

# CONTACT with Kettering

Community Magazine Summer 2021



CITY OF KETTERING *is home*

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# Mayor's Greeting

Dear Neighbors:

Summer in Kettering is going to feel extra special this year as we enjoy some of the amenities and events that make Kettering so unique. City of Kettering employees have been working tirelessly to provide summer fun, educational programs and events while

following state and local safety guidelines. Our residents and visitors of all ages are worth every ounce of creativity it takes to get this Kettering summer in motion.

Our local businesses and service providers are ready as ever to see customers coming in from the heat. We have been busy welcoming new businesses to Kettering and look forward to watching them grow and thrive.

This summer is special not only by comparison to 2020, but because it's my favorite time of year to see residents at their most carefree, and it's one of my final chapters as Kettering's mayor. I've said it before, but being Kettering's mayor is one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

In 1998, as a business owner, I was involved in developing the 500 Lincoln Park office buildings. There was, to me, a glitch with my permit process; and I complained to my coworkers and friends about it. More than once I was told, "If you don't like it, do something to change it." And, 23 years later, it has been my absolute pleasure working alongside residents, business owners, City leaders and fellow City Council members to facilitate the livability and sustainability this great community holds for its stakeholders.

As I prepare to leave the office of mayor, I am compelled to share my experience with all of you about how rewarding it is to advocate for your neighbors and your community as an elected official. The possibilities associated with helping residents, offering exceptional City services and believing in the progress upon which this City was built are boundless. The opportunities to make a difference have proven most rewarding.

In November, the ballot will present candidates for three City Council seats and the position of Kettering Mayor. If you are interested, I encourage you to take a closer look and give it some consideration. For me, Kettering is, and will always be, home. I will continue to do my part to maintain its fine reputation.

During your summer walks and drives through Kettering, think about the level of service and advocacy for which your time will allow and consider your interest in City government.

Take care.

Donald E. Patterson, Mayor

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



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### 4th Friday Senior Socials

Register by Friday, May 21  
[www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)



### Adventure Reef Water Park

Opens Saturday, May 29

### Kennedy Park Splash Pad

Opens Saturday, May 29

### Go 4th! Celebration

Sunday, July 4 from 6 to 10 p.m.  
Delco Park



### PRCA Fall Program Registration

begins Monday, August 2  
for Kettering residents.



## CITY OF KETTERING

### Kettering Mayor & Council

#### Don Patterson, Mayor

[Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Don.Patterson@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.545.0008

#### Tony Klepacz, Vice Mayor, District 3

[Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Tony.Klepacz@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.435.9830

#### Jacqueline Fisher, At Large

[Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Jacque.Fisher@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.232.1637

#### Bill Lautar, At Large

[Bill.Lautar@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Bill.Lautar@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.689.2205

#### District 1 (vacant) election to be held in Nov. 2021

[KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org](mailto:KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org) . 937.296.2416

#### Joseph D. Wanamaker, District 2

[Joe.Wanamaker@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Joe.Wanamaker@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.296.1712

#### Bruce E. Duke, District 4

[Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Bruce.Duke@ketteringoh.org) . . . . . 937.299.2259

#### Mark Schwieterman, City Manager

[Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Mark.Schwieterman@ketteringoh.org) . 937.296.2412

#### Steven Bergstresser, Assistant City Manager

[Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org](mailto:Steven.Bergstresser@ketteringoh.org) . 937.296.2412

#### Council Office

[KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org](mailto:KetteringMayorCouncil@ketteringoh.org) . 937.296.2416

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

@Kettering\_OH

City of Kettering, Ohio – Government

# Getting Back Together with 4th Friday Senior Socials

It goes without saying that 2020 was a difficult year for all of us. Technology helped us stay in touch, but face-to-face socialization is a more effective way to stave off depression rather than simply more phone or screen time.

Due to COVID-19 closures in 2020, we had to postpone a program we planned to introduce in 2020 called 4th Friday Senior Socials. This program is designed for the forever learners, the people who love connecting with others and anyone interested in having fun. All sessions will have different themes to keep things interesting; and, we are grateful for the support and sponsorship from our community partners to keep the cost low while providing snacks and entertainment.

We are kicking off the season Friday, May 28 with Memorial Day as our theme. Bill Foley, a historical interpreter will speak on the Civil War in full regalia, followed by the Swing Shift taking us back to the days of the classic USO show! This event will be held outdoors in the parking lots adjacent to the Lathrem Senior Center and Adventure Reef Water Park.

Our adult and senior program staff believes that focusing on bringing people together (safely!) to enjoy learning, relaxing and playing is an essential component of active adult programming. While the Lathrem Center remains closed until further notice, we are excited to be offering a range of programming for adults and seniors in the Kettering Recreation Complex.

Our Memorial Day Celebration will be held Friday, May 28, 2021 at 11 a.m. The registration deadline is Friday, May 21. Tickets are \$8 Kettering residents; \$10 non-residents (fee includes a boxed lunch). To register, please visit us at [www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)



To the Kettering Community,

As Volunteer Administrator for the City of Kettering, I extend my most sincere thanks to you for supporting the efforts of our volunteer program throughout the years. Kettering is a unique city where civic engagement is at the forefront and serves as a rich part of our history.

Reflecting on the past 31 years at the City of Kettering, 21 of which were in the Volunteer Office, my heart is filled with nothing but gratitude and appreciation. Through collaboration with volunteers, business leaders, city staff and a host of community organizations, we've been able to create and enhance many City programs, projects and services.

