



PUBLISHED FOR THE VOLUNTEERS OF KETTERING — Winter 2021

Celebrating Our Volunteers!



Nothing can stop the gratitude City of Kettering staff has for its volunteers—not even a pandemic! As a way to show our heartfelt thanks for all of the support you give by sharing your time and talent, the Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council joined with Mayor Patterson, members of city council, and city staff to host the annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon. As with everything else in 2020, our celebration took on a new style—drive-thru! We hope you enjoyed the event and we look forward to the possibility of gathering together this November for the 2021 luncheon!



Positivity in a Pandemic

Seth Doane from CBS recently interviewed the legendary Sir Paul McCartney about life during the pandemic. Like most of us, he mentioned it took some time to get used to “lock-down.” Paul tells about using the time to clean out closets and finish things he started years ago. These ideas led to finishing songs. In the comfort of his own home, at age 78, the pandemic allowed him the time and space to write, produce, and play every instrument on his newly

released album, *McCartney III*. Fittingly, one of the songs on his album is titled, *Seize the Day*.

I find volunteers to be resilient, positive, enthusiastic and hopeful! I thought it might be fun for you to share some positive outcomes from the pandemic. I'd like to collect these thoughts so we can share them with one another. If you would like to participate, please complete this sentence, “The

pandemic allowed me the time to (fill in the blank)”. While most of us probably haven't written and produced an album, I'll bet some of you have sharpened a skill, learned a new craft, or you've become a bit more savvy with technology. Email your thoughts to marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org or call 937-296-2531 by Friday, February 19. I can't wait to learn what you've been up to!

Kettering is Home to the Holidays



The year 2020 definitely presented challenges with a host of events, including our annual Christmas Day Open House at Polen Farm. Since it was not possible to gather together, event co-chairs, Bill and Marynel Bradley worked with staff to create the first *Kettering is Home to the Holidays* activity. Kettering property owners were invited to submit photos of

their decorated homes or businesses for placement on an interactive map which could be downloaded by anyone wishing to take a drive through Kettering to enjoy the beautiful sites of the season. Additionally, Miami Valley Communications Council created a video of all submissions which featured nearly 60 beautifully decorated properties. The Bradley's had this to say

about the activity, "We feel so fortunate to live in the wonderful City of Kettering where they continue to think about the citizens and their needs. Even though we were unable to hold the annual Christmas Day Gathering at Polen Farm, the staff used creativity to develop a light tour so that all could celebrate the season in a safe way. The city has never been so illuminated! We hope everyone enjoyed viewing the lights!"

Volunteer Office Staffing Change



I am happy to announce the addition of Nick Sorice to the Volunteer Office. Nick will be working part-time to assist with the volunteer program.

Here is a message from Nick:

"As I was raised in Kettering, I never thought that I would one day be working for the city that I grew up in. Prior to my

employment, I graduated from Carroll High School and Sinclair Community College. I am currently finishing my bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership from Wright State University, graduating in May.

Since embarking on my journey as an intern in the city's Volunteer Office in April of 2019, it has been nothing short of magnificent. I am able to apply the skills that I obtained in the classroom to my work. I have also noticed the great impact that volunteers have on the City of Kettering and I am impressed by the number of volunteers from

neighboring cities who serve the Kettering community. I look forward to serving alongside you in Kettering's volunteer program."

Volunteer Record keeping

Please help us with our record keeping and communication by notifying us when you have a change of mailing address, email address, phone number, or your emergency contact information. Please call the office at 937-296-2433 or email marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org

National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week is April 18 – 24. Volunteers across our country will be recognized for the countless hours of service donated in an effort to improve the lives of others. Please watch your mail for information regarding future plans to celebrate our amazing volunteers!

Make A Difference Day Successes

The City of Kettering joined with volunteers to complete community projects designed to address our environment, our health, and our overall well-being. As proud participants in **National Make A Difference Day**, volunteers created hundreds of holiday greeting cards for our active duty military and for area nursing homes. They also distributed PPE kits to residents living in senior housing areas; planted trees in Van Buren Park; and set up face mask distribution sites at various locations throughout the city. This event, held on the last Saturday

in October, was a true success thanks to the generosity and support of our volunteers and community partners!

A very special thank you to: Alter Key Club; Central Christian Church; Christ Church United Methodist; David's United Church of Christ; Kettering-Centerville Kiwanis Club; Montgomery County; Parkview Church of the Nazarene; Wright State University; and City of Kettering Volunteers.



Kettering Mourns the Loss of Two Community Servants



It is with a heavy heart that we mourn the passing of former Mayor Marilou Smith. Mayor Smith passed away in early January at the age of 93. After raising

her children, she began serving the City of Kettering by joining the Sister City Committee. She went on to serve eight years on city council. She then served two terms as Mayor from 1998 to 2006. She served on countless boards and committees including the Board of Community Relations; Alter High School Board of Trustees; Kettering Medical Center Board of Trustees; the city's 50th Anniversary Committee; just to name a few. As stated by Mayor Patterson, "Mayor Smith was the finest ambassador for the City of Kettering, a vital asset to the community, and was a genuine friend to all its residents. She was the People's Mayor."



We also mourn the loss of long time Kettering Volunteer Advisory Council member, Pam Cochran. Pam recently retired as property manager of Town & Country Shopping Center. In addition to serving on the Advisory Council, she was a graduate and board member of the Kettering Leadership Academy; a member of the Kettering Noon Optimist club and Optimist of the Year for 2003 – 2004; a former grand marshal of the Kettering Holiday at Home Parade; a Kettering Backpack board member and a member of the KMO Chamber of Commerce Board. Pam will be remembered for her warm smile, her enthusiasm, her unwavering devotion to our community and her appreciation for volunteers.

Reminder for Members of Boards and Commissions

We are so thankful for the efforts of all members of our boards and commissions. Please know that you are always welcome to register as a volunteer. By doing so, you may submit your hours to the volunteer office which helps give us accurate information regarding the overall volunteer program. These statistics aid various departments with accreditation, grants, and award applications. In addition, once you have contributed 100 hours of service, you are eligible to receive a 20% discount on passes through our Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts Department. You will also receive awards (based on hours) at our annual luncheon. To complete an application, visit www.ketteringoh.org or call 937-296-2433.



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Spring & Summer Volunteer Opportunities

As we look forward to warmer weather and some much needed sunshine, we also look forward to volunteer opportunities. Spring and summer opportunities typically include special events, summer camps, assistants at Frazee Pavilion and our Neighborhood Pride program in addition to the many volunteer opportunities in our senior center and various departments through the City. In keeping the safety and well-being of our participants and volunteers at the forefront, it is our hope these activities will begin to return, allowing for a variety of volunteer opportunities.

VOLUNTEER KETTERING is published quarterly by the City of Kettering to keep our volunteers informed of issues, developments and opportunities pertaining to the Volunteer Program. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to the City of Kettering, ATTN: Volunteer Office, 3600 Shroyer Road, Kettering, OH 45429.

Kettering Website:
www.ketteringoh.org

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"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference."
— Tom Brokaw