the Cities of Service team is working in partnership with City of Kettering CitySites Public Art Program's new initiative, ArtLocal which is designed to foster community participation in the development of permanent artwork in public places, such as

neighborhood parks. This initiative is truly a community-wide effort. We are so very thankful for the many individual volunteers, as well as the volunteers from several organizations throughout our area, who help us in this effort. In addition, several area businesses contribute to the success of this initiative by providing resources as well as manpower. Together, we can improve and strengthen our neighborhoods! Please contact the Volunteer Office at **296-2433** or email **marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org** to join this exciting initiative!

Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a way to give back to your community this holiday season? We have several opportunities for individuals, school groups, service clubs and scout groups to assist with events sponsored by Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. For additional information about upcoming events, please contact the Volunteer Office at 296-2433.

Neighborhood Pride Award Winners

The Neighborhood Pride Program has become a treasured award for Kettering residents. It honors residents and business owners who have made significant improvements to their properties, or who have maintained their properties impeccably year after year.

Congratulations to the 2017 Neighborhood Pride Award Winners!

June Winners

- District 1**
Karen Warner
29 E. Wren Circle
- District 2**
James Fraley
2817 Whitehorse Ave.
- District 3**
Steven & Vicky Rhoades
2750 E. Stroop Rd.
- District 4**
Paul & Patti Houser
2400 Rawnsdale Rd.
- District 5**
Josefa Kelley
522 Broad Blvd.
- District 6**
Carol Karason
3710 Aerial Ave.
- District 7**
Michael McGirr
1101 Donson Dr.
- District 8**
Jimmy & Dianna Brown
517 Windingway Rd.
- District 9**
Rachel Smith
233 Balmoral Dr.
- District 10**
John Stachler
3100 Bellflower St.
- District 11**
Junette Sanders
1301 Southlyn Dr.
- District 12**
Robert & Stephanie Peters
1933 Stayman Dr.
- Business**
Terry Halasz/
Dr. Michael Halasz, DDS
229 East Stroop Rd.

July Winners

- District 1**
Brian & Beverly Knapp
1420 Flesher Ave.
- District 2**
Ron D'Amico
2838 Sutton Ave.
- District 3**
Ruth Anne Hunter
2749 Hemphill Rd.
- District 4**
Donald & Lois Hoke
2081 Westlawn Dr.
- District 5**
Cora Leiwig
2704 Circle View Dr.
- District 6**
Larry & Dora Price
3024 Rushland Dr.
- District 7**
Steven & Kathy Waker
4633 Ackerman Blvd.
- District 8**
Mark & Cynthia Ramage
3526 Lenox Dr.
- District 9**
Steve & Suzanne Trego
200 Sherbrooke Dr.
- District 10**
Charles & Jessica Kimes
3401 Westbury Rd.
- District 11**
Michael Dureiko
2501 S. Patterson Blvd.
- District 12**
Nancy Waker
1601 Berwin Ave.
- Business**
Coyne Dentistry
Dr. William Coyne
1749 Delco Park Dr.

August Winners

- District 1**
Ronald & Lisa Loxley
1101 Mendota Ct.
- District 2**
Thurman & Betty Jo Merrick
2909 Powhattan Pl.
- District 3**
Kimberly Frisby
4317 Clarendon Dr.
- District 4**
Fred & Veda Goddard
2220 Brookpark Dr.
- District 5**
Ronald & Linda Caldwell
2923 Harvey Ave.
- District 6**
Robert & Linda Crane
200 Lewiston Rd.
- District 7**
Karl & Ljubica Downing
4533 Acreview Lane
- District 8**
Michelle & David Homan
117 Greendale Dr.
- District 9**
Michael & Deborah Lipsinic
4048 Overland Trail
- District 10**
Timothy Richison &
Robert Steffek
1316 Tamerlane Rd.
- District 11**
Brian Loges
1532 Constance Ave.
- District 12**
Mary Childers
1808 Kruss Ave.
- Business**
Town & Country
Casto/SkilkenGold
300 E. Stroop Rd.

Thank you to the following volunteers for your continued dedication to the Neighborhood Pride Program:

- Nancy Andrews
Jim Bolton
Gail Carone, Co-Chair
Joe Collins
Phillip Elswick
Julie Gilmore, Co-Chair
Denny & Ann Hart
Gale Heller
Christine Henning
Del Herbeck
Rob Jahn, Co-Chair
Callie Johnson
Mary Koch, Co-Chair
Lynn Lochner-Collins
Brian Lucas
April Mason
Mark & Carol Messer
Nancy Rauch
Lois Ruse
Donna Speers
Ken & Emily Taylor
Fred & Maureen Willits

Neighborhood Pride Award Recipients attended the Sept. 26 City Council Meeting



Play Dates



Planning an Event in 2018?

Everybody loves a party — including us! Don't worry, we are not asking to be on your guest list — but we do want you to host your celebration in our parks. We have the perfect location for a birthday party, anniversary celebration, graduation party or baby shower. How do we know our shelters are the perfect spot for any occasion? There were over 747 shelter reservations in 2017!



Shelters may be reserved between April 1 and October 31. Kettering residents may reserve the shelters beginning January 2, 2018. Non-residents may reserve shelters beginning March 1, 2018. There is no rental or reservation fee to use a picnic shelter. Shelters are reserved in one time slot only— from dawn to dusk. When shelters are not reserved, they may be used on a first-come, first-served basis.