I've grown to admire you for your unwavering dedication to service as demonstrated by your commitment to your volunteer roles and your involvement in programs such as the Kettering Leadership Academy, Neighborhood Pride, Cities of Service, Frazee ushers and the Christmas Day Open House.

I will be retiring as Volunteer Administrator in July to spend more time with family. As I transition into this new chapter of my life, I will do so cherishing the time we spent together and the lessons you've taught me about the human spirit.

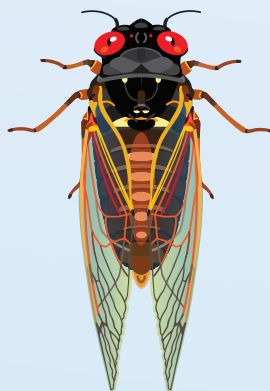
As you continue to share your gifts with our community, please know you are making a positive difference in the lives of others!

Thank you for allowing me to join with you in service to our community!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Lou Randolph".

Mary Lou Randolph  
Volunteer Administrator



## Sharing Summer with Brood X

The largest brood of periodical cicadas, Brood X will be emerging after 17 years underground, flying around and buzzing noisily mid-May and June this year. Don't worry cicadas are harmless, to humans and pets, they don't sting, bite, or carry diseases. When they enter the house or car somehow, they're easy to scoop up and put back outside because they are awkward fliers. If you would like to participate in the mapping of these amazing creatures the app Cicada Safari was developed by researchers at Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati to track this largest emergence of cicadas in the country. Not to worry Cicadas die just four to six weeks after emerging.





# Help for Eye Care Costs Available at the Kettering Connection

In the midst of the pandemic, there are a lot of healthcare checkups that have been neglected. For many, annual eye exams and updating glasses were put on hold. For many individuals, affording these costs is normally a struggle; but, with the loss of income and insurance caused by the pandemic, we are finding more and more people who are skipping these exams and potentially putting their eyes in danger.

The Kettering Connection is proud to partner with Prevent Blindness to offer eye care vouchers for a free exam and/or eyeglasses for those who qualify. There are a two qualifications for the program and recipients must meet both.

1. The individual cannot have insurance that covers eye care. This includes insurance access to care through state and federal programs such as Medicaid or employer insurance.

2. The individual must have an income at or below 200% of the poverty level. That is up to \$25,760 per year for an individual and up to \$53,000 per year for a family of four.

The qualifying individual will be given a voucher to use at a participating eye doctor; and if that doctor determines the need for glasses, the client will be eligible for a free pair. Certificates for glasses can

only be provided for those who have eye glasses if insurance pays for the exam and not the glasses. Vouchers can also

be provided for those who have broken a pair of glasses and they have proof that the insurance company refuses to provide replacement.

For more information about the Prevent Blindness program, contact Kettering's Senior Service Coordinator Vickie Carraher RN, BC at 937-296-3356 or by email at [vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org](mailto:vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org).



## Prevent Blindness



## Kettering Connection Re-Opened

The Kettering Connection in Town and Country Shopping Center has re-opened and is ready to serve Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Additional contact can be scheduled outside of these times by making an appointment. The Connection has been serving area seniors utilizing community partnerships since 2011. It provides a one stop shop for assistance with Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, housing, utility assistance, caption call phones, eye glass vouchers and a number of other programs. For more information about Kettering Connection or to schedule an appointment, contact Vickie Carraher RN, BC at 937-296-3356.



Vickie Carraher, Kettering's Senior Services Coordinator

The City of Kettering is a senior friendly community. We have earned that reputation through a commitment to enhancing the quality of life for seniors in our City. Vickie Carraher, the City's Senior Services Coordinator, can advise you on

## Senior Adult Services

such topics as the following:

- Housing
- Transportation
- Personal Care/In-home Services
- Insurance – Medicare/ Medicaid
- Prescription Drug Assistance Programs
- Respite Care/Adult Day Centers
- Home Delivered Meals
- Adult Protective Services
- Utility Assistance Programs
- Support Groups
- Aging Issues
- Volunteer Programs
- or any topic of concern

In addition, many individuals and families struggle with when

to make lifestyle changes for seniors when safety becomes a concern. The Senior Services Coordinator is prepared to discuss these concerns and available options.

The Kettering Connection is a one stop information and referral service offered by the City of Kettering. The Kettering Connection is located in Town & Country Shopping Center in the hallway next to Frazee FanFare, near Figlio's.

The City's online Senior Resource Guide provides information 24/7 at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org)

Call 937-296-3356 to make an appointment or to speak with Vickie, or email: [vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org](mailto:vickie.carraher@ketteringoh.org).



# Roadway Construction

## Ridgeway Road Bridge

The new Ridgeway Road Bridge is taking shape, and construction will continue into summer. The contractor and the City's design team have been coordinating the details of the bridge and artwork to provide a seamless outcome. The bridge is scheduled to open in August. We appreciate your support, which made this project a reality. Funding for the bridge is being provided through the Ohio Municipal Bridge Program (\$2,000,000) and the Ohio Public Works Commission (\$400,000 grant and \$400,000 loan).

## Traffic Signal Replacements

Kettering was awarded nearly \$1,200,000 in federal funds to reconstruct traffic signals at six intersections. This project is about 50% complete. Locations include:

1. East Dorothy Lane at Powhattan Place
2. East Dorothy Lane at Valleywood Drive
3. Woodman Drive at Adventure Drive
4. Woodman Drive at Aragon Avenue
5. Woodman Drive at Forrer Boulevard
6. Forrer Boulevard at Culver Avenue

## Far Hills Avenue Resurfacing

Resurfacing of Far Hills Avenue began in early May, and should be complete in July. Preparatory work has been performed for the past three years. This includes Vectren gas main replacement, Montgomery County water main replacement, curb ramp reconstruction, and repair to drainage inlets. The project limits are from David Road to the corporation boundary with Oakwood. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) will administer the project, and will fund up to 80% of the costs.

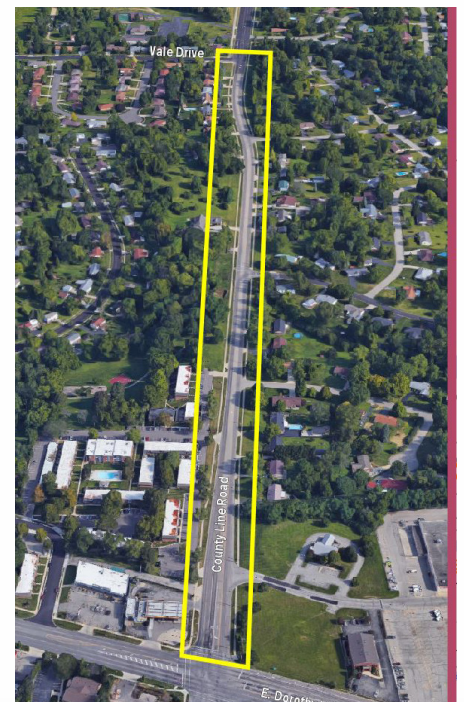
## County Line Road Widening

Construction work to widen County Line Road is planned to begin in early summer and will be completed in 2022. Because this project borders two counties and two cities, coordination has been, and will continue to be very important. Upon completion of this project, the corridor will provide two travel lanes in each direction for more than ten miles from Moraine to Beaver Creek. The increased traffic capacity will support continued business growth at Research Park. The project was awarded nearly \$2,500,000 in federal funds.

## Vectren Gas Main Replacements

- Vectren is planning eight gas main replacement projects in Kettering this year. Several of the projects are underway, with more to begin soon. Because the work involves restoration of pavement and yards, Kettering requires Vectren's contractor to obtain permits for each location of work in the right-of-way.

For more information on these projects, go to: [www.ketteringoh.org/current-road-construction-project-updates/](http://www.ketteringoh.org/current-road-construction-project-updates/)



County Line Road Widening

Visit our website: [ketteringoh.org](http://ketteringoh.org)  
for weekly project status updates.







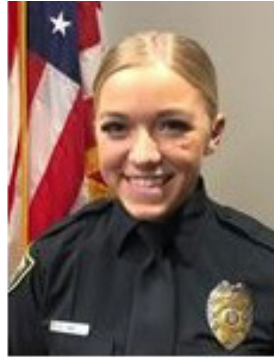
# Kettering Police Department Welcomes New Officers



*Darrell Breneman*



*Matthew Harper*



*Cynthia James*

The Kettering Police Department hired three new officers. Matthew Harper previously worked for the West Carrollton Police Department and the Enon Police Department. Darrell Breneman previously worked for the Madison Township Police Department and the Union County Sheriff's Office. Finally, Cynthia James came to us from the Mount Healthy, Ohio Police Department and is fluent in Spanish. We are excited to have them with us.

## KPD Renovations Near Completion

We've been busy at Kettering Police Department. Our building renovation is almost complete. Only the expanded dispatch section is still waiting to move back in. Summer is slowly starting to shape up and, we are looking forward to warmer weather and all the great activities that Kettering offers...Fraze and Safety Village to name a few. Enjoy summer!



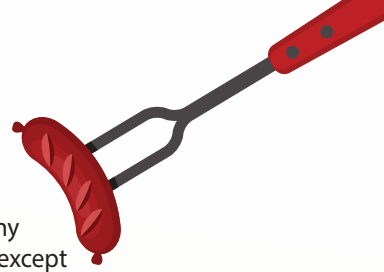
## Dr. Williams Receives Citizenship Award



On June 3, 2020, while a protest was taking place in Kettering, several hundred protestors began obstructing the roadway. Dr. Yvette Williams, who was participating in the protest, realized the crowd could potentially get unruly and out of control. She asked the officers if she could help maintain order. Using a megaphone Dr. Williams made several announcements successfully encouraging the to the crowd to remain peaceful and move to the side of the roadway. The protests continued peacefully without any confrontations. For this timely community service Chief Protsman on behalf of the Kettering Police Department presented Dr. Williams with the Citizenship Award. We greatly appreciate her service!

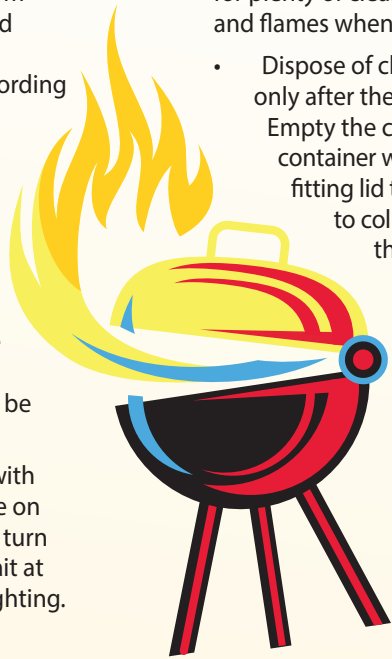


# BBQ Grill Safety



Summer is not complete until you have enjoyed some tasty food from a BBQ grill. Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe this summer when cooking on your propane, charcoal, or wood pellet grill.