There are several picnic shelter options:

Reservable picnic shelters:

- Delco Park
- Indian Riffle Park
- Ernst Park
- Irelan Park

Non-reservable shelters

(first-come, first-served basis):

- Kennedy Park
- Oak Park
- Southern Hills
- State Farm Park
- Tait Park
- Van Buren Park
- Wenzler Park

Mayor's FREE! Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, December 1
Lincoln Park Civic Commons

FREE! A Rosewood Holiday
Saturday, December 2
Rosewood Arts Centre

Holiday Skate & Swim*
Saturday, December 16
Kettering Recreation Complex

Cookies with Mrs. Claus*
Sunday, December 17
Polen Farm

New Year's Eve Family Bash*

Sunday, December 31
Kettering Recreation Complex

Holiday at the Habitat*
Wednesday, December 13
Habitat Environmental Center

*Denotes events that requires a fee and/ or preregistration. For details about these events, visit playkettering.org.

How to Reserve a Shelter:

- Go online to www.playkettering.org select the Parks tab.
- Go to Park Shelter Reservations and scroll down to choose Delco Park, Ernst Park, Indian Riffle Park or Irelan Park from the Shelter Reservations box to check availability and to reserve a shelter.
- You will need your **User Name** and **Password** to reserve a shelter online. If this is the first time you have logged in, your **User Name** is your **Household I.D.** and your **Password** is your home phone number, minus the dashes and spaces.
- If you are a new patron, click the **Create an Account** button to create an account.
- If you have an account, but have forgotten your password, click the **Forgot Password** button.

If you need help, please contact our Parks Maintenance Office at **937-296-2486** or stop by **3170 Valleywood Drive**.

For a list of park amenities visit www.playkettering.org/parks.org.





Chill out at Kettering Ice Arena

Winter is here! It's time for cocoa, snowball fights, and our favorite, **ice skating!** The Kettering Ice Arena's 2017/2018 season is in full swing. Have you joined us yet? Now is the time! Whether you dream of the podium at the Olympics or just need a new way to enjoy the winter, you'll find a home at the Kettering Ice Arena.

New and casual skaters can take advantage of frequent public open skates and low-cost skate rentals. High-quality Riedell figure skates are available in sizes toddler – six through adult – 14 for a \$2 fee. Hockey skates are available too. If you love skating at open skate, consider taking a beginner class to hone your skills – the Kettering Ice Arena offers **Learn to Skate USA**, the most widely used and nationally recognized educational ice skating program!



Looking to skate your way onto Team USA? The Kettering Ice Arena offers a wide range of programs for figure skaters and hockey players. Our figure skaters study privately with coaches and in group lessons like **Intermediate, Advanced & Elite Jump** and **Basic Spin & Footwork**. Mixed Freestyle sessions offer figure skaters the chance to practice their programs and prepare for competitions and testing. For hockey players, there are plenty of opportunities to play, from group classes to public **Stick Time**, to the many leagues and teams that call Kettering Ice Arena home.

If the Olympic year has inspired your family to try a new sport (or you just want to beat cabin fever), glide over to the Kettering Ice Arena for family-friendly, active winter fun. Interested in learning more? For program information and open skate schedules visit www.playkettering.org



Here's what

You
had to say!

"I am totally pleased and thankful for such a citizen-oriented city as Kettering."

"We love the variety, number and locations of the parks!"

"I firmly believe Kettering parks/recreation/cultural arts make Kettering a community a step above all others in the area. Thank you!"

"City parks and recreation is awesome!"

"I think the parks and arts department are doing great!"

2017 Survey Results

More than 600 residents participated in a community survey and focus groups administered in spring 2017 by the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

Completed in April by the ETC Institute, the final report demonstrates that 84% of those who responded are satisfied with the overall value their household receives from the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. Additionally, 88% believe that our department makes Kettering a desirable place to live.

"We are honored to have the support of our residents and community leaders and we will continue to strive to offer the programs, facilities, and parks that enhance your quality of life in Kettering," said MaryBeth Thaman, Director of Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department.

Additional survey results include:

- 69% believe the department enhances quality of life in Kettering;
- 53% say the department strengthens neighborhoods; and
- 52% say it is a good investment of tax dollars.

"We would like to thank everyone who completed the online survey and those who attended the public meetings held during the summer," said Thaman. "We rely on residents and patrons to assist us in providing the services and facilities to meet your needs and this feedback helps guide our decisions."

For a complete survey results visit www.playkettering.org.





CITY OF KETTERING

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www.ketteringoh.org

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Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting

**Friday, December 1
at 6 p.m.**

**Lincoln Park
Civic Commons**

Generations have started their official holiday season at the *Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting* in Lincoln Park Civic Commons. Our Parks Maintenance Team is hard at working planning another spectacular holiday lights display, not only for the prized Christmas tree, but also for the entire Lincoln Park Civic Commons area.

The event begins at 6 p.m. with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Gather up your holiday spirit and come enjoy the live holiday music and refreshments. Dress warmly — we can't wait to see you on December 1!

**For more information,
call 296-2587.**



CITY OF KETTERING

Contact Numbers

Emergency

Police/Fire/Paramedic Emergency 9-1-1

Non-Emergency

Police and Fire Dispatch 296-2555

Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control 296-3266

Building Permits & Zoning 296-2441

City Income Tax 296-2502

Government Center 296-2400

Housing Rehabilitation 296-2441

Polen Farm 435-5787

Property Maintenance Hotline 296-3286

Recreation Complex/Water Park/Pool 296-2587

Rosewood Arts Centre 296-0294

Senior Adult Recreation 296-2480

Trash Information 29-TRASH

Volunteer Office 296-2433

Yard Debris Hotline 296-3255

Contact with Kettering is published quarterly by the City of Kettering to inform citizens about services, programs and issues in Kettering. Comments or suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the City of Kettering, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429.

Stacy Schweikhart: Editor

Administrative Systems: Production

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