- Propane, charcoal, and wood pellet barbecue grills must only be used outdoors.
- Place the grill well away from siding and deck railings and out from under eaves and overhanging branches according to the manufacturer's instructions. Do not store or use a grill on a porch or balcony, including any porch or balcony on an upper level of the building.
- Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in the tray(s) below the grill so it cannot be ignited by a hot grill.
- Light a propane grill only with the cover open. If the flame on the propane grill goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before relighting.



- Never use gasoline or any other flammable liquid except charcoal starter or lighter fluid to start a charcoal fire.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area. Have a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Use long-handled grilling tools for plenty of clearance from heat and flames when cooking.
  - Dispose of charcoal coals only after they are cool. Empty the coals into a metal container with a tight-fitting lid that is used only to collect coals. Place the container outside away from anything that can burn. Never empty coals directly into a trash can.

# Fire Hydrant Inspections

KFD will be inspecting half of the fire hydrants in Kettering this summer. During these inspections, hydrants will be checked for any damage or defects. Also, KFD members will be flowing water from these hydrants to help ensure that they will operate effectively in the event of a fire.



This water flow could disrupt sediment within the water delivery system causing a brown discoloration of the water. This discoloration poses no threat to health or safety although, these deposits could discolor laundry. We suggest residents check the clarity of their water prior to washing laundry. If brown water is observed, simply run cold water until it clears. Residents are being asked to wash clothing after 5:30 PM Monday thru Friday or anytime Saturday or Sunday

to avoid the risk of stains caused by brown water. If clothing becomes discolored it is suggested to wash clothing again using a rust removing detergent prior to drying.

The Code Red Community Alert system will be used to inform residents when hydrants will be inspected in their area. Residents will be

- given at least 24 hours of notice prior to inspections. Kettering residents are encouraged to sign up to receive these notifications by visiting the City of Kettering website at <https://www.ketteringoh.org/code-red-emergency-incident-community-alerts/>. For more information about the hydrant inspection process you may contact Kettering Fire Department at 937-296-2489.

# Recreational Fires

Recreational fires are permitted in the City of Kettering. However, these fires must meet a few criteria to prevent unfriendly fires or a neighborhood nuisance. All of these requirements can be found in the Ohio Administrative Code 1301:7-7-03.

- Permission must be received from the owner of the property where the recreational fire is taking place.
- Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet of a structure or combustible material.
- If the fire is contained in an approved container such as an outdoor fireplace, barbecue pit, etc. the fire must be at least 15 feet from a structure or combustible materials.
- Fire shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A portable fire extinguisher with a minimum of a 4A rating or garden hose, bucket of sand or other suitable means for extinguishing the fire must be provided.
- The total fuel area shall not exceed 3 feet in diameter or 2 feet in height.
- Fuel shall only consist of clean dry firewood. (No yard waste or rubbish materials or prohibited materials defined by the Ohio Administrative Code may be burned at any time).
- Fire shall not create an offensive or objectionable situation to neighboring property owners



# Miami Valley Research Park Building Awarded Funding

The City of Kettering approved an Economic Incentive Grant for the Modernization of 1900 Founders Drive on Tuesday, February 22, 2021.

“The investment in this property will allow us to market the site to businesses and site selection consultants as a premier office location,” said Chris Semarjian, Industrial Commercial Properties Owner. “We’re grateful for the support from Kettering, JobsOhio, the Dayton Development Coalition and their vision for the site.”

The building, one of the first in the Miami Valley Research park, was built in 1986 and has been vacant since 2018. The renovation work would help bring the building back up to Class A office space.

“By facilitating ICP’s improvements and property renovation, we strengthen the City’s opportunities for economic

development, as well as redevelopment. This, in turn, promotes the potential for new employment opportunities within our City,” stated Mayor Don Patterson.

“Therefore, the City offered ICP economic development incentives in the form of a reimbursable grant.”

After improvements, the site would be primed for defense contractors looking for space near Wright-Patterson Air Force Base,

corporate headquarters or regional offices. Large Class A office space is rare in the region as there are no other

sites with more than 25,000 Square feet available in the East Dayton market.

The project will also receive support from the JobsOhio Site Inventory Program (OSIP). The program offers grants and low-interest loans to support speculative site and building development projects with no

identified end user. The primary goal of OSIP is to fill gaps in Ohio’s real estate inventory with properties targeting near-term sector wins to ensure our state is more competitive for reactive site selection projects.

“Investing in 1900 Founders Drive will revitalize a building that has been vacant for too long,” said J.k P. Nauseef, JobsOhio president and CEO. “With assistance from the Ohio Site Inventory Program, 1900 Founders Drive will be a premier site with a large space near Wright-Patterson, making it ideal for innovation companies that are looking to grow.”

“Over the years, companies have told us that when they choose another region over Dayton, it’s often because we didn’t have an appropriate site,” said Julie Sullivan, the DDC’s Executive Vice President of Regional Development. “OSIP and the Kettering Economic Incentive Grant allow the region to build an inventory of sites so we are ready to seize these opportunities. We believe once the work is complete, 1900 Founders will be an attractive site for a growing company.”

“By facilitating ICP’s improvements and property renovation, we strengthen the City’s opportunities for economic development, as well as redevelopment. This, in turn, promotes the potential for new employment opportunities within our City;”

—Mayor Don Patterson

## Years Ahead Health Center Opening in Late June

Kettering Health Network is opening a new Years Ahead Health Center to give Kettering’s senior community members more access to health care services. The new location will be the second Years Ahead location for the network.

Located at 1745 E. Stroop Road, the one-story, 18,800 square foot building is expected to open in late June and will feature patient-centered care with facility design and educational programs tailored for those 65 and older. Services offered will include:

- Primary care
- Lab and imaging services
- Educational and support programs

The new location will have a care team of eight medical providers, including physicians, advanced practice providers, behavioral health support specialists, and more than 20 support team staff members. The facility is a \$5.6 million investment in the community, continuing Kettering Health Network’s commitment to providing high-quality care for local residents.

## Solicitation and Door-to-Door Sales

While door-to-door solicitation is permitted in the City of Kettering, residents can take action to reduce unwanted solicitors.

Residents are able to discourage door-to-door solicitors by posting a sign which is at least 3" x 4" in size that says “No Solicitors”. If an unwanted solicitor approaches your property ignoring the sign, it is your responsibility to call the Kettering Police Department to report the incident.

Compliant “No Solicitors” signs are available at the reception desk at the Kettering Government Center.

For individuals or businesses wishing to conduct door-to-door solicitation, we suggest contacting the Kettering Police Department to inform them what areas of the city you will be in so they are aware of your activities.

**If at any time you feel your safety is in danger as a result of a door-to-door solicitor, please call 911.**





# New Businesses Choose Kettering!

Mayor, Council Members and City Staff welcomed several new businesses to Kettering. Shopping local has always been simple for Kettering residents with so many retailers, restaurants and services providers right here in our community..



*Needle, Ink and Thread is a modern sewing store located at 2290 Patterson Road offering patterns, fabric, classes and unique craft ideas.*



*The Cooks Pantry at Town & Country Shopping Center offers top-quality kitchenware and household gadgets--many of which are made by local artisans.*



*Piper Street Boutique at Town & Country Shopping Center offers a variety of handcrafted jewelry pieces, makeup bags, tote bags, candles, home decor, clothing and more!*



*The Eco Plumbers at 4770 Hempstead Station Drive offer eco-friendly, full-service residential plumbing.*

## Shop. Dine. Buy Kettering.





# Kettering is a Bike-Friendly Community!

Kettering was named a bike-friendly city and May is National Bike Month, so we jumped at the chance to showcase the many benefits of bicycling, the ease with which to cycle in Kettering and encourage more folks to give biking a try.



Bike Miami Valley is a regional organization committed to advocating for and promoting bike-friendly communities in our area. In coordination with National Bike Month, the City of Kettering was chosen to host the 2021 Cycling Summit.

Due to health and safety guidelines in place, the summit was presented a bit differently this year. On Friday, May 7, experts presented important cycling information and education via an online event. The experiential, self-guided tour took place May 14 on Kettering bikeways and roadways.



## Neighborhood Block Parties are Back!

The City of Kettering had to take a break from block parties last summer due to state guidelines. We are thrilled to bring back this great opportunity to build neighborhood and community pride.

Block parties offer an opportunity for neighbors to get to know one another and develop the kind of supportive relationship many of us remember from the neighborhoods where we grew up.

Maybe you will meet an older neighbor who could use some help raking leaves or shoveling snow. Maybe your children will make new friends. Maybe you'll learn about a book club, golf league or walking group.

At the very least you'll become more familiar with your neighbors and build the kind of bonds that are critical to a sense of belonging.

The City believes so strongly in the power of these gatherings that we offer

assistance with everything from planning to road closures. Our Board of Community Relations even sponsors grants for ice cream! Due to the pandemic, our police and fire departments cannot guarantee attendance this year.

Please help us build the strength of our neighborhoods and our sense of Kettering community pride by hosting a Block Party in 2021. Visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) for more information.





# What Fiber Optic Network Phase II Means for Kettering Residents

In 2018, Kettering joined with six other Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) member cities to construct a regional fiber optic network that would save cities money on phone and internet service, help solve crimes by increasing the ability of police departments to share intelligence data, and invite business growth by increasing the availability of high speed, low cost technology services these businesses depend on.

The cities of Kettering, Centerville, Miamisburg, Moraine, Oakwood, Springboro and West Carrollton completed construction of Phase 1 of the network in 2019. Phase I cost \$1.14 million and involved installation of more than 17 miles of new fiber and reuse of excess fiber strands in cities' existing traffic signal fiber networks. The result was that the government centers of all seven cities are now directly connected via a 10gb municipal fiber network.

The Miami Valley Educational Computer Association (MVECA) provides network management and internet service to the connected cities. As a non-profit, MVECA provides telecom services at a much lower cost than for-profit internet providers. As a result, the seven cities are now enjoying cost savings on internet service through MVECA.

Phase II of the project began in March 2021 and will install new high capacity fiber optic cabling along all portions of the network where limited capacity, existing traffic signal fiber had been used previously. MVCC partnered with Independents Fiber Network, a private telecom carrier, who is funding the entire \$1.8 million cost of Phase II. Upon completion of Phase II, MVCC and IFN will split the available fiber and conduit assets from both phases equally. Through this partnership, Kettering and the other cities have successfully attracted a new telecom service provider to invest in the region and provide

a competitive alternative for businesses needing high speed communication services, at no additional cost to the taxpayers.

MVCC and its member cities are actively working to attract residential Fiber-to-the-Home internet providers to the region and are in near constant discussions with other neighboring municipalities, townships, school districts and other governmental agencies to find opportunities to utilize the fiber network to reduce government expenses throughout the entire Miami Valley.

During the past 12 months, we have felt the impact technology has on the way we live and function as a society at any age. Now, more than ever, having access to high-speed, reliable, competitively-priced internet service is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity.

Construction on Phase II of the GATEway Public Fiber Network is scheduled for completion by September 2021.

## Consider Public Office in Kettering

The position of Kettering Mayor will be included on the November 2021 ballot. The District 1 Council seat and two at-large seats will also be on the ballot.

The City Council is the chief policy making body of the City – responsible for appointing the City Manager to oversee the City's administrative affairs; approving legislation to authorize city transactions; and responsible for the appointments to the City's many boards and commissions.

The members of Kettering City Council are elected to four-year terms. Current members include Mayor Don Patterson, Vice Mayor Tony Klepacz, Council members Jacque Fisher, Joe Wanamaker, Bill Lautar and Bruce Duke.

Learn more at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org).







# Neighborhood Pride Season is Here

The Neighborhood Pride Program is designed to honor property owners who have made significant improvements to their homes, or have maintained their properties impeccably year after year.

Keep an eye out for attractive properties and then take a moment to nominate a neighbor, a business, yourself, or any Kettering resident you think is deserving of the Neighborhood Pride Award.

There are several ways to nominate:

- Visit [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) to complete a nomination
- Call the Volunteer Office at **937-296-2433**
- Email: [marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org](mailto:marylou.randolph@ketteringoh.org)
- Cut out and complete the card below and mail to:

**City of Kettering  
Volunteer Office  
3600 Shroyer Rd.  
Kettering, OH 45429**

### Here are a few items to keep in mind when looking for properties to nominate:

- Check the overall condition of the structure
- Make sure fences and retaining walls are in good condition
- Is the driveway in good shape?
- Is the landscaping pleasing?

All nominations are reviewed by a committee of dedicated volunteers. Last year, the committee reviewed hundreds of

nominations and awarded 36 residential and three business property owners.

All award winners are recognized by Mayor Patterson at a City Council meeting and an attractive sign is placed in the front yard of the award winning properties.

The Neighborhood Pride Program is one more way volunteers work to keep Kettering the place people love to call home!

Nominations will be accepted until August 1.



✂

**NOMINATE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

Address of property owner you think is an award winner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of property owner (if you know it): \_\_\_\_\_

Why does this property deserve an award? \_\_\_\_\_

Type of entry:       Residential       Commercial

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please clip this nomination card, place in an envelope and mail to:

City of Kettering  
Volunteer Office  
3600 Shroyer Road  
Kettering, OH 45429

Nominations will be accepted May 1 – August 1.

✂

## Kettering Leadership Academy is Accepting Applications

The Kettering Leadership Academy (KLA) is currently accepting applications for the 2021-2022 class. This program, created by Councilman Bruce Duke and city staff, is designed for people looking for leadership roles within our community, such as serving on a board or commission at the City of Kettering, or at one of our area non-profit organizations.

The Academy begins in September with a retreat. Sessions are held once a month throughout the year until graduation in May. These include information on history, local government, community organizations, education, health care, public safety, businesses, service clubs and volunteering.

Applicants must either live or work in Kettering to apply. The application is available at [www.ketteringoh.org](http://www.ketteringoh.org) or by contacting the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.

The deadline to submit an application is July 9. The fee for the Academy is \$650. Many

businesses sponsor employees to attend the Academy.

The Kettering Leadership Academy is a wonderful opportunity to learn about all aspects of the City of Kettering while experiencing both personal and professional growth.

For additional information about the Academy, contact the City of Kettering Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.





# Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service



*Tahjey Lawson receives the the Mayor's Award for youth volunteer service from Mayor Patterson.*

The Mayor's Award for Volunteer Service was created in 1983 as a way to honor outstanding volunteers who are making valuable contributions to the community through volunteer service in a wide variety of categories. Recipients of this award must either be a resident of Kettering or the volunteer service should be performed in Kettering. In celebration of National Volunteer Week, Mayor Patterson honored both a youth and an adult volunteer with this most prestigious award.

Youth volunteer, Tahjey Lawson resides in Kettering with his grandmother and grandfather, George and Tammy Lawson. Tahjey attends Kettering Middle School (KMS) and he is in the eighth grade. Tahjey's volunteer efforts are extensive

and they address a host of needs in our community spanning a variety of generations. His efforts include serving the homeless by collecting and making blankets; collecting coats and masks; boxing personal care items for front line workers at local nursing homes and hospitals, as well as hospitals and first responders in New York; collecting and donating baby items and diapers for Hannah's Treasure Chest;

packing bags with hand sanitizer and snacks for the Kettering Police Department; creating and donating get well cards for those at the VA hospital; and he personally raised over \$1,000 for the PTA Walkathon at KMS which helped supply snacks during state testing. In addition, Tahjey served as Secretary to the Junior Optimist Club at KMS. Most recently, Tahjey was elected Governor of the Ohio District for Junior Optimist International. Tahjey's nominator stated, "Tahjey has had obstacles throughout his life but he still finds the time to give to others. I cannot think of any other youth in our community who would be more deserving of this award." "Way to go, Tahjey!" You are a true inspiration!

The adult recipient of the Mayor's Award for Volunteer

Service is Sue Solvig. Sue began volunteering for the City of Kettering in October of 2019. Until the pandemic, Sue's volunteer service included assisting at special events, receptionist's duties; helping with the nutrition program; and scheduling rides for seniors as part of our senior transportation program at Lathrem Senior Center.

In March of 2020 the senior center closed due to the pandemic. During this time, Sue and other volunteers rose to the challenge by making phone calls to homebound seniors to ensure their wellbeing. As the pandemic continued, Sue offered to return to help with the senior transportation program. After making some safety modifications to the office area, she returned in July to assist with this essential program. Typically, the center enlists the help of five different volunteers, one each day from 8 – noon. Sue stepped up to help every day from 8 – 10 a.m.

Sue's nominator had this to say about Sue, "One of the most amazing things about Sue is her ability to truly bond with the clients, listen to them and make feel safe. She spends hours on the phone talking through pandemic related fears and other issues regarding isolation. She also talks with family members

regarding their loved one's transportation needs. She clearly and patiently explains our program to new clients. She is so well liked that many callers are disappointed when a staff member answers the phone—they want to talk with Sue!"

Sue's nominator also explained that Sue is gifted with a servant's heart. With the changes thrust upon us at the onset of the pandemic, Sue did not hesitate to offer help with needs in our community demonstrating what "community" is all about! "Congratulations, Sue!" Thanks for sharing your time and compassion with our community!



*Sue Solvig receives the the Mayor's Award for volunteer service from Mayor Patterson.*

**If you are interested in volunteering with the City of Kettering contact the Volunteer Office at 937-296-2433.**



# Kettering is a Leader in Environmental Stewardship!

Our Parks Division oversees not just Kettering's parks, but 26 miles of medians too. Our team is serious about caring for the community's trees and is proud to be a 39-year recipient of the Arbor Day Foundation's prestigious **Tree City USA** distinction. The **Tree City USA** program is also sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters.

Our urban canopy is a vital part of what makes Kettering home. Residents count on Kettering's trees to shape the landscape, improve our air quality, and provide a shady place to relax on a hot day. According to the Arbor Day Foundation, "communities worldwide are facing issues with air quality, water resources, personal health and well-being, energy use, and protection from extreme heat and flooding."

We are excited to have not only been recognized as a **Tree City USA** for another year, but also to have been named a **Growth Award** winner! The **Growth Award** is given to cities that show a strong commitment to effective urban forest management. Dan Lambe, president of the Arbor Day Foundation, said, "The trees being planted and cared for by Kettering are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life."

Congratulations to our Parks team for the hard work that went into receiving this award! We also count on our residents to help us keep Kettering beautiful. To that end, the City of Kettering Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts is pleased to announce the formation of an all-new Tree Committee to organize efforts in the city's management, preservation, and conservation of public trees.

In 2020, the City's Parks Division completed a citywide tree inventory and risk assessment of all trees that it maintains. With our longstanding reputation for proper management and care of our urban canopy, we welcome this opportunity to take our commitment to tree stewardship even further with the creation of a recognized committee to organize these efforts.

Are you interested in preserving Kettering's urban canopy? The Parks Division is seeking four community members on a voluntary basis to serve on the Park Advisory Board – Tree Sub-Committee. Community members with both personal and professional experience and interest in arboriculture are encouraged to apply. **Visit [www.playkettering.org/departments/parks](http://www.playkettering.org/departments/parks) to download an application.**

## It's Time to Celebrate Summer

When we count down to the fireworks each year at **Go 4th!**, we usually count back from ten, not from 2019! While we were happy to do our part to protect the community's safety last year, we missed seeing everyone for our biggest event of the year. We're thrilled to be back in action for 2021. The exact details are still to come, but rest assured, we are working hard to make sure you and your family can enjoy the holiday safely.

Here's a sneak peek at what we know: **Go 4th!** will be held on Sunday, July 4 at Delco Park. In addition to the fireworks display at dusk, the event will include food vendors, children's activities and music from Rockland Road and Southbound on center stage.

Stay tuned for more information and keep in mind that all event details are subject to change based on guidance from the State of Ohio and Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County.

No matter how you choose to celebrate Independence Day this year, we want you to stay safe and have fun! Check out our top tips for avoiding preventable accidents and injuries over the holiday weekend.



### Stay Hydrated and Sun Safe

Having a healthy, happy 4th begins with drinking plenty of water. If you are going to be outdoors in the heat, getting enough liquid is essential. Provide a cooler or pitcher with water at picnics, and bring a large, refillable water bottle along with you to events. When spending time outdoors slather on the sunscreen and reapply often

according to package directions. Wear light-colored clothing (red, white, and blue, of course!), a hat and sunglasses.

### Respect the Fireworks

What's the best way to handle fireworks? Leave them to the pros! "The only firework products permitted in Ohio for use are designated "trick and novelty" — such as smokes, sparklers, snaps and snakes," said Kettering's Fire Service Specialist, John Moore. "Even trick and novelty fireworks can cause serious injury." **(All fireworks, including 'trick and novelty' and sparklers are prohibited at Go 4th!)**

"Sparklers burn at 1,200 degrees and can cause third-degree burns," Moore said. Don't firework at home — join us instead for one of the area's biggest and best

displays set to an amazing soundtrack!

### Food Safety is a Must

We all love a July 4 picnic, but spending July 5 sick with food poisoning? No, thanks. Warm weather creates ideal conditions for foodborne bacteria to thrive, so keep hot foods hot (above 140°) and cold foods cold (below 40°). If you'd rather skip the food prep worries, we're planning a roundup of food vendors at **Go 4th!**

### Be Water Wise

Backyard pools, public pools, natural waterbodies — these do a lot to make our parties more fun. They also add a serious need for safe behavior, especially when children are at the party. Designate someone to watch the water at all times and rotate the position among the adults. Be sure everyone who goes into the water is comfortable there and has the needed safety equipment such as life jackets. If you're heading to Delco Park, keep a close eye on small children around the pond.

### Keep Public Health Guidelines in Mind

Be mindful of all COVID-19 guidelines. Keep six feet of social distance from those not in your household, clean your hands frequently, and bring your mask for when social distance can't be maintained.



# Ready, Set, Summer!



After a long hiatus and very challenging year, the Kettering Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts staff are looking forward to the return of our beloved summer programs and events. Summer is definitely our time to shine, and we love being part of the community's summer memories. Getting back into action is no easy task after our very first (and hopefully last) cancelled summer ever. So, what's coming back? Sumer Camps, *Go 4th!*, the Kennedy Park Splash Pad, May – August programs for all ages, and Adventure Reef Water Park!

With a long list like that, we have our work cut out for us. As we all know, the public health situation is ever-changing, so we are not quite sure yet how everything is going to look. The one thing we do know is that it will be a lot more fun than 2020! We're hard at work behind the scenes to make sure that Summer 2021 is an awesome season, no matter the particulars.

In any given year, it takes approximately 20 to 25 staff members, including members of the aquatics team, the Parks division and the Public Service Department, to get Adventure Reef Water

- Park up and running for the summer.
- As the place where fun happens, the pool and park areas get a lot of love from maintenance staff before the big opening day. All areas are cleaned and repaired if needed, furniture is brought out of storage, pumps, motors, heaters, sand filtration system, chemical controllers and delivery systems are thoroughly checked prior to operation, and every section of the park is stocked with necessary supplies.

Camps and programs are where we've made some of our favorite summer memories. In order to welcome everyone back safely this summer, we've limited camp and class sizes, as well as reduced staff to participant ratios. This means a safer, more socially distanced experience, plus more individualized attention! We are also continuing to provide hand sanitizer, requiring facial coverings and following the guidelines provided by Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County and the State of Ohio. In more exciting news, we've used our lengthy break to develop a fun roster of camps and programs like *Rosewood Wizard Academy*, *All Summer Fun Camp*, *4th Friday Senior Socials*, the *Kiddie Carnival* and many more.

- We hope you'll join us during summer 2021 — we'd love to reconnect with you at a program, in one of our facilities or both!



# Play Dates

Join your Parks, Recreation and Cultural Arts for fun this summer!

**27th Annual *The View* Juried Landscape Exhibition**  
Rosewood Arts Centre

June 1 – July 30

**Touch a Truck**

Kettering Recreation Complex

Saturday, June 5, 9 – 11 am

**Movie Under the Stars**

Delco Park

Friday, June 11, 8 – 10:30 pm

Saturday, July 31, 8 – 10:30 pm

**World's Largest Swimming Lesson**

Adventure Reef Water Park

Thursday, June 17, 11:30 am – 1 pm

**Annual Youth Fishing Derby**

Delco Park

Saturday, June 19, 10 am – 12 pm

**Go Fourth**

Delco Park

Sunday, July 4, 6 – 11 pm

**15th Annual HWD Juried Sculpture Exhibition**

Rosewood Arts Centre

August 16 – October 22

These events are free and open to all ages. Details for these events are at [www.playkettering.org](http://www.playkettering.org)





# Opportunity Awaits, Now Hiring

Kettering is home to great job opportunities! Numerous seasonal and temporary openings are available. Don't pass up a great opportunity to work with talented people who are dedicated to the community and want to be part of something bigger.

- Our certified lifeguards supervise the safety of visitors at both Adventure Reef Water Park and the Main Pool at the Kettering Recreation Complex.
- Our summer camps are staffed to help kids learn, stay engaged, grow and remain connected to their friends and our community during the summer.



Our parks staff enjoys working outside in a beautiful setting, getting their hands dirty and seeing the impact of their work in our community.



Scan me

You can make an impact close to home, work a flexible schedule in modern facilities, while expanding your resume and career opportunities.

Visit [playkettering.org/join-our-team](https://playkettering.org/join-our-team) to learn more and to download an application.

**Equal Opportunity Employer**



## CITY OF KETTERING

### Contact Numbers

#### Emergency

Police/Fire/Paramedic Emergency ..... 9-1-1

#### Non-Emergency

Police and Fire Dispatch ..... 937-296-2555

#### Frequently Called Numbers

Animal Control ..... 937-296-3266

Building Permits & Zoning ..... 937-296-2441

City Income Tax ..... 937-296-2502

Government Center ..... 937-296-2400

Housing Rehabilitation ..... 937-296-2441

Polen Farm ..... 937-435-5787

Property Maintenance Hotline ..... 937-296-3286

Recreation Complex/Water Park/Pool ..... 937-296-2587

Rosewood Arts Centre ..... 937-296-0294

Senior Adult Recreation ..... 937-296-2480

Trash Information ..... 937-29-TRASH

Volunteer Office ..... 937-296-2433

Yard Debris Hotline ..... 937-296-3255

*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.

Mary Azbill, Editor  
 Janet Roeckner, Design

The City of Kettering invites people with disabilities to enjoy our programs, services, parks, and facilities. Please call 937-296-2439 for more information about accessibility or to request a modification. For TTY assistance, contact Ohio Relay Service at 800-750-0750.